



Poet Shamsur Rahman inaugurating the grand rally of Oikkyabaddha Nagarik Andolan (United Civil Society) by releasing balloons at the National Parade Ground in the city yesterday and (right) a partial view of the rally.

India will disintegrate if it deviates from secularism, says PA Sangma

UNB, Dhaka

Former Speaker of Indian Parliament PA Sangma said in the city yesterday that India would disintegrate the moment it deviates from its avowed principle of secularism.

"It is dangerous... If Hindu fundamentalism flourish in India, it would encourage Muslim fundamentalism in Bangladesh and Pakistan, and we are aware of that which is not good for the region," he said.

Talking to newsmen at Hotel Sheraton, Sangma, who came here to attend an international conference on

Bangladesh Parliament, said the BJP government would land into trouble if the Hindutva and Mandir issues are brought to limelight and made its agenda as prescribed by VHP and RSS.

"The moment they bring Hindutva and Mandir issue, Mamata Banerjee and DMK would withdraw their support to BJP," said Sangma.

In reply to a question about opposition boycott of parliament in Bangladesh, he said it is not a healthy sign. Citing tradition in Indian parliament, he said the opposition can stage walkout or block the proceedings of parliament to press for their demands. **SEE PAGE 11 COL 3**

Bid to resist citizens' rally: Nasim orders legal action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim has said legal action will be taken against organisers of Friday's rally at Paltan Maidan in the city for threatening to resist holding of the 'citizens' rally' at the Parade Ground yesterday.

"I have given order to take legal action against the leaders and patrons of the so-called organisations which organised the Paltan rally," he said without naming any of the leaders.

"Speakers at the rally threatened to take law in their hands and destroy political stability in the country," he said while briefing a group of newsmen at his official residence yesterday. **SEE PAGE 11 COL 1**

"They have also threatened to bring in a Taliban style revolution in the country, which the administration can not allow".

The home minister said activities of forces which oppose the spirit of independence and try to divert people's religious sentiment will not be allowed in the country in any way.

He vowed to resist the "evil forces" who are engaged in "subversive activities" since long. "They have targeted various social organisations and persons who practise free thinking. The administration can not allow them to continue their destructive activities".

Condemning the killing of an on-duty policeman at a mosque in Mohammadpur area in the city, the

Raushan under fire for her 'secret' visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the Jatiya Party Presidium members at a meeting on Friday night demanded an explanation from party leader Raushan Ershad for 'secretly' going abroad, JP sources said.

Twenty-one members of the presidium out of 31 were present at the meeting held at the party office with Dr MAMatin in the chair.

Lt Col (ret) Jafar Imam and Kazi Firoz Rashid said at the meeting Raushan Ershad has created chaos and confusion by secretly leaving for US and this has harmed unity of the four-party alliance.

The leaders demanded an explanation from Raushan and said if she failed to explain why she had left the country without informing any JP leader, she would not be allowed to participate in the presidium meet **SEE PAGE 11 COL 1**

Fertilisers worth Tk 1.5cr seized in Khulna: 1 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Members of the task force seized 14000 bags of Russian made MOP (murate of potash) and Indian made SSP (single super phosphate) fertilisers worth over Tk 1.50 crore from a godown belonging to one Babul Aktar at Benapole at midnight on Thursday.

The raid was conducted jointly by first class magistrate Mushfiqur Rahman and Major Motiur Rahman of 32 Rifle Battalion, Jessore.

The task force sealed the godown of Silver Traders, arrested its security guard Hafizur Rahman and handed over the seized fertilisers to Benapole customs.

During interrogation, Hafizur Rahman said Babul Aktar, proprietor of Silver Traders, brought the fertilizers from India through authorised route of Sona Masjid border of Chapainawabganj.

But officials of the task force alleged that fertilizers were brought through an unauthorised route without bill of entry and other necessary documents required in this regard.

Hafizur Rahman who is now in police custody could not, however, give satisfactory reply why MOP and SSP fertilizers were brought through Sona Masjid border instead of Benapole landport.

Members of the task force found that Russian MOP fertilizer bags were being repacked with spurious Indian fertilizer. The labourers engaged in repacking escaped, sensing presence of task force.

According to a source in the task force, proprietor of Silver Traders was involved in this illegal business done by repacking Russian MOP white fertilizer bags with spurious fertilizer from India. **SEE PAGE 11 COL 3**



Hartal activists collecting brickbats to attack the on-duty policemen on Baitul Mukarram Mosque premises (left) and police drag away a picket from in front of the mosque yesterday.

Wahid to sue lawmakers

AP, Jakarta

Indonesia's Embattled president Abdurrahman Wahid is preparing legal action against lawmakers who recently censured him over his alleged role in two graft scandals, a news report said yesterday.

The report in the Media Indonesia newspaper raises the temperature in a mudslinging match between the president and the legislature, which has also threatened to hand over evidence of Wahid's alleged criminal actions to state prosecutors.

"In the near future we will file criminal charges against members and leaders of the parliament," said Indra Sahnun Lubis, the head of Wahid's legal team, was quoted by the daily.

Lubis did not provide details on the possible charges. Such a move would undermine the legality of parliament's action against Wahid, which Lubis described as "slander-

ous."

None of the president's official spokesmen were available for comment.

On Thursday, an overwhelming majority of legislators endorsed the report of a parliamentary inquiry that found Wahid had misled investigators about his involvement in the two graft cases.

The document claimed Wahid knew about the illegal transfer of 4 million dollar from the coffers of the state food agency, Bulog, by a former business associate. It also slammed him for failing to declare 2 million dollar aid donation from Sultan Hasanah Bolkiah, the ruler of neighboring oil-rich Brunei.

However, the report contained no conclusive evidence that Wahid had benefitted from either scheme.

Wahid has consistently denied any wrongdoing and said the money was spent on relief aid to Aceh province, where a struggle for

independence has claimed thousands of lives.

If Wahid does not respond satisfactorily to the parliament's reprimand within 90 days, the legislature can censure him again. A month after that it can open impeachment proceedings.

Analysts fear that Wahid will ignore the house, which he once likened to a kindergarten, triggering a constitutional crisis.

"There will be a deadlock between the legal and political aspects of this case," said Dede Oetomo.

The government appeared to be solidly behind the president.

Before an emergency Cabinet meeting Saturday, justice minister Yusril Izza Mahendra denied speculation he was planning to resign.

"Resigning means giving in," he told journalists. "If I am in (the Cabinet) it means I can put forward my opinions."