# Use science, technology for 'B Chy's ditching unconstitutional' dev: PM

BSS, Dhaka

day called for the proper use of science and technology for devel-

observance of the 25th National Science and Information and Communication Technology Week, she said the geographical boundaries were gradually melting away

The new generation should be made science- and technologyminded to face the twin challenges of information technology revolution and globalisation and to cope with other countries in the world, she

The observance of the week is aimed at creating consciousness about science among people from all walks of life, especially among

made greater dedication to the study of science gave more pace to development.

In continuation of the week, the country is going to observe the Silver Jubilee of Science and Technology Week as Science and Information Technology Week, she said pointing to the trend of science and technology changing with the

inviting more than 200 science teachers of higher secondary schools in the far-flung areas of the country to observe the week

Khaleda hopes that with the observance of the week some brilliant youths could be found, whose innovative activities would contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.

tion was passed by a parliamentary party, the president can not step down," he said.

An architect of the country's Constitution and eminent lawyer, Dr Kamal Hossain said, "In a parliamentary system of democracy, the president would have no relation with the party".

In this form of government the party can not take decision through its parliamentary party to ask the president to resign.

"They can bring no confidence motion against the party leader, not the president". Dr Kamal told Ekushey Television. "The president is not (a man) of the party", he said.

There was no such practice and precedence in the history of

Bangladesh, he added. Renowned lawyer Barrister Rokon Uddin Mahmud said the ruling BNP's resolution asking for resignation of President Chowdhury does not come under constitutional process.

It is an internal matter of a political party and the question of constitutional approval will only arise if the president declines to step down, he

Then the party or group which wants the president's resignation will have to find out constitutional provision under which they can proceed. Mahmud explained.

Otherwise, if the president desires to resign responding to anybody's call, none has anything to say, he said.

He however said if the president declined to resign then the ruling BNP would have faced difficulties to impeach him because 'there is hardly any valid ground on which

they could proceed' According to him Badruddoza did not violate any constitutional provision for which he could be impeached. Other constitutional causes to remove him, such as physical disability, also did not exist,

Constitution expert Dr M Jahir said BNP's request to the president to step down was 'followed by an impeachment threat that surprised the whole nation'.

"In parliamentary democracy, none should even think of such a move regarding the highest office in the republic," said Dr Jahir.

The president has no record of 'grave misconduct' or has not done anything contrary to the Constitution that he can be removed, he said.

Asked about the consequence of the precedence set by BNP, he said any one who holds a constitutional post can now face such conse-

Asked whether Badruddoza has once again shown loyalty to the party by accepting the BNPPP resolution, Dr Jahir said, "This proves he (Badruddoza) is still a BNP man".

Former attorney general Barrister Rafigul Hague also said the ruling BNP's move is extraconstitutional. Such 'unfortunate incidents' will only shatter the growth of democratic culture in the country.

"It is very unfortunate that such a gentleman had to resign due to pressure from his own party men BNP would have faced difficulty had he declined to resign and wanted to play nasty game", he said.

Articles 48 to 54 of the Constitution deals with the President of the Republic. These are as follows:

The President 48. (1) There shall be a

President of Bangladesh who shall

exercise the powers and perform

the duties conferred and imposed

on him by this Constitution and by

be elected by members of Parliament in accordance with law. (2) No person shall hold office as (2) The President shall as Head President for more than two terms, of State, take precedence over all other persons in the State, and shall

> (3) The President may resign his addressed to the Speaker

(3) In the exercise of all his functions, save only that of appointing the Prime Minister pursuant to

Clause (3) of Article 56 and the Chief Justice pursuant to Clause (1) of Article 95, the President shall act in accordance with the advice of the

Provided that the question whether any, and if so what, advice has been tendered by the Prime Minister to the President shall not be enquired into in any court.

Prime Minister:

(4) A person shall not be qualified for election as President if heis less than thirty-five years of

is not qualified for election a

member of Parliament; or has been removed from the office of President by impeachment under this Constitution.

(5) The Prime Minister shall keep the President informed on matters of domestic and foreign policy, and submit for the consideration of the Cabinet any matter which the

President may request him to refer to it. 49. Prerogative of mercy

The President shall have power to grant pardons, reprieves and

respites and to remit, suspend or commute any sentence passed by any court, tribunal or other authority. 50 Term of office of President

(1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the President shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office:

Provided that notwithstanding the expiration of his term the President shall continue to hold office until his successor enters upon office.

whether or not the terms are con-

office by writing under his hand

tion's allegation that he was biased.

This move was criticised by

some BNP leaders who felt that

Badruddoza was trying to prove his

'neutrality' as president.

ing the reception.

(4) The President during his term of office shall not be qualified for election as a member of Parliament, and if a member of Parliament is elected as President, he shall vacate his seat in Parliament on the day on which he enters upon his office as President.

51. President's immunity

(1) Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 52, the President shall not be answerable in any court for anything done or omitted by him in the exercise or purported exercise of the functions of this office, but this clause shall not prejudice the right of any person to take proceedings against the

(2) During his term of office no criminal proceedings whatsoever shall be instituted or continued against the President in, and no process for his arrest or imprisonment shall issue from, any court.

52. Impeachment of the President

(1) The President may be impeached on a charge of violating this Constitution or of grave misconduct, preferred by a notice of motion signed by a majority of the total number of members of the Parliament and delivered to the Speaker, setting out the particulars of the charges, and the motion shall not be debated earlier than fourteen nor later than thirty days after the notice is so delivered: and the Speaker shall forthwith summon Parliament if it is not in session.

(2) The Conduct of the President may be referred by Parliament to any court, tribunal or body appointed or designated by Parliament for the investigation of a charge under this Aarticle. (3) The President shall have the

right to appear and to be represented during the consideration of (4) If after the consideration of

the charge a resolution is passed by Parliament by votes of not less than members declaring that the charge has been substantiated, the President shall vacate his office on the date on which the resolution is passed (5) Where the Speaker is exer-

cising the functions of the President under article 54 the provisions of this article shall apply subject to the modifications that the reference to the Speaker in clause (1) shall be construed as a reference to the Deputy Speaker, and that the reference in clause (4) to the vacation by the President of his office shall be construed as a reference to the vacation by the Speaker of his office as Speaker; and on the passing of a resolution such as is referred to in clause (4) the Speaker shall cease to exercise the functions of

53. Removal of President on ground of incapacity

(1) The President may be removed from office on the ground of physical or mental incapacity on a motion of which notice, signed by a majority of the total number of members of Parliament, is delivered to the Speaker, setting out particulars of the alleged incapacity.

(2) On receipt of the notice the Speaker shall forthwith summon Parliament if it is not in session and shall call for a resolution constituting a medical board (hereinafter in this article called "the Board") and upon the necessary motion being made and carried shall forthwith cause a copy of the notice to be transmitted to the President together with a request signed by the Speaker that the President submit himself within a period of ten days from the date of the request to an examination by the Board. (3) The motion for removal shall

not be put to the vote earlier than fourteen nor later than thirty days after notice of the motion is delivered to the Speaker, and if it is again necessary to summon Parliament in order to enable the motion to be made within that period, the Speaker shall summon Parliament.

(4) The President shall have the right to appear and to be represented during the consideration of the motion.

(5) If the President has not submitted himself to an examination by the Board before the motion is made in Parliament, the motion may be put to the vote, and if it is passed by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the total number of members of Parliament, the President shall vacate his office on the date on which the motion is

(6) If before the motion for removal is made is Parliament, the President has submitted himself to an examination by the Board, the motion shall not be put to vote until the Board has been given an opportunity of reporting its opinion to Parliament. (7) If after consideration by

Parliament of the motion and of the report of the Board (which shall be submitted within seven days of the examination held pursuant to clause (2) and if not so submitted shall be dispensed with) the motion is passed by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the total number of members of Parliament, the President shall vacate his office on the date on which the resolution is 54. Speaker to act as President

during absence, etc.

If a vacancy occurs in the office of President or if the President is unable to discharge the functions of his office on account of absence, illness or any other cause the Speaker shall discharge those functions until a President is elected or until the President resumes the functions of his office, as the case

### CPI (M) celebrates 25-year in power in West Bengal

AFP, Kalkata

Indian Marxists yesterday celebrated 25 years in power in the eastern state of West Bengal with a rally and by brightening up their party headquar-

ters with colourful lights. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) swept to power in West Bengal in 1977 when it defeated the then-ruling Congress party.

### Last letter

FROM PAGE 1

Ziaur Rahman. He thanked Khaleda for her co-operation and the BNP leaders and workers.

Prof. Chowdhury said he came to know about the decision of the BNP Parliamentary Party on the night of June 20. Being the founding secretary general of BNP and a signatory to the party licence "I was fortunate to become the closest associate of late President Ziaur Rahman", he said.

"As a strong believer in democracy and a conscious citizen I've sent my resignation letter to the Speaker under article 50(3) of the Constitution by showing respect to the decision of the BNP Parliamentary Party of June 20,1 he said in his last letter as President.

Continued Chowdhury: "I express my sincere thanks and gratitude and wish blessings of Almighty Allah for the sincere cooperation personally you and our political workers and leaders as well as countrymen extended during good and bad days of politics."

good health and progress of Bangla-The letter was carried by the Pri-

He also wished the prime minister

vate Secretary of the President to the PM office before Chowdhurv's unceremonious exit from the presidency in the evening. Meanwhile Badruddoza post-

ooned his scheduled trip to Chatkhil in Noakhali by helicopter yesterday morning to attend the circumcision of his grandchild, sources said. The sources said the trip was cancelled after the authorities refused to let him

# Placing wreath

the press at around 7.00pm yesterday at his Baridhara residence after

departing from the Bangabhaban. Despite enormous political pressure for the last two days, the former president appeared at ease, smiling and making jokes. His son, Mahi B Chowdhury MP, and his

mentary Party's decision on his immediate resignation, Chowdhury said that when the majority -- in democracy -- built an opinion and reached a decision, it should be honoured if it is right or wrong.

Chowdhury noted that he was not exactly conveyed why he should

The former president added that grave on every occasion. "If it had been the National Revolution and Solidarity Day on November 7. I would have surely visited his grave,

Chowdhury said that there was nothing to be surprised about his dramatic exit. "Democracy will

Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui was also present at the

Special Security Force (SSF)

Speaker Sircar reached his office about half-an-hour before the resignation letter was given to him.

Later, he left for his Bailey Road residence in the city in the official car and security force for the president.

rule the country." the closest associates of Ziaur

"I always pray for him (Zia) next to my parents in every prayer time, the first secretary general of the BNP said. "I love and honour presi-

politics, he said, "I'm 70 years old now and don't have any intention to return to politics."

Chowdhury expressed his desire to return to his profession as physician. "I am open to all... anyone may seek my advice. I want to involve myself in social activities.

### Media men

Chowdhury stopped the car to talk to journalists. But police and SSF men pulled many of them by the neck and literally threw them away.

One of those injured was Amran Hossain, staff photoiournalist of The Daily Star. He was injured in the right leg, hands and forehead. His

as acting president of the country. Hardly a new minutes had passed when his personal secretary Nasimul Gani asked the newsmen to leave the room.

Gani then shouted at the news men and started pushing them before the acting president could finish replying to journalists gues-

and stared at the official as he could not complete his statement.

Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui, the secretary and the military secretary to the president the parliament secretary and SSF officials present there however did

dent gave a brief farewell speech in

which he expressed thanks to the

staff for their hard work for the

upkeep of the presidential mansion

and for all cooperation extended to

Chowdhury offered Jumma prayers

they turned up at the Bangabhaban

to meet him. No politicians or gov-

present besides Chowdhury him-

went up to his executive office and

signed his resignation letter. He

The milad over, Prof. Chowdhury

at the Bangabhaban Mosque.

In the afternoon, Prof

He phoned some relatives and

him as president.

### Pollution

The next move to free roads from rickshaws would start on the Mirpur Road between Gabtali and Azimpur. The task would be tough, as the Traffic Department needs to man various lanes and by-lanes along the road to prevent rickshaws from

A traffic sergeant said that to keep Panthapath free from rickshaws they had to deploy dozens of ansars and policemen at different

But rickshaw users living in congested areas said that rickshaws have not been given alternative routes to ply.

Lanes and by-lanes rickshaws are expected to ply are run-down. The rides on the streets with big potholes are bumpy for travellers and painstaking for pullers. Rickshaws also need frequent repairs due to the bad condition of the roads, drivers complain.

### 10 deaths

Mirpur area on June 2. His family members said a group of 'known criminals' of the area killed him due to previous enmity.

Anwar Hossain Shahin, organis-

ing secretary of Jubo Dal Ward- 24 unit, was shot dead by his rivals in the organisation at Khilgaon on A JCD of Ward-83 unit, Arif

Hossain, was beaten to death and another person was injured in the attack in Postagola area on June 14. The incident was a sequel to a feud between two rival groups in the organisation. In the latest incident, Jubo Dal

leader Moshed Alam Kaikobad who contested the last general election as an independent candidate from Bhola-2 constituency, was shot in the head at Motijheel in the city on Tuesday (June 18). He is now fighting for his life at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

45-metre lob drop inches over the bar after Kahn had been caught out of his area making a clearance.

However, the U.S. lost their momentum in a scrappy spell that saw a series of yellow cards and the Germans, who had gone out in the quarter-finals in the last two tournaments, held out without too many major scares apart from Tony Sanneh's late header into the side

### **TEAMS**

Germany: Kahn, Linke, Kehl, Metzelder, Frings, Hamann, Ballack, Schneider (Jeremies 60), Ziege, Neuville (Bode 79), Klose (Bierhoff 87). Goal: Michael Ballack (39th minute)

Booked: Kehl. USA: Friedel, Sanneh, Mastroeni

(Stewart 80), Pope, Berhalter, (Mathis 58) Mastroeni, Berhalter. Referee: Hugh Dallas (Scotland)

bilities. But his performance was not

in line with their (BNP) expectation

that he would act like a partisan

(like BNP).'

stay in the USA for medical purposes, he did not call her or inquire about her health. Finally on May 30 -- the day of the 21st death anniversary of BNP

Minister Khaleda Zia's month-long

founder and ex-president Ziaur Rahman. Badruddoza whipped up a wave of criticism in the BNP when he did not visit the grave of Zia. With all the issues combined, the disgruntled BNP leaders at a meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) Wednesday and

Thursday wanted his resignation for

trying to be a 'neutral' person.

## Brazil

How he irked BNP

whose curled shot into the bottom left-hand corner gave Seaman no

The strike maintained his record

of scoring once in all five of games so far -- but it paled in comparison with Ronaldinho's stunning free-kick five minutes after the break Ronaldinho caught Seaman off

his line and the backtracking England keeper could do nothing to prevent the ball sailing into the top left hand corner. Seven minutes later, he was red

carded for the lunge on Mills, the high tackle leaving the England defender writhing on the ground.

**TEAMS** England: David Seaman. Danny Mills Sol Campbell Rio Ferdinand Ashley Cole (Teddy Sheringham 79). David Beckham, Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt Trevor Sinclair (Kieron Dver 56), Michael Owen (Darius Vassell

79), Emile Heskey.. Goal: Owen (23rd minute) Booked: Scholes, Ferdinand. Brazil: Marcos, Roque Junior, Lucio, Edmilson, Cafu, Gilberto, Ronaldinho, Kleberson, Roberto Carlos, Ronaldo (Edilson 70), Rivaldo. Goals: Rivaldo (45th minute) Ronaldinho (50th minute) Sent off: Ronaldinho (58th minute)

Referee: Felipe Ramos Rizo (Mex-

## BNP leaders

FROM PAGE 1 Wednesday.

Throughout yesterday party activists were seen visiting residences of ministers and senior party leaders to know under what circumstances Badruddoza had to quit within such a short time. Activists suspect that there might be something quite serious behind the removal of the president.

Many activists and junior leaders

told senior leaders that the latest

development had created a mixed

reaction among the people and

majority of the commoners has been shocked by such an extreme action against Badruddoza. The BNP activists felt that it was totally unwise to force the president to guit in such a harsh way and that his removal could have been

delayed for an honourable exit. Hundreds of BNP leaders and activists, who attended a protest rally at the Paltan Maidan vesterday were seen talking to each other about the removal of the former president.

speculating about who would become the next president. Some say the prime minister might make Acting President Jamiruddin Sircar the next president as she did in They said the prime minister

might now nominate a person who

Many BNP leaders were also

would remain very loyal to the government and the party. Many argued that it would be better to nominate Sircar for the presidency since he was not performing well as Speaker in the Jativa Sangsad. They said it would be very difficult for Sircar to tackle the House once the AL joins the House and so, it would be better to look for a competent person for the post of the

Speaker Meanwhile, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia had a lengthy meeting with senior party leaders at her office yesterday to discuss about the next course of action following the forced resignation of Badruddoza.

The meeting started at about 4:00pm and continuing till filing of this report at 8:00pm.

## AL terms it a national crisis "We' are closely watching the situa-

Referring to the BNP legislators' resolution asking the president to quit, AL presidium member Abdul Jalil said, "There is no scope for any parliamentary party to take such a resolution at its meeting.'

practised with the president. The AL presidium also decide to stage demonstrations in the city

today and across the country on June 24 to protest the censure motion against Sheikh Hasina adopted by the parliament on Zohra Taiuddin, Amir Hossain Ámu.

Tofail Ahmed and Sajeda Chowdhury also attended the meting. Besides, party leader AKM Jahangir Hossain and the party chief's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury attended it on special invitation.

## Profile of Sircar

FROM PAGE 1

to the United Nations General Assembly from 1977 to 1981 to represent the country in the legal committee. He attended a seminar on the Presidency of the UN Security Council in 1977 and also attended the parliament members' conferences at the UN during 1977-

He was the leader of the Bangladesh delegation to HABITAT Conference in Manila in 1981. leader of the Bangladesh delegation to the Non-Allianed Movement Labour Ministers' Conference in Baghdad in 1981. As a member of the Legal

Experts' Committee of the Organization of Islamic Conference, he attended a conference in Jeddah on Palestine Issue. Sircar was leader of the delegation to UNESCO conferences in Paris and Geneva, leader of the delegation to the Montreal Conference on Health held under the auspices of UNICEF leader of the Commonwealth Education Ministers' Conference in Islamabad, leader of the delegation in the International Atomic Energy Agency (Commission) in Vienna leader of the delegation to the International Democratic Lawyers conferences in Athens, Barcelona and New Delhi, leader of the delegation to the Summit Conference of the Heads of State and Heads of Government of E-9 countries held in New Delhi in 1995, and member of the Parliament Delegation on the

### ouster FROM PAGE 12 blow abroad due to the manner in

President's

which the President was removed. Prof. Dr. Mostafa Chowdhury of the Department of Political Science, Dhaka University (DU), said the

BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP)

cannot request the president to quit.

"It is very unfortunate and a serious blow to the democratic

dent would also be removed from the office should he refuse to act on

The President agreed to resign because the resolution adopted by the BNPPP would have 'unconstitu-

the BNPPP had no legal authority to take such a decision. He. however said it happened because President Chowdhury was also a party man. Rezaul Karim, a lawyer by pro-

would have plunged into a serious Renowned litterateur Abdullah Abu Sayeed refused to comment on the matter 'because of the nasty political situation in the country'. "It

Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury picked the entry of the 49-year-old at a 'packed' Muslim Institute Hall here in Chittagong in

Dhaka, Nahid Miah took the third prize, a semi automatic Toshiba washing machine. Kaiser Ahmed, a 34-year-old businessman from Modinanagar in Dhaka, won the fourth prize, a

from Farmgate in Dhaka. cookers and nine Toshiba electric irons, were also given through raffle

guests at the entertaining draw were Rumi Hossain, managing director of Rangs Industries Limited, Akhter Un Nabi, president of Chittagong Press Club, Farid Ahmad Chowdhury president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Brig Gen Shah-e-Alam, director of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and Shahed Asgar Chowdhury, general secretary of Chattagram Jila Krira Sangstha

culture," he said, adding that the ruling party should not impose any decision on the president. It appeared that the next presi

the dictates of the party, he said.

tionally' tried to impeach him, the DU professor commented. Nasiruddin, a young banker observed that the president could

fession, said it was in the interest of the nation that the president agreed to resign. Otherwise, the country

is better not to make any comments about the present conflicting politi-

# WC Quiz draw

FROM PAGE 12 prize, a 21" Toshiba flat screen

the afternoon Salim Khan, a 25-year-old service holder from Nayamati, Pagla,

Toshiba rice cooker. The fifth prize. a Toshiba electric iron, went to Aligur Apart from these five prizes, 13 special prizes -- four Toshiba rice

to the lucky winners from audience. chaired by The Daily Star Éditor

Mahfuz Anam and conducted by Sports Reporter Hasan Masood. Among others present as special

Mahfuz Anam, in his welcome speech, said that the draws for The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup quiz competition outside the capital were designed to interact with the people of different regions as well as to boost the ailing game of the country.Highlighting different people-oriented and social-welfare activities like fund-raising drive for iournalist Tipu Sultan in recent times by The Daily Star, Mahfuz Anam promised the Chittagonians that the news paper would play such role in

City mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury appreciated The Daily Star for organising this function in the port city. "We, the people of Chittagong, feel honoured for this. The mayor urged everyone for

The Bumper Round of the sixround guiz competition will be held at the auditorium of Nation Press

(The list of winners and correct answers for Round Five on Page

Housewife chopped

to death by

A housewife was chopped to death by a gang of extortionists at village Saratoli in Shahjadpur upazila in the early house of yesterday.

house of Alhai Sahab Ali, a clothes trader, at ábout 1 a.m. and demanded Tk one lakh from him. As Sahab Ali refused to oblige, they beat him and chopped his wife Selina Khatun, 40, with an axe. She

## Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesteropment. In a message ahead of the

due to technological revolution.

adolescents and youths, she said. Khaleda said the nation that

Realising this truth of history. expresident Ziaur Rahman initiated the observance of Science and Technology Week in 1978, she said.

passage of time. She expressed happiness over

granddaughter accompanied him. Asked about the BNP Parlia-

He, however, said the issue could have been dealt differently. "I could have been informed earlier about the party's dissatisfaction (at his neutrality).

lution and resigned. "I came to know about the grievances against me from newspapers," he said. his position as president did not allow him to visit Ziaur Rahman's

he said.

took over security arrangements at the Speaker's office 15 minutes

## FROM PAGE 1

## Enters Sircar

before Badruddoza's resignation letter reached there.

## **Exits Badruddoza**

Jamiruddin Sircar at his Sangsad Bhaban chamber at around 7.00pm to hand over the letter of resignation

a new president is elected by 90

Prof. Chowdhury spent a busy day yesterday at the Bangabhaban, cancelling his visit to Chatkhil to see the in-laws of his daughter. The Bangabhaban staff

arranged a simple farewell for him at

days, as stipulated in the constituresignation letter around 6.00pm and came out of his executive office on the first floor of the Bangabhaban to the front lawn where the staff lined up to say goodbye. A contingent of

by Prof. Chowdhury. The mantle of the presidency was automatically passed on to

Speaker of the House Jamiruddin

Sircar, and no fresh oath is required.

Sircar will act as acting president till

the President's Guard Regiment (PGR) offered him the last presidential salute with a guard of honour.

ernment officials were learnt to have Prof. Chowdhury signed his made any last visit to the outgoing president. After Asr prayers, a milad mahfil was held at the Bangabhaban where officers, staff and some relatives of the president were

called in his Secretary Abdul Haq and Military Secretary Major General AM Mansur Ahmed and requested them to deliver it to the the ornate Darbar Hall. The presi-

## FROM PAGE 12

prevail and good people will come to Chowdhury said he was one of

dent Zia most.' Asked if he has a plan to return to

At one stage, Badrudduza

camera was also damaged. At the Speaker's chamber, Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar was talking to newsmen after taking over

Sircar was apparently stunned

Germany prevail FROM PAGE 12 Berhalter shot. Reyna then saw an audacious

Hejduk (Jones 65), O'Brien, Reyna, Lewis, Donovan, McBride Booked: Lewis, Pope, Reyna,

### The next day, Badruddoza visited the Awami League presidium member Abdus Samad Azad -- apparently to persuade the opposition to

FROM PAGE 1

Earlier this year, Mahi B Chowdhury, son of Badruddoza, accorded a grand welcome to Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina in Munshiganj when she visited the area. This also was viewed negatively by BNP leaders who felt that Badruddoza should have deterred his son from organis-

various government supplements ages that did not end with 'Bangladesh Zindabad' -- a political cliché symbolising one's allegiance towards the BNP. In another issue, the president 'angered' Prime Minister Khaleda Zia when he rejected the file she

The disgruntled BNP leaders

also noted that Badruddoza in

sent on the appointment of Dr. Aftab Ahmed as the Public Service Commission (PSC) chairman. The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had approved it but the president had reservation about the selection. Later, the prime minister. selected Dr. Zinnatunnesa Tahmida Begum as PSC chairman and he approved it. The incident strained

the relationship between the prime

Badruddoza also ran into contro-

minister and the president.

versy over television coverage. A few months ago, the BNP leaders felt that Badruddoza was getting too much TV coverage. Accordingly, the PMO asked BTV to reduce coverage on him. In early May, when Badruddoza

came to know about this, he decided

to curtail his own coverage further,

limiting it only to the events at the

Once again, Badruddoza was

severely criticised by BNP leaders

when they noticed that during Prime

democracy in the country, she

on various occasions. But now they

threatened to impeach the president

they elected just because he

showed neutrality. " she noted. This

Bangabhaban.

added.

This government has exposed its attitude of politicisation by forcing She noted with dismay that when they (AL) decided to join parliament session, they (BNP) censured the

necessary for starting a sitting of the If the party (BNP) believes in

democracy, how can a minister threaten to ban AL that secured 41 per cent votes in the last general elections." Hasina said, referring to recent remarks by Communications

Another presidium member Suranjit Sengupta said, "It is a fraud

Presidium members Syeda

### 50th anniversary of the UN held at the UN headquarters in 1995.

Dhaka, won the second prize, an 8.5 CFT Toshiba refrigerator. Another young service holder from Banani,

The cheerful draw ceremony was

giving proper importance to Chittagong in making it a 'commercial capital' for real.

extortionists OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Police said the gang attacked the

### is manifestation of BNP's 'double The former prime minister recalled that many of the delibera-Shahabuddin "embarrassed us at different times, but that

never prompted us even to think of

his resignation from the office of

president. The gentleman

(Shahabuddin) would have

resigned had we behaved like this

In a lighter vein she said, "I think we have to learn many lessons from Hasina went on, "President (Badruddoza Chowdhury) discharged his constitutional responsi-

"They (BNP) always (when in opposition) asked for neutrality from the then president Shahabuddin Ahmed and used to meet him for this

> The AL chief alleged that BNP does not even follow parliamentary norms. In this connection, she referred to a recent ruling by the Speaker that quorum was not

Minister Nazmul Huda. She also blasted the government for a 'law and order situation' in the

opposition leader (Hasina) in the House. "This shows they do not want democracy to be practised in the country.'

country and for levying heavy tax on After the hour-long meeting of the AL presidium, its senior member

tion. We are deeply concerned at where this government is leading us to. It is not a party crisis for them (BNP), rather, it is a national crisis."