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Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry demands a white paper from the government on the circumstances in which the Financial Sector Credit Programme was concluded with the World Bank. Report on Page 8

NEWS BRIEFS

Pak Defence Adviser resigns

ISLAMABAD, Mar 6: The Defence Adviser to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has resigned becoming the third official to leave the government since it took office in November, official sources here said today.

NATO units to go back

BRUSSELS, Mar 6: The NATO nations agreed on Wednesday to withdraw special air units sent last January to bolster Turkey's defences against Iraq. Aircraft from Belgium, Germany and Italy will in the immediate future return to their home bases, reports AP.

115 killed in Afghan flood

QUETTA (Pakistan), Mar 6: Torrential rains triggered flash floods that killed more than 115 people in southern Afghanistan, relief officials said Wednesday. The death toll was expected to rise, reports AP.

Khaleda seeks cooperation of all parties

Hold aloft spirit of united democratic movement



VICTORY IS A RED RED ROSE : Khaleda Zia holds aloft a bouquet of roses presented to her at a Dhaka public meeting Wednesday held in celebration of BNP's election victory.

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia on Wednesday sought cooperation of all political parties and organisations to work together upholding the spirit of the joint democratic movement to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

Addressing a big public meeting at the Manik Mia Avenue at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar she said power is nothing permanent. "Now the people have given us mandate to form government, some others may come to power in future".

While underscoring the spirit of unity, the BNP chief also warned that those who would try to create anarchy and indiscipline would be severely dealt with. The people of Bangladesh want peace, progress and prosperity, she said.

Begum Zia demanded a white paper on the state of the economy which, she complained, was ruined during nine years of autocratic rule and said that BNP would have to start everything anew. She reiterated her demand for the trial of former president Ershad on charges of corruption, flight of capital and possession of illegal arms, according to the law of the land.

The public meeting was also addressed by BNP central leaders and MPs-elect Mirza Golam Hafiz, Prof Badruddozza Chowdhury, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, Maj Gen (Retd) Majidul Haq, Col (retired) Oli Ahmed, Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Amanullah Aman, and Firoze Noon.

Manik Mia Avenue filled to its fringes were a festive look as thousands came carrying colourful banners and festoons. Begum Zia visibly moved by the show also quipped : It looks more like a fair than a public meeting.

Amid intermittent slogans by jubilant party activists, Begum Khaleda Zia who is expected to form government soon thanked people for over-

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Shekhar Govt falls

NEW DELHI, Mar 6: Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar resigned Wednesday, saying he could no longer run his minority government because of manipulation by Ex-Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, report agencies.

Chandra Shekhar said President Ramaswamy Venkataraman has accepted the resignation of his four-month-old government.

"I have tendered the resignation of the government and the President has accepted," Chandra Shekhar told reporters outside the presidential palace.

The 63-year-old Chandra Shekhar announced his decision in Parliament's lower house after opposition members bitterly criticised him for running a "puppet" government controlled by "puppeteer" Gandhi and Gandhi's Congress Party.

After two hours of opposition members' tirades, Chandra Shekhar said in a cracking voice while concluding an impassioned address: "I cannot run the government in keeping with their (the Congress Party's) behaviour. Being betrayed is not bad, but to betray is bad."

Outside the presidential palace, Chandra Shekhar said he has asked Venkataraman to call early national elections in-

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CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Leader of a minority government meets his fate.

Economic situation grimmer

Star Economic Report

The overall economic situation turned grimmer in the first half of the current fiscal year than before because of plummeting industrial production, reduction in consumer spending and higher deficit in external current accounts.

This was stated by Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) in its latest review of the current economic trends.

The Chamber assessment sounded a strong note of warning, which indicated that if instability in most sectors continues the economy will slide into a prolonged recession.

According to the MCCI review, production of major industrial items in July-December declined sharply. Sales of major industries were also depressed due to reduction in consumption spending. The

Gulf crisis was another major destabiliser for the economy, causing escalation in insurance, freight and prices of imported industrial raw materials.

Rise in domestic inflation and cost of wages and infrastructural inputs have aggravated the cost-price squeeze in most local industries. Liquidity position in most industries has further deteriorated. Price competitiveness has further diluted in export industries, the Chamber said.

In the first half of fiscal 1990-91, production of jute goods decreased by 10.4 per cent to 237,600 metric tons compared to 265,264 metric tons in the corresponding period of fiscal 1989-90.

In cotton textiles, production declined by 2.4 per cent to 249 lakh meters from 255 lakh meters last year.

Output in the steel sector decreased by 22.5 per cent to Tk. 162 crore between July and December 1990 from Tk. 209 crore in the corresponding period of 1989.

In the chemicals sector, production dropped by 2.7 per cent to Tk. 618 crore against Tk. 635 crore last year.

In frozen food, only 40 out of 90 units are in production now because of loss of export markets in the Middle East, drop in export prices and lack of cash credit facilities.

In the cigarette manufacturing sector, sales of major manufacturers went down by 30 per cent. Increase in duties and taxes resulted in the rise in prices of cigarettes but the purchasing capacity of most consumers has not increased. Smuggling of various foreign

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Saddam's cousin in to stamp out rebellion

NICOSIA, Mar 6: Iraqi Interior Minister Samir Mohammad Abdul Wahab has been fired, Baghdad radio announced Wednesday in a broadcast monitored here, reports AFP.

Reuter says a decree from the ruling Revolution Command Council appointed Ali Hassan Al-Majid as the new Interior Minister charged with restoring order after Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war.

He is Saddam's cousin with a reputation for ruthlessness, and has been appointed to stamp out rebellion.

Majid earned a name for savage suppression of Saddam's opponents after the Iran-Iraq war in 1988 when he used chemical weapons to help put down a Kurdish rebellion in the northern Iraq town of Halabija.

Saddam later appointed Majid as de-facto governor of

Kuwait during part of its seven-month brutal occupation by Iraqi troops.

The appointment coincides with reports outside Iraq that Saddam's loyal Republican Guard were crushing a revolt among Shi'ite Muslims in south Iraq and in some northern Kurdish towns.

Shi'ite fundamentalists were reported to have rebelled in up to 12 towns in southern Iraq and in the Kurdish strongholds

of Sulaimaniya and Irbil.

Baghdad has toughened its iron-fisted security, apparently fearing that defeated soldiers trekking home from the battlefield will spread discontent after Iraq's second devastating war in 11 years.

To Kurds, Majid's name is synonymous with Halabija, the town where up to five thousand Kurds, many of them women and children, were

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Presidential form can't bring good: Hasina

From Our Correspondent

JAMALPUR, Mar 6: Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has urged the people to remain alert against all conspiracies to foil the process of institutionalising democracy and called for united efforts to establish a parliamentary form of government.

"Presidential system of one-man rule cannot bring welfare to the masses," she said while addressing a big public meet-

ing today at Benuarchar High School ground.

The meeting was organised in support of Awami League candidate Rashed Mosharraf, who is contesting the parliamentary election from Jamalpur-2 Constituency where polling in eight centres has been fixed on March 9.

Aftabuddin Ahmed presided over the meeting which was

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March 7 today Hasina wants consensus on form of govt

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League will observe historic March 7 today by holding public meetings and rallies throughout the country.

The central programme of the party includes a public meeting at Panthapath in the city today at 3 p.m. which will be presided over by Awami League

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CEC may administer oath to MPs

By Reazuddin Ahmed

The newly elected members of parliament are likely to take oath by Sunday. Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf may administer the oath as the major political parties have refused to take oath from Shamsul Huda Choudhury, outgoing Speaker of the dissolved parliament.

The rules of procedure provide that the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker will administer the oath to members and hand over charge to the newly

elected speaker. If the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker of the previous parliament is unable to administer the oath, the Speaker may nominate any person to perform the duty. In the event of failure of all these three persons, the President may nominate a person to administer the oath. The Acting President is likely to designate Justice Rouf to administer oath.

A parliament source, however, told The Daily Star that

no political party informed the secretariat about its decision not to take oath from the outgoing Speaker.

The Speaker will return to Dhaka from Mymensingh this afternoon and the parliament secretariat will discuss the issue with him. It is learnt that the political parties who led the movement to overthrow the Ershad regime will not take oath from the Speaker of the dissolved parliament.

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Population census from March 12

The third population census of Bangladesh will begin from March 12. The census will continue till March 15, an official Handout said, Wednesday, reports BSS.

Census enumeration of the floating population throughout the country will take place from the midnight of March 11 to 5 am.

Two lakh 15 thousand

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Attempt to block forming Council of Ministers is a conspiracy: Siraj

By Staff Correspondent

Shahjahan Siraj, president of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) on Wednesday said raising controversy on formation of a council of ministers and questioning neutrality of the Acting President at this hour of transition to democracy is part of a conspiracy.

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Writ challenging Kader Siddiky's detention rejected

By Supreme Court Correspondent

The High Court Division of the Supreme Court rejected a Writ petition challenging the detention of Awami League leader Kader Siddiky.

The Writ was filed by Nasreen Siddiky, wife of Abdul Kader Siddiky. She obtained

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Ershad's detention hearing adjourned till March 11

A Two-judge Division Bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court Wednesday adjourned the hearing on detention matters of former President H. M. Ershad, till March 11, reports BSS.

The Division Bench comprising Justice Mohammad Abdul Jalil and Justice Kazi Shafiquddin also adjourned the hearing on detention matters of Begum Raushan Ershad and

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JP fails to accord Ershad reception

By Staff Correspondent

Security blanket around the villa where Ershad is interned muffled a Jatiya Party move to accord the ousted president a post-poll reception Wednesday.

The Jatiya Party organized the reception in celebration of its chief's surprising return from all the five parliament seats he contested from his

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JANATA BANK
DHAKA SHERATON HOTEL BRANCH
DHAKA
NOTICE

It is notified for information of the General Public that "Walsow Limited", 1-2, Mymensingh Road, at present 21-23, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, P. S. Ramna, Dist. Dhaka through its Managing Director Mrs. Wahida Wasiuddin, W/o. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Khawaja Wasiuddin mortgaged the property stated in the schedule below on 17th September, 1987 by registered deed of mortgage (deed No. 1904), registered with Sadar Sub-Registrar, Dhaka and also by deposit of title deed of the property (deed No. 1802, registered with Sadar Sub-Registrar on 8th September, 1987) in favour of Janata Bank, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel Branch, Dhaka. Subsequently, by fraudulent means the mortgagor has taken delivery of the original title deed No 1802 from the office of Sadar Sub-Registrar, Dhaka without the original delivery receipt, which is lying with the Bank duly discharged.

In such situation, no one should in anyway deal with the said property, building, any part of the building or apartment thereon, without the prior written approval of the said mortgagee Bank. In default, such transaction shall be illegal and of no effect and the mortgagee Bank shall not be responsible in anyway. The Bank as mortgagee shall also enforce its security and sell the entire property to realise its outstanding dues. Public and all institution/organisation are cautioned not to purchase or otherwise enter into any transaction whatsoever relating to the said property and/or part thereof without prior approval of the mortgagee Bank.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY
 "Walsow Tower" situated at 21-23, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, P. S. Ramna, Dhaka on plot C. S. No. 34, S. A. No. 55, Khatian No. C. S.-17, S. A. Nos.32, 32/1, area of land 0.80 acres with all rights and privileges attached thereto.

M A N A GER
Janata Bank
Dhaka Sheraton Hotel Branch
Dhaka.