- Star photo

NICOSIA, Mar 23: Iraqi

President Saddam Hussein

formed a new government Sat-

urday, official reports said, giv

ing up the post of prime min-

ister as he battles insurrec-

tions in the north and south.

Saddam would continue to rule

Agency said Saddam, 53,

signed decrees appointing

Shi'tte aide Saadoun Hammadi

as Prime Minister and Tariq

Aziz as Deputy Prime Minister.

Hammadi had been Deputy

Prime Minister and Aziz was

Al-Zubaidi, a senior leader of

Iraq's ruling Baath Arab Social-

ist Party would also serve as

Deputy Prime Minister. It said

there would be 24 ministers in

aimed at helping calm rebel-

lions by Shi'ites in the south

and Kurds in the north follow-

ing Iraq's defeat in the Gulf

The changes could be

In the old government,

INA said Mohammed Hamza

with absolute power.

foreign minister.

the new government.

It was unclear whether

The official Iraqi News

reports AP.

Hammadi new Prime Minister, three Kurds inducted in cabinet

Saddam forms new government

10 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 3.00

### Inside today -International



Janata Dal said the credit for the "dirty hattrick" by Om Prakash Chautala becoming Chief Minister of Haryana should go exclusively to Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar. Page 5

## **Editorial**

Mess at the Foreign Office Article

Concluding part of M. Syeduzzaman's "Economic Objectives and Targets for the New Administration". Page 4

### Metropolitan Dhaka Day by Day



Young actors at Alliance Francaise presented three plays in French at a go entertaining the French speaking community. Page 3

#### **Business**

Summer fruit prices this year are well out of reach of general customers because of high tax on fruit import. Page 8

### Feature

Health



Simple preventions for better health. Some health tips to avoid common diseases. Page 6

### **NEWS BRIEFS**

### SSMC reopens

By SSMC Correspondent

Classes at the Sir Salimullah Medical College (SSMC) resumed Saturday after a ten-day of unscheduled closure followed by a clash between to rival students' groups.

#### British ship catches fire

LONDON, Mar 23: A British ship carrying 309 passengers put out an SOS message today after catching fire in the Atlantic, Lloyds shipping agency said, reports Reuter.

### Floods in

Iran NICOSIA, Mar 23: Floods have destroyed more than 2,000 houses in 50 villages in eastern Iran and help was urgently needed to prevent further losses, Tchran Radio said Saturday, reports AP.

#### Sehri and Iftar timings



CHAITRA 9, 1397 BS,

Begum Khaleda Zia on the first day of her assuming official responsibility as Prime Minister

Saturday receiving the first call from a Cabinet collegue.

RAMADAN 7, 1411 HIJRI

## Khaleda addresses Secretaries, Addl Secretaries

## 'We don't want

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka Saturday that friendship with all countries would be the cornerstone of Bangladesh's

Addressing high officials at Bangladesh Secretariat she said "we want to build special relationship with the Muslim nations and neighbouring

like to solve all existing problems through discussions and negotiations. She at the same time emphasised "we do not want the overlordship of any-

War three weeks ago.

At least three new govern-

ment members are Kurds, and

Hammadi is from the Shi'ite

holy city of Karbala, where

fighting has raged between

government troops and Islamic

clear how much political

power Hammadi would hold or

whether he would be a figure-

head behind Saddam. But he is

considered a proponent of po-

Saddam presumably re-

tained the presidency, the

chairmanship of the powerful

Revolutionary Command Coun-

cil and leadership of the ruling

party, although the official re-

of prime minister since taking

nounced the re-appointment

of at least 12 ministers to their

same posts in the new cabinet.

Majid, a cousin of Saddam, as

These included: Ali Hasan Al-

Interior Minister; Staff Gen.

Abd-Al-Jabbar Khalil Shanshal

Saddam had held the title

Official Baghdad Radio an-

ports did not specify.

power in 1979.

litical and economic reform.

it was not immediately

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Saturday under-

meeting with the Secretaries and Additional Secretaries of different ministries and divisions at the Bangladesh Secretariat after assuming office of the Prime Minister, Begum Zia said in clear terms that all endeavours would go in vain if the country could not be freed from the vice of corruption. "Our prime task at this moment would be to build a corruption-free people-ori-

as Minister of State for De-

fense Affairs; Staff Lt. Gen. Sadi

Tumah Abbas as Defense Min-

ister, and Saddam's son-in-law.

Hussein Kamel Hassan, as Min-

ister of Military Industrialisa-

by opponents as the "butcher

of the Kurds" for leading an

attack on the Kurdish town of

Halabjah in March 1988 in

which thousands of people re-

portedly died from chemical

Al-Sammaraci is the new For-

eign Minister, Baghdad Radio

said. He had been chief of the

minister of state for foreign af-

fairs in the old government

and was a member of the rul-

ing Revolutionary Command

Council. He was the Speaker of

Parliament from 1980 to 1989

and was foreign minister in

prime minister in the previous

government, became well

known in the months leading

Aziz, who also was a deputy

Hammadi also served as

president's office.

1973-80.

Ahmad Hussein Khudayyir

Al-Majid has been labelled

tion, Industry and Oil.

ented administration and a society and educational arena free of terrorism", she

lishment Osman Gani Khan.

The meeting with the Secretaries and high officials of the government was the first official programme of the Prime Minister. She came to the Secretariat a few minutes after 11 am in a white Limousine, flying the national and party flags. Alighting from the car Begum Zia went to her See Page 10 Col 2

up to the Gulf War as a top

spokesman for Saddam to the

West. He has been associated

with Saddam since the 1950s

in the Baath Party in its at

tempts to overthrow the Bri-

of Mosul, has long been viewed

as one of the chief ideologues

of the Baath Party. He was edi-

tor of the party newspaper Al-

US-led allies worked toward a

permanent truce, there was

word American forces would

stay in southern Iraq to assure

that the Baghdad government

complies with allied demands.

of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff,

said in newspaper reports

published Saturday at the

forces would remain in south-

ern Iraq for "some months to

and the shooting down of two

Despite the US presence

Gen Colin Powell, chairman

Meanwhile, as Iraq and the

Aziz, from the northern city

tish-backed monarchy.

Thawra until 1979.

### parleys By Moinuddin Naser

BNP- AL

backstage

Backstage parleys are in progress to initiate a dialogue between the BNP and he Awami League to narrow down their major differences on certain national issues.

The two parties sharply differ on some issues which may cause Acting President Justice Shahabuddin difficulties in preparing his speech for the inaugural session of Parliament on April 5 unless both the BNP and the Awami League come to a minimum understanding.

Political observers strongly feel that a dialogue between the ruling party and the opposition should be a continuous process for the smooth functioning of parliament.

Both political and administrative initiatives are learnt to See Page 10 Col 6

## today

Star Report

Today is March 24. On this day in 1982 General H. M. Ershad seized power from Presimilitary coup.

Justice Sattar was elected 1981 and Ershad forcibly took over power only after four

During his nearly nine years' rule Ershad destroyed the democratic institutions and corruption was rampant in the administration. He suppressed the voice of the people by imposing restrictions on political activities and closing down newspapers one after scale rigging. The mainstream political parties led by BNP habuddin Ahmed on December

The interim government held a free and fair election on February 27, in which BNP

Sugandha may

be converted

into PM's office

By Staff Correspondent

'Sugandha' may be converted

into the Prime Minister's of-

Begum Khaleda Zia visited the

guest house to explore this on

Saturday after formally starting

her office duties at the Estab-

'Sugandha', popularly called the 'Old Ganabhaban', is being

used as state guest house since

1984 when Her Majesty Queen

Elizabeth of the United King-

dom visited Bangladesh and

ter's office by Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and

was named Ganobhaban. Sub-

was shifted to the 'New Ganab-

haban' at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar,

Indian special

envoy due soon

government is likely to visit

Dhaka shortly to have a first-

hand view of the changing po-

litical scenario in Bangladesh,

Dhaka indicated Saturday

Indian Foreign Secretary

Muchkund Dubey is expected

to make the trip, carrying a

special message from Chandra

Shekhar, Prime Minister of

Diplomatic sources in

A special envoy of Indian

It was used as Prime Minis-

the PM's office

fice, reliable sources say.

lishment Ministry.

used the house.

sequently

reports UNB.

State guest house

The new Prime Minister,

## You are friends, not masters of people

## overlordship'

foreign policy, reports BSS.

countries.

She said her country would

lined the paramount importance of stamping out corruption from the country as well as the administration to take the nation on the road to progress and prosperity, reports BSS. Addressing the first-ever

stressed.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman, Shipping Minister M. K. Anwar, State Minister for Information Nurul Huda and State Minister for Estab-

## 'Black Day'

dent Justice Abdus Sattar in a President on November 15.

months.

another. He destroyed the institution of elections by largeand Awami League and the student organisations together spearheaded the movement against the autocratic regime in October last year, which culminated into a mass upsurge in December. Ershad had to step down handing over power to Chief Justice Sha-

Iraqi jets by US fighters this week. Powell said the allies did not intend to intervene in Iraq's civil strife. See Page 10 Col 5

### Hasina asks govt to seal off border

World Bank team in city

Saadoun Hammadi, the new Prime Minister of Iraq.

MIRPUR (Kushtia), Mar 23: Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina Saturday asked the BNP government to seal off the border with India to stop smuggling, reports UNB.

She said Indian goods had flooded the Bangladesh market causing heavy loss to indigenous industries particularly sugar mills.

The Awami League leader was addressing a series of publie meetings and wayside rallies including at Parankhali High School ground in Bheramara, Khadempur Primary School ground,

Current year's Annual De-

velopment Programme (ADP)

has been projected to be re-

vised upward to Tk 6284 crore

from Tk 5668 crore, reports

sources said Saturday the re-

vised ADP would be finalised

with approval of the Resource

this year's total ADP size is be-

ing raised from original esti-

mate of Tk 3561 crore to Tk

3963.35 crore. The local cur-

rency part will also rise by Tk

would be allocated to water

and irrigation, power, trans-

The additional amount

Committee.

264 crore.

Planning Commission

Project aid component of

Majihata Hailsha bazar and Poradah College ground in Mirpur upazila on the secondday of her 3-day electioneering tour of Kushtia-2 constituency of Bheramara and Mirpur.

-AFP Photo

Polling in this constituency (Bheramara-Mirpur), where election was postponed following the killing of JSD (Rab) candidate Marfat Ali, will be held on March 28.

Hasina said due to smuggling of sugar, poor sugarcane growers are not getting fair price. She asked the corporation authorities to pay the areas of the sugarcane farmers. Hasina criticised the BNP See Page 10 Col 8

port and agriculture sectors.

Sources attributed the up-

ward revision of ADP to possi-

ble rapid disbursement of pro-

ject aid to some big on-going

projects including Jamuna Fer-

tilizer Company and Flood Re-

habilitation Project in coming

these projects, CDST (Customs

Duty and Sales Tax) collections

are expected to increase too,

paving the way for larger con-

tribution of local currency to

the current fiscal shows a sat-

isfactory trend. During July-

January period, 501 million

See Page 10 Col 5

Project aid disbursement in

With bulk of imports for

months of current fiscal year.

### China to finance 200-bed hospital

Star Report

China is likely to finance a 200-bed ultramodern hospital project in Dhaka soon, Health Ministry sources say.

The construction cost of the proposed hospital is estimated to be around Tk 200 crore. The entire amount will be given as grant to Bangladesh by the Chinese government.

The sources say the hospital will be located either at Rampura or at Demra. A feasibility study has already been carried out by the Chinese government.

The site for the proposed hospital will also be finalised shortly, Health Ministry See Page 10 Col 4

### Jail revolt at Chittagong

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Mar 23: At least 20 people were injured in a revolt by the inmates of

Chittagong Central Jail this evening. This is the third jail revolt here in last four months. Eight prisoners were killed and many others wounded in 11 revolts in the country's six jails

Sources said the jail guards beat up the rebellious prisoners who came out of their lockups breaking open their gates. Earlier, the prisoners See Page 10 Col 4

since the fall of Ershad gov-

ernment in December last.

# Wastage aggravates acute water shortage



Water going waste at Wiseghat. -Star photo

While the city dwellers are facing an acute water shortage large quantities of water, supplied by Dhaka WASA, are being wasted everyday.

Star Report

The WASA could supply more water to its consumers if this wastage was stopped.

Inadequate water supply in Dhaka city remains a regular phenomenon since long and the situation has deteriorated recently.

The prevailing scarcity of water in most parts of the metropolis is causing sufferings for the people, particularly during the holy month of Ramzan.

The areas in the city, badly affected by water scarcity since last week are - Jatrabari, Tikatuly, Gopibagh, Ram Krishna Mission Road, Maghbazar, Jhikatala, Mohammadpur, parts of Dhanmondi, Indira Road, Rajabazar, Nakhalpara, Rampura and other areas.

Reduction of Dhaka WASA's production by 15 per cent has been identified by authorities as one of the main reasons for the recent crisis, while some mechanical faults in the supply system are also responsible for the problem.

Authorities admitted that the wastage of a huge quantity of WASA water has also con-See Page 10 Col 7

# Dissident republics can quit: Gorbachev

BONN, Mar 23: Dissident Soviet republics can quit the Soviet Union if they feel like it, provided they respect the constitutional procedure for doing so, Der Spiegel quotes President Mikhail Gorbachev as saying, report Agencies.

Republics which quit the federation would have relations with Moscow based on international law, it quotes him as saying in Monday's edition.

"We should adopt the same position in this respect as we used to do with regard to Eastern Europe," he said, in a reference to the time when the Soviet Union had close allies on communist Eastern Eu-Gorbachev, Der Spiegel said

reiterated his desire to end

"totalitarianism" in the Soviet

Union. He admitted that he

had made some mistakes, but

said he intended to push ahead with a programme to privatise some Soviet state firms, Der Spiegel said. He appealed to "the solidar-

ity with the German people" to help the Soviet Union through the current phase of perestroika, Der Spiegel said. Meanwhile communist hardliners have given notice of

a bitter power battle at Thurs-

day's Russian Congress session.

accusing populist Russian Federation leader Boris Yeltsin of blazing the way to a radical dictatorship.

Vladimir Isakov, one of six senior figures in the Russian Parliament who demanded Thursday's special session to debate Yeltsin's leadership, was quoted today as accusing his former ally of deliberately spilitting the country.

heading towards dictatorship, hinted at an approaching battle in a speech in Leningrad on Leningrad Party Secretary Friday when he declared he no

Yuri Byelov, attacking radical longer saw any room for com-Yeltsin allies, raised a charge promise with the Soviet Presiincreasingly common among hardliners reverting to Cold He insists Gorbachev, far War terminology. The "counter revolution" they promote, he

from seeking a renewed democratic Soviet Union, said, came from the West. wants only to retain central Yeltsin, who has himself accommunist control over the country's 15 constituent recused Mikhail Gorbachev of publics. For his part, the Soviet President accuses his crstwhile protege of deceiving the people with empty promises.

#### the caretaker government of his country. Ershad retains Rangpur-3 seat

Deposed President HM Ershad, who won elections in five constituencies in the parltamentary polls will retain his Rangpur-3 scat. The ex-president in a letter

By Staff Correspondent

on Friday informed the Election Commission about his decision.

As a result, four more parliamentary seats of Rangpur-1,2,5 and 6 have fallen vacant.