

If you miss your copy of The Daily Star today, please call Tel: 863035, 246023-4 PABX or Hawkers' Union Tel: 231947, 244297. For excellence in journalism please read The Daily Star regularly.

VOL 1 NO. 68 REGD. NO. DA 781

CHAITRA 10, 1397 BS,

DHAKA MONDAY MARCH 25, 1991

RAMADAN 8, 1411 HIJRI

10 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 3.00

The Daily Star

Be cautious while you drive your car. The man you are likely to kill by rash driving may be you!

Inside today International



President Bush said as long as Saddam remained head of government it would be difficult for US to normalise relations with Baghdad. Page 5

Article

Rajiv Gandhi — an Indecisive Pilot for India



As India wrestles with its most difficult crisis since independence Rajiv Gandhi is again at the centre of political controversy. Page 4

Feature

Science & Technology

'Synthetic Experience' to help prevent industrial disasters. Page 6

Metropolitan



National Flag Flying Over Our House

by S. M. Ali. Page 3

Business

Raw jute exports were sluggish in first eight months of current fiscal 1990-91 and trade volume declined by 50 per cent. Page 8

NEWS BRIEFS

PM to donate salary

MIRPUR (Kushtia), Mar 24: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia would not draw her salary entitled to her as the Prime Minister. Announcing the decision at a public meeting here at Mirpur upazila ground Begum Zia said "I want to donate my salary to the various educational institutions including the madrasahs", reports BSS.

New currency note

Bangladesh Bank will issue a new currency note of five taka denomination from its Motijheel office today, a BB press release said last night, reports BSS.

Chittagong jail tense again

CHITTAGONG, Mar 24: The situation inside the Chittagong Jail became tense once again today when agitation prisoners raised slogans demanding early release and better condition in the jail.

'We want to settle all irritants with India through negotiations'

Due share of Ganges waters to be ensured: Khaleda

MIRPUR (Kushtia) Mar 24: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said Sunday her government would try to remove all irritants from the country's relations with India, including the Ganges water sharing problem, reports UNB.

"We must realise our due share of the Ganges water ... and what we want is resolve all existing problems with India through discussions," she told a huge election rally.

Election in Kushtia-2 constituency (Mirpur-Bheramara), countermanded following the killing of JSD (Rab) candidate Marfat Ali, will be held on March 28.

Earlier, local BNP leaders and thousands of jubilant supporters greeted the Prime Minister after she flew into Jessore airport on her way to Kushtia.

As she stepped into the airport, the supporters presented her bouquet. From the airport, she was taken to Kushtia in a ceremonial motorcade.

The Prime Minister addressed two election rallies at Bheramara High School field and near Colapnagar Zia canal that bears the memory of her husband late President Ziaur Rahman who marched through the locality addressing villagers ten years back.

The Prime Minister, also chief of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), said the people had honoured her party by voting it to victory. "Now it's our turn to give the people their due."

Outlining the new government's objectives, Begum Zia said its main objective would be to increase production in mills and fields.

Pledging to fulfil her pre-election commitments to the electorate, the premier said her government would implement all its programmes so that people can have food and live in peace.

Farmers will be given all

possible support for boosting food production, Begum Zia said. Small and medium-scale industries will be set up in villages to improve the life-style of the rural masses as well as to alleviate the curse of unemployment.

Women, who make up half of the country's population, will be involved with production-oriented activities, she said, adding proper training will be imparted to them.

The Prime Minister said her government would soon revive rural electrification, mass literacy and Gram Sarkar programmes, introduced by

See Page 10 Col 1

Stability prerequisite for increased flow of FDI

Star Economic Report

Prospects for attracting foreign direct investments (FDI) to Bangladesh will largely depend on its improved international image as a stable country through establishment of the rule of law. Mere policy changes towards fiscal concessions and liberal incentives are not enough to attract FDI.

The 10-member Task Force on FDI Policy stated this in its report to the government.

With Prof S. A. Latifur Reza of the Economics Department, Dhaka University (DU) as the convenor, the Task Force stressed the need for maintenance of socio-political stability

and continuity of basic policies alongside efforts to raise the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as the preconditions to attract FDI.

The Task Force was one of the 29 similar working groups, set up by the Planning Ministry to examine the socio-economic situation, prevailing in the country, and suggest policy options for the representative government.

The Task Force on FDI Policy stated that the investors from abroad were lukewarm towards Bangladesh, despite several liberal policy moves in overall trade and industry by

the government in the 1980s. In 15 years' time from 1970, FDI flows on a global scale rose from 10.5 billion US dollars to 48.5 billion dollars, and half of this increased FDI went to the USA, it said while noting that the share of the developing countries in Asia and the Pacific region increased from five per cent of total FDI flows to 12 per cent in the same period.

About Bangladesh, it said, the situation remains quite "frustrating". Net annual FDI flows to Bangladesh totalled only two million dollars in the

See Page 10 Col 3

Bush greets Khaleda

We look forward to work with govt by and for people

US President George Bush has congratulated Begum Khaleda Zia on her assumption of the office of Prime Minister of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

In a letter of felicitation to Begum Zia, Bush said, "during the past six months we have watched with admiration as your country joined the ever growing family of nations whose citizens call for democratic government." The people of Bangladesh have much to be proud of as they peacefully exercised their right to vote in last months elections.

See Page 10 Col 3

Hammadi tours southern hotpots as hit-and-run attack continue in Baghdad

US to establish base on Arab soil

RIYADH, Mar 24: The United States is closer than ever to establishing a permanent military headquarters on Arab soil once the troops of Operation Desert Storm leave, the US commander said Sunday, report Agencies.

Such a move would fulfil a longstanding US goal to have a land-based headquarters in the Gulf, which Arab governments have blocked for many years.

Nearly 100,000 Desert Storm troops out of a maximum of 540,000 have left already, the US Central Com-

mand said. The US commander, Gen H Norman Schwarzkopf, said American logistics troops could remain in the Gulf as long as eight to 10 months but that the vast majority by far will be gone.

Schwarzkopf said US troops are not expected to stay in southern Iraq very long, a statement that seemingly contradicted earlier comments by Gen Colin L Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Powell was quoted as saying in Washington recently that US

forces will remain to keep the pressure on Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein "for some months to come" as he battles civil insurrection.

Powell also said US forces would stay in Iraq until the Arab nations of the region, including Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, are ready to replace them with a security force.

"I think there probably was a slight misstatement," Schwarzkopf told reporters after an awards ceremony honouring French officers.

"General Powell and I have

discussed this and we're prepared to stay here quite some time in Saudi Arabia because it is going to take us a long time to get all the equipment out that we have to."

Schwarzkopf also said, "we're prepared to stay in Iraq as long as we have to, but, of course, we're not expecting to stay there very long. We're hoping very rapidly for a ceasefire and we're hoping we can withdraw just as rapidly as we possibly can."

The US Central Command, See Page 10 Col 3



Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Moniruzzaman Mia inaugurated the three-day Independence Day programme of DUCSU on Sunday. —Star photo

Tribal insurgents fire on launch: Four killed

CHITTAGONG, Mar 24: Four persons including a minor girl were killed and another was seriously injured when tribal insurgents opened fire on a passenger launch on lake route near Chittoharina under Barkal upazila of Rangamati hill district Sunday afternoon, official sources said, reports BSS.

They all died on the spot while the injured one was flown to combined military hospital. Three of the victims were identified as Mosharruf Husein, Anjan Roy and Nurul Amin.

The passenger launch M 1 Purubi was proceeding towards Harina from Rangamati when it was ambushed by the insurgents from a hill top position.

Mr Goutam Dewan, Chairman, Rangamati hill district local government par-ishad condemned the cowardly actions of the tribal insurgents and said the people of Chittagong Hill Tracts would never forgive them for their nefarious actions.

20 charges against Ershads framed

Star Report

A three-member Commission headed by Justice Anwaruddin Ahmed has framed about twenty charges against ousted President Ershad and his wife Raushan Ershad.

The charges include the abuse of official power, corruption, embezzlement of public funds, grabbing of government property and nepotism.

The Commission has also established at least 30 charges of corruption against Ershad's ministers.

The Commission is expected to submit its first list of over fifty charges against Ershad, his wife and his ministers to the President within this month, according to a reliable source.

The source told The Daily Star that the charges were with backed-up with strong documentary evidence.

The sources further said that the government will file cases against the accused persons after the list of corruption is submitted.

The Commission is examining more charges against Ershad, his associates and some high officials.

A source told The Daily Star that out of over 1500 complaints about 600 are against officials of government, semi-government and autonomous bodies.

The Commission is likely to finalise the second list within a couple of months.

The Commission needs about six months to dispose of all the allegation received so far.

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed set up the

three-member Commission to examine the charges of corruption and abuse of power against Ershad and his associates.

The Commission received about 200 complaints against Ershad alone and about 30 against Raushan Ershad.

The main charges against Raushan Ershad are grabbing of public property, abuse of power and embezzlement of public funds.

Ershad has been charged with corruption in big business deals, promoting officials illegally and abuse of power.

Meanwhile, the US-based Fairfax, a private detective agency is investigating the foreign funds taken out of the country by the Ershads. Fairfax is collecting evidence from different international banks.

Director, Legal Affairs of the Foreign Ministry Shamsul Murshed has gone to New York to discuss with Fairfax officials about the progress of the investigation.

The Fairfax team which came to Bangladesh last month and stayed in Dhaka for ten days collected a lot of evidence about the transfer of resources abroad by Ershad and his associates.

The Fairfax team was hired at the end of January by the government to investigate the alleged corruption of ousted President Ershad.

During its stay in Dhaka the Fairfax team interrogated relatives and associates of Ershad and officials of an international bank on the basis of some specific allegations.

Bloodcurdling March 25 today

By Staff Correspondent

Today is March 25. On this day in 1971 the Pakistan armed forces launched a brutal crackdown on the unarmed people of the then East Pakistan.

The crackdown turned into a genocide claiming at least three million lives. And from the blood of these martyrs Bangladesh was born free after a bloody nine-month war.

The crackdown was aimed at halting the struggle of the people for autonomy and the right to self determination.

The people of this country had then given their mandate in favour of the Awami League's six-point programme which envisaged full autonomy for the eastern part of the then Pakistan.

In the general elections of Pakistan held on December 7, 1970, the Awami League achieved an absolute majority in the National Assembly. Of the 300 constituencies in that election, 162 were in the then East Pakistan.

Awami League easily won 160 of the 162 seats while Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's Peoples Party bagged 83 of the 138 seats in the then West Pakistan, and became the second largest party in the Assembly.

The National Assembly, for which the election was held, was supposed to frame a new constitution for Pakistan while the largest party in the assembly was to rule the country.

But the election results were not accepted by Bhutto and other leaders of Pakistan who thought that their interests would be hampered if the Awami League came to power and implemented its six-point programme.

Bhutto opposed the transfer of power to the Awami League

See Page 10 Col 7

Independence Day tomorrow

The Independence and National Day will be observed throughout the country on March 26 with a new pledge to establish the democracy in the country following the ouster of the Nine-year autocratic regime of Ershad, reports BSS.

The Acting President will address the nation this evening.

The day will be heralded with the booming of a 31-gun salute in the capital.

The national flag will be hoisted atop all public and private buildings on the day which is a closed national holiday.

Prime Minister Begum

See Page 10 Col 6

Ershad's prayer for time rejected

The Special Tribunal trying the cases against the former president Sunday rejected a prayer of Ershad for time, reports UNB.

A statement by Ershad's lawyer Kazi Shahadat Hossain said the time was sought to enable his client to engage a foreign lawyer to defend him in the arms case.

Hearing on the arms case by the Special Tribunal is set for March 27.

A similar application of Ershad for time was also rejected on March 19 by the Judge of the Special Tribunal Mohammad Habbibullah.

Barrister Kazi Shahadat Hossain and Advocate Sheikh Rezaul Karim appeared before the Tribunal on behalf of Ershad.

None was present on behalf of the state at the time of hearing on the application but the learned judge stated that Attorney General Aminul Haq had raised objection against the prayer, the statement of the defence lawyer said.

See Page 10 Col 7

No processions in DU halls after dusk

By DU Correspondent

Leaders of hall student unions of the Dhaka University decided not to bring out any procession in the halls after dusk to avoid clashes between student organisations.

The decision was taken in a joint meeting of the provosts and the vice presidents and

See Page 10 Col 2

Tigers claim capturing strategic army camp

COLOMBO, Mar 24: Tamil guerrillas said today they had captured a strategic army camp in northwestern Sri Lanka, killing 50 soldiers and losing 20 of their men after three days of heavy fighting, reports AFP.

But the military here denied they claim, made by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"It's propaganda. It's utter

rubbish. The camp is with us," a military spokesman said. A London-based leader of the LTTE said the Tigers had overrun the Kikkupadayan camp in Mannar on Friday and encircled the nearby Silvathurai, which he said "is expected to fall soon."

Kikkupadayan is fully captured by the LTTE. About 50 to 60 soldiers have been killed. Many other soldiers are trying

to escape to Silvathurai. We have lost about 20 fighters," Sathasivam Krishnakumar, London based LTTE leader said by telephone.

Krishnakumar said intense aerial bombardment of areas in Mannar had caused heavy civilian casualties, and denied a military claim that at least 300 LTTE guerrillas had died in three days of fierce battles there.

We categorically deny the army figures. Heavy air bombardment of several areas in Mannar is continuing even now. A large number of civilians have been killed," Krishnakumar said.

In a separate statement received today, the LTTE said air and sea bombardments had killed more than 100 civilians. But the Sri Lankan military spokesman denied the LTTE

claim, saying film taken by the army after the fighting showed the bodies of dozens of dead LTTE fighters strewn near the two camps.

"We have found 115 bodies so far near the two camps. These tigers, including several women fighters were killed on the first two days of fighting and their bodies were in a highly decomposed state," the spokesman said.

The film would be shown to reporters or broadcast on state television tomorrow or Tuesday, the spokesman said.

"This is the largest single defeat for the LTTE. It was a superb show of Air and Navy power against the Tigers," he said, adding that 27 government troops were killed and about 60 others wounded since fighting began Tuesday night.