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# The Daily Star

Drive carefully and observe all traffic rules. The man you are likely to kill by rash driving may be yourself.

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**Inside today**

**International**



**The Philippines will file up to seven criminal cases against the widow of former President Ferdinand Marcos to recover 350 million dollars kept by the Marcoses in Swiss banks.**  
Page 5

**Article**

**End of Gulf war shakes up markets**

It is a very sad thing to say, but wars usually turn out to be good for investors in general.  
Page 4

**Feature**

**Science & Technology**

On their TV screens, users will be able to enter the Smithsonian museum and wander from room to room or take a guided tour.  
Page 6

**Metropolitan**

**I smell rat**



Bad odours in houses in Dhaka are not uncommon. The stench is embarrassing especially if they are discerning visitors.  
Page 3

**Business**

The leaders of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries made strong plea Monday to the visiting World Bank appraisal team for protection to local industries.  
Page 8

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Algerian hijacker surrenders**

ALGIERS, Apr 1: A hijacker armed with a grenade surrendered Monday after releasing all 44 passengers and six crew members aboard an Air Algérie jet, officials and news reports said. The 35-year-old hijacker sought a postponement of Algerian elections scheduled for June, reports AP.

**Filipino Police Hqs bombed**

MANILA, Apr 1: A powerful bomb exploded outside the gates of the Philippine Police Headquarters late today, but there were no immediate reports of casualties, police said, reports Reuter.

**Burmese troops near Karen Hq**

MAE SOT (Thailand), Apr 1: Burmese troops backed by jets and helicopters have advanced on guerrilla positions within a few miles of Manerplaw, Headquarters of the Karen insurgency and dissenting politicians, reports Reuter.

Form of govt, Acting President's tenure may be discussed

## BNP, AL meet tomorrow

**By Moinuddin Naser**

The BNP and the Awami League will sit together tomorrow to try to resolve some tricky issues prior to the inaugural session of parliament on April 5.

According to sources, representatives of the BNP and the Awami League parliamentary parties will meet to decide the issues Wednesday at Parliament House. The two parties are also scheduled to hold two separate meetings of their respective parliamentary parties on the day at the Parliament House.

BNP chairperson and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, talking to the Daily Star on Sunday, also hinted at possible parleys with the other opposition parties to decide certain issues.

General Secretary of the Awami League Sajeda Chowdhury also told The Daily Star that they would like to sit together along with all the components of the three alliances to discuss the major political issues, including their Joint Declaration.

A section of the political leaders and administrative officials have been attempting to narrow down the differences between the Awami League and the BNP on some major issues, including the form of government. The Five-Party alliance leaders also tried to arrange a dialogue between the two parties. The Awami League, it is learnt, agreed to sit in the meeting but the BNP reportedly declined to sit for any dialogue that had the question of the form of government on its agenda. The BNP leader said that the issue should be debated on the floor of the parliament.

Later, after formation of the council of ministers on March 20, the BNP consented to discuss issues other than the form of government with the Awami League.

Some of the other issues include whether the Acting President would be allowed to continue in his office till the holding of the next presidential election, whether the outgoing Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury would be allowed to preside over the election of a new Speaker on April 5 and also discussion on the inaugural speech by the Acting President in Parliament.

See Page 10 Col. 2

Khaleda chairs Cabinet meet

## Council bodies on food, fuel formed

The Council of Ministers reviewed the food position in detail and found the present stock of foodgrains 'fairly satisfactory' when it met in Dhaka with the Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, in the chair on Monday, reports BSS.

By now more than eleven lakh tons of foodgrains have been imported as food aid and the total import on this account would reach 17 lakh tons by next three months ending June, official sources said after the meeting.

This was the first meeting of Ministers presided over by Begum Khaleda Zia after she assumed the office of the Prime Minister on March 20 following her party's (BNP) victory in the February 27 elections. The first meeting of the newly appointed Cabinet was held on March 21 with the Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin, in the chair.

The sources said Monday meeting discussed at length the present state of supply, stock and the market price of foodgrains, fuel and other petroleum, oil and lubricant products (POL) and all essential commodities.

A Council Committee was formed to review the overall food situation covering the present stock position, expected production and requirement of internal and external procurement and submit a report to the Cabinet shortly.

The meeting also decided to encourage the consumption of potato to supplement foodgrains. It further decided to take effective measures for augmenting food production and increasing internal and external procurement during the current season.

The meeting was apprised that the stock position of POL was satisfactory.

The meeting was also informed that adequate steps have been taken to keep the flow of crude imports at even level so that the supply in the market remains uninterrupted.

Another Council Committee was formed to constantly monitor the import and stock position of POL and recommend suitable measures to keep the market price steady.

The meeting also reviewed the price and supply position of essential commodities which was found stable.

The Ministry of Commerce

See Page 10 Col. 1

Senior promotion cases to be re-examined

The Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Monday ordered that the newly constituted Council Committee on Senior Appointments will re-examine the cases of promotion to the rank of Additional Secretaries made against reserved posts vide his order of March 7, 1991, reports BSS.

In another order, the Acting President also directed that the recommendations made by the former Advisory Council Committee on Senior Appointments in its meetings on 12, 13 and 14 March should be reprocessed through the Superior Selection Board and the newly constituted Council Committee on Senior Appointments and Promotions.

These cases related to the promotions to the posts of Additional Secretaries and Joint Secretaries from various BCS cadres and chairmen of some autonomous bodies.

**Ershad likely to take oath as MP today**

By Staff Correspondent

Deposed President Ershad, who was elected MP, is to take oath today (Tuesday) and may be brought to the Parliament House under police escort.

The Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party in a meeting held Monday with Deputy Speaker Reazuddin Ahmed (Bhola Mia) has decided to take oath under the leadership of Ershad, today.

In a press statement the Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party said the party has taken the decision to take oath in the greater interest of the nation and to continue agitation inside and outside the parliament.

The members of the parliamentary party present in the meeting also expressed their

See Page 10 Col. 3

**Programme for first JS session to be finalised today**

Star Report

Both the Treasury and the Opposition benches in the Jatiya Sangsad have agreed to conclude the first session of the fifth parliament which meets on April 5, before Eid-ul-Fitr.

According to a Parliament Secretariat source, 44 ordinances, which were promulgated after the last session of the Fourth Parliament, will be placed during the inaugural session.

According to sources, the programme for the first session has been prepared by the Parliament Secretariat and

See Page 10 Col. 4

**All women MPs take oath**

All the 30 women MPs elected uncontested for the reserved seats in the Parliament took oath Monday, reports UNB.

Of the 30 women MPs, 28 are from the BNP and two from the Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf administered the oath to the BNP and the Jamaat MPs separately at the Committee Room of the Sangsad Bhaban Monday morning.

**Ershad's trial resumes today**

By Staff Correspondent

The Special Tribunal for the trial of deposed President Ershad will resume its session today (Tuesday) at 10 am.

The tribunal was adjourned last Tuesday when the Defense Counsel prayed for time to file a writ petition on the judgement of the Tribunal delivered on March 19.

Meanwhile, Ershad has engaged Advocate Strajul Haque, a presidium member of the Awami League to conduct his case.

Advocate Strajul Haque has tendered his resignation from the party to defend Ershad.

Advocate Strajul Haque has meanwhile taken necessary permission from the Home Ministry to appear before the court to defend Ershad.

He is likely to remain present today at the tribunal.

**Radio, TV being used in Ershad-style: Hasina**

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina Monday alleged that the government officials and radio and television were being used in the autocratic style reminiscent of the Ershad era, reports BSS.

Addressing the inaugural session of the two-day extended meeting of the city Awami League, Sheikh Hasina said, "History is being distorted." She said the history of the Liberation War would be incomplete excluding Bangabandhu's role and his 23-year-struggle.

It is an accepted fact that Syed Nazrul Islam was the Acting President during the Liberation War, but some quarters were giving the place to a person of their own choice, she observed.

The Awami League Chief charged that the last parliamentary election results had been altered by subtle rigging, conspiracy and spending black money. She said the BNP have become the "National betrayer" by deviating from the outline agreed upon by the three alliances. Establishment of an accountable government under parliamentary system

See Page 10 Col. 2

**Industrial restructuring key to growth**

SEATTLE, Apr 1: The ten-day 47th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) began here today with industrial restructuring as the main theme.

South Korean President Roh Tae-woo, addressing the opening ceremony criticized the trends of protectionism and regional blocs in the world economy. "Trends towards protectionism and regional blocs will construct the world economy and hamper the economic development efforts not only of the developing countries but of the developed countries as well."

On the Korean peninsula situation, Roh said that the relaxation of tension in the Korean peninsula is one of the

See Page 10 Col. 2



A house in Comilla damaged in Sunday's tornado. —Star photo.

Prisoners make fresh demands

## Jails remain restive

**Star Report**

The cause of the revolt in Dhaka Central Jail, it is gathered, was intended as a criticism of the government for what the prisoners said allowing a convict like Kader Siddiky to move about freely.

Jail authorities however said that the revolt had been politically engineered.

Jail authorities also said that they could not control the situation as they were restrained from doing so by their higher ups.

They also complained about being short of men to control the large numbers of prisoners.

In Dhaka Central Jail for instance 450 guards who are supposed to look after 2000 prisoners, have to handle about 4000 prisoners.

All the 76 central, district and upazila jails are similarly overcrowded, according to sources.

It is gathered that prisoners are threatening jail wardens with dire consequences for what they term as giving biased information on their activities to newspapers.

Jail authorities said that they could not arrest the 12 prisoners who fled from the Narsingdi jail with seven rifles, some bullets and bayonets on Sunday.

Chittagong Jail authorities said that they recovered a large quantity of lethal weapons including iron rods, ram daos and knives from the possession of rebellious prisoners on Monday. But the cell doors still remained broken.

So far there have been three revolts in the Chittagong jail since the last week of December when three prisoners were killed. The cells of the jail were broken for the second time during the third revolt on March 24.

In Dhaka Central Jail the situation continues to be tense and prisoners carry lethal weapons.

Jessore Central Jail, is now peaceful. One prisoner was killed and at least 30 others were injured in a revolt there in January.

The situation in Comilla Central Jail was also peaceful

See Page 10 Col. 3

## Iraqi troops push back Kurdish rebels

DOHUK, Apr 1: Kurdish rebels under a steady onslaught by government forces retreated to their traditional mountain strongholds Monday after losing at least two urban centres, reports AP.

In separate developments, the Iraqi government said it captured documents proving the complicity of more than one foreign government in anti-government unrest, and accused the United States of "provocative" reconnaissance flights.

Baghdad said its troops were in control of Dohuk, Erbil and Zaho - the last major urban centres in the north and the most territory the Kurds had ever seized in the decades-long struggle for autonomy.

On Monday, Turkey's semi-official Anatolia news agency reported that government troops recaptured the Habur border post on the border with Turkey.

The agency said Habur, the only border crossing between the two countries, was seized after intense fighting with Kurdish rebels who had held it for about two weeks.

In the Syrian capital of Damascus, a spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan denied that government troops had seized Zaho on Monday. The spokesman, Kamal Fuad, said Iraqi forces attacked the city but withdrew south when they met resistance.

Rebel fighters also said that pockets of resistance were trying to hold out in Erbil, 75 miles (120 kilometers) south-east of here.

In Dohuk, residents took flight in the middle of the night as the government unleashed a devastating artillery barrage on the city of 350,000 people.

Frightened refugees echoed rebel spokesmen in asking why US President George Bush and his United Nations allies allowed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to use artillery and helicopters to break the Kurdish rebellion.

"Why have they abandoned us to Saddam?" was a question addressed repeatedly to Western reporters.

Hundreds of thousands of Kurds fearing government reprisals were fleeing by any means possible into the mountains along the Iranian and Turkish borders, turning roadways into ribbons of jostling humanity.

Many women and children were forced to walk. Some, too tired to go on, lay on the roadside without food or water. Refugees could be seen camping in the mountains without protection from rainstorms.

Kurdish fighters, known as Pesh Merga of "those who face death," also were in flight.



Newly married Shirin Akhtar, top, and others who were killed by nor'wester that lashed Comilla on Sunday. —Star photo

## Radio, TV being used in Ershad-style: Hasina

ALPP to finalise strategy tomorrow

Star Report

Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) meets tomorrow (Wednesday) morning at the committee room of Sangsad Bhaban to finalise its strategy during the first session of the fifth Parliament which begins Friday.

The ALPP members will discuss on the draft of a bill which will be moved by the opposition to amend the constitution for reintroducing parliamentary system.

The ALPP leaders will also discuss about the bill with the MPs elected from the partners of the Eight-Party Alliance and also with Rashed Khan Menon, the only MP elected from Five-Party Alliance. A central leader of Awami League told The Daily Star they were eager to bring an amendment bill unitedly with BNP and the ruling party was approached accordingly. "But, till now there is no response from BNP," said the Awami League leader. He said AL hopes to get

See Page 10 Col. 2

## Industrial restructuring key to growth

### ESCAP session opens in Seoul

From Mahfuz Anam

SEATTLE, Apr 1: The ten-day 47th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) began here today with industrial restructuring as the main theme.

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On the Korean peninsula situation, Roh said that the relaxation of tension in the Korean peninsula is one of the

keys to enhance cooperation and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

About a thousand delegates, experts, members of non-governmental organisations and UN officials are expected to participate at this session which is being held for the first time in the capital of the Republic of Korea.

The ESCAP session is also expected to focus on the basic social and economic factors hindering the economic development of the region. Discussions will also be held on the aftermath of the Gulf War, its effects on the countries of the region and what special measures can be taken to help the most adversely affected countries to overcome them.

See Page 10 Col. 2

Srin and Itar timings

Remain Day	Last Star	Star	Itar
16	Tuesday	4:30 am	6:31 pm
17	Wednesday	4:30 am	6:31 pm