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Une Baily Star

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**TUESDAY MARCH 5, 1991** DHAKA

SHABAN 17, 1411 HIJRI

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

10 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 3.00

Kamal Hussain

hooted by

party workers

By Staff Correspondent

workers Monday boood and hooted Dr Kamal Hussain for his recent statement that parliamentary elections were held

free and fair.

party in the evening.

A section of Awamt League

Disgruntled AL workers

The workers warned him

not to come to the party office

and kicked his ear which was

parked in front of the office.

Dr Hussain was rescued from

See Page 10 Col 1

AL executive body

asks Hasina to

withdraw

resignation

By Staff Correspondent

mittee of Bangladesh Awami

League in an emergency me-

cting requested party chief

Sheikh Hasina to withdraw her

decision to resign for greater

interest of the country, nation

held Monday evening at the

party's central office at Banga-

bandhu Avenue, expressed to-

tal confidence in the leader-

ikh Hasina tendered her

resignation from party leader-

ship assuming the responsibil-

ity of her party's setback in the

parliament elections. "She

wanted to step down from the

party leadership showing re-

spect to democratic norms

and values", says a source close

See Page 10 Col 5

Earlier, Sunday night She-

The committee meeting.

and the organisation.

ship of Sheikh Hasina.

The Central Executive Com-

swarmed Dr Hussain, himself a party presidum member, when he emerged forms an executive committee meeting of the

#### -Inside today International

Anti-Saddam rallies



Thousands of Iragis staged anti-Saddam protests in several Iraqi cities storming prisons in Basra and releasing inmates. Page 5

Feature

Development

Women perform most farming activities, but mainly as invisible, unrecognised workers. Page 6

Article

Does the philosophy of Ziaur Rahman still prevail?



Extracts from a 1978 interview with the late President by S. M. Ali. Page 4

#### Business

Concern over **US** quota

Bangladesh, will lose \$ 30 million yearly due to recently imposed quota by US in three textile and garments products including shop towel. Page 8

#### **NEWS BRIEFS**

#### Allies to free 300 Iraqi POWs

RIYADII, Mar 4: Allied forces will free around 300 Iraqi prisoners of war on Tuesday in response to Iraq's release of 10 soldiers and airmen, the US military said today, reports Reuter.

#### 125 Indians die in epidemics

NEW DELHI, Mar 4: Some 125 people have died in epidemics of gastrocnteritis and diarrhoea in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh in the last two weeks, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today, states AFP.

#### Pak Minister resigns

ISLAMABAD, Mar 4: Pro-Iraq Pakistan minister resigned today citing as one reason Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's support of the United States in the Gulf war, reports Reuter.

#### German-Soviet treaties ratified

MOSCOW, Mar 4: The Soviet Parliament Monday ratified several German-Soviet treaties dealing with German reunification, the news agency Tass reported, states AFP.



Indian High Commissioner, Srinivashan held an hour-long meeting with Begum Khaleda Zia at the Banani office of BNP on Monday. -Star photo

#### BNP threatens counter movement

### AL stand seen as a bid to stall democratic transition

Star Report

Awami League's bid to block formation of a Council of Ministers by the Acting President came under criticism by political parties. Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) rejected Awami League's contention that the Acting President loses neutrality if he allows a Council of Ministers to be formed right

Earlier Workers Party and Five-Party Alliance leader Rashed Khan Memon and Ganatantri Party leader Suranjit Sen Gupta, both are newly elected MPs. urged the Acting President to allow BNP to form a Council of Ministers. Awami League's move on Monday to stop formation of a Council of Ministers came as a surprise to political circles. Political analysts describe AL stand as a

move to stall the transition to

An Awami League delegation led by Sheikh Hasina met the Acting President on Monday to convey their decision to launch a movement in the event of formation of a Council of Ministers by BNP. The Acting President made it clear that the formation of a Council of Ministers under Article 58 of the Constitution would in no way affect his neutrality.

BNP in a sharp reaction to Awami League's move stated that the party has an apparent majority and enjoys the confidence of the Acting President. If the Council of Ministers is formed now it will be the Acting President's Council, BNP Secretary General Barrister See Page 10 Col 5

Indian envoy holds hour-long talks with Khaleda

The High Commissioner of India, K Srinivashan, Monday called on Begum Khaleda Zia. chairperson of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), at her residence, reports BSS. In the one-hour meeting.

the Indian High Commissioner hoped that the irritants between BANGLADESH and India would be solved peacefully. He also discussed matters

of bilateral cooperation and mutual interest with Begum Zia and hoped that the friendly relations between the two countries would be strengthened further in future. Mr Srinivashan congratu-

See Page 10 Col 1



resignation. -Star photo

### Shahabuddin rejects Hasina's contention

## AL will start movement if BNP forms government

The Acting President, Mr. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. said here Monday that he present form of presidential government would remain intact whoever was appointed the prime minister, reports BSS.

The Acting President stated this when a delegation of Awami League leaders headed by the party chief, Shetkh Hasina, called on him at his residence here last evening.

Mr. Justice Shahabuddin further, said that he would not lose his neutrality, for, whoever was appointed prime minister under the presidential form according to an official release.

The official release said: During the meeting, the dele-

gation of Awami League leaders discussed with the president the post-election situation.

The delegation expressed the view that the constitution of Parliament has not yet been completed and as such it is not possible for the president to say which member of Parliament commands the support of the majority in Parliament.

The Awamt League leaders further said repolling in some centres in four constituencies and election in two constituencies are yet to be held.

They said the BNP has not got absolute majority in parliament and since ft is not parliamentary system of government he party getting single See Page 10 Col 2

DAMASCUS, Mar 4: Oppo-

nents of President Saddam

Hussein belonging to a Tehran-

based Muslim fundamentalist

group said Monday that they

controlled Basra, Iraq's second

beaten back an attempt by gov-

ernment troops to drive the

said members of the ruling

Baath Party and policemen had

\* Iraq releases 10 Allied

7,000 Iraqi troops are

heading for Baghdad

to prevent Saddam's

prisoners-of-war

overthrow

rebels, UK

cities

\* Allied troops won't

help anti-Saddam

commander says

\* Iraq complains about

Allied overflights over

A spokesman said they had

The spokesman, Bayan Jabr.

city, reports Reuter.

rebels out.

By Staff Correspondent

The Central Executive Committee of Bangladesh Awami League has asserted that only a sovereign parliament can smoothen the power transfer

It also said that the Awami of government.

#### AL wants power transferred to Parliament

League is ready to extend all assistance for the establishment of a parliamentary form The meeting held at the

party central office on Monday See Page 10 Col 3

surrendered and some had

had gone over to the rebels

helped drive off Saddam loyal-

ists of the Republican Guard

who tried to retake Basra on

las had scized control of the

northern city of Sulaymaniyah,

cutting it off from the rest of

dan Hussein is being reported

in six Iraqi cities, while 7,000

soldiers are returning to Bagh-

dad in what US sources say

could be efforts by Saddam to

protect himself from over-

Teheran says Saddam Monday

faced an "uprising" in southern

Iraqi, according to Iranian re-

ports that said his son Oday Hussein and top officials in the

country's second-largest city

The head of a Shitte oppo-

sition group based here. Hoja-

toleslam Mohammad Baqir Al-

Hakim, said the cities of Basra,

See Page 10 Col 3

Basra had been killed.

Earlier AFP reports from

AP says: Opposition to Sad-

He also said Kurdish gueril-

Jabr said Iraqi troops who

joined the rebels.

Sunday.

throw.

#### Ershad's trial in arms case begins Mar 19

By Staff Correspondent

licaring in the pending arms case against deposed President H.M. Ershad will begin March 19 at the Special Tribunal headed by Mr. Mohammad Habibullah, a dis-

trict judge and sessions judge.

A full court of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court last week (Feb 26) vacated a two weeks' stay order granted on February 18 by a singlejudge bench of the Appellate Division.

The trial of the former president for keeping unlicensed arms was to begin on February 16. But Ershad did not appear before the Special Tribunal on grounds of illness which a 3-member medical board found baseless after examination.

#### Court orders release of Maudud

The High Court Division of the Supreme Court Monday ordered immediate release of former Vice-President Maudud Ahmed from preventive detention, reports UNB.

Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury passed the judgement after hearing a writ petition filed on behalf of Maudud Ahmed against the order of preventive detention under the Special Powers Act.

The court ordered that Maudud Ahmed, who was arrested on December 20, 1990. and now detained in Dhaka Central Jail, be at once released from custody if not wanted in connection with any

See Page 10 Col 2 Election was free

#### and unprecedented, says CCHRB

By Staff Correspondent

The Coordination Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB) said on Monday the election to the fifth parliament was free, fair and unprecedented in the country's history. It said the mechanism of election was carried out smoothly.

CCHRB fielded nearly 400 observers in 40 constituencies throughout the country who had overseen elections in 3000 polling centers.

The CCHRB survey said violence, which had become part of electioneering and politics in the country, was almost absent during the election. Several killings and incidents of violence took place mainly before and after the elections. See Page 10 Col 5

## Saddam's son, Governor General of Basra killed

# Rebels take 2 Iraqi cities



US Gulf Commander General Norman Schwarzkopf (L) and Saudi General Khaled bin Sultan (2nd L) discussing formal ceasefire with Iraqi generals on Sunday. - AFP photo

## US to waive \$300m loan

The United States has decided to waive a 300- million Dollar loan to Bangladesh as a "Gesture of friendship and cooperation" between the two countries, reports BSS.

This was stated by the U. S Ambassador in Dhaka, William B. Milam, when he called on the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at the President's Secretariat Monday

morning. During the discussion, the U. S Ambassador said that the

people and the government of the United States were very happy to see the holding of free, fair and peaceful elections in Bangladesh. He also appreciated the role played by the interim government under the leadership of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed for success-

Ambassador Milam said that the Americans were looking forward to seeing the restoration of democracy in Bang-

fully conducting the February

27 polls in an impartial man-

ladesh and hoped that this democratic process would be institutionalised.

He assured of full and continued cooperation to Bangladesh's development efforts for achieving a better living standard for its people. The Director of USAID in

Bangladesh Mary C. Kilgour was present. Justice Shahabuddin thanked the US government for its continued support and cooperation in the economic

development of Bangladesh.

#### polls under caretaker govt By Staff Correspondent

Jamaat-e-Islami has said

The central working council meeting of the party which was held on Monday was of the opinion that if elections were held under a caretaker govforcing agencies would not

## Jamaat for future

that all future elections in the country should be held under a 'caretaker' government.

ernment, the Election Commission and the law en-See Page 10 Col 1

#### BNP leader arrested

### Section 144 in Ramu

upazila administration Sunday imposed Section 144 on the upazila headquarters in the wake of clashes between rival political workers, police said Monday, reports BSS.

CHITTAGONG, Mar 4: Ramu

Ten persons were injured in sporadic clashes between workers of Awami League and Jamaat during the past few days at Ramu. As tension was mounting and people became

panicky, the upazila administration had to impose the Section 144 to bring the situation under control, police said. Cox's Bazar administration

also took measures to contain tension among rival political activists at Moheskhalt, Kutubdia and Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila where tension was also high following sporadic clashes in which twenty persons in-See Page 10 Col 4

#### Latvia, Estonia vote for independence RIGA (Soviet Union), Mar 4: in neighbouring Estonia, in many regions. Support was The referendums also reprepublican government, domi-88.4 percent.

Large majorities in Latvia and Estonia voted for independence from the Soviet Union in weekend referendums, undermining Kremlin assertions that their nationalist governments did not enjoy broad

support, reports Reuter. Preliminary results issued early today showed 77 per cent of votes cast in Latvia supported restoration of the Baltic Republic's indepen77.8 per cent of voters backed independence, according to preliminary figures.

This has been an historic day for Estonia" President Arnold Ruutel told reporters after preliminary results were released. This is a long step forward in our political struggle to our primary goal-- independence.

Ruutel said the results dispelled claims that the elected nated by pro-independence forces, did not represent the popular will.

Gunnars Blums, head of the central voting commission in the Latvian capital of Riga, told a news briefing after most votes had been counted that around 77 per cent of the votes cast had been for independence, and 21.3 per cent

Turnout in Latvia was about

Preliminary figures from Estonia showed a turnout of more than 82 per cent, with more than three quarters in

favour of independence. But the proposition was defeated in the heavily non-Estonian industrial cities. In Narva. only 25.5 per cent of votes

backed independence. In rural areas, the almost exclusively Estonian population turned out in droves, with more than 90 per cent voting

running at up to 98 per cent in these district, figures showed. AP says: The balloting was similar to February 9 referendum in which Lithuanians voted overwhelmingly in favour of independence.

The Baltics a year ago began their struggle to reverse the Kremlin's forced annexation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in 1940. The three republics were independent between

resented a strong challenge to Gorbachev, who has branded illegal the independence declarations last year by the Baltic Republics. Gorbachev has scheduled a

nationwide referendum for March 17 on holding together the 15 Soviet republies. Leaders of the Baltics, as well as of the republics of Armenia. Georgia and Moldavia. have said they won't participate.