### BNP urges govt to maintain peace

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Monday urged the government to take stern measures against those trying to disrupt peace in the country. reports UNB.

"Some quarters were out to create indiscipline and chaos in different parts of the country," it said in a statement.

BNP, which emerged single largest party in the just-elected fifth Parliament, also thanked the people for electing its nom-

Another report adds: BNP leader Begum Khaleda Zia will address a post-election public meeting at Kapasia in Gazipur at 3 pm on March 8, party sources said Monday.

### DU reopens: presence of students low

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University reopened yesterday (Monday) after a twelve-day closure due to parliamentary election.

The presence of the students was poor in the first day of opening as most of the restdent students who had left Dhaka for their respective home districts to east votes yet

### 10 injured in road mishap

By Staff Correspondent Atleast 10 persons were injured in a head on collision between a truck and a bus near Khilkhet area of the city at the small hours of Monday. police and hospital sources

Three of the seriously injured were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital but their name or identity were not known.

The bus (No Tangail Ba-243), coming from Tongi, and the truck (No Narshindi Ta-O1-0004), departing Dhaka.

#### Indian envoy From Page | Col 4

lated Begum Zia on her victory and wished success of her

Begum Zia thanked the Indian High Commissioner for his gesture.

Australian High Commisstoner Richard K Gate called on Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence Monday and congratulated her.

The Australian envoy in formed Begum Zia that when he visited different polling centres on the election day, he found that the pollings were held impartially and freely

The envoy also talked on bilateral cooperation and matters of mutual interest with Begum Zia.

Begum Zia pointed out that it was remarkable that a huge number of women, both urban and rural, had turned up at the

polling centres. She said her party would have secured more seats in the Parliament if there had not been any irregularities in the voters list.

#### Jamaat From Page 1 Col 5

come under any pressure. The council meeting also observed that httacking of ballot boxes and influence on the media can also be stopped in this way. The people can also cast votes fearlessly.

It also said if mistakes in the voter-list and chances of false voting had not been there. the polls would have been more free and fair.

### Kamal Hussain

From Page 1 Col 8 the melce by some other party

The AL workers alleged that Dr Hussain statement had created a confusion among the party workers. They also said that the statement was also detrimental to the party discipline and amounted to challenging the authorities of the party chief.

The workers who were chanting slogans against Dr Hussain and Amir Hussain Amu throughout the day also demanded of their party chief to oust these two leaders from

### AL thinking about hartal

A section of leaders of Awami League are thinking to call a hartal against the alleged rigging in the elections. The proposal was seriously opposed by another group.

Meanwhile, the supporters of hartal have already instructed their followers to ereate pressure on the party leaders. Many of them brought out truck and bus processions in the city chanting slogans against the election results. They paraded the city roads in trucks and buses.

## First ever polls held free, fair in country'

By Staff Correspondent

A voluntary election monitoring cell, jointly operated by Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, and Liberty Forum, Monday termed the parliamentary polls as the first ever national elections held in the country in a free. fair and peaceful manner.

The election monitoring cell, where a number of former judges of the Supreme Court worked said this at a postelection press conference at the National Press Club.

The Liberty Forum convener, former Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury extended his congratulations to Begum Khaleda Zia whose party BNP has emerged as the single largest one in the elections.

Justice Chowdhury told the newsmen that their election monitoring cell would submit to the Election Commission all the allegations received from different parts of the country during the polls. The allegations include missing of names of many voters from the voter lists and casting false votes, he added.

He suggested issuance of identity cards to the voters prior to holding of the presidential election.

He also quoted foreign poll observers, journalists and other voluntary organisations saying that the election was held free and fair.

The nation is now bearing the cousequences of misrule of the autocratic Ershad government and only the democratic and patriotic forces can lead the nation towards progress.

Convenor of the monitoring cell, former Justice Abdul Malek viewed that successful holding of the polls had paved

the way for free democratic practice in the country and thanked the administration. the political parties and others concerned for their role in the

He pointed out that, now all the political parties, sinking their differences, must work for building a happy, prosperous and self-

Bangladesh Regretting delay in trying the deposed President the former judge demanded trial of Ershad and his wife Raushan without wasting time.

He also demanded inquiry into misuse of state funds and wealth by the former 'first lady and questioned the legal basis of making Mrs Raushan the first lady.

He urged the authorities to

immediately shift the former president to the central jail along with his wife as demanded by the political parties and the students. Justice Malek blamed the

interim government for its 'failure' to recover all illegal arms before the polls.

The future elected government must be active in recovcring illegal arms for the shake of law and order, he hoped and urged the elected government to take steps to collect statement of assets of all the members of parliament since 1972.

Among others present on the occasion are: scientist Dr Innas Ali, former chairman of the University Grants Commission and the former Vice-Chancellor of BUET Dr M. A. Naser, former foreign minister Abdul Momin, M. A. Mohaiman and Advocate Sharaful Islam.

Hasina Monday called for

transfer of power to the

elected representatives in ac-

cordance with the outline

given by the three political al-

liances during the last move-

after emerging from the meet-

ing with the Acting President

that the delegation demanded

transfer of power to the

said they apprised the Acting

President of the law and order

situation and harassment and

attack on her party workers in

various parts of the country

Power transfer

From Page 1 Col 7

was presided over by Zohra

Tajuddin, a presidium mem-

said the February 27 elections

were held after a bloody strug-

gle and mass demands for

establishing a parliamentary

form of government. It said

that the demand of the hour

was the establishment of a par-

liamentary system of govern-

ment by amending the Consti-

The process will be ham-

pered, the resolution said, if a

council of ministers is formed

by a party under the leadership

of the Acting President before

elections are complete and re-

sults announced in the remain-

ing seats as per the promised

outline declared earlier by the

that people from all walks of

life had rejected the presiden-

tial elections announced by the

ousted Ershad regime and

made supreme sacrifices to

the joint declaration of the

15.7 and 5 party alliances had

emphasised that the objective

of mass struggle was the hold-

ing of elections under a neutral

caretaker government to es

tablish a sovereign parli-ament

The interim caretaker gov-

ernment would then hand over

power to this sovereign par-

liament and the gover-nment

would be obliged to remain ac-

From Page 1 Col 7

Al- Amara, Nassiriya and

Samawa had fallen in the re

volt, which was heading north

the province of Basra as well as

the governor of the city itself

have been killed in clashes be-

tween protesters and troops.

the official Iranian News

Some lraqt soldiers, return-

ing from Kuwait, were handing

weapons to civilians and join-

ing in demonstrations against

President Hussein in the

south, the agency quoted

refugees from Iraqi as saying.

meanwhile, announced it

would pardon all army

"deserters and fugitives" pro-

vided they returned to base

in Nicosia, quoted a commu-

Baghdad radio, monitored

within one week.

The Iraqi government.

Agency IRNA reported.

The Governor-general of

The resolution also said that

The resolution retterated

three alliances.

end autocratic rule.

countable to it.

toward Baghdad.

The meeting in a resolution

The Awami League chief

elected parliament.

after elections.

tution.

Sheikh Hasina told BSS

# AL movement

From Page | Col 6 majority has no right to form a ministry and then prove it. majority in the Parliament

when summoned.

The delegation expressed the opinion that if the Acting President appoints a prime minister from the BNP he will no longer remain a neutral president but he will be a part of BNP government.

The delegation said if the BNP government is formed they (AL) will go for a movement for realisation of the objective for which a neutral Acting President was brought into

The Acting President advised the AL leaders to come to a dialogue with the majority party to sort out this question. Justice Shahabuddin said he

did not accept the allegation that he will lose his neutrality. for, whoever is appointed as prime minister the present form of presidential government will remain intact.

Under this system, he said, the members of the Council of Ministers are mere advisers and all powers remain in the hands of Acting President.

The members of Awami League delegation were Mrs Sycda Zohra Tajuddin, Mr Abdus Samad Azad, Mr Abdul Mannan, Dr Kamal Hossain, Mr Abdul Momin, Mr Qumruzzaman. Begum Sajeda Chowdhury. Mr Amir Hossain Amu. Mr Mohammad Nasim and Mr Shamsur Rahman Khan.

Another report adds Awami League chief Sheikh

#### Moudud From Page 1 Col 8

other case.

The order of detention passed against him on December 11, 1990, has been declared illegal and without jurisdiction, the judgement further said.

Barrister Rafiqul Huq appeared for the petitioner while Aminul Huq. Attorney General. on behalf of the government.

The counsel for the petitioner later said there was another case against Maudud in which the prosecution showed him arrested. Therefore, he may be released on bail for which a petition will be moved before the court Tuesday.

BSS adds: Earlier a twojudge bench of the High Court Division had heard the deten tion case and delivered a split judgement on February 11.

Justice M Ismailuddin Sarker had found that the order of detention legal and while Justice M Badruzzaman differed with

The judges referred the matter to the Acting Chick Justice who allocated it to a single-judge bench to hear the matter afresh.

### Editor: S. M. Ali

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### Four Union parishads dissolved

Government on Monday dissolved four Union Parishads for their failure to perform the special responsibilities of maintaining law and order in their respective areas during polling in the just-concluded Jatiya Sangsad elections, re-

The union parishads were dissolved as per provisions of the Union Parishad and Pourashava (special responsibilities) Ordinance of 1991.

They are: Gaibandha, Char Putimari and Goalinir Char Union Parishads under upazila Islampur of Jamalpur and North Hamehhadi UP under Lakshmipur Sadar upaztla of Lakshmipur district, says a PID handout.

### AL call to observe March 7

Awami League General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury Monday called upon the Union. Thana and District units of the party to observe the 'Historic Seventh March' in a befitting manner, reports

Begum Chowdhury, in a statement to the press, said 'the seventh March' was a memorable and unique day in the national struggle for the liberation of the country.

She said Bangabandhu Shetkh Muttbur Rahman had given a clarion call to the countrymen on the day in 1971 in front of millions of people to free the country from the grip of Pakistani rule.

The AL leader urged the people to take pledge to establish an exploitation-free, happy and prosperous democratic Bangladesh by uprooting the last sign of autocracy from the soil of the country.

She also called upon the people to attend the March 7 meeting of Awami League at Panthapath.

In a separate statement Begum Sajeda Chowdhury strongly condemned the post election violence at Nagar kanda of Faridpur.

### Section 144

From Page 1 Col 7

cluding Mr Osman Sarwar Alam Chowdhury, Vice Presi dent of Cox's Bazar District Awami League, and his son were injured.

Police did not identify the political parties involved in clashes at these places.

#### **Anwara BNP** leader held

Meanwhile. Anwara police arrested two persons, including a local leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party for their alleged involvement in the attack on the office of Upazila Nirbahi Officer on Saturday, police said, reports

Mohammed Ali, general secretary of Anwara Upazila Unit BNP, and Masudul Alam, organising secretary of Anwara Upazila Unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, were arrested from their homes.

Shafiqul Haidar Majumder. Upazila Nirbahi Officer, and Mohammed Mohsin, sub-assistant engineer, were injured in the attack, Mohammed Mohsin was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with

serious injuries. Police said the attack was made in retaliation of official's alleged involvement in rigging election in favour of Awami candidate League Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury.

The unofficial results of the election in the Anwara constituency is yet to be declared as the polling in three centres was suspended when the situation went beyond control of the polling officials.

Leaders of Anwara Upazila BNP, in a statement, demanded immediate release of their leaders.

Anti-Saddam protests

tionary Command Council. and

read out the names of seven

bases, province by province.

including the elite Republican

Guard, which it said was based

newspaper, Al-Qadissiya.

warned against "any threat to

internal security" and that the

the hand of any traitor."

the Republic Guards.

army was "ready to chop off

Teheran radio reported

"fierce battles" between the

local population in Basra and

troops loyal to the President.

which it said comprised only

Oday Hussein -- once tipped

as a possible successor in

power -- had also been killed

in the unrest. Iraq had an-

nounced his departure to joint

he troops in the south early in

Citing one refugee, Iran said

The Iraqi defence ministry

in Basra.

nique from the ruling Revolu- the Gulf crisis.

# BNP counter movement

From Page 1 Col 3

Abdus Salam Talukder told reporters sharply reacting to Awami League's stand on transfer of power. The BNP circle highly appreciated Acting President's rejection of Sheikh Hasina's stand that formation of a Council of Ministers would affect his neutrality in any way

When contacted some of the Eight-party leaders expressed their surprise at Awami League's attempt to influence the Acting President by threatening to launch a movement against a party which has got mandate of the people in country's ever free and fair elections. BNP leader Salam Talukder made it clear that "politics of Bangladesh has not been leased to Awami League, we are also on the streets. If Awami League goes for a movement, we will also launch a counter movement". he warned.

Awami League leaders were taken a back by the tough stand taken by the Acting President. He asked the Awami League leaders to settle the score with BNP and not with him. Some Awami League insiders told this correspondent that Sheikh Hasina wanted to make a stand by raising such a

The diplomatic as well as the political circles feel that the new political government should take over the administration to prepare the country's budget and complete the homework for Paris Aid Club

The uncertainty earlier created by the Acting President's speech about the transfer of power came under fire both at home and abroad. The Acting President has reversed his decision and committed to form a Council of Ministers

within a week. Any departure from the stand taken by the Acting President would undermine the democratic image of the country, political ob-

scrvers say. When contacted Awami League leader Mohammed Nasim told The Daily Star that his party would decide the course of action if the Council of Ministers is formed despite their opposition.

When contacted, a source in the interim administration said Awami League's coniention that the neutrality of the Acting President would be affected if the Council of Ministers is not correct formed. the source said the Acting President was installed to conduct the elections maintaining his neutral position. Now that he had completed the elections he was bound to transfer power to the single largest party which enjoys confidence of the people.

The Acting President can make and unmake a cabinet under the existing system any time, Salam Talukder said. adding the question of majority and minority is irrelevant here.

Replying to questions regarding administration of oath of the MPs-elect by the Speaker of the dissolved parliament, he said he was also opposed to it.

"I personally do not want it nor does my party." he said. adding "taking oath from someone of the past regime against which we have struggled so much is not accept-

"There are many ways out of the crisis," he said pointing out that oath can well be administered by the acting Chief Justice.

licsides, the Barrister suggested, the speaker may delegate authority to anyone to administer the oath.

# Hasina's resignation

From Page 1 col 8

to Sheikh Hasina.

The emergency meeting was presided over by Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, a presidium member, where the resignation letter of Shetkh Hastna was considered. The meeting was attended by Dr Kamal Ilossain, Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman, Sheikh Abdul Aziz, Strazul Haque Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Huss.iin Amu. Mohammed Nasim Fazhil Haque, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and others.

Sheikh Hasina and other leaders of the Awami League were scheduled to call on the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Monday noon. But, as the news of Hasina's resignation spread, a large number of party workers thronged the Bangabandhu Bhavan since morning and requested her to withdraw the

resignation letter. At one stage, when Sheikh Hasina was trying to come out from the house for meeting the Acting President, her car was stopped by hundreds of workers who urged her to withdraw the resignation and continue with her leadership.

Sheikh Hasina tried to pacify the workers by saying. " have been working with you for ten years, and I will remain

### **CCHRB**

the elections in any way.

From Page 1 Col 8 But they could not influence

The findings said defects and irregularities in the voters list were identified as the greatest obstacle. A big per-\* centage of eligible voters were not on the voters' list and many who left an area and registered in a new place remained on the previous voters list, thus leaving chances for false voting. But the findings say all political parties accepted the existing voters' list and the defects did not harm any candidate or party

Attempt false balloting, rigging and malpractice were foiled with strong hand. Both the Election Commission and the interim government took a strong and neutral stand on holding a free and fair elections, the survey says.

Hakim, head of the opposi-

tion supreme assembly of the

Islamic revolution in Iraq

(sairi), said the local popula-

tion had seized control of four

cities and that the revolt was

heading north to Kut. on the

Addressing a meeting here

of representatives of different

Iraqi opposition groups. he

said the "Initifada," or Arabic

for uprising, in southern Iraq

was "completely Islamic" and

shouting "Death to Saddam."

that demonstrators were

ported that government forces

were using tanks and heavy

weapons to battle the rebels. It

said the sound of explosions

could be heard Monday 40

kilometers (25 mtles) away in

the Iranian city of Khor-

ramshahr.

IRNA said the refugees re-

Basra-Baghdad road.

AL leaders got the appointment with the Acting President shifted to five p.m. Meanwhile, AL sources say Shetkh Hasina did not actually tender her resignation but offered to resign off hand at an unscheduled party meeting Sunday night. The offer came

with you as the daughter of

Bangabandhu". Other leaders

including Sajeda Chowdhury

and Mohammed Nasim tried to

calm the workers, but failed

Considering the situation, the

as she fatled to get her state ment that the elections had been rigged endorsed. Re-polling in Ctg-10 urged by AL

CHITTAGONG, Mar 4: Alhaj Nurul Islam Chowdhury, an Awami League candidate who lost Chittagong-10 con stituency seat, today demand re-election alleging terrorism and rigging by rivals and improper demarcation of the constituency, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at a city hotel, he said polling centre No 81 with 6000 voters was tagged with the constituency just a few days before the election and as such he could not carry on cam-

paign there. He said his election workers were being harassed by opponents even after the election and 11 of them were injured.

BNP candidate Scrainl Islam won the election in this constituency by a margin o 4000 votes. Accept result

Meanwhile, Moshtaq Ah-

med, Member of Par-liament-

elect of Awami League from Cox's Bazar-3 con-stituency Monday called upon the workers of his party to accept the results of the parliamentary election held on February 27 and put in dedicated efforts for better results in future elections.

#### Two killed bus mishap PABNA, Mar 4: Two people

were killed and 18 injured when a minibus plunged into a roadside ditch on the Pabna Nagarbari highway this morn ing, police said, reports UNB.

### Poll was free, fair: Khalil

Major Gen (Retd) Khalilur Rahman Monday said people will remember the last general elections in our democratic political history, reports BSS.

In a statement he said with some exceptions, the general election was free, fair and impartial. Rahman, who fought the

election from Jamalpur-5 constituency on Awami League ticket thanked the people for voting for him in such a large number. He also congratulated his opponent on his victory.

He said he would extend his whole hearted enoperation if victorious BNP take initiative in forming parliamentary system of government. Awami League, he said, had already announced its support for par ltamentary democracy.

# The Midnight File

### 12 Palestinians to be freed

TEL AVIV. Mar 4: Israel this week will release 12 foreign prisoners who have been kept in Israelt prisons long after completing their sentences, a prison authority spokeswoman said Monday, the daily Haaretz newspaper said they included members of the mainstream Fatah faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and two Jordanian soldiers who infil trated Israel, reports AP.

#### 24 killed in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Mar 4: At least 24 people were killed and 15 injured in bloody fighting when hundreds of Zufus rampaged through a workers hostel in Soweto, killing members of the rival Xhosa tribe, police said Monday. It was the worst outbreak of factional fighting in the Johannesburg region in recent weeks following battles last year that claimed more than 1,000 lives, reports AP.

### 8 die in US fire

COLORADO SPRINGS. Mar 4: Fire swept through a mursing home early Monday, killing eight people and injuring at least 15. authorities said. Six fire engine companies and two serial ladder companies were battling the fire at the Crystal Springs Estate home Monday morning, said Colorado Springs Police spokesman, reports AP.

### 4 killed in IRA shooting

BELFAST, Mar 4: Protestant extremists burst into a Northern Ireland bar and killed four people by firing without warning just before closing time on Sunday. Earlier on Sunday. a gang of about 30 youths attacked a security patrol in the Northern Ireland border town of Newly, wounding two soldiers. Two attackers were also wounded, reports Renter.

### 4 Soviet prisoners killed

MOSCOW. Mar 4: Four prisoners were killed in a Western Siberian prison colony when a special police unit freed two guards who had been taken hostage, the official Tass news agency said today. The prisoners in the colony in the Tyumen region tortured the hostages and threatened to kill them. demanding weapons, transport and Vodka, reports Reuter.

### Somali boat capsize toll 153

NAIROBI, Mar 4: Reseuc workers recovered more bodies from the wreckage of a boat carrying hundreds of Somali refugees that sunk after hitting a coral reef in the Indian Occan off Kenya's coast, raising the death toll to at least 153 people, police said Monday, reports AP.

### Delhi denies asylum report

NEW DELHI. Mar 4: India denied today newspaper reports that Iraqi authorities had asked its leaders if they would give asylum to President Saddam Hussein. India's Sunday Observer newspaper had quoted sources in the Cabinet Secretariat as saying new Delhi rebuffed two approaches from the Iraqi authorities last month, reports Reuter.

### 4 Pak prisoners shot dead

ISLAMABAD. Mar 4: Four handcuffed prisoners were killed and two injured in a revenge shooting today in a court in Pakistan's Punjab province, the official APP news agency said. Four gunmen who opened fire surrendered to police in the central Punjab town of Chichawatni. They said their vietims had had murdered a colleague, reports Reuter.

# **Walkout in Lok** Sabha over budget

NEW DELHI, Mar 4: All opposition members walked out of Parliament's lower house Monday when the government failed to present its annual budget and instead produced. an interim finance plan. reports AP.

Speaking only to government lawmakers and members of friendly parties. Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha presented the tax-free interim budget with a deficit of 99.77 billion rupees (5.25 billion dol-

Sinha said the government which took office in November, "inherited an economic situation of crisis proportions."

Opposition members said presenting an interim budget was 'immoral and dishonest because for four months the government will be unable to raise revenue while expenditure would not be curtailed.

### 1 Killed in bomb attack at Kushita

From Our Correspondent JESSORE Mar 4 : One Biplob (25) was killed and two others were injured when several bombs were hurled over them near Chuadanga bus

stand at the city Sunday night Police and eye witnesses said a group of 10 to 12 miscreants thrown the bombs over them and Biplob died on the

### Dispute over Muktijoddha Sangsad meet

Three former leaders of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad yesterday (Monday) said some vested quarters are out to forcibly occupy the office of its Central Command Council. reports UNB.

In a joint statement, they said those quarters have convened a council of the Sangsad today (Tuesday) at the Engineers' Institute disregarding its constitution and opinion of the councillors.

They called upon the freedom fighters not to attend the so-called council session.

The signatories to the statement were Md.Ismail Hossain Bengal, former sentor Vice-Chairman, and Ibrahim Bin Khalil, former Vice- Chairman of the Sangsad's Central Command, and ABM Helal. former Commander of Chuadanga Unit Command.

India's fiscal year starts April 1. Opposition leaders said they feared the budget could be delayed until July, not May as Sinha said, because Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar's shaky minority government might collapse in the

The opposition also says the minority government presented the interim budget at the behest of the Congress Party, which provides the bulk of parliamentary support for Chandra Shekhar's Janata Dal-

Socialist Party. Opposition members say the Congress Party acts to postpone the budget because it will introduce new and unpopular taxes.

# JP reception to Ershad

tomorrow Jatiya Party will hold a reception tomorrow (Wednesday) to mark the victory of its Chairman ousted President Ershad in the recent parliamentary polls, a press

release said. The press release did not mention the venue of the reception but Acting JP Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury told UNB over telephone that the party would apply to the Home Ministry today (Tuesday) for permission of holding the reception at the house where Ershad is in-

terned The decision to give Ershad a reception was taken at a meeting of the JP Central Working Committee in Dhaka Monday with Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury in the chair.

Ershad who was ousted by a mass upheaval on December 6 had been detained and interned at a house at Guishan. which was later declared a sub-jail. He faces charges of corruption and abuse of power and possession of illegal arms.

The deposed President

contested the February 27 from five parliamentary constituencies in his home district of Rangpur and won all the scats. The JP would launch a

countrywide agitation from March 9 to press for the release of Ershad. JP also separately urged the government to free other party

stalwarts who had been detained. It called for withdraw ing the warrant of arrest against JP leaders to give them the scope to attend the reception.