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

Inside today

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Izzat Ibrahim asked rebels to show loyalty to Saddam but sources said he and Taha Yassin Ramadhan were killed by Saddam. Page 5

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Ecological imbalance: There must be a comprehensive mass movement for peaceful process of human adjustment leading to ecological balance. By Salehuddin Kaiser Page 6

NEWS BRIEFS

Major meets Gorbachev

MOSCOW, Mar 5: British Prime Minister John Major, the first Western leader to meet Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev since the Gulf ceasefire, said today he welcomed Moscow as an important partner in the search for Middle East peace, reports Reuters.

Iraq repeals laws annexing Kuwait

BAGHDAD, Mar 5: Iraq's ruling Revolutionary Command Council today repealed all laws and measures annexing the Emirate of Kuwait, the Iraqi News Agency reported, reports AFP.

Hammadi in Tehran

NICOSIA, Mar 5: Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi made a surprise trip to Tehran today with a message from Saddam Hussein, the Iranian News Agency IRNA said, reports Reuters.

Night curfew in Kuwait

NICOSIA, Mar 5: Kuwait's rulers imposed an indefinite night curfew today a week after occupying Iraqi troops fled in the face of an Allied assault, reports Reuters.

Saddam kills Izzat Ibrahim, Taha Yassin Ramadhan?

Iraqi rebels seize Najaf, Karbala

NICOSIA, Mar 5: Opponents of Saddam Hussein said Tuesday they have seized two holy cities in central Iraq as his loyal Republican Guard and rebellious army units reportedly faced off with tanks in the southern city of Basra, reports agencies.

A representative of Shi'ite Muslim opposition groups in Damascus also said he was trying to verify reports that Saddam had killed his two top aides in the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, Taha-

Yassin Ramadhan and Izzat Ibrahim, both of whom are Sunni Muslims like himself.

TEHRAN, Mar 5: Anti-government demonstrators Tuesday stormed a prison near Baghdad and released a large number of political prisoners, a spokesman for an Iraqi Shi'ite opposition group said here, reports AFP.

The opponents, reporting separately from exile in Syria and Iran, said Karbala, 100

kilometers from Baghdad, and Najaf, about 60 kilometers further south, fell into the hands of the opposition late Monday.

Further signs of turmoil in Iraq were reported by US military officials in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. They said tanks belonging to remnants of the Republican Guard are deployed in some areas of Basra, operating checkpoints, and exchanging machine gun fire with the regular army.

Baghdad Radio accused the



US female soldier Melissa Rathbun-Nealy, 20, one of the 10 Allied prisoners of war, smiles after she was released by the Iraqi authorities Monday in Baghdad. —AFP photo

We will form govt: Khaleda

KACHUA (Chandpur), Mar 5: BNP leader Begum Khaleda Zia said today her party was going to form the government as it returned with single majority in the February 27 parliamentary polls, reports UNB.

Addressing a big election rally at Ashrafpur High school field, about 10 kilometres from here, she said the people had voted for her party as they wanted welfare, progress and preservation of national independence. She congratulated people on making BNP victorious.

Earlier, on her arrival here,

Begum Zia was given a rousing reception.

Enthusiastic party supporters and workers, waving colourful banners and posters, chanted slogans thanking their leader for BNP's spectacular election results.

Repolling will be held in two centres - Ashrafpur High School and Alinari primary school -- of the Chandpur-1 constituency on March 9. Polling was postponed there due to disturbances.

According to unofficial results, Mesbauddin Khan of Awami League has got 24,330 votes while BNP nominee

Principal Abul Hasnat has

bagged 23,446. There are 5,408 votes in the two centres where repolling will be held.

Presided over by Abu Taher, the meeting was also addressed, among others, by BNP nominee Abul Hasnat, Rafiqul Islam Roni, Safiuddin Ahmed, Humayun Kabir and Advocate Kazi Mozammel Huk.

Begum Zia urged the electorate to vote for the BNP nominee in the repolling for the sake of democracy.

Begum Zia said the people had voted a party to power



Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Kachua, Chandpur Tuesday. —Star photo

New DU hall after

Dr Milon soon

A new residential hall for the students of Dhaka University would be constructed after the name of Dr. Shamsul Alam Khan Milon, who was killed during the recent mass movement against autocracy, reports BSS.

This was conveyed to an 11-member delegation of All-Party Students' Unity (APSU) which called on the Acting President at his official residence in Dhaka last evening.

The APSU delegation thanked the Acting President for holding the parliamentary elections in a free and fair manner.

Anandabazar eats its editorial

By Staff Correspondent

The Editor of Calcutta daily 'Anandabazar Patrika' has regretted the publication of an editorial comment on March 2 asking the people of Bangladesh to raise demands for a merger with India.

According to reports received in Dhaka on Tuesday the Editor of the paper has also promised to refrain from allowing the publication of such malicious articles in future.

The March 2 editorial says that Begum Khaleda Zia and

her Bangladesh Nationalist Party have won the parliamentary elections by launching a trade against India as an election tactic. 'But the so-called Bangladeshis sentiment,' which has contributed to her success in the elections would be of little help in running the country because, according to the paper, it has little practical value.

Referring to Bangladesh's economic problems, the paper

Political leaders meet Shahabuddin

Jamaat wants BNP in power: Conditional support by others

The Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, said here Tuesday that the question of formation of a new government was already under his consideration, reports BSS.

He told this to a two-member delegation of BNP led by its Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Tahkader and senior party leader Saifur Rahman. The BNP leaders met the Acting President at

Presidents' Secretariat here. In this context, Justice Shahabuddin also told the delegation that the first session of Parliament has been summoned at 9 a.m. on April 5.

The BNP leaders, during their discussions with the Acting President, emphasised the necessity for formation of a new government very soon, so that it could work for solving the difficult problems facing

the country, including preparation of the national budget, conducting negotiations for foreign aid and other urgent matters.

Another report says: The Acting Amir of the Jamaat-e-Islami Abbas Ali Khan, also met the Acting President Tuesday.

He was accompanied by party leaders Maulana Matinur

Menon tells AL not to raise controversy

The General Secretary of the Workers Party of Bangladesh Rashed Khan Menon, member-elect to the Jatiya Sangsad (JS), Tuesday expressed the hope that all the parties would unitedly work in the sangsad on constitutional matters including the form of government to reflect the verdict of the people, reports BSS.

The Workers Party leader said this Monday at a reception accorded to him at Dhamura, Uzpur in Barisal.

Menon urged all to cooperate with the majority party Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) for realising the pledges of the three alliances and

Hasina reverts her decision to resign

By Staff Correspondent

Sheikh Hasina has agreed to withdraw her resignation as party president of Bangladesh Awami League.

In a statement on Tuesday, Awami League General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury said that Sheikh Hasina had tendered her resignation on Sunday but decided to withdraw it on being requested to do so by members of AL executive committee, district and upazila committees and front organisations of the party.

Sajeda Chowdhury also said that thousands of people from all walks of life including poet Begum Sufia Kamal had urged Sheikh Hasina to rescind her

decision. Meanwhile, the scenario at the Bangabandhu Bhavan on Tuesday remained the same as it was on Monday with hundreds of party workers and supporters gathering at the house since morning to request Sheikh Hasina to withdraw her resignation. Workers from different units of Chhatra League and Juba League came to Bangabandhu Bhavan in processions and appealed to their party chief to carry on her leadership.

The party workers gathered there chanted slogans expressing their confidence in her leadership.

JP will oppose parliamentary system: Mizan

By Staff Correspondent

Acting President of Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury Tuesday said that his party would oppose parliamentary form of government. He said that the Jatiya Party believed in the presidential system but would support delegation of more power to the Parliament.

Addressing a post-election press conference, Mizan Chowdhury and Jatiya Party President member Sarajul Hossain Khan said that the interim government would handle

Kamal, Zohra angry over rowdiness

Star Report

Awami League president member Mrs Zohra Tajuddin's statement issued on Tuesday expressing her anger over the unruly behaviour with Dr Kamal Hussain and herself on Monday at the Awami League office surfaced growing discontent within the party.

Dr. Kamal and Mrs Tajuddin came under fire from a section of Awami League workers who hooted and booed them in front of the party central office. The disgruntled workers also kicked their cars and asked

them not to come to the party office.

Zohra Tajuddin in a strongly worded statement condemned the incident and said the workers who identified themselves as Awami League workers had never been seen before. She said when the party was in a meeting with her in the chair to discuss the constitutional process of transferring power to a sovereign parliament, a group of unruly youths stormed the office and ransacked it. I

Kuwait to re-employ Bangladeshis

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

Bangladeshis who will be useful for reconstruction of the war-ravaged country.

The rest of the Bangladeshi employees will be taken back in phases according to categories. The government of Kuwait which has just returned to Kuwait City is examining their cases, the Adviser said.

He said that Bangladesh is also planning to send an unofficial delegation comprising representatives of different chambers of commerce and industry among others to assess the situation

relating to manpower export and other ventures, and suggest steps to be taken by the government.

Manpower export to Gulf states came to a halt following the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

The war that followed also disrupted normal trade and commerce between Bangladesh and the countries of the Gulf, the Adviser said.

The Bangladesh mission in Saudi Arabia has been asked to explore the possibility of sending such a team.

Parliament summoned on Apr 5

By Staff Correspondent

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has summoned the first session of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) on April 5 at 9 a.m. The new parliament was elected on February 27.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) emerged as the single largest party bagging 138 seats. The Awami League got 83 seats followed by the Jatiya Party 35 and the Jamaat-e-Islami 18. Seven small political parties and independents got 18 seats out of 294. Repolling will be held in four constituencies on March 9. Fresh elections will be held in Munshiganj and Kushtia on March 14 and 28 where elections were postponed following the death of candidates.

The Election Commission will hold elections to 30 women seats. The elections to reserved seats for the women will be completed by April 2, according to Election Commission sources. Bangladesh Nationalist Party has invited applications from the intending candidates by March 10.

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High Court benches outside Dhaka dissolved

Supreme Court Correspondent

High Court benches of the Bangladesh Supreme Court at Rangpur, Jessore, Barisal, Chittagong, Comilla and Sylhet now stand dissolved. The cases now pending in those courts for disposal will be sent to Dhaka, the permanent seat of the Supreme Court.

The Chief Justice of Bangladesh by a notification on February 26 cancelled the formation of courts in those places. The Chief Justice in another notification on the same day omitted the Chapter IIIA Supreme Court (High Court Division) Rules of 1973, Volume I which provided for holding of the sessions of the High Court benches outside Dhaka.

Reports of task forces will be handed over to elected leaders

Star Economic Report

The reports of the task forces, set up by the Ministry of Planning in January, will be formally handed over to the political leaders elected to the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) by early next week.

The Planning Ministry has already received reports from 26 task forces, comprising experts from various professional groups in both government and private sectors.

About 30 task forces were constituted by the ministry to examine the critical socio-economic issues and recommend various policy options for the political leadership both within and outside the government.

Planning Adviser Prof Rehaman Sobhan told The Daily Star that the task forces had done a commendable job. They have made a detailed review and assessment of the socio-economic situation now obtaining in the country. Specific suggestions and various policy options recommended by the task forces will be of much practical value for improvement in overall economic management and necessary policy adjustments in different sectors, he added.

The Planning Ministry expects

Highest rate of inflation

Star Economic Report

Political instability in the country, coupled with the Gulf crisis, contributed to the highest rate of inflation in last four years at 11.74 per cent in 1990.

According to the Bureau of Statistics, the cost of living index for average Dhaka middle class peoples stood at 696.96 points in December, 1990, compared to 623.69 in December 1989. The base year of the index is 1973-74. The cost of fuel sky-rocketed following the Gulf war, registering a rise by 47.14 per cent during the period under report. The food prices rose by 10 per cent.