

If you miss your copy of The Daily Star today, please call Tel: 863035 or 246023-4.

The Daily Star is at your service round-the-clock.

The Daily Star

VOL. 1 NO. 54 REGD. NO. DA 781

FALGUN 26, 1397 BS,

DHAKA MONDAY MARCH 11, 1991

SHABAN 23, 1411 HIRJI

10 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 3.00

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

Inside today

International



Italian actress Sophia Loren beams as she holds her Cesar award for her performing career.

Page 5

Feature

Science & Technology

In the first of a two-part series, Dr. Anwar Hossain, a noted scientist, writes on the national science policy.

Page 6

Metropolitan



Mishuks have proved to be an alternative to scooters. "People are growing to like Mishuks more and more these days."

Page 3

Business

Frozen food sector that witnessed a substantial expansion in capacity and a sizable growth in export receipts in the Eighties is in serious trouble now.

Page 8

NEWS BRIEFS

Wage Board award published

The Wage Board award for the journalists, employees and press workers has been published in the official gazette Sunday, a source of the Information Ministry said, reports BSS.

Habibi in Turkey

ANKARA (Turkey), Mar 9: Iranian Vice President Hassan Habibi arrived Saturday for a three-day visit to discuss bilateral issues and developments in the aftermath of the Gulf War, reports AP.

Timisoara anniversary

BUCHAREST, Mar 10: Several thousand people rallied in the western Romanian city of Timisoara today to mark the first anniversary of the "Timisoara Declaration" calling for the elimination of communism, reports AFP.

UN delegation in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Mar 10: A United Nations delegation arrived Sunday to survey Iraq's humanitarian needs in the aftermath of the Gulf War, and government officials acknowledged that the reconstruction process would be lengthy, reports AP.

Soldiers' home coming

ANSBACH (Germany), Mar 10: Two hundred and fifteen US soldiers returned from Gulf war to home bases, family and German beer here, reports AP.

Munshiganj - 3 poll March 14

Six candidates are contesting the elections to Munshiganj-3 constituency scheduled to be held on March 14, reports BSS.

BNP starts preparatory work on national budget

Formidable challenges await incoming govt

Star Economic Report

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will go for "a closer scrutiny" of all government expenditures, both recurring and development, under the next national budget.

This was stated by former finance minister Saifur Rahman who is also a central leader of BNP, in an interview with The Daily Star. After victory in the parliamentary elections, the BNP chairperson, Begum Khaleda Zia assigned Saifur Rahman to do the preparatory work on behalf of the party for the national budget 1991-92.

He reviewed the fiscal outlook for 1990-91 with a bleak tone. "There will be a substantial shortfall in domestic re-

sources even with the reduction of Annual Development Programme (ADP). The deficit financing will be on the rise", he observed. He said that he had already assessed the situation on the basis of facts and figures, made available by the interim government.

He stated that mobilisation of domestic resources for development financing would be the most formidable challenges for any incoming government. "The best way to mobilise more local resources is to cut down unproductive expenditures in all sectors. Belt-tightening will be needed in all spheres so that resources can be released to productive sectors", he said.

About BNP's priorities for the forthcoming national budget and also on the broad economic front, he said the party would stress all-out support to boost agricultural output and expand operations of export-oriented sectors.

Saifur Rahman said the most pressing need of the hour would be to ensure maximum utilisation of existing capacity in productive sectors before making any new investments.

About the budgetary management tasks, he observed that the fallen Ershad regime made "inflexible expenditure commitments making it extremely difficult for any incoming government to go for any

severe pruning exercises in different areas".

He added: "A cursory review of the economy showed that the Ershad government had totally destroyed financial discipline through overcentralisation of the decision-making process at the highest level. The ADP was concentrated on mandated projects without having relevance to the growth of real productive potentials of the economy".

The former finance minister of the Zia regime observed that total investments in the economy during the last years were negative other than those in garments and a few other areas. "This is the worst legacy

Report on Ershad's corruption in 15 days

Motmuddin Naser

The Enquiry Commission, set up to investigate alleged corruption by deposed President Ershad is likely to submit its report within 15 days.

Justice Anwaruddin who forms the one-man Commission has so far received 1575 allegations against the ex-president. Of these, more than 200 allegations involve Raushan Ershad and other associates of Ershad.

According to Commission sources, it is too difficult to lodge separate cases on all the allegations and as such the Commission may suggest introducing a special law to deal with all the cases at a time.

Meanwhile, a total of five cases have been started against Ershad, of which three have been instituted by Anti-Corruption Bureau while the two others by Cantonment thana.

The arms case and the money recovery case (arms and cash from the

residence of Ershad) which were initiated by Metropolitan Police have been transferred to the Special Tribunal and the court of Special Judge.

Attorney General Aminul Haq, when contacted, said the trial in the arms case will begin on March 19 at Special Tribunal while the second case will be held at the court of Special Judge, both to be chaired by the same Judge, on March 20.

Meanwhile, the Fairfax detective agency is about to conclude its investigation on the alleged transfer of resources from the country by Ershad and his associates.

They will submit the report by the end of the current month, it is reliably learnt.

After the submission of the Fairfax report, the Attorney General may take up the cases for prosecution.

See Page 10 Col 1

Oath issue: Acting Chief Justice regrets Speaker's offer

Star Report

The Acting Chief Justice is learnt to have expressed his inability to administer oath to the newly elected members of Parliament. The Speaker designated the Acting Chief Justice to conduct the ceremony and communicated his decision to the Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

When contacted, Speaker Shamsul Huda Choudhury said the Acting President communicated him about the inability of the Acting Chief Justice to administer oath due to his pre-occupation in the Supreme Court. The Acting Chief Justice told The Daily Star that he had no comment on this matter. The Speaker told The Daily Star that he will write to the Acting President requesting him to designate the Chief

See Page 10 Col 7

Nizami, Siraj meet Acting President

A delegation of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh on Sunday, called on the Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, at the President Secretariat and discussed with him legal and constitutional matters relating to the election of 30 women Members of Parliament from reserve seats, reports BSS.

Led by Moulana Mattur Rahman Nizami, MP-elect, and

See Page 10 Col 7

Poll to reserved seats April 4

The election to the 30 reserved seats for women in Jatiya Sangsad will be held on April 4, reports BSS.

Polling will be held at the conference room of the Election Commission Secretariat from 9 am to 5 pm, according to an Election Commission press release.

The Secretary of the Election Commission has been appointed Returning Officer. All works relating to acceptance and scrutiny of nomination papers will be conducted in his office.

Nomination papers are to be submitted on March 30 from 9 am to 4 pm.

Papers will be scrutinised after 5 pm and April 2 is the last date of withdrawal of candidature.

Khaleda seeks help to build a corruption-free country

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 10: Begum Khaleda Zia, chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) today called upon the people to cooperate with her party in rebuilding the country, shattered by a nine-year autocratic rule.

Addressing a series of huge public meetings in Chittagong, Begum Zia sought the support of all nationalist and patriotic forces.

Begum Zia called on all to work hard to fulfil the hopes

and aspirations of the commonman.

"We want to build the country and for this we need your all-out cooperation", she said, adding "you have supported us for the last nine years in the movement to oust autocratic rule and I am confident that you will extend the same support to our efforts in developing the country".

Begum Zia accused the Ershad regime, of shattering the economy, industry and educa-

tion sectors through rampant corruption and abuse of power.

Now we want to build the country uprooting corruption and terrorism, she said.

Begum Zia thanked the people for electing her and said that her party was about to ascend to power with a pledge to build the country in line with the ideals of Shaheed President Zia.

Begum Zia called for increasing production in mills

See Page 10 Col 1



Cheering supporters receiving Khaleda Zia at Chittagong airport Sunday.

Task force reports to help shape future plans: Shahabuddin

Planning Adviser Prof Rehman Sobhan formally presented the reports of the task forces, formed by the interim government to identify major socio-economic problems faced by the nation, to Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban on Sunday, reports BSS.

Soon after the taking over of power by the Acting President 29 task forces were set up to help the elected government identify problems and their remedies in the fields of poverty alleviation, ways to

See Page 10 Col 6

2.1 lakh men begin head count Tuesday

By Staff Correspondent

The third population census in independent Bangladesh will be conducted between March 12 and 15.

A total of 2.1 lakh enumerators will do the counting simultaneously all over the country. Abdus Salam, Secretary, Statistics Division told a news conference on Sunday.

The population census will be formally launched by counting Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on March 12 morning. Salam said that between March 11 midnight and March 12 morning, floating population in city streets, railway stations, bus and launch terminals, mosques, hotels, restaurants and jails will be counted.

The census will cost about Taka 28 crore. Preliminary report of the census will be announced on March 18.

See Page 10 Col 8

Sheikh Hasina addressing the ALPP meeting in the city Sunday.

—Star photo

No scope for majority party cabinet: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Sunday said, under the present system, there is no scope of forming the Council of Ministers comprising MPs from the majority party. She reiterated her demand to hand over power to the sovereign parliament according to the three alliances joint declaration of last November 19 and said that the Awami League would support any effort to set up parliamentary form of government.

Addressing the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) meeting Sunday afternoon at the party's central office, Sheikh Hasina said that there was no alternative to the establishment of parliamentary form of government to give

democracy an institutional shape. She called upon all concerned to come forward to establish parliamentary system. Opposing the Acting President

See Page 10 Col 1

Wave of promotions jolts administration

By Khalilur Rahman

Strong resentment prevails among the bureaucrats following abrupt promotions of a large number of officers immediately after the February 27 parliamentary polls. During the last one week the government appointed about 10 secretaries and 24 additional secretaries.

A large number of deputy secretaries will now be promoted to the post of joint secretary. Several aggrieved officers in the Secretariat told The Daily Star that the promotions, in most cases, have been made ignoring the claims

of the most deserving officials. Appeals by the affected officials lying pending with the authorities in respect of promotions for a long time were not taken into consideration before carrying out the decision, one senior official pointed out.

Some other officials said the action regarding promotions taken by the caretaker government is bound to cause serious problems for the incoming political government. They maintain that the interim government should not have taken such a step of promoting

See Page 10 Col 7

20 hurt as Shibir, Chhatra League clash at CU

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 10: At least 20 students including several admission seekers were injured when rival student organisations clashed in Chittagong University campus at 11.30 am Sunday.

Kausar Ahmed (22) was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in critical condition after receiving stab injuries. Two other students with stab injuries were also admitted to CMCH.

The clash started when activists of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra League (H-A) tried to help ad-

See Page 10 Col 7

Jatiya Party showdown in city Don't transfer power before presidential poll

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party Acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Choudhury Sunday demanded immediate announcement of presidential poll date and urged the Acting President not to hand over power till the poll was held.

He reiterated that his party favoured presidential form of government and would lend support to like minded parties within and outside Parliament.

Addressing a public meeting at Panthapath in the city

Choudhury warned that a vigorous movement would be launched all over the country if the party chief and the ex-president HM Ershad was not released by March 12.

"We along with the people will take to the streets to realise the demand of unconditional release of the party chief and other leaders", Choudhury told the meeting. The meeting, JP's show of strength after the fall of Ershad in last December

See Page 10 Col 3

Thousands on streets urge Gorbachev to quit

MOSCOW, Mar 10: Hundreds of thousands of protesters, their chants of "Resign, Resign" reverberating off Kremlin walls, rallied Sunday to demand Mikhail S. Gorbachev and his fellow communists give up power, reports AP.

The crowd, estimated at 500,000 by journalists and one of the speakers, was the biggest anti-government demonstration in Moscow since the Communists took power

73 years ago. The demonstration in Moscow and other cities came exactly one week before a nationwide referendum on a Gorbachev-backed treaty, which aims to hold the Soviet Union's 15 restive republics together by decentralizing power. Opponents say the Union Treaty does not go far enough.

The crowd filled the huge Manezh Square next to the Kremlin, the first time that

has been done for an anti-government demonstration. Several anti-government demonstrations have taken place there in the past year, the largest in February 1990 with an estimated 250,000 protesters.

An estimated 70,000 people gathered in freezing rain in Leningrad, and the official news agency Tass reported protests in Sverdlovsk, Irkutsk, Kazan, Syktyvkar, Ulan-Ude, Petropavlovsk-Kamch-

atsky and Omsk. Tass gave no crowd estimates.

In Moscow, the demonstrators yelled their approval when pro-democracy activists called for support of Russian President Boris Yeltsin in his political battle with Soviet President Gorbachev.

Yeltsin, too, has called for Gorbachev's resignation and replacement by the Federation Council, which includes the presidents of the 15 Soviet republics.

Prominent radicals told the demonstrators next Sunday's vote was an attempt by the Communist Party to preserve its power and privileges and keep the restless republics in its thrall.

"Their current programme is one of restoration — restoration of the links of the command economy and an attempt to keep the Soviet Union under dictatorial rule," said Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov.

CANDEREL
—a low calorie sweetener

Can help slimming and weight control.
Tastes like sugar, but unlike sugar it does not increase waistline or body weight.
No saccharin, no bitter after-taste.
One tablet of CANDEREL contains only 0.3 calorie compared to 20 calories in a spoonful of sugar.
Can be used in cold and hot drink and many other food.
Extremely beneficial for all persons who must cut down their sugar/carbohydrate intake for health and beauty reasons.
Suitable for DIABETICS. CANDEREL contains Nutragweet (aspartame) which does not increase blood sugar level.
Used by millions around the world.
Canderel safety has been endorsed by F.D.A. (U.S.A.) and WHO.



For further information:
Excelsior Trading Corporation Ltd.
345, Segun Bagicha, Narina, Dhaka-1000 Bangladesh
Phone: 122 41550, 41540, 40909