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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

International



Queen Elizabeth is rated world's richest women with assets worth \$13b. Second in the list is Jahanna Quandt, widow of the MBW car magnet. Imelda Marcos is ranked third.

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Article

One year after Pinochet



12 months ago 17 years of harsh military dictatorship ended in Chile and a 17-party coalition took over. Today the government of Patricio Aylwin remains popular but the question of human rights haunts people.

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Feature

Banking and Finance



Americans get in fast with contracts to rebuild Kuwait.

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Business

Hosiery products have emerged as the fastest growing export sector in fiscal 1990-91.

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NEWS BRIEFS

General Musa dead

QUETTA, Mar 13: Retired General Mohammad Musa, former Pakistan Army Commander-in-Chief, died of a heart attack on Tuesday while serving as Governor of the southwestern province of Baluchistan, a government announcement said. He was 83, reports Reuters.

Chatichai in London

LONDON, Mar 13: Chatichai Choonavan, ousted as Thailand's Prime Minister in a bloodless coup 17 days ago, arrived in London today. Chatichai was given special immigration clearance at Heathrow Airport, enabling him to be driven away directly from his aircraft, reports Reuters.

Manila to let Imelda return

MANILA, Mar 13: The Philippine government will allow former first lady Imelda Marcos to return when it files within this year criminal charges against her, chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) said today, reports Xinhua.

12 killed in London

LONDON, Mar 13: Twelve people were killed and 25 injured when a propane gas fire swept through a 30-vehicle pile-up on a foggy motorway today, police said, reports Reuters.

Formation of Council of Ministers to be delayed

Star Report

The formation of a new Council of Ministers is likely to be delayed further due to constitutional snags. A highly placed source told The Daily Star that the new Council of Ministers may not be formed until the end of this month.

The constitutional experts of both BNP and the interim administration are working out modalities to hasten the formation of the Council of Ministers as well as transfer of power. Constitutional experts are sharply divided on transfer of power by the Acting President to the newly elected speaker on April 5. The proponents of transferring power to the speaker told The Daily

Star that the modalities could be worked out on the basis of the doctrine of necessity.

Article 55(2) of the constitution provides that if the offices of President and Vice-President fall vacant, the speaker will become acting president. But the constitutional experts hold the view that since the provision is very clear in Article 51 that the President shall resign to the Vice-President and vice versa. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, who is now Acting President cannot resign to the speaker. If the Acting President is absent or ill or cannot function for some other causes, power will automatically go to the

speaker. The constitutional experts say that no such situation has arisen now.

Meanwhile, inter-party consultations have started to arrive at a consensus on the form of government. The leaders of BNP are not opening up their mind about the issue. The leaders are sticking to their stand that the issue should be resolved on the floor. Besides, the top notches of BNP said they differ with the interpretation of November 19 declaration by three alliances regarding the transfer of power to a sovereign parliament. The leaders strongly hold the view that the election to the parliament has been

completed and power should be handed over to the newly elected speaker which will fulfil the declaration of November 19. But the supporters of parliamentary form of government told The Daily Star that a sovereign parliament means parliamentary form of government.

The debate over the transfer of power and the form of government is likely to be intensified after the oath of members of parliament on March 17, 18 and 19.

BNP has adopted the 'wait and see' policy till the swearing-in of the MPs-elect to take a firm line on the formation of government.

'So far as Awami League is concerned its leaders will not remain satisfied with a mere change in the form of the government, they will demand a return to the pre-1975 constitutional position', authoritative BNP sources said.

The BNP sources said its stand on the form of government will be decided by parliament.

'How can the minority impose its decision on the majority?' — the BNP source asked. AL's stand against the formation of a government by BNP is thus viewed as a total opposition to the democratic process of transfer of power.

One senior BNP leader said:

Will the interim government then remain for one full term?

Another senior BNP leader observed, 'I think Awami Leaguers themselves are not clear about what they stand for. It's crystal clear that they want to go to power. What they want to convey is "everything is good if we are in power", the BNP leader said.

The BNP leaders termed the present situation as difficult, and said political leaders should work rising above individual and party interests to tide over it through talks and exchange of ideas. They said, 'we also know what fate awaits

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General elections likely in May

Lok Sabha dissolved

NEW DELHI, Mar 13: Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman today dissolved parliament's lower house with immediate effect, paving the way for fresh elections in the world's largest democracy, reports AFP.

The presidential proclamation came one week after Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar announced the resignation of his four-month-old minority government in a move that plunged India into political uncertainty.

The announcement said a new Lok Sabha, parliament's elected lower house, "should be constituted on or before June 5," indicating that elections might be held in May as widely anticipated.

It added that orders on fresh polls would be made sep-

arately. A spokesman for Mr Venkataraman said the dates for the election would be announced by the Election Commission after it received the presidential notification.

Mr Shekhar, 63, quit on March 6 after effectively losing the legislative backing of his ally, the Congress (I) of former Premier Rajiv Gandhi. He then called for election.

The demand was immediately echoed by all major political parties.

The congress began boycotting Parliament on March 5 to protest alleged police surveillance of Mr Gandhi's residence, leaving Mr Shekhar without the number of MP's required to control the legislature.

Earlier today, India's parliament adjourned indefinitely

after a brief session, preparing the ground for the presidential order dissolving the Lok Sabha and ordering general elections.

The Rajya Sabha, or upper house, adjourned after a 90 minute meeting when it approved a six-month extension beyond May 11 of New Delhi's direct federal rule in the northern state of Punjab, wracked by a Sikh separatist campaign.

The Lok Sabha had ended its sitting Tuesday.

Immediately afterwards, Mr Gandhi asked the President to announce fresh polls to parliament without further delay. Congress spokesman Vithal Gadgil said.

AP adds: Commentators said Gandhi, who has yet to rebuild his shaken party, overplayed

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Task Force suggests reduced dependence on foreign aid

Jamuna bridge with railroad technically, economically viable

By Shahiduzzaman Khan

Prof. Rehman Sobhan.

The proposed Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB) is technically and economically viable, according to a Task Force report. The Task Force, constituted by the interim government, suggested that the construction of the bridge should be given top priority.

The report was submitted to the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on Sunday by Planning Adviser

on transportation identified main problems of the sector and suggested remedial measures for a better transport network in the country.

The report found many discrepancies in planning process and fund allocation in the transport sector. It identified absence of proper priorities and policy decisions, inability

to enforce existing laws and ineffective controlling mechanism and lack of institutional coordination as the major problems in the sector.

The Task Force recommended both long-term and short-term measures to solve the problems of the transport sector.

Another Task Force report

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PLO concession to Israel?

DAMASCUS, Mar 13: US Secretary of State James A Baker, on the final leg of his Middle East trip, is looking for the opening that would get Syria and the Palestinians talking to Israel, reports AP.

Baker, who arrived in Damascus Wednesday, also likely to look for word on US hostages held in Lebanon. According to some reports, they have been moved from Beirut to the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley.

Baker would like the Syrian leader to show interest in negotiations with Israel. A starting point could be talks to demilitarize the Golan Heights. Syria lost the territory to Israel in the 1967 six-day war and part of it was annexed.

Reuters from Tel Aviv says: Baker ended a two-day trip to Israel Wednesday leaving both Israelis and Palestinians happy.

And although there was no apparent change in prospects for ending their dispute, US official briefing journalists spoke of signs of new thinking throughout the Middle East since the end of the Gulf war.

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official quoted as

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US Secretary of State James Baker poses for photographs with a leading PLO personality, Faisal Husseini prior to his meeting with a Palestinian delegation at the US consulate in West Jerusalem on Tuesday. —AFP photo

1 killed, 50 hurt in firing by Ansars

By Staff Correspondent

One person was killed and at least 50 others were injured when Ansar personnel opened fire to disperse an armed group of people who reportedly made an attempt to evict an Ansar camp on a vested property at east Rajarbagh in the city in the small hours of Wednesday.

The dead was identified as Billal (25) of Narsingdi district. His body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Ansars of the camp, located at 10, east Rajarbagh, told The Daily Star that about 500 people armed with guns, hockey sticks, 'ram daos' and other lethal weapons suddenly attacked their camp at about 4:30 a.m.

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Students strike in Ctg over killing of Shibir leader

CHITTAGONG, Mar 13: Students boycotted classes in major educational institutions in the city today in protest against the killing of Firoz Mahmud (22) here on Monday night, reports BSS.

The strike call was given by Chittagong metropolitan unit of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir as part of its three-day protest programme announced on Tuesday.

Firoz Mahmud, a student of Chittagong University and Shibir leader, was killed by rivals on Monday last.

Protest rallies were held in all educational institutions except Pahartali College, Government City College and Omar Ghani M.E.S. College where Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Jatiya Chhatra League and Bangladesh Chhatra League (H-

See Page 10 Col 4

Khaleda tells APSU

BNP Govt will give priority to education

Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief Begum Khaleda Zia on Wednesday called upon the student community to play a responsible role in establishing a sound academic atmosphere in all the educational institutions which had been destroyed by the ousted autocratic regime, reports BSS.

She said, "the healthy atmosphere in the campuses cannot be established unless the students play a cooperative and positive role in this regard."

Begum Zia was talking to the members of All-Party Student Union (APSU) at the party's Banani office. The 19-member delegation of APSU presented a bouquet to Begum Zia and congratulated her on

her party's victory in the elections.

Begum Zia sought active co-operation of the students in resisting any effort to create chaos and confusion in any sector of the national life.

The BNP chief said during the nine years of autocratic regime all the institutions, including the educational places, had been destroyed.

She said "as democracy has returned to us, we have to work together to reconstruct the country."

Begum Zia said the autocratic Ershad had mortgaged the nation by destroying all its economic institutions.

She said as the ousted

See Page 10 Col 4

AL leadership under fire for poll debacle

By Staff Correspondent

The extended Executive Committee meeting of the Awami League on its second day Wednesday renewed the party decision to continue struggle for restoration of parliamentary form of government.

On the day the central leadership came under fire from the district level leader for the party's failure in the just concluded parliamentary elections.

According to party leaders the political resolutions which were adopted at the meeting did not include Sheikh Hasina's proposal for conditional support to other parties. Sheikh Hasina has been insisting on repealing 4th to 10th amendments to the Constitution and has made the demand a pre-condition for support any parties in Parliament.

Washington suspended some 600 million dollars in annual aid to Pakistan last

Meanwhile, the Awami League candidates who lost in the election blamed the party leaders for their electoral alliance with the other components of Eight Party combine. They said that the candidates of other parties did not withdraw from election campaign in many constituencies, which caused for the party.

Presidium member Dr Kamal Hossain did not attend the meeting due to illness. Meanwhile, many leaders from different districts called on Kamal Hossain at his residence and discussed the matter related to party interest.

On the other hand, many of the district leaders also called on Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed.

The meeting also took decision instructing the central

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White Panel sweeps DU Senate polls

By Staff Correspondent

Candidates belonging to the 'White Panel' swept Tuesday's election of the registered graduate representatives to the Dhaka University Senate, according to unofficial results available on Wednesday.

The candidates of the White Panel won 22 out of 25 seats for the registered graduates. Only three candidates of the joint panel of the 'Blue' and the 'Pink' groups under the name 'Ganatantrik Oikya Parishad' (Alliance for Democratic Unity) were elected. None of the third panel 'Chetona'

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Judgement on Raushan's writ likely today

The hearing of the writ petition challenging the detention of former President H.M. Ershad began here on Wednesday before a Division Bench of the Supreme Court, reports BSS.

The Division Bench comprised Justice Mohammad Abdul Jalil and Justice Kazi Shahabuddin.

Counsel for the petitioner, Kazi Shahadat Hossain, argued that the detainee had committed no crimes or prejudicial activities for which he is to be arrested under Special Powers Act of 1974. The grounds of detention as shown in the warrant of arrest were vague and irrelevant.

Shahadat Hossain also argued that the arrest had been made to harass, humiliate and punish Ershad with a malafide intention.

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More cases against Ershads

A city lawyer has filed a case against deposed President H.M. Ershad, his wife Raushan Ershad and two others for alleged fraudulence, abuse of power and deriving financial benefit through improper means, reports UNB.

Advocate Abdul Wahab who filed the case with Tejgaon Police on Tuesday accused Ershad, his wife Raushan, former RAJUK Chairman Rahmatullah and an Authorised Officer of RAJUK of incurring a loss of Taka 27 lakh to the government.

According to the FIR, the former RAJUK Chairman in collusion with the Authorised Officer allotted a plot of land at Kawran Bazar in the name of Raushan Ara Begum without mentioning her address and

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Salahuddin for power handover to new Speaker

By Staff Correspondent

Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury, MP-elect from Chittagong-12 and leader of National Democratic Party (NDP), said on Wednesday the caretaker government should hand over power to the newly elected speaker on April 5 as the fifth parliament goes into session on that day.

Mr Chowdhury was addressing a press conference at the National Press Club. He said, with the end of the interim government's tenure in office on April 5, parliament will automatically get the executive power under the existing provisions of the Constitution. But

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Election in Munshiganj-3 today

The election in Munshiganj-3 constituency will be held today (Tuesday) with six candidates contesting for the Jatiya Sangsad seat, reports UNB.

Polls was postponed following the death of Islami Oikya Jote candidate Alhaj Tofazzal Hossain on February 8.

The candidates are: Sham-sul Islam of BNP, Advocate Muktiar of Awami League, Abed Ali Khan of Jatiya Party, Mohammed Idris of Jamaat-e-Islami, Qudus Beg of Zaker Party and Mohammad Siddique Rahman of Bangladesh National Congress.

The deferred election in Kustha-2, will be held on March 28.