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DHAKA THURSDAY MARCH 14, 1991

SHABAN 26, 1411 HIJRI

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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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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

GUETTA, 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 Reuter.

Chatichai in London

LONDON, Mar 13: Chatichai Choonahavan, 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 Reuter.

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 Reuter.

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

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 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.

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 notchers 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 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.

"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 League 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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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 'Ganotantrik 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 HM 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 Shahabud Hossain, argued that the detenu 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.

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

See Page 10 Col 2

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

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The Ansar camp at east Rajarbagh which an armed group allegedly tried to occupy on Wednesday. The dead (inset) is the victim of firing by the Ansars.

—Star photo

Task Force suggests reduced dependence on foreign aid

Jamuna bridge with railroad technically, economically viable

By Shahiduzzaman Khan

Prof. Rehman Sobhan.

Another Task Force report 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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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 am.

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 Bilal (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 am.

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Khaleda tells APSU

BNP Govt will give priority to education

Bangladesh Nationalist Party chief Begum 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 cooperation 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

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 Gani M.E.S. College where Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Jatiya Chhatra League and Bangladesh Chhatra League (H-

See Page 10 Col 4

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

See Page 10 Col 2

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 Sangsads seat, reports UNB.

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

The candidates are: Shamsul Islam of BNP, Advocate Mukhtadir of Awami League, Abed Ali Khan of Jatiya Party, Mohammed Idris of Jamiat-e-Islami, Quddus Bepari of Zaker Party and Mohammad Siddique Rahman of Bangladesh National Congress.

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

Beg's pro-Islamic bent worries Washington

ISLAMABAD Mar 13: Washington is worried that Pakistan's Army Chief of Staff Aslam Beg, who displayed a pro-Islamic bent during the Gulf war, has not ended. The latest issue of the monthly magazine Herald Indian, found vent for its views in an editorial published Tuesday in the Muslim Daily.

Commentator Sitem Mazari charged that US diplomats were "carefully orchestrating a campaign to draw negative similarities" between Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and General Beg, who she said embodied Pakistan's nuclear

between the civilian government and the military over the Gulf war have not ended. The latest issue of the monthly magazine Herald Indian, found vent for its views in an editorial published Tuesday in the Muslim Daily.

The lobby, deeply anti-

includes the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party, the Western diplomat indicated.

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