## BNP interview\_of women candidates on March 23, 24

By Staff Correspondent Interview of the candidates seeking nominations from BNP to contest the April 4 polls to 30 reserved seats for women in parliament will be held on March 23 and 24.

BNP Parliamentary Board headed by Begum Khaleda Zia will interview the nomination seeKers from 9 am to 4 pm at the party's central office at Dhanmondi

Women from Rajshahi division seeking nomination will be interviewed in the morning while those from the Khulna division in the afternoon on March 23. Nomination seckers from Chittagong division have been called for interview in the morning and those from Dhaka division will be interviewed in the afternoon of March 24.

AKM Firoz Noon, Secretary of BNP central polls conducting committee, has urged all the members of the party's standing committee to attend the interview.

## NAP for transfer of power to parliament

By Staff Correspondent An extended meeting of the national committee of National Awami Party (NAP) on Saturday demanded handover of power to a sovereign parliament on the basis of the joint declaration of the three political alliances. The meeting said

the people participated in the elections to bring an end to autocracy and institutionalise democracy through formation of a sovereign parliament. NAP president Prof Mozaffar Ahmed presided over the meeting. In a resolution the meeting said the Acting Presi-

tions according to the outlines given by the three alliances. The meeting also said a huge quantity of black money was spent in the elections despite the repeated warning by the government and the Elec-

dent held the parliament elec-

tion Commission. Reviewing the election results the meeting said NAP failed to achieve the desired results mainly due to the role of Awami League. It explained its views saying that NAP took initiative to contest the elections along with the Eight party Alliance, but Awami League frustrated the 8-party partners by announcing its own nominations, though finally the AL chief unilaterally decided to offer 25 seats to the partners of the alliance.

## Ramzan

From Page 1 Col 8 function between 10 AM and 4 PM with a 15-minute break at

1.15 PM for Johar prayer. The present office timing of 9 AM to 4 PM and 10 AM to 5 PM will again be effective after

the Ramzan month. The above timing is applicable to all government offices, organisations and establish-

ments. Office timing for Bangladesh Bank and other scheduled banks has been rest for the

month of Ramzan. The new timing for all scheduled banks will be from 9 AM to 3.30 PM from Saturday to Wednesday with a 15minute break for Johar prayer. Office time for Thursday will

## Iftar and Sehri timings

be from 9 AM to 12 PM.

Sehri Monday 4.45 am. 6.15 pm Tuesday 4.44 am. 6.15 pm.

## Oath taking

From Page 1 Col 4

through a letter. Parliament sources however could not confirm when Ershad will take oath. Jatiya Party sources said they did not know whether Ershad will at all take oath or not. Earlier Jatiya Party decided that they would not take oath unless their party chairman is re-

According to Rules of Procedure of parliament, the MPs-elect must take oath within 90 days of the first session of parliament.

lcascd

Meanwhile, Baksal General Secretary Abdur Razzak has vacated his Madaripur-2 scat and retains Shariatpur-3, according to Election Commission sources.

Four MPs have been elected from more than one constituency. They will have to vacate all seats except one before taking oath.

Khaleda Zia and ex-President Ershad have won five scats cach while Tofael Ahmed of Awami League two.



BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public reception accorded to her in Feni on Saturday on her victory in February 27 polls. -PID photo



Speaker of West Bengal Assembly Hashim Abdul Halim called on Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina at Bangabandhu Bhaban on Saturday. -Star photo

# Loss by corporations

tionalised banks in carrying

distorted ratios of loans and

This is reflected in their

out their operations.

From Page 1 Col 7

BSEC - Tk 209.06 crores, BS-FIC - Tk 86.21 crores and BCIC - Tk 60.73 crores. The situation in perennially loss incurring Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) a large public sector body, has not been covered by the Task Force in its report.

The report points out that the aggregate value of goods, now produced yearly, by the industrial units under four public sector corporations

totals Tk. 2722.05 crores. The break-down for specific corporations is: BCIC - Tk. 1320.42 crores, BSEC — Tk. 452.09 crores, BSFIC - Tk. 552.00 crores and BTMC -

Tk. 396.54. The contributions by the corporations to the public exchequer in the form of various government duties stand at Tk. 297.61 crores while their interest payments on account of past government loans are Tk. 276.11 crores annually, the

report shows. The overall performance of public sector corporations in industrial sector presents a very dismal picture, reflecting their inefficiency in operations, cumulative bad investments and ineffective use of resources including leakages.

The sector corporations are heavily dependent on loans from the government or na-

#### Council of Ministers From Page 1 Col 7

houses ready for the newly appointed ministers. The list of personal staff of the ministers is also being prepared by the Cabinet Division.

BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia kept the list of ministers secret. The high command of BNP seems to be ignorant about the final list although the aspirants complained that the senior leaders were avoiding them. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed is however yet to ask for list of minister from BNP.

Awami League continued to oppose the formation of the council of minister by NBP members. Sheikh Hasina's opposition to form the council is being compared by the political observers with the scenario of 1971. They held that Sheikh Hasina was repeating the drama enacted by Bhutto and Yahya Khan in 1971 regarding transfer of power. Bhutto opposed transfer of power to majority party Awami League in equity (capital) in financing their activities. The loan: equity ratios for the corporations are as follows: BCIC-68:32, BSEC-83:17, BSFIC-105: (05) and BTMC-

The members of the Task

Force were: Nefaur Rahman Chairman, BCIC, Abu Sayced, Chairman, BIWTA, Haroonur Rashid, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Finance, Zeaul Huq, Managing Director, ORIOFISH Ltd., Dr. Durgadas Bhattacharjee of Management Department, Dhaka University Rafique Siddiqui, Managing Director, Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory, Syed Humayun Kabir, Managing Director Pfizer (Bangladesh Ltd.) Muzassar Ahmed, Finance Director, BSFIC and Prof. Hafeez G.A. Siddiqui of IBA, Dhaka University.

The Task Force examined the problems of public sector industrial enterprises from various operational points. These include: status of effective autonomy at corporation and enterprise levels, institutional problems, system of accountability, management forms, excess and unutilized production capacity, financial operations (profits and losses) policy continuity and professional administration, research, design and development, policy formulation pro-

cesses and labour unions. It has recommended various specific measures to improve the operational practices of public sector corporations and enterprises under their control.

The Task Force has suggested that BCIC, BSEC, BSFIC and BTMC should be converted into holding corporations. The other recommendations include: effective delegation of responsibilities to the corporations and enterprises, involvement of key enterpriselevel management personnel in decision-making process relating to production, distribu-

tion and sales, and formulation of appropriate pricing policies. It has made a number of specific suggestions for delegation of effective responsibili tics to both corporation and enterprise levels, research, design and development, maintenance of policy continuity and growth of professional ism, improvement in capacity utilization, pricing policy, reduction of losses and raising levels of profitability, capital restructuring.

The Task Force has stressed that the public sector corporations should be properly compensated for any losses forced upon them because of faulty or delayed decisions in areas of pricing, import policy, customs and other duty structure, political intervention in matters of procarement or appointment of dealers or contractors.

It has called for making appropriate and effective amendments to existing industrial relations laws to curb any unlawful and unhealthy practices by labour unions.

## Brojen Das improves

The condition of Brojen Das who had a successful bye-pass operation in Calcutta on March 14 improved further Saturday, a message received in Dhaka said, reports BSS. Yslav President resigns as Serbia

## AL-NDP workers clash in Ctg: seven injured

CHITTAGONG Mar 16: Seven persons were injured in a clash between activists of National Democratic Party and Awami League at Gaschi Nayarhat under Rauzan upazila Saturday, afternoon, police said, reports BSS.

Ali Akbar, NDP worker was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries.

The clash ensued when the rival groups came face to face but there was no political programme there.

Both parties blamed each other for the clash in which fire arms and hand bombs were allegedly used.

## Bangladeshis in Iraq safe

Bangladesh nationals living in Baghdad, Najf, Karbala, Kufa and Mousul are reported to have survived the Gulf war and current civil strife, according to the foreign Ministry official on Saturday, reports UNB.

He said Bangladesh Embassy in Baghdad has till now remained unaffected.

## High-powered team to be sent to Gulf

The government plans to send a high-powered "political delegation" to countries in the Gulf in quest of employment for Bangladeshis, reports UNB.

The composition of the proposed delegation and its tour schedule would be finalised after formation of a new Council of Ministers.

The delegation's visit to the Gulf region will help deepen bonds of friendship and create an opportunity for Bangladeshis to take part in the massive reconstruction and rehabilitation work in the war-ravaged region, particularly in the five-year construction programme in liberated

Five Saudi construction companies have got 58 million US dollar worth of contracts and agreed to recruit about 5,000 skilled and semiskilled

labourers from Bangladesh. Bengal Development Corporation (BDC), having experience of construction works in Iraq and the United Arab Emirates earlier, is contacting sources including Bangladesh missions in the region to participate in rebuilding Kuwait, a BDC source said

**Kuwait Petroleum Company** has empowered its office in London to recruit skilled and semi-skilled manpower, reports said.

Bangladesh missions in the Gulf region and elsewhere are in touch with all construction companies in a bid to employ Bangladeshis in large numbers in the Gulf states, Foreign Office sources said.

#### Khaleda

From Page 1 Col 7

plement Shaheed Zia's 19 point programme of production, Begum Zia said and asked the farmers to dedicate themscives in the farm and workers in the factory. She lauded the uncompro-

mising and courageous role of the students in the anti-autocracy movement and urged them to go back to their stud ics in the interest of building the future of the country. Begum Zia stopped and

talked to wayside crowds trying to have a glimpse of their charismatic leader.

The BNP chief, who arrived here on a day-long visit, of fered fatcha at the mazar of Pagla Miah.

## Transfer of power

From Page 1 Col 5

Presided over by BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia the meeting expressed its concern over hasty promotions and transfers in the administration and expressed suspicions about the unwarranted haste in the granting of promotions.

The BNP meeting in a resolution called for hastening the trial of deposed President II. M. Ershad and his associates on charges of misuse of power, violation of the Constitution, misappropriation of public wealth, oppression, repression, corruption and killing.

In another resolution the meeting urged the Acting President to publish a white paper on the state of the economy, industry and education sectors, the administration and the law and order situa-

The meeting said publication of a white paper has become necessary because the next government will not like to take responsibility for the failure and corruption of the previous government which, it said, affected all sectors.

While alleging that certain quarters were conspiring to create indiscipline and demanding steps against them, the meeting also urged the business community to keep the prices of essentials within the buying capacity of the

The meeting in a resolution expressed its gratitude to the people for electing BNP candidates in the February 27 elec-

The BNP extended meeting also congratulated the Acting President, the Election Commission and all others for holding a free and fair election as desired by the people. In another resolution BNP

pledged to keep the trust reposed in it by the people, and to fulfil all the commitments made to the people. The meeting sought the co-

operation of all quarters in establishing a corruption-free, honest government, and an exploitation-free reliant and democratic Bangladesh. The meeting, attended by

members of the Party standing committee, national executive committee and office bearers of local level committees empowered Begum Khaleda Zia to take emergency decisions on behalf of the Party in national interest.

The 13-hour meeting at tended by a total of 1488 Party workers and leaders paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the Language Movement, the independence struggle and those who laid down their lives to save the country from the grip of autocracy, and the movement for restoration of democracy by overthrowing former President Ershad. The meeting also recalled

with gratitude the contributions of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, the founder of

BHOPAL, Mar 16: Former Premier Rajty Gandhi launched his party's election campaign with an address at a rally here today where he said only his Congress (I) party was capable of bringing political stability to India. The Congress (i) alone is able to form a "strong and stable" government that could fulfil a normal full five-year term once elected, the said, reports

The Midnight File

Rajiv launches poll campaign

## Juan Bosch quits politics

SANTO DOMINGO, Mar 16: Former President Juan Bosch. 82, a grand old man of the Dominican Republic's politics and literature, quit his political party on Friday and said he was ending a career spanning half a century. Bosch was the founder and President of the centre-left Dominican Liberation Party (LPD). He was its presidential candidate last May, losing by only a few thousand votes to fellow octogenarian and lik long political rival Joaquin Balaguer, reports Reuter.

## Iraq to lease out planes

BAGIIDAD, Mar 16: Iraqt Airways is considering leasing its flect of airplanes to other Arab and foreign companies, Director General Nurreddin Safi Hammadi announced today. "Iraqi Airways is examining the possibility of leasing its planes and the services of their pilots to any company interested in them," Mr. Hammadi said in a statement published by the Defence Ministry's newspaper, Al-Qadisiyah, reports AFP.

#### Nine killed in plane crash

OTAY (California) Mar 16: Ninc people were killed today when their private aircraft crashed in a mountainous region close to the Mexican border, local officials said. The Hawkersidley aircraft had taken off a few minutes earlier from a private airfield south of San Diego, reports AFP.

#### **Bomb blasts in Ankara**

ANKARA, Mar 16: At least 10 bombs exploded Saturday in several offices with US links in three major Turkish cities. hours before the scheduled arrival of US Secretary of State James A. Baker to discuss the Gulf situation. Dev Sol (Revolutionary Left), an extreme leftist underground group. claimed responsibility for the attacks, which officials said caused damage but no injuries, reports AP.

## Ceasefire in Gulf

honoured. Other main ele-

ments expected in the resolu-

tion are: a token UN peace-

keeping force of about 250

military observers rather than

a more substantial group as

first suggested among allics.

Kuwait wants the UN group to

clearly demarcate its border

Allied forces would withdraw

The partial lifting of eco-

nomic sanctions Britain is in-

sisting on a ban on chemical

and biological wcapons.

Sources said China had raised

some tentative objections to

the scope of the British pro-

which Iraq is forced to return

immediately stolen Kuwaiti

government property, such as

gold, currency, aircraft, mu-

dealing with war damages or

reparations, such as an inter-

national tribunal with binding

arbitration. Diplomats said this

might be tied to the lifting of

most economic sanctions as

Iraq would have to sell oil

-A removal of the Baghdad

government's right to sue for-

cign companies unable to fulfil

their contracts with Iraq be-

cause of the UN trade embargo

Row in JP

From Page 1 Col 5

ABM Gulam Mostafa, Matiur

Rahman, Khaledur Rahman

Tito, ATM Fazle Rabbi, Major

(retd) Manzurul Kader and

Insiders told the Daily Star

that the representatives who

attended the extended meet-

ing from different districts of

the country bitterly criticised

some of the former ministers

for their anti-party activities.

Among them, former minister

Mostafa Jamal Haider and

Major (retd) Manzurul Kader

came under fire from the dis-

trict level leaders of the party.

They alleged that these

Mostafa Jamal Haider.

again to raise revenues.

imposed last August.

seum pieces and documents.

-A mechanism under

-Another mechanism for

from Iraq and Kuwait.

Conditions under which

with iraq.

From Page 1 Col 4

closed to other countries and thus creating new antagonisms while fucling the old ones." The document also suggests

making the Middle East a nuclear-free zone and returning foreign military presence to levels that existed before August 1, 1990. Iraq invaded Kuwait the following day, prompting a massive US-led multi-national effort to reverse the occupation.

The new Kremlin peace blueprint also calls for international economic cooperation in post-war reconstruction and use of the UN Military Staff. Committee in crises. Finally, it proposes a new drive to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict to help reduce tensions in the

The Security Council on March 2 adopted Resolution 686, putting a UN scal of approval on Allied conditions for a temporary cease-fire in the Gulf war. The new Resolution is to add several more conditions and spell out some of the earlier demands. A major prob lem, diplomats said was the return of Kuwaitis abducted by Iraqi forces, which - Kuwait insists number over 33,000.

US President George Bush and British Prime Minister John Major emerged from talks at Hamilton, Bermuda today saying they wanted the destruction of Iraq's chemical weapons arsenal before they were willing to ease sanctions on the government of Saddam Hussein

Saddam's "credibility is Zilch, Zero", Bush said after private talks with Major on . post-war Gulf policy. Asked during a joint news

conference about the conditions Iraq must meet before casing UN-sponsored sanctions, Major said one key factor would be the destruction of its chemical weapons arsenal.

Allies are considering giving a central role to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) of arbitrating between the Kuwaiti and the Iraqi versions of the numbers of dead and captured before any permanent cease-fire is

## Bangabandhu

From Page 1 Col 8

leaders will participate in it. Besides, a milad mahfil will be held there at noon. The party flag will be hoisted a top Bangabandhu Bhaban and the AL leaders including Sheikh Hasina will garland the portrait of Bangabandhu at 8 am. All the city units of AL will feed the destitutes in their respective

Bangabandhu Parishad will hold an exhibition of children's paintings at Bangabandhu Bhaban. Chairperson of the Parishad Poet Begum Sufia Kamal will inaugurate the exhibition at 10 am. The Parishad will also hold a children's rally at the same spot at 4.30 pm. Sheikh Hasina will attend the rally as chief guest and distribute prizes among the best painters.

A Bangabandhu Shishu Kishore Mela will observe the day through a cultural function at the Jatiya Grantha Kendra (National Book Centre) in the afternoon. Former Justice Kamaluddin Hossain will be present at the function as chief I guest.

ministers had not helped the party cadres during Ershad's regime and did very little for the growth of the party. Moreover, they committed excesses while in power, The meeting also decided to reverse the previous decision regarding not taking oath by its MPs-elect until Ershad was freed. Some of the MPs said that the release of Ershad might be a long drawn process. So the Mps-elect against whom there were no cases

The meeting also demanded the immediate release of Ershad and some of his former ministers as well as withdrawal of the warrants of arrest against other former JP ministers.

follow him.

should take their oaths to fa-

cilitate agitation inside and

outside the parliament. Later it

was decided that if Ershad

agreed to take the oath then

the other party MPs would

The meeting nominated Mizan Chowdhury to contest the bye-election from one of the constituencies of Rangpur which would be vacated by Ershad.

## Editor : S. M. All

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goslav President Borisav Jovic resigned Friday after nearly a week of unprecedented anti-Communist protests and failing to win approval for army plans to impose emergency measures in the Balkan country.

BELGRADE, Mar 16: Yu-

reports Reuter. Vice President Stipe Mesic said in a statement to an independent Television that he was taking over as Acting President.

Announcing his shock resignation in an impassive five minute address on state television, Jovic said Yugoslavia, a multi-ethnic federation of six republies and two provinces, was falling apart and could face civil war.

Jovic, a 63 year old Communist, said the eight member

heads had rejected unspecified army proposals for emergency measures at a presidency meeting Friday after unrest in which two people were killed and scores were hurt in Belgrade this week.

state presidency which he

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic said today his republic, the largest in Yugoslavia, would not accept the authority of the country's collective presidency.

Miloscvic, a communist, also said in a television address he was mobilising police reserves and forming extra militia units following the resignation on Friday of state President Borisav Jovic, a Serb, and unrest in Scrbia.

The state presidency brings together representatives of Yu-

months.

refuses to recognise Belgrade

goslavia's six republics and two provinces and is the highest constitutional body. Milosevie, a Serbian nation-

alist whose popularity has been dented by anti-Communist protests in the republic in the past week, said he had ordered the mobilisation of Serbian Interior Ministry reserves. This was to cope with what

he said was the threat of unrest in Kosovo, a predominantly ethnic Albanian province of Serbia where there have been clashes in the past. There has been no major unrest in Kosovo for several

Non-Communist Croatia, at loggerheads with Serbia over the future shape of Yugoslavia, said on Saturday it had put its May, 1990.

The army was meeting as Jovic announced his resignation to consider what action to

full alert.

police and militia reserves on

down was rejected for the second time in three days. Bearing in mind my duty as the President, I inform the public that I cannot be an accomplice in decisions which help destroy the country with

possibly catastrophic conse-

quences for our citizens and

take after its plan for a crack-

people, Jovic said. "Therefore, I decide to resign as President believing it is necessary and in harmony with my conscience."

Jovie took over as state President by annual rotation in