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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**PM attends Sramik Dal iftar**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia attended an iftar party yesterday hosted by Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, labour front of the ruling BNP, at Sugandha. Sramik Dal president Iskandar Ali and general secretary Nazrul Islam received the guests, reports BSS.

**Chinese, Russian envoys meet Hasina**

Chinese Ambassador Zhang Xujiang and Russian Ambassador Edward S Shevchenko called on Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at her parliament office yesterday. During the separate meetings, they exchanged views on economic, political and social issues of mutual interest, a press release of Awami League said, reports UNB.

**Navy frigates back home**

CHITTAGONG, Mar 11: Two frigates of the Bangladesh Navy BNS Ali Haider and BNS Abu Bakr returned home this morning ending their month-long training-cum-goodwill visit to three south east Asian countries, an ISPR press release said. They called on the ports of Phuket in Thailand, Lumut in Malaysia and Jakarta in Indonesia, reports BSS.

**Parkinson dead**

LONDON, Mar 11: C Northcote Parkinson, who devised Parkinson's Law that work expands to fill the time available, has died at age 83. His family said Parkinson died Wednesday in a clinic near his home in Canterbury in southeast England. The cause of death was not announced, reports AP.

**Sehri, Iftar Timings**

Ram	Mar	Sehri	Iftar
17	12	-	6.13 pm
18	13	4.50 am	6.13 pm

## Minimum wages controversy Tripartite talks end without decision

The government was optimistic about reaching a consensus on minimum wages for the industrial workers while the employers and the labour leaders were sharply divided on the issue during a joint meeting of the three sides in the city yesterday. The four-hour meeting ended without taking any decision.

The meeting of the Tripartite Consultative Committee (TCC), representing the government, Bangladesh Employers Association (BEA) and the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) and jute-textile mills trade unions, thoroughly discussed various demands of the industrial workers with special emphasis on the Wages and Productivity Commission report ahead of the March 15-16 countrywide shutdown.

The SKOP and jute-textile-cotton-sugar mills workers' bodies have simultaneously announced the 48-hour shut-



The Tripartite Consultative Committee comprising representatives of government, employers and workers holding meeting at the Manpower Employment and Training Bureau in city yesterday. —Star photo

## Congress strips Yeltsin of more powers, cancels referendum

MOSCOW, Mar 11: Russia's Communist-dominated Congress voted Thursday to strip President Boris Yeltsin of some of his remaining authority and cancelled a national referendum he had called in a bid to cement his power, reports AP.

In a series of votes, hard-line lawmakers signalled their unwillingness to resolve the power struggle that has paralyzed the government for months and put Yeltsin's already shaky political future in greater jeopardy.

Communists seated in the Congress before the Soviet collapse have hammered away at Yeltsin's power since December, when they forced him to fire Yegor Gaidar, his acting prime minister and architect of free-market reforms.

It was at that session that Yeltsin proposed holding a referendum to let the people decide who should wield supreme authority in Russia, the democratically elected president or the Communist-era legislature.

But on Thursday, the second day of an emergency session called to settle the constitutional crisis, the Congress of People's Deputies nullified the December agreement that approved an April 11 referendum.

Public opinion polls have indicated Yeltsin is more popular than the legislature and might prevail in a referendum. But many regional officials, some fearing for their jobs, insist a plebiscite could divide the nation.

Thursday's votes also reinstated a constitutional amendment that had stripped Yeltsin of his power to initiate legislation, which he has used to implement market-oriented reforms abhorred by many hard-liners.

The social cost of such policies has been rising unemployment and spiraling inflation.

The measures passed Thursday do not spell the president's remaining powers. Nor do they specify what free-

## Saxena resigns as Kashmir governor

NEW DELHI, Mar 11: The top administrator of Indian-ruled Kashmir has resigned after almost three years of trying to control a spreading rebellion by Muslim militants, sources close to the administration said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Governor Girish Saxena flew into Delhi on Wednesday from Srinagar, the capital of Kashmir, and submitted his resignation to the government of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

There has been no government announcement on the resignation, the sources said it will be found when a replacement is made.

A spokesman for the Indian government said it was possible he had asked to be 'relieved of his duties' but had not put it down in writing, according to AFP.

Official announcements of governors' resignations are made when they are formally

accepted by the federal government.

The Times of India daily said Saxena resigned Wednesday to pave the way for a 'new initiative' in the northern state.

Saxena met Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao after arriving here from Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital and the urban hub of the insurgency, which he left 'bag and baggage,' the newspaper said.

No reason for his reported resignation was cited and it was not immediately clear if Rao's government had asked Saxena to quit.

The Times mentioned K V Krishna Rao, a former Indian army chief who has also served in the past as Kashmir governor, and Punjab state governor Surendra Nath as his possible successors.

The reported resignation of Saxena followed the appointment in January of Rajesh Pilot, Rao's main trouble shooter on Kashmir affairs, as Minister of State for Internal Security.

## Govt should be firm, Opposition responsible, says FBCCI chief

The president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Mahbubur Rahman, Thursday said that the government should be firm in its policies and actions, and the Opposition parties should also be responsible and not indulge in politics of expediency on the issue of SKOP's demands.

The FBCCI president in a statement said that the SKOP threat for 48-hour shutdown was a destabilising factor causing great uncertainty among industrialists and for-



The Tripartite Consultative Committee comprising representatives of government, employers and workers holding meeting at the Manpower Employment and Training Bureau in city yesterday. —Star photo

## Kuwaiti Amir's letter handed over to PM

The visiting special envoy of the Amir of Kuwait Dr Ahmad Abdullah Al Rubel called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office here yesterday, reports BSS.

Dr Rubel, who is Minister for Education, handed over a letter from the Amir Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah to Begum Zia.

During the meeting he thanked the people and government of Bangladesh on behalf of the Government of Kuwait for the role they had played following the invasion of his country and during its rehabilitation works. He said that he would raise the issue of reemployment of Bangladeshi workers with the Labour Minister.

Welcoming the visiting envoy Begum Zia described the relations between the two countries as very close. She said Bangladesh will always stand beside Kuwait as it did in the past.

Begum Zia said about 60,000 Bangladeshis had been forced to leave Kuwait during

## Saifur tells British MPs 'We are no longer a bottomless basket'

The country has been able to boost its grain output and reduce dependence on foreign aid contributing 25 per cent of development budget from own resources.

This was stated by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman while briefing the British-Bangladesh Parliamentary group on Bangladesh economy at the House of Commons Tuesday, according to a message received here yesterday, reports UNB.

He told the British MPs that the inflationary pressure on the economy has been cut from double digit to single digit. The economic and financial discipline is being gradually restored after its return to democracy in 1991, he said.

The Finance Minister, now on a tour to Britain, noted that the economy is bouncing back to life although the government was left in a mess after nine years of autocracy

## Allegations of corruption No parliamentary committee report withheld: Speaker

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali Thursday refuted Opposition charges that reports of parliamentary committees were being withheld to suppress allegations of corruption against the government saying that any member of the House had access to any of the reports.

The Speaker added that in some instances members of parliamentary committees exceeded their limits and even interfered with the functioning of government institutions.

## Majid brushes aside opposition charges

Acting Deputy Leader of the House Major General (Retd) Majid-ul-Haque yesterday came out with a strong defence of the performance of the government and unequivocally told the Jatiya Sangsad that the BNP government would continue its unremitting endeavour to bring all round development to the country, reports BSS.

Winding up the discussion on the motion of thanks to the address of the President he said the elected government would spare no efforts to live up to the expectation of the people.

The Acting Deputy Leader brushed aside the opposition allegations of non-performance of the government, saying the government expected the opposition to play constructive role in helping the govern-

## Make JS effective and meaningful: Hasina

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday made an appeal for united efforts in building a 'poverty-free Bangladesh' by institutionalising the hard-won democracy and making the parliament effective and meaningful, reports UNB.

"Despite continued repression on us, we have extended our hands of cooperation to the government. Let's make concerted efforts to bring about economic freedom of the people by consolidating democracy," she said.

The Awami League president and leader of the Opposition in parliament was speaking Thursday afternoon in parliament on thanks-giving motion on the President's address.

Hasina said failure, incompetence and undemocratic attitude of the ruling party threatened the democratic process, pushed economy into shambles and tarnished the country's image abroad.

Politicisation, misuse of power, victimisation of political opponents as well as illegal promotion and termination

## 9 more die of diarrhoea

A total of nine people died of diarrhoea while some 1,409 were attacked by the bacteria in last 24 hours in 13 districts. Diarrhoea Control Room sources said yesterday, reports UNB.

The latest deaths brought the toll from the epidemic to 1,025 since its outbreak in early January. Some 70,076 people have so far been attacked by the water-borne bacteria across the country, particularly in eight southern districts.

Of the latest death figure, four came from Bhola, two from Khulna, one from Jhalakati and another one from Patuakhali.

District-wise break-up of attacks in last 24 hours is: Barguna-95, Pirojpur-56, Bagerhat-39, Patuakhali-39, Khulna-96, Jhalakati-114, Bhola-178, Barisal-140, Narayanganj-48, Gopalganj-20, Kishoreganj-43, Netrokona-13 and Dhaka-489.

Unofficial sources believe the death figure and the number of attacked could be much higher as poor communication made it difficult to collect information from the remote areas.

## Ministers deny corruption charges

By Staff Correspondent  
 Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Mosharrar Hossain Thursday refuted corruption charges levelled against him by the opposition and agreed to place the inquiry committee report on the alleged irregularities in the north-south gas pipeline project.

Responding to a call attention notice moved by opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim, the minister asserted "the committee report has not held me or the ministry responsible for any corruption."

Publication in the press of the Professor Iqbal Mahmood Committee report, which al-

## JS winter session prorogued

By Staff Correspondent  
 The winter session of Parliament that began on January 3 this year was prorogued yesterday evening with a call from both the Treasury and the opposition benches, for united efforts to further consolidate present democratic system.

The 68-day-long winter session, with two unusual long recesses for a total of 23 days, ended with the prorogation order by President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali read out the prorogation order at 5:45 pm yesterday.

Earlier, Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief and Moudud Ahmed of the Jatiya Party addressed the House.

Majid-ul-Hoque, Acting Deputy Leader of the House and Agriculture Minister, gave

## Chiefs of SNAM, Saipem held for corruption

MILAN, Mar 14: The President of SNAM, a major subsidiary of Italy's huge state energy group ENI, was arrested today in connection with a widening corruption scandal in the country, state radio reported, reports Reuter.

The radio and the Italian news agency ANSA said Pio

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
 ঊষধ প্রশাসন পরিদপ্তর  
 ১০৫-১০৬, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা  
 ঢাকা

**বিশেষ সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**  
 (প্যারাসিটামল সিরাপ সম্পর্কিত)

অভিযায় উল্লেখের সহিত লক্ষ্য করা যাইতেছে যে, কোন কোন এলাকায় কিছু অসাধু ঊষধ বিক্রেতা এবং হাতুড়ে ডাক্তার নিম্নবর্ণিত ৪টি কোম্পানী উৎপাদিত ইহাদের নামের পার্শে বর্ণিত ব্রাঞ্জে নিম্নে যোষিত প্যারাসিটামল সিরাপ বিক্রয় করিতেছে কিংবা ব্যবহারের জন্য জনসাধারণকে পরামর্শ প্রদান করিতেছেঃ

ক্রমিক নং	প্রযুক্তকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম	ব্রাণ্ড নাম
(১)	মোসার	এ্যাডভেন্স কার্বাসিউটিক্যালস লিঃ, ঢাকা ফ্রেমোডল সিরাপ
(২)	"	পলিকেম ল্যাবরেটরীজ লিঃ, ঢাকা প্যারাসিটামল সিরাপ
(৩)	"	বি সি আই (বাংলাদেশ) লিঃ, ঢাকা প্যারাসিটামল সিরাপ
(৪)	"	বেঙ্গল ফার্মা, ঢাকা বনডল সিরাপ

২। উল্লেখ্য যে, উপরোক্ত ৪টি কোম্পানী উৎপাদিত প্যারাসিটামল সিরাপে বিসাক ডাইইথিলিন গ্রাইকলের উপস্থিতির কারণে ইহাদের উৎপাদন ও বাজারজাতকরণ নিষিদ্ধ করিয়া জনসাধারণকে উক্ত সিরাপ ব্যবহার না করার জন্য, কেমিষ্ট-ডাণিষ্টগণকে ক্রয়-বিক্রয় থেকে বিরত থাকিতে এবং চিকিৎসকগণকে ইহাদের ব্যবস্থাপত্র প্রদান না করিবার জন্য সকল পচার মাধ্যমে বিজ্ঞপ্তি/সংবাদ-বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশ/জ্ঞার করা হইয়াছে।

৩। এতদপ্রেক্ষিতে, সকল চিকিৎসকগণকে উপরোক্ত ৪টি কোম্পানী উৎপাদিত নিম্নে যোষিত প্যারাসিটামল সিরাপের ব্যবস্থাপত্র প্রদান না করিতে, কেমিষ্ট-ডাণিষ্টগণকে ক্রয়-বিক্রয় থেকে বিরত থাকিতে এবং জনসাধারণকে এই সকল ব্রাঞ্জে সিরাপ ব্যবহার না করার জন্য এতদ্বারা পুনর্বার সতর্ক করা হইল।

**প্রিগেডিয়ার মুখলেছুর রহমান খান**  
 পরিচালক

ফোন(সি) ৩৭০৬-১১/৩  
 ১০৫

ঊষধ প্রশাসন পরিদপ্তর, ও  
 লাইসেন্সিং অথরিটি (ডাগাস)