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### NEWS BRIEFS

DUCSU polls after  
Eid-ul-Fitr

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) and hall union elections will be held in between the third week of March to the first week of April after the Eid-ul-Fitr this year. The decision was taken unanimously in a meeting of the Vice-Chancellor of the university Professor Md. Jafaruddin Ahmed with the leaders of different student organisations yesterday afternoon. The meeting also urged the government and the authorities concerned not to amend the University Ordinance 1973. Protests of different halls and the proctor were present.

**Shopowner shot,  
robbed**

By DMCH Correspondent

A shopowner was shot and reportedly robbed of Tk 24,000 at Chankharpur in the city yesterday. Keramat Ali, 30, proprietor of one Shumon Store, was waylaid by a gang of three to four muggers yesterday noon. The muggers, according to witnesses, fired at him and sped away with the money. Keramat was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

**Andrews meets  
FM**

The visiting Irish minister for Defence and Marine David Andrews called on foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman here yesterday. During the meeting, the Foreign Minister recalled with appreciation that Ireland was one of the few countries who recognised Bangladesh immediately after its independence, reports UNB.

# Foreign aid pledges may exceed \$2400m

By Inam Ahmed

This year's foreign aid commitment is expected to exceed the pledged amount at the Paris Club meeting held in April last year since some major projects start rolling on before the end of the fiscal 1993-94, according to Finance Ministry sources. It has been estimated that this year's commitment would exceed 2400 million US dollars at the end of June. The pledge

at the Paris Club was 2135 million dollars.

Of this amount, the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) commitment is expected to be around 700 million dollars, the World Bank's portion about 650 million dollars and Japan's commitment another 600 million.

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The ADB will be supporting the 200-million dollar Jamuna Bridge and an 80-million dollar railway project in addition to its already committed 331 million dollars for other projects.

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BNP candidate for Dhaka City Corporation mayor Mirza Abbas waving to the crowd during yesterday's projection meeting at Gulistan in the city. — Star photo

### BNP mayoral candidate launches campaign

## I want to serve you again: Abbas

By Staff Correspondent  
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In his brief speech, the BNP nominee told the rally he was disliked by some people for his performance as mayor but his work was appreciated by the citizens. 'Now I hope the voters in the city will evaluate my record as mayor for 31 months,' he remarked.

Introducing Mirza Abbas to the audience, Barrister Talukder said Abbas had no substitute to build up Dhaka as a megacity for the next century and urged the city dwellers to elect the BNP candidate just as

they had given their verdict for all the party nominees in the city in the 1991 general elections.

Chaired by the BNP city unit chief and Food Minister Lt. Gen. (Retd) Mir Shakhat Ali, the projection meeting was also addressed by Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr. Khondaker Moshiur Hossain, Post and Telecommunications Minister Tarique Islam, State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman, State Minister for Environment Goyeshwar Roy, BNP vice-chairman Choudhury Tamir

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The former mayor addressed the big rally after the party secretary general and LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder introduced the BNP nominee amid clapping and slogans for the candidate and his poll symbol, the bicycle.

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