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# The Daily Star

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Hasina leaves for Ajmir Sharif today

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina will leave Dhaka today for Ajmir Sharif in India, accompanied by her younger sister Sheikh Rehana. The Awami League chief will offer fatiha at the major of Khawaja Mainuddin Chisty (R). They sought blessings from the people on the eve of their departure for the pilgrimage, reports UNB.

### One killed in Mymensingh

By Staff Correspondent  
A man was killed when his bicycle was hit from behind by a Mymensingh-bound minibus on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near Maskanda Wednesday. The victim, Quamr-uz-Zaman 37, was an employee of the Fisheries Research Institute in Gazipur. Police seized the minibus, but the driver managed to escape.

### BSTI realises Tk 35 thousand

RAJSHAHI, Mar 3: The Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI) realised fine worth about Taka 35 thousand from the traders for using illegal weights and measures in different market places of Rajshahi division last month. A total of 143 cases were lodged with eight mobile courts, reports BSS.

Shetri, Ifar timings			
Rmdn	Mar	Shetri	Ifar
20	4	—	6:06 pm
21	5	4:58 am	6:06 pm
22	6	4:57 am	6:07 pm

## Stalemate in JS continues

# Opposition demands PM's views on Huda's remarks

By Staff Correspondent

Muslims on Hebron of the occupied West Bank.

At a press briefing yesterday, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad alleged that the Prime Minister was responsible for the present crisis because the Information Minister, in an interview with a national daily, had hinted that he had the sanction of Begum Khaleda Zia for what he said on the JS floor Tuesday.

Huda, in a reply to opposition demand for discussion on Hebron massacre in JS Tuesday said the opposition had "suddenly become Muslims."

Referring to the Information Minister's interview published yesterday, Azad said, "The Prime Minister is trying to make the Jatiya Sangsad ineffective by instigating Nazmul Huda to make provocative statements."

Questioning the "indifference of the Prime Minister and Leader of the House on the present stalemate", Azad said Begum Zia did not want the parliament to function because the House was expected to discuss serious issues like separation of the judiciary from the executive and the holding of the next parliamentary polls under a care-taker government.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition hoped the Prime Minister would soon clarify her position.

Moudud Ahmed of the Jatiya Party (JP), Sheikh Ansar Ali of the Jamaat, Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party, Suranjit Sengupta, of the Ganotantri Party (GP), Tofael Ahmed of the Awami League and Shamsuddoha of the Gono Forum also addressed the newsmen.

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## JS adjourned ahead of schedule

By Staff Correspondent

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni had to adjourn the House earlier than schedule in the absence of the boycotting opposition members.

A helpless Deputy Speaker sought the opinion of a treasury bench for taking the decision.

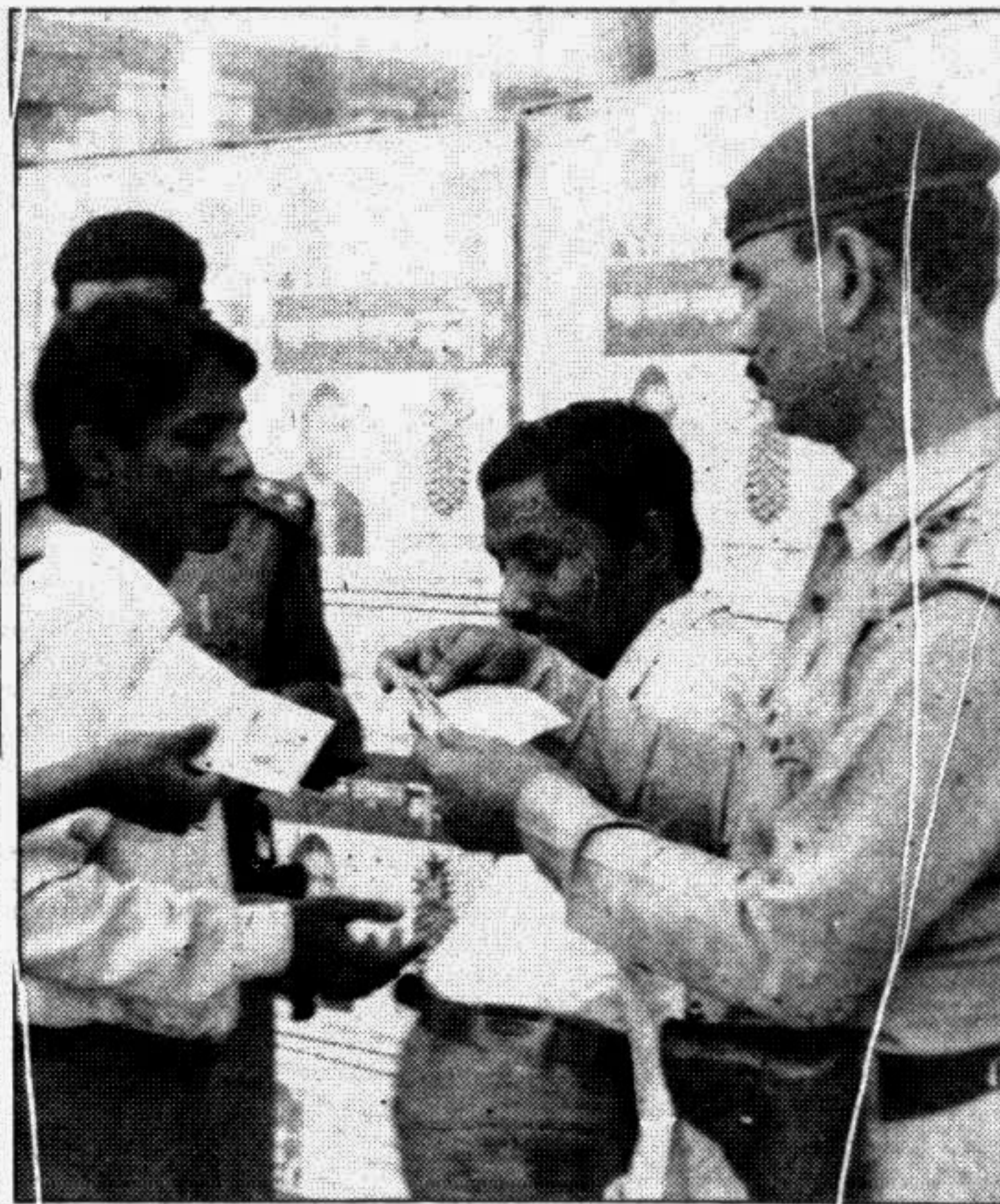
"What should I do now", the Deputy Speaker asked Communications Minister Oli Ahmed at around 12:15 pm when he finished all the functions as per order of the day in the absence of boycotting opposition.

Oli Ahmed, the senior most among the treasury bench members present at that time, suggested that as the opposition members were not in the House and as the day's business was completed, "You can adjourn the house for the day."

The Deputy Speaker immediately adjourned the House till 10 am Sunday.

Earlier, there was virtually no transaction of any serious business on the private members day yesterday after the

See Page 12 Col 7



Police personnel checking identity cards of student voters at a centre during the Dhaka City Corporation re-polling in three centres on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

— Star photo

## 3 mayors take oath Mar 10

By Nazmul Ashraf

The mayors-elect of Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi cities will take their oath of offices on March 10, according to a highly-placed source in the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will administer the oath of office of the mayors at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the capital at 11:30 in the morning, said the Secretary of the Ministry, Faruk Alamgir Choudhury.

Separate letters were issued to the three mayors-elect inviting them to attend the swearing-in ceremony. Choudhury told The Daily Star over telephone last night, adding, they were trying to conduct the oath of office of Dhaka city's mayor-elect Mohammad Hanif on the same occasion provided the official results of the Dhaka City Corporation election were gazetted by that time.

According to the ministry sources, the LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar is likely to conduct the oath-taking of 192

See Page 12 Col 8

# Huda to abide by party decision

By Asiuzzaman

Information Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday said that he would abide by any party decision to bring the boycotting opposition back to the Parliament.

"My party's decision is my decision. We have always tried to make this Parliament more effective," Huda told The Daily Star over telephone last night.

Earlier, during the day, Deputy Leader of the House Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury, in an informal briefing at his Parliament chamber, emphasised that what the Information Minister had said in a press interview published yesterday following the stalemate in Parliament was "entirely his personal opinion."

He, however, said that "I

have drawn Prime Minister's attention to the present situation. She is aware of it and will think over the matter."

Nazmul Huda's remarks opposition members triggered an uproar in the House and resulted in an walkout by the combined opposition on Tuesday.

The situation aggravated further yesterday over fresh comments attributed to Huda in a press interview published in a vernacular daily yesterday.

Contradicting the parts of yesterday's Ittefaq report, Nazmul Huda said that "my statement was not properly presented."

"I was told by the reporter that the Prime Minister was

See Page 12 Col 1

## Bring opposition to House, PM asks partymen

By Nurul Kabir

The Prime Minister and chief of the Bangladesh National Party (BNP) yesterday asked her senior party colleagues to continue efforts to bring the boycotting opposition MPs to Parliament.

Khaleda Zia gave this directive at a party meeting held at her Secretariat yesterday afternoon.

Party secretary general Abdus Salam Talukdar, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Labour Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Irrigation Minister Majid-ul-Huq, Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed and Information Minister Nazmul

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## BNP making JS inoperative, says Hasina

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the ruling party wants to make Parliament inoperative so that "widespread corruption" charges against them could not be discussed in the House, reports UNB.

"The BNP has bogged down in corruption. There are charges of corruption against 17 ministers while the parliamentary probe committee on Minister Majid-ul-Haq is not being allowed to function," she said.

Hasina made the allegation when more than 200 leaders and workers of the BNP, Jatiya Party and Workers' Union met her at 29 Minto Road and joined the Awami League.

She said after liberation, the Awami League had been in power for only three and a half years when Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib announced economic programmes to make the country self-reliant. "But the killers didn't allow him to implement the programmes."

In the last 18 years there

See Page 12 Col 3

## NBR realises Tk 8538 cr

By Staff Correspondent

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has realised Tk 8,538 crore as revenue in the fiscal 1992-93. The amount is 1.03 per cent over the target.

This was revealed in the Annual Report of the NBR for the year submitted to the Finance Minister yesterday by its Chairman Dr Akbar Ali Khan.

The report also says that collection of revenue in the year 1992-93 was 16.19 per cent of Tk 1190 crore higher than that of the previous year.

Remarkable progress has been made in extending the area of the Value Added Tax (VAT) and taking reform measures for improving the collection of income tax; the report says.

The NBR also took measures in the last fiscal to remove the anomalies and simplify the duty structure.

Members of the NBR and high officials of the Finance Ministry were present during the handing over of the annual report.

## Experts meet to save tigers

NEW DELHI, Mar 3: Wildlife experts from 12 nations began two days of talks here today aimed at coming up with fresh strategies designed to end the slaughter of tigers, reports AFP.

The environment ministers of Bhutan, Myanmar, India, and Russia and experts from Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Laos, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam are participating in the meeting aimed at formulating new conservation laws.

The ministerial conference is the first of its kind organised in Asia by India and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), organisers said.

The conference will review past conservation measures and formulate new steps to protect the big cats.

# Hanif maintains lead in last 3 centres

By Staff Correspondent

Repolling in three centres under Ward No 57 of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) was held peacefully yesterday removing the final legal barrier to declaring Awami League nominee Mohammad Hanif elected the Mayor of Dhaka.

In the re-election at the three polling centres on the Dhaka University campus, Hanif secured 1787 votes against 1375 polled by his nearest rival Mirza Abbas of the BNP.

With the results announced yesterday evening, Hanif has now polled 4,42,064 votes as against 3,53,575 received by Abbas in all the 737 centres of the DCC.

Khwaja Habibullah (AL) was declared unofficially elected as the commissioner of Ward No 57 after repolling at the three

centres. He bagged 3112 votes while his rival Abul Ahsan (Nonil) Talukdar (BNP) 2793 votes.

According to Election Commission (EC) sources, Returning Officer Syed Ehtesham Rasul will declare the consolidated official results of the DCC polls at his Segun Bagicha Office tomorrow.

Earlier, the repolling in 25 centres was held on February 9. Repolling in the three DU centres could not be held on that day following a High Court injunction after a writ petition was filed by a commissioner candidate challenging the re-election.

However, the court later rejected the petition.

In yesterday's repolling, the Jatiya Party's mayoral candi-

See Page 12 Col 8

# Telephone maintenance budget under strain

By Inam Ahmed

The city's telephone maintenance faces a further setback in the coming months because of sudden inclusion of two new projects under the maintenance programme, according to sources in the Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board (BTB).

The BTB had allocated about Tk 80 crore for the maintenance of the existing telephone lines in the Dhaka city for this year.

However, in October, two new projects — one on red exchange and the other on palti telephone — have been put under the same budget.

As a result, most divisions in the Dhaka region have been provided with smaller budgets for maintenance of telephone lines.

"This will seriously hamper the smooth functioning of the telephone system in the Dhaka city," said a senior engineer of the BTB. "Already, we are receiving complaints. But we are undone."

The BTB has 17 divisions in the Dhaka region covering the metropolitan area. To keep the city's telephones operative, BTB weds the entire budget

money for its maintenance.

The BTB divisions faced the situation in October as the newly incorporated red exchange sliced away Tk ten crore and the palti maintenance project another Tk 6 crore.

The work on the red exchange with 500 lines for the Prime Minister and Ministers is now going on in full swing. The palti region has been set up for maintenance of the telephone lines outside the four metropolitan cities.

Earlier, there had been no separate budget for maintenance.

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## Passenger with foreign money held at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

A passenger bound for Singapore was arrested at Zia International Airport (ZIA) early yesterday with foreign currency, traveller cheque and drafts equivalent to Tk. 1.5 crore.

Mohammad Nazmul Haque, 37, who claimed himself as a businessman, was going to Singapore by a Thai Airways flight at 5:40 in the morning.

The Customs surveillance and preventive men on suspicion nabbed Nazmul while he was crossing the security gate before boarding the aircraft.

According to sources, Nazmul was carrying over 91 thousand US dollars, 2000 British pound, 223 Singapore dollars, 2000 Deutch mark, some 2.78 lakh US dollars in traveller cheques and drafts illegally.

A customs man said the money and the cheques were

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## Dhaka welcomes Bosnian agreement

Bangladesh Government yesterday welcomed the agreement reached between the warring factions of Bosnia, Bosnian Croats and Croatia aimed at establishing peace in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports UNB.

The framework agreement was signed in Washington Wednesday among the representatives of the warring factions of the former Yugoslavia.

Welcoming the signing of the agreement the government hoped that this would encourage others concerned to agree on a comprehensive settlement based on independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

### National Board of Revenue

Dhaka

## Notice

The date for advance income tax payment for the 3rd quarter of the current financial year is March 15, 1994.

The advance income tax payable by the concerned taxpayer is to be paid through I. T. Form No. I.T. 31 (B) (amended) challan.

The taxpayers should pay the advance tax filling in the said challan form as usual by replacing the figure "74 (1)" with the figure "64" in as many places as it occurs in the form.

It may be mentioned that the limit of total income for payment of advance income tax for all classes of assessee is now Taka 1,00,000/-.

All assessee concerned are requested to pay their advance income tax for the 3rd quarter of the current financial year relevant to the assessment year 1994-95 under this system by March 15, 1994.

Simple interest @ 12% per annum will be leviable if the advance income tax is not paid or paid at a lesser amount than due.

## National Board of Revenue

DIP (G) 3942/272

G-364