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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 salutes 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, Quamruzzaman 37, was an employee of the Fisheries Research Institute of 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.

Sehri, Iftar timings

Rmdn	Mar	Sehri	Iftar
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 stalemate in the House and accused her of making parliament inoperative.

The opposition parties started the boycott on Tuesday in protest against what they said, derogatory remarks made against them in the House by Information Minister Nazmul Huda.

The information Minister later withdrew the remarks.

The parleys between the treasury bench and 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 Sangsads 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 caretaker 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 Shamshuddoza of the Gono Forum also addressed the newshen.

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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.

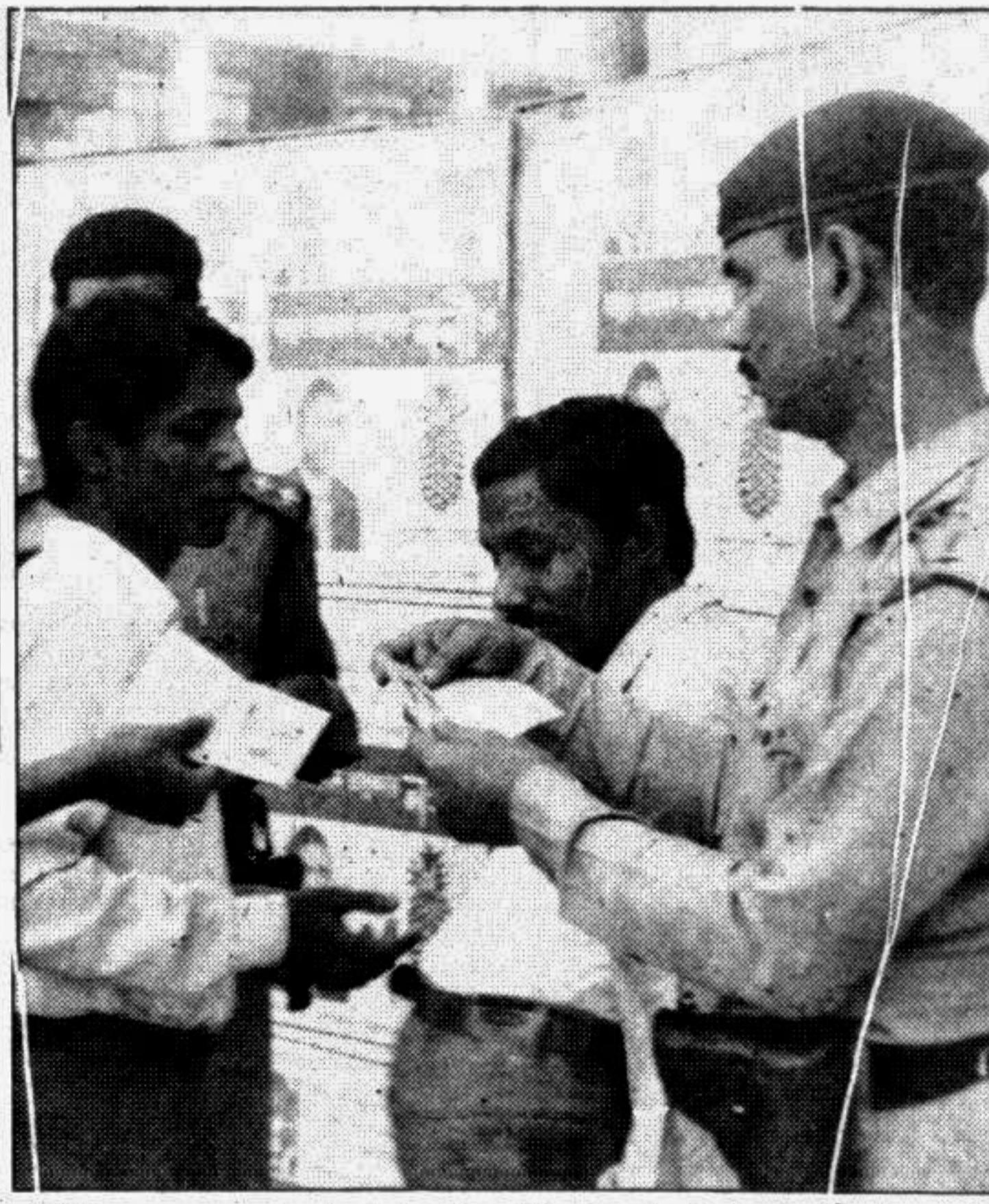
"What should I do now?", the Deputy Speaker asked Communications Minister Oli Ahmed at around 12:15 pm when he finished all the functions as per order of the day in the absence of boycotting opposition.

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

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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 office 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

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Passenger with foreign money held at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

A passenger bound for Singapore was arrested at ZIA early yesterday with foreign currency, traveller cheques 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.

Earlier, the repolling in 25 centres was held on February 9. Repolling in the three DUs 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 candidate

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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 44,2064 votes as against 3,53,575 received by Abbas in all the 737 centres of the DCC.

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

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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 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.

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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 (BTTB).

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

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.

"This will seriously hamper the smooth functioning of the telephone system in the Dhaka city," said a senior engineer of the BTTB. "Already, we are receiving complaints. But we are unable to do anything."

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

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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 assesses is now Taka 1,00,000/-.

All assesses 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

DTP (G) 3942-27/2

G-364

US may revive Super 301 to put Japan under pressure

WASHINGTON, Mar 3: The Clinton administration is expected to unsheathe the most feared weapon in the US trade arsenal as it keeps up pressure on Japan to reduce a yawning 59.3 billion dollar trade gap between the two countries, reports AP.

President Clinton, to announce soon, perhaps this week that he was reviving the Super 301 law by executive order.

The law, which was briefly in force from 1989 to 1990, sets up a "hit list" of countries judged to have erected the most egregious trade barriers against American products.

If 18 months of negotiations fail to remove the barriers, then the administration has

the power to impose retaliatory tariffs of up to 100 per cent on exports from the offending country.

Other nations, especially Japan, complained bitterly about the Super 301 law, saying it allowed the United States to bully them into making trade concessions under threat of punitive tariffs.

President Clinton told reporters Wednesday that he had not made a final decision yet on whether to revive Super 301 by executive order. The president's National Economic Council met later in the day to review options on Japan and later officials said they expected an announcement soon.

Congressional and administrative sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said

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The Bush administration

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.

Row over Kashmir in House of Commons

LONDON, Mar 3: Lawmakers clashed over alleged human rights abuses in troubled Kashmir in the House of Commons Thursday, reports AFP.

Prime Minister John Major sidestepped the debate, simply welcoming India's recent moves to permit visits by international observers, including a delegation from the International Committee for the Red Cross.

Major said only that he expected to discuss a wide range of issues with Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao when he visits Britain beginning March 13.

Labour lawmaker Tom Cox urged Major to tell Rao of the