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NEWS BRIEFS

President assents to two bills

President Abdur Rahman Biswas on Monday assented to two bills adopted by the Jatiya Sangsad in its just-concluded session. The bills are the Institute of Postgraduate Studies in Agriculture (IPSA) Bill 1994 and the Artha Rin Adalat (Amendment) Bill 1994, said a JS press release yesterday.

Hasina returns tomorrow

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina will return home tomorrow from Azmir Sharif in India. Hasina visited the mazar of Khwaja Mainuddin Chisty (R) and offered feteha there, reports UNB.

Three killed in road mishaps

By DMCH Correspondent
Three persons including a minor girl were killed in separate road accidents in the city during the last two days. An unknown person was killed when a running train knocked him down at Kamalapur rail crossing Tuesday afternoon. The victim died on the spot. In another road accident, a pedestrian was killed when a speeding vehicle ran over him at Mirpur Section 10 at about 5 pm yesterday. The victim who could not be identified died on the spot. A minor girl was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Uttara Monday afternoon.

Sehri, Iftar timings

Rmds	Mar	Sehri	Iftar
25	9	—	6:08 pm
26	10	4:53 am	6:09 pm
27	11	4:52 am	6:09 pm

UNHRC may pass Pak-sponsored resolution today

Delhi vows to crush Kashmir rebellion

NEW DELHI, Mar 8: A combative Prime Minister, P V Narasimha Rao, vowed in Parliament today to keep Kashmir in India and crush a bloody Muslim separatist rebellion in the troubled Himalayan region, reports AFP.

Rao's pledge came at the end of a debate on Kashmir, as troops and riot police fanned out in the Kashmir summer capital Srinagar to thwart protests called by Muslim guerrillas during a trip there by a group of diplomats.

The 72-year-old premier said his government was determined to preserve India's territorial integrity and put down the rebellion, which he described as 'terrorism' exported by Pakistan.

"We will act with firmness to put down terrorism and to preserve and protect the territorial integrity of the country.

The draft resolution, in which Pakistan denounces human rights violations in

Kashmir without explicitly naming the Indian authorities, could be passed on Wednesday or Thursday despite New Delhi's vigorous opposition to the vote, the members said.

Though Islamabad has in recent months accused the Indian army of exactions in Kashmir, the Geneva resolution simply cities 'gross and consistent violations of human rights' there and calls for a team to be sent to investigate and report to the UN General Assembly.

Western sources in Geneva said the United States was likely to abstain during the vote, and that the European countries would make up their minds only at the last minute, possibly also abstaining.

A relatively small proportion of the 53 member states may take part in the vote, par-

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Commentary

... And All this While the Nation was Waiting

by Mahfuz Anam

In an overplay of righteous indignation the Opposition stayed out of the Parliament for five working days, and lost out from consolidating its initial gain in public sympathy, which it enjoyed when Nazmul Huda's comment shocked us all. Instead, by its continuous boycott of the Parliament, the Opposition today stands suspected of considering its 'ego' more important than the public interest.

The Information Minister had no business to say what he did against the Opposition. Agreed. And he had far less business to repeat that folly in two separate press interviews on later occasions. Agreed. The Opposition's religious belief was mocked at, and they rightly felt aggrieved, and had to show it by walking out. Agreed. But then how much are we, as voters, as taxpayers and as members of the civic society, to pay for it?

Was it worth turning the whole 13th session of the 5th Parliament into a total non-event? Is the Parliament, which symbolises our sovereign nation, to come to a halt because one minister

spoke terribly out of turn? Is it five full days of boycott justified? Does the Opposition have no obligation to us for having voted to send them to the people's assembly — the Parliament?

If the government stands accused of trivialising the Parliament, then the Opposition must face the accusation of having immobilised it. And we the voters must say it loud and clear, that we fail to find merit in the actions of either.

What began as a severe wrong doing on the part of the Treasury bench ended with an overkill by the Opposition. The question that the voters would like to pose is, WHAT DID THE NATION GAIN FROM IT ALL?

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ALPP criticises govt for proroguing JS

The Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) yesterday accused the government of showing disrespect to parliamentary norms and practice in proroguing Parliament hurriedly, keeping the Opposition outside the House, reports UNB.

The ALPP in a meeting yesterday afternoon at the Sangsad Bhaban resented the role of the ruling party, said a press release issued by Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim.

It observed that the treasury bench thumped parliamentary norms and practice by not transacting day's business, including thanks giving on president's address as per order of the day.

The meeting condemned the Hebron massacre and called for taking action against the terrorists.

It observed one-minute silence.

Six killed as training jet crashes in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Mar 8: A Boeing jet on a training flight narrowly missed the main terminal building at New Delhi's international airport Tuesday and crashed into a parked Russian jetliner and both planes caught fire. At least six people were killed and 7 others injured, reports AP.

The Sahara India airliner was practising takeoffs and landings at the domestic airport. On its fourth takeoff, it swerved off the flight path and crashed at the international airport, about eight kilometers (five miles) away. Aditya Arya, the police chief of the airports.

It slammed down into the Aeroflot Ilyushin 86 as Russian engineers worked on it at the maintenance bay of the Indira Gandhi International Airport, about a kilometer (half a mile) from the runway, witnesses said.

The cause of the accident was not known, but some wit-

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A rally was brought out in the city yesterday to mark the International Women's day.

— Star photo

'Establish dignity, rights of women'

By Staff Correspondent

The International Women's Day was observed in the country as elsewhere in the world yesterday through an expression of firm resolve to establish the dignity and rights of women and prevent all sorts of discrimination and repression against them.

In Bangladesh, where scores of unnatural deaths of women are reported every year and an unspecified number remains unreported, the day was observed with calls to break the century-old shackles and taboos that deprived women of their legitimate rights.

Besides the government, several women's organisations, as well as social and cultural organisations held programmes to mark the day befitting the theme: 'Building the World Where Women Matter.'

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, in a message, called for

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Women still don't have full freedom : PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday stressed female education and women's participation in economic activities to check repression on women and establish their rights in the society, reports UNB.

"Only through participation in mainstream of the economy can the womenfolk establish their right of expression in family and society," she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing a function organised by the Department of Women's Affairs on the occasion of the International Women's Day '94 at the Osman Memorial Hall in the morning.

The Women's Day was observed worldwide yesterday, with the theme 'Building a world where women matter.'

The Prime Minister lamented that due to lack of education women were lagging behind in our society.

"Although equal rights for men and women have been en-

shrin in our constitution, the women community still face discriminations. They are subjected to repression and torture in many ways and don't have full freedom of expression due to lack of awareness," she told the Women's Day function.

Ministers, MPs, representatives of international and local voluntary organisations, senior officials and a large number of women attended the function.

Dr Mahmuda Islam, Professor of Dhaka University's Social Science Department, presented a paper on the theme of this year's observance of the day.

Listing different government measures to expand women's education and create job opportunities, the Prime Minister said women's participation in production and development is a major development strategy of the present

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City corps will elect 38 female ward commissioners shortly

By Nazmul Ashraf

with 41 wards, eight commissioners, and the Khulna City Corporation consisting of 31 wards and the Rajshahi City Corporation 30 wards would have six commissioners each.

Constitutionally, the local government bodies are supposed to be non-partisan but the January 30 city corporation polls took place on a political colour with all the major parties filing nominations.

The election of the women commissioners is likely to be influenced by the political affiliations of the elected mayors in the four cities and those of the majority ward commissioners, observers said.

The Dhaka City Corporation with 90 wards would have 18 women commissioners, the Chittagong City Corporation

to the BNP while 15 were independent candidates.

In the CCC, the AL candidates won the post of mayor and 21 commissioner posts. BNP candidates became commissioners in 12 wards while the Jatiya Party candidates won in 3 wards. The rest five were independent.

BNP nominees were elected mayor with eight commissioner posts in the KCC where 16 commissioners were elected independently. The Jamaat-e-Islami bagged only one seat of commissioner. The remaining six commissioners were elected on the AL ticket.

The mayor and two commissioners, belonging to the BNP, were elected in the RCC. Among the other commissioners, three were from the AL, six from the JP and 19 independent.

Increased Canadian aid assured

By Staff Correspondent

Canadian Secretary of State for Asia and Pacific assured of enhancing further the quantum of development aid assistance to Bangladesh.

Addressing a press conference yesterday evening at Sonargaon Hotel at the end of his 3-day visit to Bangladesh, Raymond Chan expressed satisfaction over the disbursement and utilisation of Canadian aid to Bangladesh.

Chan assured that Canada will provide Bangladesh an additional 60 million US dollars in development assistance in 1994-95.

The visiting Canadian official informed that his country is the third largest donor for Bangladesh and has till now provided 1.5 billion US dollars to help the country in its development programmes in several sectors like agriculture, rural development, population control, irrigation and flood control. Fresh assistance in the rural electrification sector will also be provided by Canada, he said.

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In reply to a question about Canadian investment in

the country, Chan said that the Asia-Pacific Region which contributes nearly 40 per cent to the world's GNP was developing as a major trading partner of Canada.

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