

## Inside Today

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By Abdul Bayes

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## NEWS BRIEFS

## Dhaka to receive \$200m from ADB

Bangladesh will receive 145,607 million SDR (about 200 million US dollars) from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under an agreement signed in Manila yesterday according to a message received in Dhaka last night. A project agreement for the Jamuna Bridge Project was also signed between ADB and the Bangladesh government in Manila, reports BSS.

## Film on life of Sheikh Mujib

A local company will produce a three-part film on the life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman. Awami League President Sheikh Hasina was the chief guest at the inaugural function of the first part of the film, 'The Childhood of Sheikh Mujib,' at Tungipara Thursday on the occasion of his 74th birth anniversary. The film made by Ruma Pictures was based on a book written by journalist Baby Moudud, reports BSS.

## EC camp in Magura Circuit House

The Magura Circuit House will be considered as camp office of the Election Commission for the by-election to the Magura-2 constituency, according to an Election Commission press release. The Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf, secretary of the Election Commission secretariat A Z M Shamsul Alam, Joint Secretary S M Zakaria and high officials will go to Magura today in connection with the coming by-election, reports BSS.

## Keen race in Magura by-polls predicted

## Star Report

Electioneering for the Magura Two parliamentary by-election closed at midnight last night, 48 hours ahead of Sunday's polling.

The leaders and candidates of almost all the major parties who have been devoting their energies for mustering support among the voters of this tiny, sleepy south-western district — about 125 miles from the capital — yesterday worked overtime to end their respective campaigns with a flourish.

Five candidates, including those of the ruling BNP, the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-i-Islam, are contesting the Jatiya Sangsad seat which fell vacant upon the

death of Awami League legislator Advocate Asaduzzaman late last year. The constituency encompasses two thanas — Shalikha and Mohammadpur — along with four unions of Magura Sadar.

Likewise, leaders of the Jatiya Party including acting party chief Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and the Secretary General of the Jamaat-i-Islami Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizami, who have been in Magura for the past few days, had very busy schedules yesterday. The Jatiya Party has nominated Nitai Roy Chowdhury, a minister during the Ershad regime.

During her extensive tour of

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## Elect BNP nominee for development: PM

MOHAMMADPUR (Magura).

Mar 18: Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today urged the people to vote for the BNP nominee in the coming parliamentary by-election here for the sake of democracy, development and production, reports BSS.

"Strengthen the hands of the BNP for carrying forward the development process and building a glorious Bangladesh in future," she appealed to the voters during her electioneering.

The BNP Chairperson began her marathon campaign in the morning from Mohammadpur thana and continued it till night.

She carried out massive campaign in the villages under Shalikha thana yesterday to seek votes for Kazi Salimul Huq alias Kazi Kamal, the BNP nominee.

Kazi Salimul Huq, a leading industrialist of the country and an MBA (Masters of Business Administration), is contesting with BNP ticket in the March 20 by-election.

During her extensive tour of Mohammadpur thana, Begum Zia addressed a series of rallies at different places including the Banagram High School field, Barabaldia ground, Naohata High School field, Rajabazar High School field, Binodpur High School field, Digha School field and Babukhali Government High School field.

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## SAARC finance, planning ministers to meet in Dhaka in July

WASHINGTON, Mar 18:

Former Congressman Stephen Solarz Thursday withdrew from consideration for the post of US Ambassador to India, the White House announced.

A terse statement issued by White House Communications Director Mark Gearan said Solarz had informed Vice President Al Gore Wednesday that he was no longer interested in the job. It gave no reason for his decision.

The President values Mr Solarz's intellect, energy and expertise and his service to the nation over the last two decades," the statement said.

It said President Clinton had asked Solarz, a New York Democrat who lost his seat in the House of Representatives in 1992 after becoming entangled in the house check-cashing scandal, to serve as his special representative on Sudan.

"Mr Solarz agreed to consider the request," the statement said.

The SAARC Secretary General flew in Dhaka on a two-day visit essentially to attend the first-ever conference of the press clubs of South Asian countries. He was received at the airport by Hasan Sharif and Shaukat Mahmood, President and General Secretary respectively of the National Press Club, members of the executive committee of

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## Hasina warns against rigging in Magura

MAGURA, Mar 18: Awami

League President Sheikh Hasina today urged the people to resist any rigging or vote dacoity at all costs in Sunday's parliamentary by-election, reports BSS.

The consequences will be dangerous for the BNP if it resorts to rigging to prevent its debacle in the by-election by using the administration.

Hasina sounded a tough warning during her last day's election campaign in Magura-2 constituency.

The Awami League chief

addressed election rallies at Dholjhuri, Binodpur, Babukhali, Churanganti, Paria, Nagra Bazar, Krishnapur, Balidia, Dangapara, Nawhata, Rajpur and Bethulia.

She was accompanied by

Tofael Ahmed MP, Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif, Abdur Rouf MP and the party's nominee for the by-election, Shafiquzzaman Bachchu.

Hasina, also Leader of the

Opposition in Parliament, accused the BNP government of engaging the 'corrupt ministers' in the electioneering in Magura to tempt voters and urged the people not to be swayed by temptation and falsehood.

She alleged that the ruling party had deployed musclemen and armed activists to intimidate minority voters in rural areas.

The opposition leader asked the administration to play a neutral role in ensuring free and fair voting in Sunday's by-election.

Criticising the rule of the BNP, Hasina called the present government 'a promise-breaker' and said it could offer nothing to the people in last three years except corruption and falsehood.

Newspapers cited unnamed family and friends as alleging that Lady Buck mixed with leading Arab businessmen in London, including an unidentified cousin of the Iraqi President.

The Spanish seductress was dramatically linked to the

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She urged the people to vote for honest and competent candidate in the by-election and strengthen the Awami League to free the country from corruption and terrorism.

Hasina, also Leader of the

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