



Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina, along with her party colleagues, placing a wreath at the Savar memorial on Independence Day.

## DUCSU polls on April 12 VC seeks cooperation of major parties

**By Staff Correspondent**

The Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed has sought the cooperation of the major political parties for smooth holding of the DUCSU and hall union elections on April 12.

The appeal to the major political parties yesterday came in the backdrop of the Awami League-backed Chhatra League's decision to boycott the DUCSU polls if held during the tenure of the present vice chancellor.

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) observed a strike yesterday and expressed its determination to resist the polls, accusing the DU VC of being partisan. It also demanded that the BCL activists, who were ousted from the various halls, be given accommodation in their respective dormitories.

But Prof Ahmed, speaking in favour of the polls, said senior teachers of the university will conduct the DUCSU elections and steps have already been taken to ensure the

## Kazi Kamal elected

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To move the petition for consideration because, "the order for publication of the election result had already been issued." The CEC, however, decided to hear the AL allegations on the 29th of this month "following the desire of the honourable, counsel Barrister K S Nabi, a press release issued by the EC last night said.

The CEC issued a three-page press statement yesterday analysing the allegations of rigging in the keenly fought election.

Earlier, the AL had rejected the polls and AL chief Sheikh Hasina issued a seven-day ultimatum on March 22 for the CEC to cancel the polls and announce a fresh date for re-polling.

The AL is also likely to gherao the central secretariat in the capital on April 7 in protest against the alleged malpractices in the by-election by the party in power.

### AL, JP reactions

The Awami League and Jatiya Party leaders sharply reacted to the publication of official result of Magura-2 parliamentary by election, claiming that the people did not expect such an order by the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).

Earlier, opposition Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami demanded fresh by-election in Magura alleging that the March 20 polls was heavily rigged by the ruling party.

In his instant reaction, Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed MP told UNB last night that people did never expect such an announcement by the CEC.

## Flash floods in Sylhet

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In Sunamganj district, boro paddy on 160,000 hectares had been inundated in different thanas. The thanas are Deraul Tahirpur, Jamalganj, Biswambharpur, Doarabazar Shulla and Jagannathpur. Hundreds of farmers have been trying desperately to save the embankments.

Eighty MM of rain had been recorded in Sunamganj town during the last 24 hours.

In Moulybazar, standing boro crop on about 20 thousand acres have gone under water. The river Dholoi has been flowing above the danger-level at Kamalganj thana. Over two hundred kutcha houses had been damaged in Kulaura and Barlekha thanas by the storms.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: A railway engineering team has already reached the spot and is assessing the damage. According to BR officials in Dhaka, the team was expected to start repair work by midnight Sunday and would likely complete it by Monday morning if there is no further rainfall.

Officials added that three inter-city trains on the Dhaka-Sylhet route — the Parabat, Jayantika and Upobon — and two between Sylhet and Chittagong — Paharika and the Jalalabad Express — were being run through transshipments to and from Shayestaganj.

All local and other train services from Dhaka and Chittagong are being maintained upto Akhaura and upto Shayestaganj for the train coming from Sylhet.

## BCL (M-I) calls another strike at DU tomorrow

**By DU Correspondent**

The pro Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) has decided to observe another full day strike on the Dhaka University campus tomorrow (March 29) if the DUCSU and hall union polls were not postponed by today (Monday).

The BCL leaders announced the decision at a rally on the campus during strike hours yesterday.

No classes were held as the Chhatra League (M-I) called a full day strike.

The central library and department and administrative offices were closed.

The BCL (M-I) brought out a big procession and held a rally at the Aparajeo Bangla.

Speaking at the rally, the BCL leaders expressed the apprehension that the two rival factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) might get locked in clashes on the campus within a very short time.

They said the campus situation was not suitable for the DUCSU polls on April 12.

The BCL leaders said they would resist the polls if held on April 12, at any cost.

The BCL (M-I) called the strike demanding postponement of the DUCSU and hall union elections.

The university authorities had shifted the last date for submitting the nominations papers to March 29 from March 27.

But the BCL remains firm on its decision to boycott the poll.

## Nor'wester lashes Manikganj, Faridpur

**MANIKGANJ, Mar 27:** The first nor'wester of the season today damaged a large number of kutcha houses in two thanas of the district, local people said, reports UNB.

They said the 15-minute nor'wester started at about 5:15 pm, leaving some 100 houses damaged in Shibabaya and Ghior thanas.

Report from Faridpur adds: A nor'wester sweeping over sadar, Boalmari, Madhukhali and Nagarkanda thanas left a teenage boy electrocuted and five policemen injured on Saturday evening.

The victim was identified as Sheikh Dilu, 17, of Tepakhola area of the town.

## Hasina

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Calling the BNP's claim of "tide of development" as hollow, the Opposition leader said there has not been any development for the people in last three years.

Those ruling the country for last 18 years, she alleged, had gambled with the rights of people and plundered foreign aids and people's tax money. "Those who were in power during this period amassed fortune for themselves but no improvement in the economic condition of the common people."

Deputy Opposition Leader Abdus Samad Azad said the opposition moved bills in Parliament for the rule of law and independence of the judiciary. But these could not be ensured due to unwillingness of the BNP.

Referring to the demand for a new administrative division in Sylhet, Azad said if it returns to power, the Awami League will implement the just demand of the people in greater Sylhet.

The meeting was also addressed by Begum Matia Chowdhury MP, Dewan Farid Gazi, SAMS Kibria, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Eanmul Haq Shaheed MP, Habiganj Pourasava Chairman Abdus Shahid Chowdhury, Advocate Azizur Rahman, Advocate Abu Zahir, Advocate Abul Fazal and Qamruzzaman Ansari. It was presided over by Habiganj district AL President Sharif Uddin Ahmed MP.



Leaders of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) placing a wreath at the national memorial at Savar on the occasion of the National and Independence Day Saturday.

## Independence Day

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was also attended by the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, ministers, MPs, Chiefs of Three Services, judges of Supreme Court, diplomats and high officials, senior journalists and elite of the city.

The day was a public holiday.

National flag was hoisted atop public and private buildings and important buildings were illuminated in the evening.

At the Savar memorial, wreaths were laid and special prayers were offered on behalf of BNP, Awami League and all major political and socio-cultural, students and other juvenile organisations.

A number of Sector Commanders and prominent freedom fighters placed wreaths at the National memorial at Savar. They included Air Vice Marshal AK Khandker, Major General (retd) KM Saifullah, Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutt, Maj (retd) Rafiqul Islam and Lt Col (retd) Abu Osman Chowdhury.

Leaders and workers of BNP and the Awami League as part of their programme of the Independence Day hoisted the national and party flags at their central offices.

## PM leaves for Japan

**From Page 1 Col 8**

now ranks as the largest bilateral donor. The two countries have also built up a pyramid of cooperation and understanding on political and diplomatic fronts over the last two decades.

During her visit the Prime Minister, accompanied by a 73-member entourage, will lay special stress on attracting more Japanese investment, especially private capital, in the backdrop of the market economy policies adopted by her government.

Another objective of Dhaka's new economic diplomacy is to project Bangladesh in its right perspective to the Japanese government, people and press, thereby connecting the rather negative image the country has abroad as a land of natural disasters.

"We are not carrying a shopping list, nor is the visit meant for seeking aid for any particular project," M Morshed Khan, the special envoy of the Prime Minister, told the press.

"But Bangladesh is keen to add a new chapter in its relations with Japan with more emphasis on private sector Japanese investment," he said.

The official itinerary of the Prime Minister includes an audience with Emperor Akihito and meetings with the Japanese Prime Minister and Foreign Minister. The Japanese Prime Minister will host a court luncheon and Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa a banquet in honour of Begum Zia and her team.

Begum Zia will address an 'Investment Seminar' in the Japanese capital on March 30. The investment seminar is expected to be participated by leading leaders of Japanese industry.

During the PM's visit the 7th meeting of the Joint Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation in Tokyo will also be held.

Begum Zia will also meet the members of the Bangladesh community. She will address a press conference at the Japanese Press Club in Tokyo on March 31.

The Prime Minister will also meet the leaders of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the single largest party in the Japanese Diet, now in opposition.

The two Prime Ministers will hold formal talks to review the traditional ties between the two nations and also discuss regional and international issues of common concern.

NHK Television, the top Japanese network, The Japan Times and the Japan Economic Journal will interview the Prime Minister separately.

On the evening of March 31 the Prime Minister will leave

Tokyo for Osaka by train to attend another seminar on investment opportunities in Bangladesh.

In Osaka she will attend a luncheon hosted by the Governor of Osaka, the mayor of Osaka city and the president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Prime Minister will leave Osaka on the afternoon of April 1 for home ending her five-day state visit.

The Prime Minister's entourage includes Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, PM's special envoy M Morshed Khan, State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman and seven members of Parliament.

The delegation also includes the Principal Secretary to the PM ANM Yusuf, Commerce Secretary A H M Abdul Hye, Energy Secretary Faizur Razaque and Director General of the Pacific desk at the Foreign Office Anwarul Alam.

A 30-member business delegation representing trade, commerce and industry accompanied the Prime Minister.

## Govt college teachers put off strike

**Bangladesh Government College Professors' Association and Teachers' Association have suspended their programme of strike up to May 7, 1994, reports BSS.**

It was scheduled to begin yesterday, a PID handout said here.

The decision was taken following a fruitful discussion of the leaders of the association with Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar here Saturday.

They discussed various demands of the associations.

## Gunbattle leaves 15 hurt in Pabna

**PABNA, Mar 27:** At least 15 people were injured, three seriously, in a gunbattle between two groups over plucking green coconut at Kollarpur area of the town this evening, reports UNB.

Of the injured, Abul Kalam, 22, Opel Mahmud, 25, and Md Badsha, 23, were rushed to sadar hospital with bullet wounds.

## Nirmul charges 8 with 'war crimes'

**By Staff Correspondent**

A people's enquiry commission formed by the Central Coordination Council of the Ekattorer Ghatok Dal Nirmul Committee Saturday (March 26) charged eight people with various war crimes and called upon the government to try them under the 1973 International Crime (Tribunal) Act.

A report of the probe body accused Senior Nayeab-e-Amir of the Jamaat-e-Islami Abbas Ali Khan, Jamaat Secretary General Mattiur Rahman Nizami, central leaders Mohammad Kamruzzaman, Abdul Kader Mollah and Delwar Hossain Saidi of "committing various war crimes, including genocide and rape and collaborating with the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971."

Former ministers Abdul Alim and Maulana Abdul Mannan, and National Democratic Alliance leader Anwar Zahid have also been accused.

The 11-member 'commission', headed by poet Sufia Kamal, investigated the activities of the accused during the country's war of independence in 1971 and prepared the report.

Sufia Kamal submitted its report to the convenor of the Nirmul Committee Begum Jahanara Imam at a rally marking the second anniversary of the Gono Agalat (people's court) and Independence Day.

Speaking at the rally in front of the Engineers' Institution, Jahanara Imam announced that the alleged war crimes of eight more people would be investigated.

In the next batch, Muslim League leader M Ayenuddin, Jamaat leaders Moulana Abdus Sobhan, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, Abdul Khaleq Majumder and Maulana AKM Yusuf, Krishak Sramik Party leader ASM Solaiman, National Democratic Party leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury MP and former Dhaka University VC Dr Syed Sajjad Hussein would be probed.

### CEC's statement

**From Page 1 Col 5**

lation of the relevant election rules except in 3 centres where polling was postponed," the CEC said in his order.

He said, upon analysing the reports it was apparent that only one candidate, Kazi Salimul Haque, was in the election race from Shalikhathana while all the rest five candidates were from Mohammadpur thana where votes were divided among them. Results showed that Kazi Salimul Haque polled several thousand more votes than his nearest rival Shahjazzaman in the Mohammadpur and Magura thana centres even if the results of the 39 centres in Shalikhathana were not taken into account.

The CEC referred to the complaint lodged by the Awami League's Shah AMS Kibria in the afternoon of March 20 alleging rigging in the polls and said the complaint was immediately sent to the Returning Officer. The report from the Returning Officer showed that no complaint was received by him against irregularities in any of the centres as mentioned in Kibria's petition to the CEC.

On the opposition demand for scrapping of the results, the CEC said the Election Commission was not empowered by the relevant rules to directly hold trial of anyone for election offence or scrap the results under the relevant election rules, Article 125 (2) of the constitution provides that election to Parliament can be questioned only through an election petition.

"After considering all aspects and examining all documents, it is clear that the Election Commission has no alternative but to send the election results announced by the Returning Officer for government gazette notification," the CEC said.

## The Midnight File

### Japan won't be safe if war breaks out: DPRK media

**TOKYO, Mar 27:** North Korea's Workers' Party newspaper warned today that if war breaks out on the Korean peninsula, Japan would not be safe, either. "If the situation on the Korean peninsula goes worse and a war breaks out, Japan will never be safe, either," said the commentary, carried by the official Korean central news agency, monitored here. Japanese officials have insisted that North Korea allow full inspection of its nuclear facilities and have hinted at possible sanctions against the Stalinist regime, the newspaper said, reports AFP.

### 5 die in stampede at Indian temple

**NEW DELHI, Mar 27:** At least five people died in a stampede at a temple as India shut down today to celebrate holi, the boisterous spring festival of colours and marijuana cocktails, reports said. Five people were trampled to death and another nine injured at a western Indian temple when thousands of Hindu devotees rushed in to pray to Lord Jagannath on the occasion of holi, the Press Trust of India said, reports AFP.

## Sylhet div agitation

**From Page 1 Col 4**

Birman's flights to and from London on April 3-4 and stage a sit-in at the Osmany Airport at Shamesharnagar on April 10.

"This is possibly the final phase of the agitation beginning after Ramadan and it may turn violent if the government fails to meet the demand," one campaign leader said on condition of anonymity.

Ahead of the rally at Madhabpur under Habiganj district, the group leaders would meet to finalise a series of action programmes, the sources said.

"All the people in the four districts now believe they are deprived, the areas are less developed and their identity and entity are at stake," Alhaj Mubaswir Ali, president of the Brihatar Sylhet Ganadabi Parishad told The Daily Star.

He said, it was immaterial whether the people would be benefitted or not by the establishment of a division.

"It has now become a sentimental issue."

"The sudden upgradation of Barisal as a division has added insult to the injury of the people of Sylhet who have long been demanding a division," Ali observed.

Historian Nurul Islam said: "It is a simmering volcano that

## Doctors' strike in Sirajganj

**SIRAJGANJ, Mar 27:** Doctors, nurses and employees in the district began a 48-hour strike today, protesting the attack on a doctor on duty by some miscreants, reports UNB.

## Stabbed

**From Page 1 Col 5**

Police quoting Khaled's family members, said the incident was a sequel to the bitter dispute between Khaled and his sisters over property inherited from their father who died a couple of years ago.

Khaled Chowdhury was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he underwent emergency treatment.

Police, meanwhile, arrested two persons — Khaled's servant Shahidul Islam and Shahidul's cousin Maqbul Hossain. They were detained in the Tejgaon police station and are likely to be produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate today.

Khaled's wife Nazrana Khaled Huq has lodged a case with Tejgaon police for an attempted murder.

In her First Information Report (FIR), she named four persons whom she claimed to recognise at the time of occurrence.

However, police declined to give all the names saying the two arrested were also named in the FIR.

## CHEHLUM

A Milad Mahfil has been arranged at Utara house after the Asr prayer (at 5.00 p.m.) on Wednesday, the 30th March, 1994 on the occasion of 'CHEHLUM' of our only son, CHOWDHURY MAHMUDUL AHSAN (BABU) who died in a tragic accident on February 19th 94.

Friends, relations and all well-wishers are requested to attend the Milad and pray for the departed soul of our beloved son.

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