

## Protest rally in city CEC should quit: AL

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League yesterday said that the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) should step down as he had "unjustly declared BNP candidate Kazi Saleemul Haque Kamal elected in the Magura-2 JS by-election."

At a protest rally chaired by city AL president and DCC mayor Mohammad Hanif, AL central leaders alleged "The CEC had joined hands with the ruling party in declaring the BNP candidate elected ignoring the allegations of rigging in the Magura polls."

The rally was addressed by Mohammad Hanif, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP, Amir Hossain Anu, Tofael Ahmed MP, KM Jahangir MP, Abdul Jalil, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Akhtarul Alam, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Advocate Quamrul Islam.

They declared that the AL would begin an all-out agitation to oust the government with a siege to the Secretariat on April 7.

They said the CEC had lost his neutrality.

"We cannot trust the government and the CEC. The government should resign. We want the next elections to be held under a caretaker government," said Mohammad Hanif.

The voters could not go to the polling centres in Magura because the government-backed musclemen unleashed a reign of terror. But the polls result shows an astonishing and unbelievable turn-out of

## Hospital reorganisation

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at the meeting.

Presided by Health Secretary Syed Shamim Ahsan, the meeting also decided that the study team should also incorporate the principals of Dhaka Medical College and Sir Salimullah Medical College, the directors of the DMCH, Milford Hospital and the Institute of Cardio-Vascular Diseases and the joint director of the Institute of Post Graduate Medicine and Research.

It also asked the team to prepare a list of post-graduate doctors in the country along with their present posting and to furnish a posting plan, assuring the proper use of their expertise.

The meeting endorsed the idea of establishing a pilot hospital, with full administrative and financial autonomy, to develop it as a centre of management excellence and decided that the newly constructed Shahid Suhrawardy 300-Bed General Hospital — to be completed in Dhaka by June next — would be actively considered for the purpose.

By April 1995, the programme would then be replicated in 30 out of the 59 existing district hospitals.

The policy for implementation is expected to be finalised by the ministry by mid-April after the study team completes the action plan, the Health Ministry source said.

The report, finalised after incorporating the feedback from a series of workshops with health officials, found that the job descriptions of existing posts in hospitals were not available and known to most hospital staff.

The study also found that the junior doctors at the Thana Health Complex (THC) were posted against the posts of authorised medical, surgical and specialist physicians, which hampers proper service delivery.

In the district or secondary hospitals, it noted the absence of a full-time medical superintendent, overloading the responsibilities of the civil surgeon, inappropriate distribution of staff, absence of full team of consultants — despite having provisions — resulting in poor patient management, and posting of an anesthesiologist, pathologists and radiologists "without or with inadequate" training.

In the tertiary or specialised and medical college hospitals, the study found that the absence of the post of assistant doctors hampers overall supervision and managerial functions of the hospitals, particularly after office hours.

The report suggested that the local hospital authority should collect, circulate and strictly implement existing job descriptions until a new one is available, which the Director General of Health Services is currently preparing.

The reasons identified in the report for poor job satisfaction among the health professionals include: Non-implementation of the pay-scale upgradation of the thana health officers approved in 1990; appointment to higher posts on current charges; absence of a

voters. This is a clear indication of rigging," said Mohammad Hanif.

"If I cannot vote for the person of my choice it means I am not enjoying my voting right. The people of Magura could not exercise their right to vote. So democracy is not safe with this government," Hanif added.

Sajeda Chowdhury, criticising CEC Justice Abdur Rouf, said that despite the opposition's warning of possible rigging, he did not take adequate measures to resist terrorism and rigging.

"He could have deployed the BDR in Magura," she said.

"Kazi Kamal is not even known in his own area, yet he won a landslide victory — simply through terrorism and corruption. The Awami League will not allow corruption and terrorism to be institutionalised," Sajeda pointed out.

Tofael Ahmed said, "The vote daityo in the Magura polls was pre-planned by the BNP and as part of the plan, BNP MPs regularly met the CEC before the election."

"By declaring the polls result ignoring public opinion, the CEC has prepared the ground for the BNP to rig 100 per cent votes in the next elections," Tofael said.

The leaders warned the government of the same fate as that of the Ershad regime.

Later, the city AL brought out a procession from Bangabandhu Avenue in the evening.



Riot policemen were deployed at the Sayedabad bus terminal in the city to restore order following clashes between two groups of transport workers yesterday that left two people killed.

— Star photo

### Khaled's condition improves

By Staff Correspondent

The condition of Khaled Hamidul Huq Chowdhury, a director of The Bangladesh Observer, who was attacked Sunday, has improved.

His relatives and doctors said Khaled Chowdhury underwent emergency treatment in the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with severe stab wounds in his head, right hand and back. He is under the treatment of Professor Ata Elahi, a neurosurgeon.

Khaled Chowdhury, the only son of the late Hamidul Huq Chowdhury, founder of The Bangladesh Observer, was attacked at his Green Road house in the early hours of Sunday, reportedly over the ownership of property left behind by his father.

The two persons — Khaled's servant Shahidul Islam and Shahidul's cousin, Moqbul Hossain — arrested for their alleged involvement in the attack, have been sent to the 3rd Court of Sub-judge with his petition.

The damage suit was filed against the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Inspector General of Police, the DIG (Prison), DC Dhaka and the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

They were earlier produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, who rejected a police prayer for their remand.

A relative of Khaled said, Shahidul had helped the armed men to enter the house by opening the gate.

A group of armed men entered, Khaled's residence and attacked him in a ground floor room. The assailants fled when other members of the house woke up and got down to the ground floor, the relative said.

In his petition Falu Miah claimed Tk 1,66,833 as his annual income in 21 years and Tk 8,66,167 as damage and compensation.

Sub-judge Golam Mortuza Mozumder issued a notice upon the Government Pleader (GP) to appear before the court on April 15.

## Talks only way to resolve DPRK's N-issue: China

BEIJING, Mar 28: Chinese President Jiang Zemin told his South Korean counterpart Monday that patient dialogue is the only way to resolve the North Korean nuclear dispute. He said there is little China

can do, reports AP.

It was the same message he gave Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa one week earlier, frustrating hopes that China — North Korea's ally in communism — could persuade the North to open up its nuclear programme where no one else has succeeded.

Last week, both Koreas put their arms on alert, the South revived plans for war games with the United States and the international community discussed sanctions against the North.

South Korean President Kim Young-sam, on a four-day visit to China, had announced in advance his plans to ask Chinese help in resolving the increasingly tense standoff.

But after Kim and Jiang met for two hours, China's Foreign Ministry quoted Jiang as disclaiming any special influence over the North.

"We have made our due efforts. However, China has only a limited role to play," ministry spokesman Shen Guofang told reporters.

### 4 hacked to death in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Mar 28: Four people, including two brothers, were hacked to death allegedly by members of Purba Banglar Communist Party in three frontier villages here early today, reports UNB.



Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali administered the oath to Kazi Saleemul Huq who was elected MP from the Magura-2 constituency in the by-election March 20 at a simple ceremony at the Sangsab Bhaban yesterday.

— PID photo

### JP asks CEC to resign

The Jatiya Party yesterday asked the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) to resign for his alleged failure to ensure impartial voting in Magura-2 parliamentary by-election, reports UNB.

At a Presidium meeting it rejected the official result of the by-election announced by the Election Commission and demanded general election under neutral caretaker government.

Noting the absence of an effective system of chain of command in the hospitals and the lack of proper monitoring and evaluation of the employees, the report suggested that the unit heads should be made accountable to the hospital director, who should, in turn, have full administrative authority.

The importance of medical record keeping is totally neglected in the hospitals, the report noted and suggested that utmost care should be taken to organise an effective and useful medical record keeping system, which should be used in medical audit, research, medico-legal procedures, future planning and for setting objectives.

### Jamaat rejects Magura polls

The Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday rejected the official result of Magura-2 parliamentary by-election, saying that the announcement of the polls result had pushed the nation into a deep crisis, reports UNB.

In a statement the party's Secretary General Matiur Rahman Nizami said that the BNP by allowing the entry in Parliament the image of national Parliament which was formed in a free and fair election under a caretaker government.

"It is our duty not to allow this wound to fester between the two... and to subject yet another generation to a life of tension and hostility."

The best way to resolve the issue was through internationally accepted laws, she affirmed.

Ms Bhutto said that during her meeting in Salalah on Sunday with the ruler of Oman, Sultan Qaboos, she requested that he intervene with India to help reduce the tensions.

Trade unions of oil and gas sectors will go for an all-out agitation against government move to privatise the sectors and private import of oil, reports UNB.

## Benazir renews call for talks on Kashmir

MUSCAT (Oman), Mar 28: Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Monday renewed her call for a peacefully negotiated end to the conflict in Jammu-Kashmir, reports AP.

Bhutto, addressing a press conference before winding up a 48-hour official visit to Oman, said her government had "rattled" New Delhi on the issue as no other previous government had done.

"When we speak out on Jammu and Kashmir, we speak out through conviction. We speak out because we truly desire peace and stability in our subcontinent and we believe that it is high time that India and Pakistan resolved the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the wishes of the people of Jammu and Kashmir through the expression of their right of self-determination," Bhutto said.

According to Divisional Engineer, Telephones (DET), Barisal Division, the defaulter telephone subscribers have been served with notices to clear the arrear bills.

The T & T revenue office takes such step from time to time to release outstanding bills.

Collection of arrear bills through such disconnection drive is more or less satisfactory — a T&T revenue source.

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Our electoral commitment was to remove illiteracy, ensure medicare for everybody, achieve self-sufficiency in food, expand rural electrification and communication network, and to restore financial discipline in public sector expenditure," the minister said.

The Awami League leader also addressed two public meetings at Kaptipur and Sreemangal and eight roadside rallies earlier in the day.

## The Midnight File

### Israeli troops kill 8 Palestinians in Gaza

GAZA CITY, Mar 28: Elite Israeli troops disguised as Arabs shot and killed eight Palestinians and wounded several others in a Gaza Strip refugee camp today, hospital officials said. The troops killed eight residents of the Jabalya camp, including a child, and wounded at least four others. Palestinian hospital officials said, reports AFP.

### Somali gunmen kill 2 Indian peacekeepers

MOGADISHU, Mar 28: Somali gunmen shot dead two Indian UN peacekeepers in Somalia's southern port of Kismayu in what appeared to be a bandit attack, a United Nations military spokesman said today. Major Chris Budge said 12 Somalis attacked a UN civilian vehicle in which the armed Indians were escorting two aid workers. The car was stolen after a fire fight but the aid workers were left unharmed, he said, reports Reuter.

### Russian diplomat killed in Algeria

PARIS, Mar 28: Suspected Muslim fundamentalists killed a Russian diplomat in Algeria today, the first diplomat to die in the country's two-year-long political violence, the security forces said. The body of Konstantin Koukouchkine was found inside an embassy car in Saoula on the outskirts of the capital, said the security forces, quoted by the official news agency APS, reports Reuter.

### PM urges Bangladeshi

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goodwill and positive reputation for Bangladesh. The Prime Minister said through hard work Bangladesh is once again proving that it is no longer a country of calamities but of potentials and possibilities.

She said her government, as well as the people of Bangladesh, always had best wishes for their countrymen living abroad.

Another report adds: Begum Zia today said that Bangladesh had no time to waste but to develop through hard work.

Addressing another reception accorded to her by the overseas unit of BNP, Begum Zia said that the BNP government had to, in short time, devote to institutionalise democracy and at the same time put the national economy on the path of development.

She said that Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, through hard work, earned

### Formal talks

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Narita airport by a regular flight of Biman the Prime Minister drove to Tokyo, a distance of 70 kilometres, in a ceremonial motorcade escorted by outriders.

Large flags of Bangladesh and Japan were hung along the streets of Tokyo to welcome the Bangladesh Prime Minister.

Following the standard Japanese custom the Prime Minister will be ceremonially accorded a welcome at the Akasaka palace where she is staying.

At the Narita airport, the chief of protocol of Japan, Makoto Watanabe and the ambassador of Bangladesh Mahbubul Huq and his wife received the Prime Minister at the gangway as she alighted from Biman.

The Prime Minister will have an audience with Emperor Akihito.

She will attend a dinner to be hosted by the Japanese Prime Minister and Mrs Hosokawa.

The leader of Japan's opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Yohel Kono will also meet the Prime Minister.

Begum Zia will address two seminars on investment in Bangladesh, one in Tokyo and the other in Osaka to be attended by business leaders from both Japan and Bangladesh.

She will meet business leaders of Japan, and attend meetings to be accorded by the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary League and the Japan-Bangladesh Association.

During the visit the seventh meeting of Japan-Bangladesh Joint Committee for commercial and economic cooperation will take place.

Begum Zia will address a press conference at the Japan Press Club and will be interviewed by the NHK Television Network, Japan Times and the Japan Economic Journal.

It reviewed the situation following the announcement of the by-election results and discussed the future course of action to press for re-election in the Magura constituency.

### Hasina

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Rejecting the official result of the March 20 Magura by-election, she said that the opposition would have to think whether to sit in a Parliament with an MP elected through a rigged election.

Hasina also warned that her party would launch an all out agitation to oust this government with the staging of a sit-in on the Secretariat on April 7 if the Magura by-election result is not cancelled. She urged the people to join the planned sit-in.

Presided over by Nabiganj thana Awami League president Abdul Matin Master, the meeting was addressed by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, Begum Matia Chowdhury MP, SAMS Kibria, Dewan Farid Gazi, Sultan Mohd Mansur Ahmed, Shafiq Chowdhury and Dr. Mustique Ahmad Chowdhury.

Hasina was critical of BNP's rule and said corruption, nepotism and mismanagement were rampant in every sector. Although the government is claiming development, 4,000 mills and factories have been closed, prices of agriculture inputs increased several times and unemployment deepened, she said.

The Awami League leader also addressed two public meetings at Kaptipur and Sreemangal and eight roadside rallies earlier in the day.