

## Untying the Gordian Knot of Our Politics

A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS AND ARTICLES ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS



**M R Nizami**  
 Secretary general of Jamaat-e-Islami Moulana Matiar Rahman Nizami believes that the present political crisis could not be resolved without holding general elections under a neutral caretaker government. He says there might be a political solution if the government placed a bill in Parliament seeking provisions for a caretaker government even after the resignations of the Opposition MPs.

Full text of his interview is on page 4.

**Tomorrow: Fariq Chowdhury, a former Foreign Secretary, speaks on the issue.**

## Inside Today

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## Business

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## STOCK MARKET

DSE Index	824.85 (+0.03%)
Market capitalisation Tk	42.62 billion
Turnover in volume	121961
Turnover in value Tk	17.82 million

## Weekend Magazine

**Mosques of Dhaka: Do they represent the periods they belong to?**

**South Africa looks north; Short story—The Window opposite; Sylvia Plath: Dying as an art; An interview with 'Shared Experience Theatre' from UK; and Rising Stars, Teens and Twenties, Living and Weekend Sports**  
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## NEWS BRIEFS

**CJ made Bencher of Lincoln's Inn**

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, Chief Justice of Bangladesh, has been elected an honorary bencher of the honourable society of Lincoln's Inn. Justice Rahman is the first honorary bencher of the Lincoln's Inn from Bangladesh, said an official handout yesterday.

## FBCCI concerned

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at a meeting yesterday expressed grave concern over the fertilizer crisis and price hike of rice. The meeting, presided over by FBCCI president Salman F Rahman, urged the government to take effective measures to end the crisis. It decided that a delegation of the federation would soon meet with the authorities concerned, reports UNB.

# Production at Ctg Urea Factory suspended

By Staff Correspondent

Production at the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser factory remains suspended from Tuesday night, official sources in Dhaka confirmed yesterday. Meanwhile, farmers in Sirajganj reportedly looted fertiliser from a truck while in Sherpur, farmers demonstrated in front of the DC and TNO offices demanding fertiliser at fair price.

A high official of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) said last night, the Chittagong factory was shutdown as the salinity level of the water of Karnaphuli river, used in producing urea,

had increased alarmingly. He, however, could not say when production will resume.

The official requesting anonymity said, the shutdown of the factory, however, would not immediately affect the present urea supply as the

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factory had a stock to feed the market for at least five days. The Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Factory used to produce 1700 tons of urea a day.

Located beside the Karnaphuli river, the factory requires at least 15000 tons of

sweet water for its production. If the salinity level of the water exceeds 25 ppm, it cannot be used for production.

Presently, the salinity level has reached beyond permissible limit, BCIC sources pointed out adding, This has happened because of insufficient rain this season.

The authorities are presently planning to manage water supplies from the Karnaphuli Fertiliser Factory (KAFCCO) by installing nearly a one-kilometre pipeline, the official added.

UNB from Sirajganj says, See Page 8 Col 3

## Thousands of children immunised

Thousands of children under five were given a dose of OPB to immunise them against poliomyelitis across the country on the first National Immunisation Day yesterday, reports BSS.

The programme to be repeated on April 16 was taken as a special step to eradicate polio from the country by the year 2000.

About 20 million children are expected to benefit from this nation wide programme. Apart from government organisations various voluntary and social organisations opened polio centres throughout the country where thousands of children were given a dose of OPB.

Inaugurating a polio centre on the day at Salena General Hospital at Malibagh here the minister said the government had undertaken extended programme for immunisation (EPI) to ensure health for all by the year 2000.

Dhaka Rotary Club and Udayan Rotary Club organised the programme in observance of the day.

The Dhaka Rotary Club and Rotaract Club of Bangladesh jointly organised two separate polio centres at the Cancer Institute and Research Hospital premises yesterday where children were vaccinated.



Nurses administering an anti-polio dose to a child at a city centre as part of the National Immunisation Day yesterday. — Star photo

## Commentary

# Social summit & crucial factors

By Masud Hasan Khan

Now that the talkiest and debates are over, and the Copenhagen Declaration approved, Bangladesh and other developing countries have a long way ahead to translate the commitments into actions.

For the least developing countries, the success of the World Summit for Social Development (WSSD) that just concluded in Denmark will depend on how these countries re-arrange their economic programmes to achieve the summit objectives — eradication of poverty and unemployment and an end to social exclusion.

Some of the most crucial factors in the future would be the country's macro-economic management, democratisation and transparency of the state machinery, participatory planning and balancing the forces of market economy that often tend to ignore the needs

of the people, particularly the poor.

The peaceful relation between the government and the non-government organisations (NGOs) would also have immense impact on the overall development initiatives.

Unlike what happened in the Cairo Conference, or the Population Summit, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's very presence at the Social Summit had successfully passed on a clear message to the summitters that Bangladesh gives top priority to its social agenda.

The PM led a 47-member official delegation from Bangladesh at the Copenhagen Summit.

Besides, a sizable NGO delegation from Bangladesh and personalities like Professor Muhammad Yunus had helped create the impression among the summitters that both the

public and private forces in development were active in Bangladesh.

In all, 118 heads of state and government attended the week-long Summit, and 183 countries were represented.

"For us, the net profit we derive from the Social Summit is that our development ideas got an international dimension," observed Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman who attended the Copenhagen Summit.

Bangladesh has already implemented some of the important summit commitments such as spending 28 per cent of the national budget on social sectors, he pointed out.

The WSSD commitments — which are not binding, legally enforceable commitments — calls for spending 20 per cent of the budget on the social sector.

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# Karachi businessmen condemn violence, threaten tax strike

KARACHI, Mar 16: Karachi businessmen have decided to stop pay taxes and utility bills in protest of the government's failure to control and explosion of violence in the city, reports AFP.

The business community held a special convention at which the tax strike, from April 1, was decided along with a halt in advertising on television and radio. The businessmen expressed their anguish at the 'brutal killings'.

The head of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), Sheikh Mohammed Muneer, said if the government did nothing within a month the business community would observe a total strike.

The FPCCI organised Wednesday's meeting which

demanding a new army deployment and a night curfew in the city.

The convention urged the government to remove the Chief Minister and Governor of southern Sindh province for their failure to discharge their constitutional responsibilities and obligations, reports of the meeting said.

More than 1,000 people have been killed in the Sindh province capital over the past 14 months. The killing last week of two US consulate officials has concentrated international attention on the crisis.

FPCCI Chief Sheikh Mohammed Muneer said the businessmen would stage a nationwide strike on March 25. Business leaders will also boycott the privatisation of public sector units as a protest, he

added. Muneer said the authorities had failed to end the killing of innocent people, armed robberies, car thefts and extortion in the country's largest city.

He said if the government failed to control the situation within one month, the business community would go on an indefinite strike.

AP adds, the United States has ordered all school-age children of US officials out of violence-plagued Karachi, where to American diplomatic personnel were killed.

The US State Department which made the announcement Wednesday in Washington also said it was authorising the departure of other family members should they wish to leave.



## Anniversary of Bangabandhu's birth today

By Staff Correspondent

The 75th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is being celebrated throughout the country today.

Mujib, leader of the country's Liberation War, was born at Tungipara in Gopalganj district in 1920.

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The Bangabandhu's birth day celebration committee and different front organisations of the Awami League have drawn up elaborate programmes to observe the day.

In a message on the occasion, Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina said the Bangalee nation and Bangabandhu are inseparable. She is also the chief patron of the birthday celebration committee.

"On the 75th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu, let us

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## Hasina visits grave at Tungipara

From Staff Correspondent

TUNGIPARA, Mar 16: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina offered *fatcha* at the mazar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman here this evening at the start of a two-day celebration of her father's birthday.

She arrived here to launch the celebration of 75th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu, organised by the Bangabandhu Birthday Celebration Committee.

Thousands of people from all walks of life have begun to arrive at Tungipara to take part in the celebration.

Top Awami League leaders, intellectuals and noted artists have also joined.

Earlier, on way to Tungipara, Hasina spoke at a number of road side gatherings where cheering crowd welcomed the daughter of the late leader.

She also visited some of the arches installed on the occasion of the birth anniversary.

## College teachers' strike continues

Government college teachers continued their two hour 'token strike' for the 6th day yesterday to press home their 12-point demand including promotion and recruitment of teachers, reports UNB.

The associations of professors and lecturers of government colleges in a press release threatened continuous strike from April 8 and boycott of all examinations in May, June and July unless their demands were met.

The two organisations sought the intervention of the Prime Minister to address the problems of the teachers' community.

Among their demands are creation of new posts for teachers, recruitment of new lecturers by abolishing 10 per cent quota and higher scale for teachers in keeping with other cadres.

Rice price goes up further

By Staff Correspondent

The price of rice is continuing to rise alarmingly in the city and traders fear its impact on other essentials soon.

Chicken, mutton and powder milk are also being sold at exorbitant prices.

The coarse IRRI rice, which was selling at Tk 14 per kilo at the whole sale market only two weeks ago, now sells at Tk 16.

Retailers at the Kawran Bazar and the New Market are selling it at Tk 16.50 or 17 per kilo.

Finer rice, Lata, Pajjam or Najirshahi now sell at Tk 17 to 18 per kg and Kataribhoga at Tk 22. Prices of all these varieties rose by Tk one to two per kg in the last two weeks.

The prices of coarse rice

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# Plea for independent reinsurance co

By Staff Correspondent

The private sector insurance companies yesterday demanded the formation of an independent national reinsurance company, to replace the monopoly business of the state-owned insurance company, which is also a direct competitor.

"The ideal situation in a market economy where many companies operate is that a separate professional reinsurance organisation, which is not a competitor for the direct business, act as a national reinsurance body to cater to the reinsurance needs only of the insurance market," said M Muevedul Islam, Chairman of the Bangladesh Insurance Association (BIA), the lone trade

body representing all the 20 private sector insurance companies.

Addressing a press conference at a city hotel yesterday, the BIA chairman also sought reduction in the corporate tax rate of insurance companies, removal of other tax anomalies, keeping the project insurance business exclusively for the local companies and opening up the public sector insurance business for the private sector. He also spoke out strongly against allowing any foreign insurance company to open only a branch office in the country.

Presently, he pointed out, the private sector general insurance companies are com-

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# Gen Manzur murder Ex-Police official interrogated

Star Report

CID officials yesterday reportedly interrogated the former Circle Inspector of Hathazari, Mostofa Golam Qudus, who arrested Maj Gen Abdul Manzur when he tried to flee after an abortive coup in 1981.

The investigators questioned him for several hours at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) office in Malibagh in the evening, police sources said.

The sources said that CID officials sought the statement regarding the arrest and handing over to Army custody of Maj Gen M A Manzur along with his family members.

MG Qudus, who quit service and is now a leading garments manufacturer and exporter, had told an enquiry commission in June 1981 that Captan Emdad had received custody of the General, his family members, Major Rezaul Karim and Lt Col Delwar Hossain and their family members in the presence of senior police officials after signing due receipt. The personal belongings of those arrested from a Fatikchhari tea garden were also taken over.

Capt Emdad signed his

name as Capt Md Emdadul Hossain in the receipt he gave to the police officials at Hathazari thana on June 1, 1981. However, in the FIR filed last February 28 by Manzur's brother, Emdad's full name has been given as Kazi Emdadul Huq.

It is learnt on enquiry that Emdad, who retired from the Army in 1987 and joined the Foreign Ministry, later changed his name to Kazi Emdadul Huq.

Meanwhile, a UNB report adds that a special CID team interrogated a senior army officer at the Bogra Cantonment yesterday in connection with Gen Manzur's alleged murder.

The identity of the officer could not be known immediately as the CID team remained tight-lipped, the agency said.

Our Court Correspondent adds: The court of the CMM, Dhaka ordered the authorities concerned to provide Maj Emdad first class status in the Dhaka Central Jail.

Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong says investigators have been facing difficulties in collecting documentary

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# Labour leaders call 48-hr workers' strike Apr 4-5

By Staff Correspondent

Labour leaders yesterday called a 48-hour workers' strike across the country on April 4-5 to press their demands including balanced wages in the public and private enterprises.

The identical programmes were announced by the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP), a federation of 18 trade unions, and the alliance of five other labour bodies, at separate press conferences in the city.

The SKOP and the labour alliance are simultaneously agitating from separate platforms for an eight-point demand that also includes fixation of minimum workers' wage at Taka 1600 a halt to the government's privatisation move, reopening of the closed mills and factories, withdrawal of cases filed and release of workers detained under the Anti-Terrorism Act.

Announcing the fresh agitation programme, the labour

leaders hoped the authorities would resolve the workers' problems through dialogue before the strike started. Otherwise, they warned, the government, owners and others concerned would be responsible for any undesirable situation.

The trade union leaders, addressing the news conferences, sought cooperation of the political parties, student organisations, professional groups and the people in general to make their agitation programme a success.

Roy Romesh Chandra announced the SKOP programme at its Topkhana Road office

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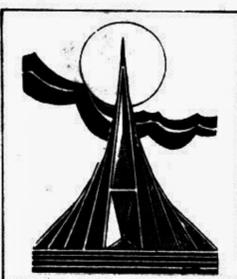
## Cong sweeps polls in Arunachal

NEW DELHI, Mar 16: In a minor consolation, the ruling Congress Party swept the elections in a tiny northeastern state today after losing two key states in western India this week, reports AP.

The Congress won 40 of the 60 seats in the state legislature of Arunachal Pradesh, while the Janata Dal and the Janata Party together won only five seats. Eleven seats were won by independents. The results of four more seats are yet to be announced.

In three rounds of state elections in the last 18 months, incumbent governments regardless of the party, have been thrown out in 8 of the 13 states.

The Congress defeat in major states could affect the party's chances in the general elections next year.



## Looking Back at March towards Independence

On this day in 1971, the fifty-first birth-anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani emphatically noted, while addressing a public meeting in Chittagong, that the question of any form of compromise between Mujib and Yahya was simply irrelevant, given the situation that had already changed much. Sheikh Mujib held a discussion with General Yahya, but the discussion did not come to any conclusive end, as Yahya demanded more time for scrutinizing the issues in question. While greeted with birthday-wishes by a host of journalists, Mujib responded by saying that never did he celebrate his birth-day as he was fully aware of the plight of the struggling people in Bangladesh.

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## Bangladeshis in UK asked to attract foreign investors

LONDON, Mar 16: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has called upon the Bangladeshis living abroad to work as country's ambassador for further brightening the image of the country and attracting foreign investment to help create more jobs, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister was addressing a reception accorded to her by the Bangladeshis living in the United Kingdom at hotel Hilton here last night organised by the BNP UK unit.

Begum Zia also called upon the Bangladeshis living abroad to invest their money in the homeland and help attract foreign investors to invest their capital into Bangladesh to

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## Opinion poll 42 pc for efforts to bring Opposition back to JS

By Staff Correspondent

Forty-two per cent of the respondents in a sample survey expressed the view that attempts should be made to bring the opposition MPs back to Parliament to resolve the present political crisis.

The nationwide opinion survey conducted by the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) also revealed that establishing more industries and creating employment opportunities are the ways of achieving economic progress of the country.

Chairman of the BUP and

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**LOOK OUT**

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FOR DETAILS READ THE DAILY STAR & THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER ON 18TH MARCH 1995