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World Cup Quiz

Prizes: Taka 150,000 **Closes:** 17 Feb 1996 See page 11

Inside Today **World Cup**



Former national skipper Roquibul Hassan will provide expert opinion on World Cup matches. Beginning today, his column "Roquibul on the Rocker" will appear daily

Article

Constitutional Imbroglio or Lack of **Political Sagacity?**

by Dr K M Saiful Islam Page 4

Focus

The test of leadership; Puppets on a String; We demand the 'unvote' and When shall we learn the hard lesson? Page 5

International

Tamil lawmakers accuse army of massacring civilians

"North Koreans losing faith in communist regime" Page 8

Business

New fertilizer distribution system yielding results: BCIC

Foreigners flood into Iraq for business

Pages 6, 7 DSE MARKET

OSE price index Market capital Tk Transactions in volume

NEWS BRIEFS CEC addresses nation today

By Staff Correspondent The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC). Justice AKM Sadeque, will address the nation at 6:30 pm today. according to a press release issued by the Commission.

The CEC's speech will be

broadcast over Bangladesh Television and Radio Bang-

Ram	Feb	Sehri	Iftar
24	. 14		5:56
25	15	5:11	5:57
26 -	16	5: 11	5:58

PM hints at caretaker govt bill, early polls

PHALGUN 2. 1402 BS,

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday indicated that if the situation requires a constitutional amendment bill may be moved in the new parliament with provision for a caretaker government, reports UNB.

Addressing a crowded press conference at the International Conference Centre yesterday afternoon, she also hinted an early election after the February 15 polls. But she did not say when that elections will be held and how long the new Parliament will exist.

Asked if her party will introduce a bill for caretaker government in Parliament. Begum Zia said, "I can't say about it right now. In the new Parliament, there will be the ruling party and the opposition. If necessity arises in the given situation, it can be done in the interest of the country."

The Prime Minister said

the government would resume dialogue with the three opposition parties to resolve the political problems after

the February 15 elections. "Talks with the Opposition did not break down. It is suspended temporarily... They will resume after the elections," she said.

When her attention was drawn to Sheikh Hasina's refusal of talks after the elec-

'Relation with Hasina good'

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday disclosed that her personal relationship with arch political rival Sheikh Hasina is "good and cordial," reports UNB.

The Prime Minister scuttled an observation by a foreign journalist that a hostile relation between her and op-

See Page 12 col 8

tions, the Prime Minister said: "They can refuse it, but we will continue our efforts to settle the crisis through discussion."

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 1996

In reply to a question, she said there was no last word in politics, "The stalemate which could not be resolved within 22 months, can be solved even within 22 days."

The Prime Minister said the country would fall into deep constitutional crisis and there will be no legal government in the country if the election is not held on Febru-Referring to boycott of

elections by three major opposition parties, Begum Zia said every party has a right to join or boycott elections. But none has right to obstruct voters to cast their votes. The Prime Minister said

the opposition parties have chosen the path of terrorism as they failed to involve the See Page 12 Col 1



Army patrolling the City streets during the Opposition-called barricade programme yesterday.

-Star photo

Barricade

disrupts

rail, road

links

By Staff Correspondent

tions throughout the country

were badly disrupted and

there were sporadic inci-

dents of violence during the

Opposition called day-long

rail-road and waterways bar-

ricade programme yesterday.

gramme, just ahead of a

planned 48-hour hartal called

by the Awami League, Jatiya

Party and Jamaat-e-Islami.

passed off without any major

the programmes in protest

against the 'farcical polls' to-

persons were arrested and a

policeman and an autorick-

shaw driver were injured

during the programme yes-

The Opposition took up

In the city at least five

untoward incident.

morrow.

The barricade pro-

Road and rail communica-

Dialogue only if polls cancelled: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday ruled out the possibility of any dialogue with the BNP after the February 15 election saying "the BNP government will become illegal" after the

Dialogue can take place only if the election is cancelled, she told foreign journalists now in the city to cover the polls.

The February 15 parliamentary poll is an attempt by the BNP to perpetuate its rule and "a calculated assault on the people's democratic rights," Hasina said while briefing the journalists at a community centra see Dhanthat the real purpose of the ensuing polls was to install a rubber-stamp parliament to suppress dissent against the

unpopular regime". The briefing session which was also largely attended by local journalists. preceded a similar briefing by the Prime Minister at her secretariat later in the after-

The BNP leaders delude themselves if they think that such an election will give

them a valid mandate." Hasina said.

people's struggle to defend their democratic rights would gain support from those who cherish the principles of freedom, democracy

and respect for human rights. "We want to bring about a change in the system in which people will be able to vote freely," she told the newsmen in response to a question. The Awami League president said, "The BNP has created such a situation that none of its rivals is participating in the polls".

She alleged that the ruling party has "unleashed a reign of terror" with bullets and batons to suppress Opposition campaigns against vote

The BNP is totally isolated," Hasina said, "The BNP leadership must not forget that their every act of violence against the people will isolate them further.

The AL chief alleged that "economic mismanagement and corruption by the BNP government have darkened the prospects of the nation. she said. Unemployment and inflation rates have gone high and poverty has increased. "Only an accountable government can reverse these trends and restore confi-Hasina hoped that the dence in the economic field".

Shun pre-polls violence: US

WASHINGTON, Feb 13: The United States condemned on Monday escalating violence in Bangladesh and urged both the ruling and opposition parties to avoid further clashes and intimidation before Feb. 15 elections, reports AFP.

"The US government deplores the violence." State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said, referring to worsening clashes that have killed at least I4 people and injured hundreds in the last two weeks.

"We call on both sides to See Page 12 col 8

SC Bar Assoc urges govt to postpone polls

By SC Correspondent The Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday urged the government and the Election Commission to postpone the Parliamentary Election and to send the matter as reference to the Supreme Court to find out a solution to the political im-

At a general meeting, the association also called upon all professional groups to boycott the "one-party farcical election".

See Page 12 col 8

48-hour countrywide hartal begins

By Staff Correspondent

The Opposition called 48hour countrywide hartal begins at dawn today.

Three major political parties called the hartal in protest against holding of the 'one-party farcical' elections on February 15.

Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami - the parties boycotting the sixth parliamentary elections demanding resignation of the Prime Minister and holding of elections under a neutral caretaker government called upon the people to make the shutdown a suc-

The non-stop general strike is the last phase of Opposition's six-day agitation programme announced earlier on February 5. A countrywide day-long road-rail and waterways barricade programme was observed yes-

The three parties had earlier also called upon the people to stay indoors on the polling day and observe a people's curfew".

Ambulances, medicine and food shops, vehicles carrying newsmen, newspapers, dead bodies and fire fighters.

emergency services like water, gas and power and conservancy service were, however, kept outside the purview of the hartal that starts from six this morning.

UNB adds: Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the people to observe the 48hour hartal from today to block the "one-party farcical

Bomb scare at EC office

By Staff Correspondent The Election Commission received a bomb threat yesterday from an anonymous caller saying a powerful bomb planted inside its headquarters would explode soon. blowing up the building.

ched immediately, however, revealed that it was simply a hoax. But security was stepped up following the threat.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) at around noon. When the CEC's private secretary

See Page 12 col 8 See Page 12 Col 4 গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

polls" tomorrow and dema-

nding fresh election under a

neutral caretaker govern-

neither by the political par-

ties nor by the people, can-

not be called an election at

all," the Awami League Presi-

participation of the people is

also constitutionally illegal."

dusk countrywide road, rail

and waterways barricade

yesterday, Hasina said, the

people again expressed their

"no-confidence against the

autocratic government and

dent said in a statement.

"An election, participated

"The election without the

By observing the dawn-to-

A thorough search laun-

she said.

According to EC officials. an anonymous caller rang the

See Page 12 col 7

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট)

সম্পর্কে বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে ভ্যাটের আওভায় নিবন্ধিত কিছু কিছু মিষ্টিব দোকান, হোটেল-রেস্ডোরা, ডেকরেটর্স ও ক্যাটারার্স, যান্ত্রিক লন্ডী, কমিউনিটি সেন্টার, স্বর্ণের দোকান, বিউটি পার্লার ইত্যাদি তাদের সেবামূল্য গ্রহণকালে ক্যাশ মেমো (চালানপত্র) ক্রেভাকে প্রদান করছে না এর ফলে ক্রেডা কর্তৃক প্রদন্ত ভ্যাট সরকারী কোষাগারে জমা প্রদান নিশ্চিত राष्ट्र ना।

বিক্রীত জিনিসের দাম সেবামূল্য ও ভ্যাটের পরিমাণ আলাদাভাবে বা মূল্যের মধ্যে অন্তর্ভূক্ত করে তা' উল্লেখপূর্বক প্রতি ক্ষেত্রেই ভ্যাটের নিবন্ধন সংখ্যাসহ নির্দিষ্ট ছকে ক্যাশ মেমো (চালানপত্র) প্রদান করা আইনানুগভাবে বাধ্যতামূলক। কোন সেবার ক্ষেত্রেই চালানপত্র প্রদান ব্যবস্থা শিথিল বা বাতিল করা হয়নি। কোন করদাতার ক্ষেত্রে ক্যাপাসিটি ভিত্তিক ভ্যাটও আরোপ করা হয়নি। অতএব পণ্য কিনে কিংবা সেবা গ্রহণ করে অবশ্যই আপনার ক্যাশ মেমো চেয়ে নিন।

সংশ্লিষ্ট সেবা প্রদানকারী/বিক্রেতা তার দোকানের/ সেবা প্রদান কেন্দ্রের নগদ কাউন্টারের সামনে সুস্পষ্টভাবে দৃষ্টিগোচর হয় এমন স্থানে সংশ্লিষ্ট কমিশনার অব কাস্টমস, একসাইজ ও মৃসক কর্তৃক সরবরাহকৃত ক্রেতাদের ক্যাশ মেমো গ্রহণ/প্রদান সংক্রান্ত 'স্তিকার' সার্বক্ষণিকভাবে সেঁটে

যদি কোনো বিক্রেতা বা সেবা প্রদানকারী অনুরূপভাবে 'স্টিকার' সেঁটে না রাখেন কিংবা ক্যাশ মেমো দিতে অস্বীকার করেন তবে নিম্নবর্ণিত

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জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

G-255

কমিশনার, ঢাকা (দক্ষিণ) কমিশনার, ঢাকা (উত্তর) কমিশনার, চট্টগ্রাম কমিশনার, খুলনা কমিশনার, যশোর

9700 কমিশনার, রাজশাহী ডেপুটি কমিশনার, সিলেট 960820 ডেপুটি কমিশনার, বরিশাল 6707 সহকারী কমিশনার, রংপুর আপনার প্রদত্ত ভ্যাট দেশের অর্থনৈতিক উনুয়নে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা

রাখছে। একজন সচেতন নাগরিক হিসেবে এ বিষয়ে আপনার আন্তরিক

সহযোগিতা একান্ত কাম্য। জাতীয় রাজ্য বোর্ড DFP-3995-13/2

130 hurt in pre-polls violence Ballot boxes snatched

at many places By Staff Correspondent

At least 130 people were injured in violent incidents and clashes between pro and anti-polls activists at different places in the coun-

try yesterday. Opposition activists foiled election meetings, set ablaze polling centres and snatched ballot boxes in Chittagong. Sirajganj, Jhenidah, Comilla, Sherpur, Chandpur and Gaibandha.

In Chittagong anti-polls activists set fire to the residence Communication Minister Oli Ahmed's father-in-law last night.

In the capital, bombs were hurled at the Hatirpool residence of Rawshan Ara Hena. a former ruling party MP, late Monday night.

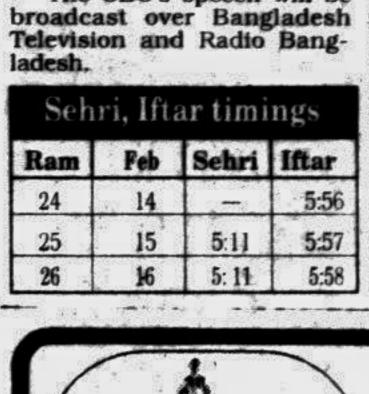
Hena in a press statement said that some unidentified persons hurled the bombs. Our Chandpur Correspon-

dent reports: At least 30 per-sons were hurt while a dozen offices were attacked including the election commission office in Chandpur yesterday. Five fire service personnel

were injured when anti-polls activists hurled cocktails at a fire service vehicle which was rushing to the Chandpur TNO office to put out fire at noon yesterday. Of the five injured, all ad-

mitted in to the Chandpur Sadar Hospital, the condition of Ali Ahmed (40) was criti-

Earlier, the Opposition activists attacked the election commission office at the TNO office, where an election training meeting was being held. The agitators threw about 30 ballot boxes in a the vehicle of the TNO and See Page 12 Col 3



HOWZZAT!

Ballot boxes kept at Gulshan thana yesterday for sending those to polling centres.

The Daily Star World Cup Cricket Special is **Out Today**.

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Make sure you get The Baily Star today.

Price of today's issue is only Tk. 7.00

England-Kiwis tie today Coffice von Parts Sports Reporter



— Star photo

Three-time finalists England will meet the Kiwis today at the Gujarat Stadium of Ahmedabad (India) in the opening match of the Sixth World Cup cricket. The first ball will be de-

livered at 9.30 am BST. England will be led by Mike Atherton while New Zealand will rely on the captaincy of Lee Germon, Meanwhile, the English

team was dogged by injury problems as it prepared to

play today's match, according Batsman Robin Smith and fast medium bowler Dominic Cork will not be playing because of groin and foot injuries. Artherton told re-

Both England and New Zealand yesterday had net practice at the lush green Sardar Patel stadium but decided to name their teams

As countdown started for the cricket's biggest extravaganza, the textile city of Ahmedabad found itself in the grip of a cricket fever. The city is festooned with

BTV will telecast live today's match World Cup posters and pic-tures of past and present

cricket heroes Nearly 50,000 people are expected to throng the sta-dium for the opening en-

Ray Illingworth, manager of the England team, was worried about a lot of dampness on the newly-laid wickets in the stadium for today's game. He couldn't say whe-ther the wicket will help the batsmen or bowlers. 'That's the reason we didn't announce our team, Illingworth said.

The New Zealand captain Lee Germon failed to show up at the pre-match press conference. But by running India close in the recently contested series and leveling the home series against Pakistan last month, New Zealand has rebutted a gathering opinion that it stands little chance of making much headway in the

The one-day cricket was to be crowned champion since the World Cup was started in 1975. It is played every four years. The West Indies (twice), India, Pak-istan and Australia have been the champions so far.

More on pages 10, 11