

Inside Today

Article

Unfair partition of Bosnia

Dr. Fakhruddin
Ahmed writes from
Princeton
Page 4

Focus

Burners on the loose;
Bangladeshi politics:
An unbelievable joke;
Whose country in this
anyway? and College
corridor
Page 5

International

Police MQM gunbattle
leaves 8 dead

US may delay arms
shipment to Pakistan
amid allegations
Page 8

Business

Iraq ready to resume oil
exports

Clinton calls for
national debate on US
economic growth
Pages 6, 7

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Ramadan's Sobering
Influence on City
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

German minister to visit Tangail

German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Carl-Dieter Spranger, will visit the Tangail Infrastructure Development Project tomorrow. The first phase of the project, being implemented by LGED, will be completed in June 1996 at a cost of Tk 37.58 crore of which the German grant is Tk 29.48 crore and the rest is to be provided by the Bangladesh government, reports UNB.

Italian parliament dissolved

ROME, Feb 16: Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro today dissolved parliament, paving the way to early elections. The decision follows more than a month of political crisis caused by the resignation of caretaker Prime Minister Lamberto Dini and the failure since then of Italian political leaders to agree on a new government and on political reforms to end chronic political instability, reports AFP.

2 police colonels shot dead in Egypt

ASSIUT, Egypt, Feb 16: Gunmen thought to be Muslim militants shot dead two police colonels in southern Egypt today, possibly in retaliation for the killing of two militant leaders on Tuesday, security sources said. The attack took place in the central province of Assiut, where acts of violence by the militant Gama's al-Islamiya (Islamic group) have been rare since the late summer of 1994, reports Reuters.

Imam sacked

LALMONIRHAT, Feb 16: An Imam of a mosque of the town was sacked from his post for performing duty as presiding officer in the Thursday's parliament election, reports UNB.

In an emergency meeting, the Managing Committee of the Nesaria Madrassah and Jam-e-Mosque took the decision today.

Shri, Ifar timings

Ram	Feb	Shri	Ifar
27	17	5:09	5:58
28	18	5:09	5:58
29	19	5:09	5:59

Results of 35 seats withheld, repolling in many centres

EC to investigate into cases of 'unusually large' turnout

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday withheld the poll results of 35 parliamentary seats and announced that re-election would be held in "different centres" in 84 constituencies due to "various irregularities" during the election.

The Commission will also conduct investigation into "all cases where unusually large number of votes" were cast.

sources in the EC said.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice AKM Sadeq, talking to The Daily Star yesterday said, "We will investigate every case including those 35 (seats) where an incredible number of votes were cast."

A top official of the Commission, however, said cases where more than 40 per cent votes were cast would be in-

vestigated.

The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) said that the decision to withhold the results of 35 seats was taken following complaints of rigging and other irregularities.

The CEC said that his office was receiving various complaints of irregularities from different parts of the country. The EC was also taking notes of the reports pub-

lished in the newspapers as clues and would take action accordingly, the CEC said.

The CEC also said that he was going to propose new electoral laws in future. "We have a Pre-poll Irregularities Committee but we do not have one which deals with the post-poll irregularity, this should be amended," Justice Sadeq said.

See Page 12 col 8



30 presiding officers still untraced

From Our Correspondent
RANGPUR, Feb 16: At least 30 Presiding Officers have been missing since the election hour, according to District Election Control Room here.

The District Administration has no information regarding these officers, the Control Room sources added. Meanwhile, the Control Room said that the elections were held in only 43 centres in the district while elections could not be held in the rest 445 centres due to violence and absence of polling officials.

The turnout of voters was very poor, said the control room sources. In each of the 40 centres, an average of 15 votes were cast while in each of the remaining three centres, the turnout was around 1000, the sources added.

UNB adds: A clash between supporters of Jatiya Abad Chhatra Dal (JCD) and pro-Awami League Chhatra League left 10 people injured in Dagonbhatyan thana on Thursday.

JCD blamed BCL activists for attacking its supporters when they were returning from Sekendarpur after the burial of JCD leader Zahiruddin, who was killed on Thursday night.

Both the groups exploded See Page 12 col 8

Opposition announces 3-day non-cooperation programme

By Staff Correspondent

The three major opposition political parties yesterday announced a three-day non-cooperation programme beginning on February 24.

Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami separately gave their first post-poll identical agitation programmes aimed at unseating the present government.

The AL programme was announced by party chief Sheikh Hasina at a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club. JP announced its programme at a press conference at the residence of acting party Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury while the Jamaat programme was announced

at a rally at the North Gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque.

The non-cooperation programme includes — suspension of rail-road-air and waterways communication throughout the country, no work at the sea ports in Chittagong and Khulna, 'closure' of courts, banks and insurance companies, schools, colleges and universities, the Secretariat and offices of government, semi-government and autonomous organisations, on February 24, 25 and 26.

Meanwhile, the three parties held a joint meeting at the residence of AL leader Abdus Samad Azad last night.

The meeting called upon the people and party activists to build up resistance against the chief of the 'illegitimate government', her cabinet colleagues and the 'so-called' MPs.

Briefing newsmen AL Organising Secretary Mohammad Nasim said, "We are urging the people and our workers to build up resistance against the people's enemies wherever and whenever they get them."

The movement which had been build up on the demand for holding elections under a caretaker government is now very close to its goal and "the See Page 12 Col 8

Hasina tells rally in city

People have rejected mockery of polls

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday declared a three-day agitation programme which she termed "non-cooperation by people" beginning on February 24 to force the government to step down paving the way for fresh general elections.

Announcing the programme at a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, Hasina renewed her call to the President to intervene and form a caretaker government for holding elections within 90 days.

The AL president brought charges against the ruling party of large-scale rigging in the elections held on Thursday.

She said the people have totally rejected the "mockery of elections" staged by the BNP and urged the Chief Election Commissioner to stop announcement of the poll results.

Criticising the role of the Election Commission, Hasina said the people would take account of their stolen votes.

She said the people by refraining from casting votes in the just held elections expressed their no-confidence

in the BNP government which has now lost its legitimacy.

Those who have been declared elected would be branded as 'enemies of the people' and they would face resistance wherever they go, she said.

The AL chief accused the government of killing at least 20 people during Thursday's 'farical' election.

"There was no election on Thursday — no voting, no ballot paper and no voters," she said adding that the anti-election movement was a total success.

She congratulated all sections of the people for what she said boycotting the election responding to the call of the Opposition.

City AL president and Mayor Mohammad Hanif presided over the rally which was addressed by party leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Zillur Rahman, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, Mohammad Nasim and Suranjit Sen-gupta.

Cancel polls, JP urges President

The Jatiya Party rejecting Thursday's elections, yesterday urged the President to cancel it and form a caretaker government for holding fresh polls within 90 days, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference, JP leaders called upon all not to cooperate with this government and announced a 3-day non-cooperation programme from February 24.

Announcing the programme, JP's acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury said everything including rail, road and waterway traffic will remain closed across the country.

He said, "Obstinacy of a party has brought the country See Page 12 col 7

Four killed as bus plunges into Turag river

By Staff Correspondent

At least four persons including two women were killed and several others injured when a bus fell into Turag river breaking the railing of a bridge near Aminbazar in Savar yesterday evening, police said.

The accident occurred at around 7:20 pm as the bus was going towards Aicha from Dhaka.

The identity of the victims and the number of the injured could not be known immediately.

One shot dead as rivals clash in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 16: One person was shot dead and two others were injured in a clash between two rival groups at Chandanpur in the city this afternoon, police and hospital sources said.

The dead was identified as Md. Ismail, 22. The injured — Abdul Quayyum, 26, and Nurul zaman, 24 — were admitted to the Chittagong Medical college hospital.

During the hour-long clash, both the groups used fire arms and exploded cocktails. The clash occurred over the sharing of illegal tolls, police said.

Feni JCD worker beaten to death

FENI, Feb 16: An activist of pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was allegedly beaten to death at Sekendarpur in Dagonbhatyan thana on Thursday, police said, reports UNB.

Zahir Uddin, 22, a second year student of Dagonbhatyan Iqbal Memorial College was beaten by some 12 youths while going to a polling centre at Sekendarpur.

He was rushed to a local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at about 10 pm.

The JCD alleged that Zahir was killed by the activists of pro-Awami League Chhatra League.

Student shot dead in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 16: A college student was shot dead by a rival group at Gomatala area in Sadar thana of the district in the early hours today, reports UNB.

The victim, Rubel Mia, 18, a student of the Eidgah College and son of one Shamsu Mia, was shot at while guarding their shrimp hatchery at about 5 am.

1500 shanties gutted in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 16: Fire gutted over 1500 shanties of the Nutanbazar slum at Rupsha tonight.

Fire fighters were struggling to tame the fire till filing of this report at 9 pm tonight. The fire was spreading fast due to strong wind.

Five people, three of them children, were reported missing in the fire which broke out at 5:12 pm at a kutchha house of the slum.

Five Fire Brigade personnel were also injured when angry slum dwellers attacked them.

The injured are: Shah-buddin (40), fireman, Ash-rarul Islam (30), driver, Habi-bur Rahman, (40), driver, Yusuf Ali (22) fireman Ayub Ali (30), fireman. They were admitted to the Khulna Medical Hospital.

Immediately after the fire broke out, ten fire brigade vehicles rushed to the spot. But due to strong wind, two of the fire vehicles had to take a safer position as the flames were rising high. This

angered the slum dwellers, who following some altercations manhandled five firefighters and took away equipment from the two vehicles.

UNB adds: Mayor Sheikh Toyeebur Rahman said some 2,500 houses were burnt to ashes rendering 16,000 people of 4,000 families homeless. The extent of damage was estimated at Tk 5 crore.

Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali and the Mayor visited the spot and directed the officials concerned to arrange immediate relief for the fire victims.

The victims were sheltered in four makeshift camps.

BNP's victory procession

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday brought out a colourful victory procession which paraded the city streets chanting various slogans in favour of the party's policies of production and development, reports BSS.

BNP standing committee member Abdul Matin Chowdhury, City BNP president Meer Shaikat Ali, Jubo Dal president Mirza Abbas and DUCSU vice president Amanullah Aman spoke at the victory rally in front of the party's Naya Paltan office, State Minister for Civil Aviation M A Mannan, State Minister for Sports Sadeq Hossain, Khondoker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Salauddin Ahmed, SA Khaleq led the victory procession.

The speakers congratulated the people for renewing its mandate in favour of BNP braving all sorts of violence, threat of the opposition and so-called curfew.

The turnout, they said, proved that people are not with the Opposition but with the BNP under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister See Page 12 col 8

Kamal for dialogue to hold fresh polls

Gano Forum president Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called for a national dialogue for political reconciliation and holding of free and fair election to form a truly representative parliament, reports UNB.

Addressing the foreign press at a local hotel, he said all pro-democracy forces, civic and women's organisations, professionals, business chambers, NGOs, trade unions and conscientious citizens should take an initiative for the dialogue.

Dr Kamal said the highest priority of the dialogue would be to reach a 'national accord' on holding fresh election as early as possible, formation of an acceptable interim national government to hold the polls and taking effective measures to end terrorism and violence and to maintain rule of law.

"We appeal to all to take the initiative as it is our constitutional and patriotic duty to make our utmost efforts to seek a peaceful solution to the problem with

which the nation is faced," he said.

Dr. Kamal said the government should respond promptly and positively since it claims that it held elections as a measure to maintain constitutional continuity, thus accepting the need for a fresh election in which there would be participation by all.

Those in the Opposition, who are committed to upholding the Constitution and safeguarding democracy should also come forward wholeheartedly and sincerely to make the dialogue fruitful, he said.

Dr Kamal said that dialogue among all the sections of people is imperative if 'we are to save ourselves from an escalation of violence and conflict and to rescue ourselves from impending disaster.'

Referring to Thursday's general election, the Gano Forum chief said a 'one-sided election' had taken place in which the overwhelming majority of opposition parties could not participate.



ON THE ASSAULT: South Africa's opening batsman Gary Kirsten sweeps during his mammoth unbeaten innings of 188 against UAE in Rawalpindi yesterday. Kirsten broke West Indian master batsman Viv Richards' record of the highest individual innings in the World Cup — 181 against Sri Lanka in 1987. (Story on Page-10) — AFP/UNB photo



Kiwis take on Holland today

Sports Reporter

New Zealand, fresh from their triumphant victory against England on Wednesday last, take on Cup debutants Holland in today's Wills World Cup encounter at the Indian city of Baroda.

The Kiwis will be looking for their second win on the trot to ensure a quarterfinal

More on pages 10,11

birth in the 12-team quadrennial event while Holland will have to be optimistic in wishing for an upset victory in their maiden appearance in the premier competition of instant cricket.

The sports channel of Star TV will telecast live coverage of the proceeding of the game, beginning 9:50 am (BST).

The twenty thousand seater stadium at Baroda is expected to be full as expected. See Page 12 col 5

The Daily Star Philips Cricket World Cup Quiz
Open Till Feb 25

Entries for the World Cup Quiz 1 will be received up to February 25. The draw of Quiz 1 will be held after Eid-ul-Fitr at a date to be announced later.

Quiz 2 will begin from February 25 and continue till March 15.

Quiz 2 has even bigger prizes. So, go on!

Rush your entries!