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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	793.44 (+0.10%)
Market capital Tk	5170.20 cr
Transactions in volume	198212
Transactions in value Tk	2.54 cr

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US may impose ban on Bangladeshi shrimps

Star Report

Bangladesh and over 50 other countries are likely to face a ban on shrimp export to the US markets in May this year.

The ban may follow a recent US court decision in favour of protecting the endangered turtles worldwide.

Some of the countries affected, meanwhile, have threatened to challenge the embargo in the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The Clinton administration is deciding now whether to appeal the decision and how to administer the embargo while the State Department has drawn up a preliminary list of potential embargo countries, according to USIS in Dhaka.

At issue is a provision of the Endangered Species Act

prohibiting the United States to import shrimp from any country that lacks a programme like one requiring US trawlers to employ turtle-excluder devices (TEDs), which allow turtles caught up in shrimp nets to escape.

By May 1 every year the State Department certifies countries that use effective TEDs programmes and bans shrimp from uncertified countries.

The department had been interpreting the law narrowly to cover only countries in the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean and western Atlantic, areas where US warm-water shrimp trawlers operate and adjacent areas where the turtles migrate.

But the environmental organisation Earth Island Insti-

tute won a case in the US Court of International Trade on December 29 overturning that narrow interpretation.

As a result of the court decision, the State Department will apply the law to trawlers in possibly more than 50 countries and territories that supply warm-water shrimp to the US market. The list of countries is subject to change before the May 1 embargo deadline, a State Department official said.

Unlikely to be affected are imports of cold-water shrimp from places like Iceland and Norway, where turtles are absent. US trawlers in the cold waters off New England, Washington and Alaska are not required to use TEDs.

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Opposition brings out mourning processions

By Staff Correspondent

The major opposition parties yesterday brought out separate mourning processions in the city for those killed at various places in the country during their on-going agitation against the government.

Hundreds of activists of the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami, wearing black badges and carrying black flags and banners, silently marched through the city streets.

The AL procession started from the party central office at Bangabandhu Avenue, JP procession from the south gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque and Jamaat procession from the north gate of the mosque.

The Opposition leaders claimed that 41 people were

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PM addresses nation today A 'concrete' offer to Opposition likely

By Nazmul Ashraf

Prime Minister and chief of the ruling BNP Begum Khaleda Zia is likely to announce today her acceptance of the concept of a non-party caretaker government to oversee general elections.

The major Opposition parties have been agitating for this since long.

The PM's address to the nation, over radio and television at 7 pm today may contain such an announcement, authoritative sources in the ruling party said last night.

Asked on the issue, two influential ministers told The Daily Star it was certain that Begum Zia would make a positive announcement today as regards the Opposition demand.

"Please listen to the PM

for the announcement in concrete terms," one of them said. It could not, however, be known what wording the PM would use in her speech as regards the Opposition demand. The Opposition demands a non-party neutral caretaker government while BNP, until recently, preferred to term it an interim administration.

Besides the PM's announcement, the BNP is also likely to send a written proposal to the major Opposition parties in view of its changed stand on the Opposition demand. Joint Secretary General of the party Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan is expected to take a move to this effect in a couple of days.

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Biswa Ijtima begins

By Staff Correspondent

Biswa Ijtima began at Tongi yesterday on the bank of the river Turag, about 20 kms from the capital.

Several lakhs of devotees from about 90 countries are attending the three-day annual event, the second biggest congregation of the Muslims next to Hajj.

The Ijtima ends tomorrow through 'Akheri Munajat' (final prayer).

Islamic scholars and thinkers from Bangladesh and other Muslim countries will deliver speeches and sermons at the congregation.

President Abdul Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in separate messages expressed the hope that the congregation would strengthen the Muslim Ummah.

See Page 12 col 1

BNP grand rally Mar 6

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will hold a grand public rally on March 6 at the capital's Manik Mia Avenue, to gear up its political move against the opposition's agitation, reports UNB.

BNP chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will address the meeting, at 3 pm, as chief guest, the party announced yesterday.

Preparatory to the planned showdown, a joint meeting of BNP and its front organisations was held yesterday at the party central office with its joint secretary general and Food and Agriculture Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair.

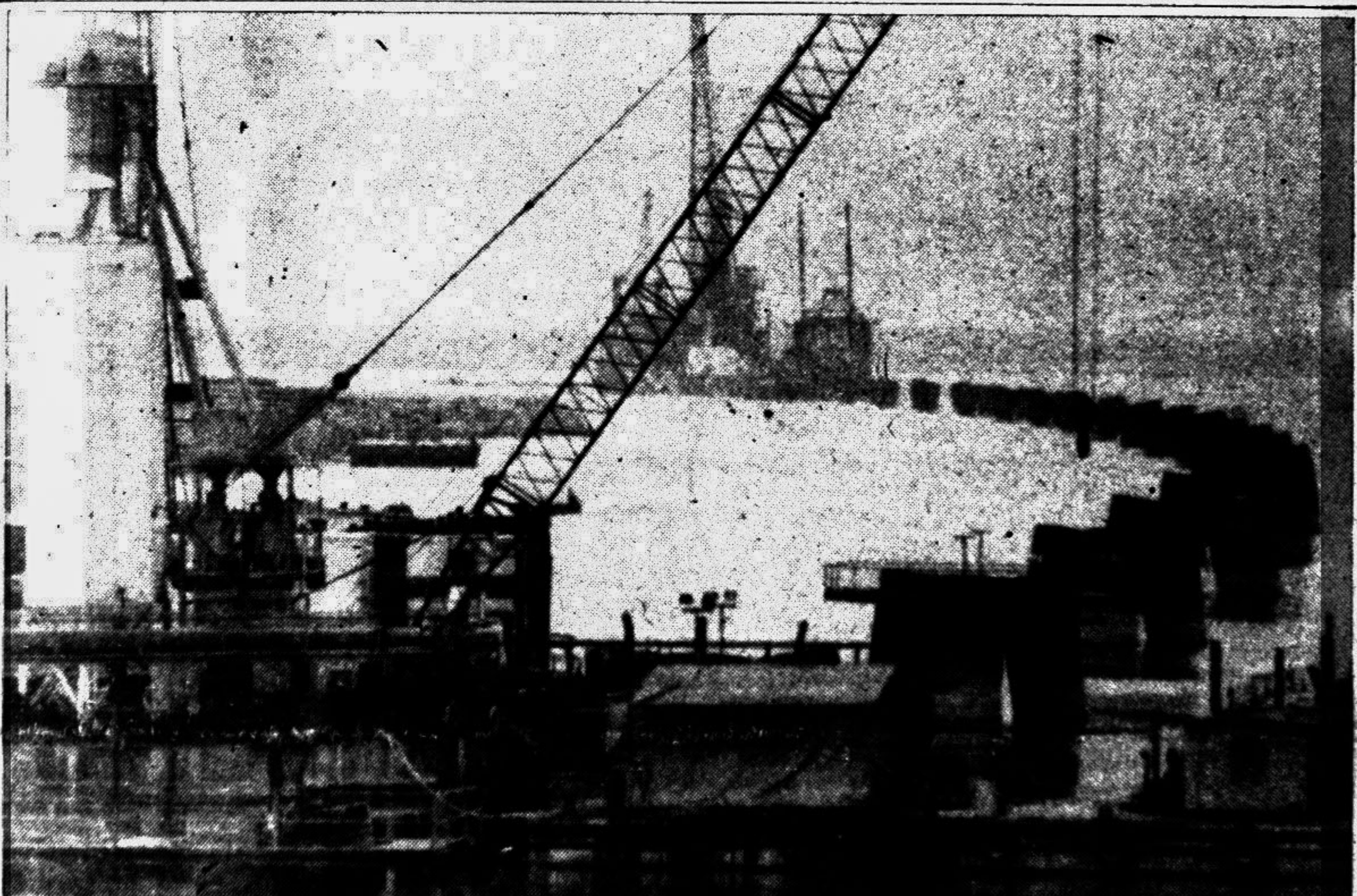
The meeting has drawn up various programmes to make the March 6 meeting a success.

It took stock of the overall political situation of the country and condemned the "destructive" activities of some political parties.

The meeting asked leaders and workers of the party to mobilise public opinion against the "destructive" activities.

Partymen, however, have been advised to show utmost tolerance in the face of "provocations" by the three political parties and continue political activities and ex-

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Piling work of the Jamuna Bridge going on.

Star photo by Sk Enamul Haq

Commentary The right speech can change everything

By Mahfuz Anam

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will address the nation this evening. In our view, it will be the most important speech of her entire political career, and also the most crucial one to solve the present political crisis.

General patience is at its end, and conversely, expectation from her speech is almost unrealistically high. Given the public mood, and the universal urge for an end to divisive politics, it is our view that the spirit of the speech should be far above partisan politics, and should be solely guided by public welfare. The speech cannot be vague, ambiguous and non-committal. It has to address the issue directly, boldly and imaginatively.

So far all her actions, and especially her speeches, have been REACTIVE. Time has come for her to be PROACTIVE — to go far beyond the immediate sources of the problem, and give ideas and directions so that we can have free and fair elections, not only the next time round, but in the foreseeable future. Instead of

being a leader under siege, Begum Zia can seize the occasion, turn things around and be a leader who restores peace and unity in the nation.

This, the Prime Minister can achieve through a visionary speech. Or she can throw the nation to further turmoil and conflict by another of those "Too little, too late" speeches that she is known to make. She must weigh the critical nature of the time and the importance of seeking a solution immediately.

BNP leaders have hinted at the likely ingredients of her address which, according to them, will contain indications of her willingness to go for another election, and do so under some sort of agreed caretaker government formula. These are welcome indications. But hardly enough to bring the opposition to the dialogue table, especially after the election of 15 February, repression on political leaders, the mayhem in Chittagong and the killings in Narayanganj.

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Ctg hartal ends amid blasts, gunshots

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 2: Sporadic bomb blasts, gunshots and clashes marked the hartal today in the port city, leaving at least 10 people injured, witnesses and hospital sources said.

One Didarul Hoque Kazem, 40, who received bullet injuries this afternoon in Master-pul area under Chandgao thana, was admitted in the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

However, the situation in the port city was relatively calm today while security was tightened by intensifying patrol by truck-loads of police and BDR.

The city experienced widespread violence following the arrest of Chittagong City Corporation Mayor and Awami

Fresh congestion at Chittagong port

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Mar 2: Chittagong port faces congestion again as at least 70 cargo vessels were left stranded during the continuous shutdowns in the city called by the major opposition parties to protest the arrest of Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

Besides, over 200,000 metric tons of cargo remained stuck at the port sheds due to total suspension of delivery of goods, port officials added.

Meanwhile, emergency measures were taken by the port authority today to resume day and night operations after the hartal ends at 6 pm.

Talking to this correspondent the acting chairman of Chittagong Port Authority Captain Zahuruddin Mahmud said, "We have ordered all concerned officers and employees

of the port to start day and night operations from this evening to overcome the crisis."

According to port sources, 45 cargo ships including 10 container vessels remain stuck at the outer anchorage and 25 others were waiting at the port jetties. Cargo handling came to a total halt since February 24 due to Opposition's non-cooperation programme and hartal.

Port officials admitted that if the delivery of imported goods from the port sheds could not be expedited, it would be difficult to ease the space congestion.

Presently, stockpiled cargo at the port sheds include about 60,000 tons of containerised goods but of a total of over 200,000 tons, port sources

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Sino-Bangla accord to avoid double taxation

An agreement between Bangladesh and China was signed here yesterday to avoid double taxation, reports BSS.

According to an official handout provisions have been made in the agreement for avoiding complexities relating to income tax and other allied taxes on income and investment of the nationals of both countries.

The Bangladesh delegation was led by A F M Tayebur Rahman, Member, National Board of Revenue, while the Chinese delegation was led by Sun Yugan, Deputy Director of the State Administration of Taxation of China.

It is hoped that implementation of the agreement will pave the way for increasing Chinese investment in different industrial sectors of Bangladesh, the handout said.

Swearing-in of new MPs Mar 4,7

By Staff Correspondent

The MPs-elect of the sixth Jatiya Sangsad will be sworn in on March 4 and 7.

An announcement from the Jatiya Sangsad secretariat yesterday said Speaker of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad Shaikh Razzak Ali will administer the oath to the newly-elected members at the committee room in the eastern wing of the Sangsad Bhaban.

The swearing-in ceremony will take place at 4:30 pm on March 4, and at 11 am on March 7 under the provisions of Article 148 (Article 5 of the fifth schedule) of the Constitution and Rule-5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad, the announcement said.

A press release of the JS secretariat said that letters inviting the MPs-elect for the

swearing-in had already been mailed while copies of the letters have been kept at the reception of the Sangsad Bhaban.

Before receiving the invitation letters, the MPs-elect have been requested to bring their identity cards from the returning officers concerned or from their party leaders, it said.

The candidates elected to more than one seat have been requested to inform, in writing, the Election Commission of the particular constituency they want to represent in Parliament as per Article 17 of the Constitution.

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2000 vehicles stranded at 3 ferry ghats

MANIKGANJ, Mar 2: Traffic jam at Aricha, Nagarbari and Daulatdia terminals continued as nearly two thousand vehicles remained stranded this noon for ferry slowdown, reports UNB.

According to the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC), some 820 vehicles, including buses and trucks, were in queues at Nagarbari, 478 at Daulatdia and 585 at Aricha for crossing the river at noon.

BIWTC sources said 2,900 vehicles had been ferried in the last 24 hours till noon.

The BIWTC and the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) were contradicting over the

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Euro-Asian new 'partnership'



(From left) Italy's Prime Minister Lamberto Dini, Thailand's Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-archa and EU Commission's president Jacques Santer at the closing ceremony of the Asia-Europe Meeting in Bangkok yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

BANGKOK, Mar 2: Leaders of 25 Asian and European nations proclaimed a new 'partnership' after a landmark summit ended here today, muting differences over human rights in favour of economic cooperation and political harmony, report AFP Reuter.

They agreed to meet again in London in 1998 and in South Korea in 2000, setting the stage for closer relations between two continents linked in the past by commerce or colonialism.

Fifteen European Union (EU) and 10 Asian leaders took part in the two-day summit, aimed at promoting a "balance" among the three poles of world economic growth: Europe, North America and Asia.

Following are the main points of the official declaration:

Leaders formed an Asia-Europe partnership for greater growth aimed at strengthening links between Asia and Europe to contribute to peace, global stability and prosperity.

Leaders vowed to promote the effective reform and greater democratisation of the United Nations system.

Foreign ministers to meet in 1997.

Economic ministers to meet in 1997 in Japan.
 Informal senior officials meeting to be held in Brussels on ways to promote economic

See Page 12 col 8

Pakistan take on England today



KARACHI, Mar 2: Veteran batsman Javed Miandad may be given the honour of leading Pakistan out in front of his home crowd in Karachi when they play their World Cup Group-B match against England tomorrow, reports Reuter.

It could well be the 38-year-old Miandad's last international appearance in the city.

"We will be giving Javed respect tomorrow," Pakistan captain Wasim Akram told reporters after the team had practised at the National Stadium on Saturday.

"But maybe he will play some more with us," Akram added jokingly.

Pakistan officials said Miandad — the only player to have appeared in all six World Cups — was expected to be fit for Sunday's match after suffering from a back injury and stomach upset.

Coach Intikhab Alam played down suggestions that Miandad was in dispute with the team management over

where he should bat in the order, but he appeared to rule out the former captain batting in his favourite number four position.

"With our top four it is very difficult to slot him in there, so I think he will bat at five or six," said Intikhab.

Opener Aamir Sohail (groin muscle) and wicketkeeper Rashid Latif (bruised finger) are also expected to be fit.

World Cup holders Pakistan are likely to make two changes from the line-up that lost by five wickets to South Africa in Karachi on Thursday.

Miandad should replace Ramiz Raja in the middle order while seamer Aaqib Javed is expected to come in for off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq.

BTV and Star Sports will telecast today's match live commencing at 10 am (BST).

England's batsmen had a light practice at the Karachi Gymkhana Ground on Saturday while the bowlers were given the day off.

There are question marks over the fitness of batsman Neil Fairbrother (hamstring injury) and seamer Peter Martin (back strain).

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Board of Revenue Dhaka NOTICE

The date for advance income tax payment for the 3rd quarter of the current financial year is March 15, 1996.

The advance incometax payable by the concerned taxpayer is to be paid through I. T. form No. I. T. 31 (B) (Amended) challan.

The taxpayers should pay the advance tax filling in the said challan form as usual by replacing the figure "74 (1)" with the figure "64" in as many places as it occurs in the form.

It may be mentioned that the financial limit of total income for payment of advance income tax for all classes of assesees is now Taka 1,00,000/=.

All assesees concerned are requested to pay their advance income tax for the 3rd quarter of the current financial year relevant to the assessment year 1996-97 under this system by March 15, 1996. Simple interest @ 10% per annum will be leviable if the advance income tax is not paid or paid at a lesser amount than due.

DFP-4688-29/2 G-322

National Board of Revenue