

Inside Today

Article

Anatomy of Corruption Column: Enchiridion by Waliur Rahman Page 4

International

CBI raids houses in 15 cities to prove Ananda Marg's linkage to Purulia arms-drop

Food convoys for Kashmiris trapped in snowfall, gunfire Page 5

Business

Japan, ROK agree to hold fisheries talks

Yeltsin accuses govt of poor budgetary discipline Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET

DSE price index 794.31 (+0.10%) Market capital Tk 9175.04 cr Transactions in volume 114397 Transactions in value Tk 2.40 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 491.88 Market capital Tk 2446.07 cr Transactions in volume 1035 Transactions in value Tk 17954

Travel & Tourism

Cox's Bazar beach with a difference; Savar: Its glorious past; Aboriginal tourism boom; and Travel briefs Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



No Short-cut to Music Page 3

PM promises early polls for seventh JS Non-party govt to hold all future elections

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has agreed that "non-party government" would be formed to conduct all future general elections and offered early polls to elect the seventh Parliament under such arrangement, reports UNB. She declared that a Constitution amendment bill providing for "non-party government" for the election period would be moved in the first session of the sixth Parliament. Begum Zia also held out the assurance that the amendment bill would be passed by the

House as early as possible and steps be taken for a referendum on the basic change as per the constitutional provisions. The Prime Minister offered the olive branch to the opposition in her major post-election policy speech over Radio and Television yesterday evening. Presenting a three-point proposal as a reconciliatory move to resolve the country's political crisis, Begum Zia said election of the 7th Jatiya Sangsad would be held within a minimum timeframe after adoption of the proposed bill and a referendum on it. The Prime Minister said the proposed non-party government would look after everyday routine administration but not take any policy decisions. "Text of speech on page 9" The Election Commission will be entrusted with full responsibilities and powers for conducting the elections. The Prime Minister, however, said there might be different sets of solution to this complex problem which directly involves the country, nation, people and democracy. So, it needs a detailed discussion on various proposals for reaching a solution. "We're ready to endorse the most acceptable solution in the national interest," Begum Zia said with a call towards all political parties to sit with open mind immediately to discuss these proposals and related matters. She sought about cooperation from all political parties, groups and professional organizations. See Page 12 col 1

Dawn-to-dusk hartal Wednesday PM's speech disappoints nation: Opposition

The three major opposition parties yesterday expressed their deep disappointment at the Prime Minister's address to the nation over radio and television. The parties separately called a dawn-to-dusk hartal on Wednesday in greater Dhaka district to protest what they said 'false statement' of the PM. Leaders of the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami, in separate statements, raised questions on the validity of the sixth Jatiya Sangsad and legitimacy of the present government. They termed the PM's address a bluff to hoodwink the people. The PM has neither announced any specific date for fresh elections under a neutral caretaker government, nor any date for resignation of her government or a date for the next general elections, they pointed out. Sheikh Hasina Giving immediate written reaction to Begum Zia's address, AL president Sheikh Hasina said that the speech has 'disappointed' the whole nation. She called for refraining from any attempt to give the February 15 parliamentary elections 'constitutional legitimacy'. Begum Zia has spoken of elections under a neutral and non-party government, but has not specified any date for holding such polls, Hasina pointed out. The speech has neither said when she (PM) is going to resign nor she has announced any date for the general elections, the AL chief said. See Page 12 col 7

Processions, blasts in city: 50 hurt

At least 50 people were injured, two of them bullet hit, in sporadic violence in the city immediately after the Prime Minister's address to the nation over radio and television yesterday evening. Some 15 ward level leaders and activists of the BNP were injured when a procession came under attack near Ramna Bhaban at about 7:30 pm, witnesses and DMCH sources said. The two bullet hit are Bachu Miah, 45, and Haanullah Haliz, 22, said our Dhaka Medical College Correspondent. Amidst firing of gunshots and bomb explosions at different places in the city, pro-anti government political activists brought out separate processions in some areas hailing and denouncing respectively the PM's speech. Contingents of police in riot gear were patrolling various city streets. Police lobbed teargas shells to disperse the opposition activists in Bangabandhu Avenue, Gulistan, Paltan, Noor Hussain Square and Baitul Mokarram Area. Gunshots were heard and cocktails were exploded in Dhaka University area and at



Panic-stricken pedestrians taking shelter near a closed shop as opposition activists clashed with police at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday following the Prime Minister's address to the nation. -Star photo

BNP sends letter to AL soon

The ruling BNP would shortly send a letter to the Awami League containing the Prime Minister's proposals for a non-party interim government for holding general elections and inviting the party to sit for talks on the issue, BNP Joint Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said yesterday. Talking to The Daily Star last night, Mannan Bhuiyan further said that he was maintaining contacts with the Opposition leaders. Replying to a question, he said that it was not yet decided who in the BNP would write the planned letter and who in the AL would receive it. The BNP leader, who is also the Minister for Food and Agriculture, further said that he would brief the press at 7 pm today at his Bailey Road official residence on his party's position, especially after the PM's new proposals and the opposition parties' reactions. See Page 12 col 7

BNP processions hailing PM's speech

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its front organisations yesterday evening brought out a number of jubilant processions in the city hailing Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's address over radio and television, reports BSS. Just after the Prime Minister's speech, the BNP leaders, workers and supporters came out in the streets in large numbers and chanted slogans welcoming the policies and programmes of Begum Zia's government. The main procession, brought out from the BNP central office at Naya Paltan. See Page 12 col 8

Sporadic violence in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Mar 3: Tension gripped the port city this evening following sporadic bomb blasts at different places amid chase and counter-chase between mobs and members of law enforcing agencies. Security personnel fired blank shots at New Market and Dewanhat crossing when bombs were hurled aiming at their positions, witnesses said. The mobs soon dispersed at both the places. The shops around the New Market and Dewanhat areas were closed and people on the roads were seen running for safety, witnesses and police said. Bomb blasts were also reported simultaneously from Andarkilla, Momin Road, Chowmuhani, Badamtali, port area and Tiger Pass, according to witnesses. The bomb blasts were heard across the city after opposition activists brought out processions in reaction to the Prime Minister's speech to the nation over television and radio, police and witnesses said. Supporters of Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami brought out processions in the city rejecting PM's speech and demanding the immediate resignation of the BNP government. Meanwhile, security was tightened in the city and its surrounding areas with deployment of police and BDR at important places well ahead of PM's speech to prevent any outbreak of violence. On the otherhand, supporters of Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal brought out jubilant processions in the city. See Page 12 col 8

Three Jubo Dal activists murdered in Jessore

KHULNA, Mar 3: Three Jubo Dal activists were brutally murdered at the Pratapkati village under Abhoyagar thana of Jessore district Saturday night. Police identified the victims as Babul, 25, Alamgir, 28 and Gaus Baksh, 24. According to police, the Jubo Dal activists hailing from Mira area of Khulna, were kidnapped by about 20 armed terrorists from Siddhipasha village where they were attending a religious function (urs). They were later slaughtered at Pratapkati, three kilometres from the police station. Police recovered the bodies from a paddy field today and sent them to Khulna Sadar Hospital for autopsy. Violence broke out as unruly people, mostly supporters of the ruling BNP, went on rampage soon after the dead bodies reached their homes. Several shops were torched and buses damaged. Transport services remained suspended for over two hours as unruly people put up barricades on the Khulna-Jessore highway. All shops in the area were shut down and all modes of transport went off the roads. Neither Abhoyagar nor Khanjahan Ali thana police could provide details of the killings. But the killers are said to be members of an underground organisation. Meanwhile, at Diana village See Page 12 col 7

2 slaughtered in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Mar 3: Two young men, who had recently deserted an outlawed party were slaughtered by unidentified miscreants in Sadar thana yesterday, reports UNB. Police said Mohat Ali, 30, and Nurul Islam, the deserters of the outlawed Sharbahara Party, were killed in separate places in the thana on Saturday night. The bodies were sent to Jessore Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy. Two cases were filed with the local police. Repolling in 5 Sirajganj JS seats now Mar 6, 8 From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, Mar 3: The schedule for re-polling in 5 constituencies in Sirajganj district has been revised. According to District Election Commission sources, re-election in Sirajganj-3, 4 and 6 constituencies will now be held on March 6 and in Sirajganj-1 and Sirajganj-4 on March 8. Re-polling will be held in all the 82 centres in Sirajganj-1 (Kazipur), in 76 centres out of 84 in Sirajganj-3 (Raiganj-Tarash), 48 centres out of 78 in Sirajganj-4 (Ullapara), 49 centres out of 76 in Sirajganj-5 (Belkuchi-Kamarkhand) and in 30 centres out of 50 in Sirajganj-6 (Chowhall-east Shahjapur) constituencies, the sources said today. Polls could not be held in these constituencies on February 15 because of violence and See Page 12 col 1

NEWS BRIEFS

Korob Ali College closed sine die

From Our Correspondent SIRAJGANJ, Mar 3: The Haji Korob Ali Memorial Degree College in Kamalkanda thana was closed sine die today, following clashes.

Detentions of CCC mayor, two others Govt asked to show cause in 3 days

By SC Correspondent Chittagong City Corporation, Advocate Cyril Sikder and Abdul Qader Molla should not be declared illegal and without lawful authority. A division bench of the HC comprising Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Abdul Mannan also directed the government to yield division to the detenus in jail. It was also submitted that upon abusing the official power the party in power in its intention to cling to the government has been misusing the Special Powers Act by detaining detenus and others to oppress their political opponent which is contradictory to the object and purpose of the same Act. The defence counsels argued that the detenus with the support of the democratic people were advocating for change of the government through a neutral and fair election which would be held under a non-party caretaker government. "Advocacy for an acceptable solution of the present political impasse is the fundamental and constitutional right to freedom of thought and conscience and of speech as guaranteed under Article 39 of the Constitution and, as such, the detention orders are violative to the fundamental right of the detenus," the counsels for the detenus submitted. Mohiuddin Chowdhury was arrested on February 28 from See Page 12 col 8

Crucial tie for Windies

By Zayd Almer Khan they reached a nadir while being humiliated by minnows Kenya on Thursday last. Richardson has been in a thick of things for some time now. Starting from losing the Frank Worrell trophy to Australia last Spring - the Windies' first Test series loss in over a decade - to their dismal performance in England, Sharjah and Down Under the year has not gone well for him. The critics have been everything but understanding of his methods - sometimes even unfairly harsh. And the Kenyan See Page 12 col 7

WORLD CUP QUIZ DRAW

YES, READERS! The DRAW is here!

The DRAW of QUIZ 1 of The Daily Star-Philips Cricket World Cup Quiz 1996 will be held as per the following schedule:

Date : March 5, 1996 Tuesday Time : 4:30 pm Venue : Jatiya Press Club

National cricketers Akram Khan, Aminul Islam Bulbul, Minhazul Abedin Nannu, Athar Ali Khan and Faruque Ahmed will draw the winners.

All participants and our valued readers are invited to please attend the DRAW.

Hamas suicide bomber blows up bus in Jerusalem: 19 die

JERUSALEM, Mar 3: A Palestinian suicide bomber blew up a Jerusalem city bus Sunday, killing 19 people, wounding 10 and threatening to claim the Mideast peace process as the next victim, reports AP. Prime Minister Shimon Peres declared an all-out war against the Muslim militant group Hamas, which claimed responsibility for the morning rush hour blast in Jerusalem's shopping district. The explosion came only a week after two suicide bombings by Hamas killed 29 people including the bombers, and President Ezer Weizman urged Peres to suspend the peace talks with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader opposed by Hamas. "We are at war," President Ezer Weizman said. "Things cannot continue like this." Peres did not break off contacts, but sent fresh warnings to Arafat, saying Israel would honour its side of the peace agreements only if the Palestinians did the same. "There will be no one-sided implementation," Peres said. Arafat condemned the bombings Sunday as a "serious and dangerous terrorist act" and announced that armed groups of all Palestinian factions, including Hamas and his own Fatah movement, were now outlawed. At the scene of the bombings, hundreds of angry Israelis gathered throughout the day, scuffling with mounted and riot police who tried to keep the crowd at bay. Three policemen were hurt in the confrontations. "Enough enough!" screamed a young woman at the bombing site, where pouring rain washed away a stream of blood beneath the charred, mangled city bus. The force of the explosion turned the red-and-white city bus into a skeleton of charred metal. Bodies contorted in death lay in the wreckage. One body was hurled several yards (metres) by the explosion and lay smoldering on the road. The corpse of a young Israeli man dangled out of a blown-out bus window. "It was a scene from hell," said US Consul-General Ed Abington, who said he rushed to the site in jogging clothes after hearing the blast go off near the US Consulate. "I felt a tremendous sense of anger at people who were killing people but also destroying the peace process," Abington said, adding that he later relayed those feelings to Arafat. Reuter adds: The United States urged a "war on the terrorists" after an Islamic suicide bomber today blew up an Israeli bus in Jerusalem. See Page 12 col 8

WE MOURN WE DEEPLY MOURN THE SUDDEN DEMISE OF MR. A.B.M. NURUL KABIR, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE COMPANY WHO BREATHED HIS LAST AT HIS RESIDENCE AT DHAKA AT 1:30 A.M., ON SUNDAY, THE 3RD MARCH, 1996 (INNALILLAH! WAINNA ILAIH RAJEU). HIS FIRST NAMAZ-E-ZANAZA WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, THE 04TH MARCH, 1996 AT 8:30 A.M. AT THE HIGH COURT MAZAR, DHAKA. HIS SECOND NAMAZ-E-ZANAZA WILL BE HELD ON THE SAME DAY AFTER ASR PRAYER AT JAMITUL FALAH MOSQUE, CHITTAGONG AND AFTER HOLDING HIS THIRD ZANAZA AFTER ESHAR PRAYER AT THE RESIDENCE OF HIS OWN VILLAGE AT SOUTH BORUMCHARA UNDER BANSHKHALI THANA AT CHITTAGONG, HE WILL BE BURIED THERE. ALL HIS RELATIVES, FRIENDS & WELL WISHERS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND THE ZANAZA AS PER SCHEDULE AND PRAY FOR HIS DEPARTED SOUL. WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE COMPANY PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY ALLAH FOR THE SALVATION AND ETERNAL PEACE OF THE DEPARTED SOUL AND EXPRESS OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCE AND SYMPATHY TO THE BEREAVED FAMILY. CENTRAL INSURANCE COMPANY LTD. Uttara Bank Bhaban (13th Floor), 90-91, Motilal C/A, Dhaka-1000.