Vehicles still stranded

BIWTC (Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation) sources said ferries were carrying less-than-normal loads because of sharp fall in water level in the cross-channel-4.

Meanwhile, the chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has visited the channel and ordered officials concerned to open up a new channel

through emergency dredging.

A BIWTA official in a letter is known to have requested the BIWTC DGM at Aricha not to move ferry vessels in routes having less than six-foot draught.

"Without dredging it is impossible to keep channel-4 operative," said an official. And if the authorities take decision for dredging, ferry service will have to be suspended for few days, he added.

opposition parties that boy-

join future elections with the

able solution could not be

evolved in absence of provi-

sions for such non-party gov-

ernment in the Constitution

and requisite number of mem-

would be no such problems

after the formation of Parlia-

ment elected through the

now we can take initiative for a

constitutional and pragmatic

Europe tour

ties from the seven South

Asian nations yesterday began

r trip to Germany and Belgium

promote business and de

we appelose ties between the

Eur neur and SAARC coun-

A K M Shamsuddoha, vice-

resident of the SAARC

Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (SCCI), is leading the

15-member delegation com-

prising senior level business-

men from all the seven mem-

ber countries of the South

Asian Association for Regional

visit is to apprise the leading

European parliamentarians and

exchange ideas about the role

and importance of South Asia

as a region of potential and

promise in terms of their role

in the global political and eco-

nomic arena, said a press re-

Repolling

From Page 1

Meanwhile the Awami

Public meetings and pro-

League, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-

Islami and JSD (Rob) have de-

clared that re-polling will also

cessions are being organised

by the parties in the area to

mobilise people not to partici-

Qatari prince

found dead in

Cairo hotel

prince was found dead in his

Cairo hotel room today of an

apparent drug overdose, police

as Khalid bin Jassem Al Thani.

32, who was reported to have

come to Cairo for treatment

syringe were found near his

body, police sources said,

speaking on condition of

anonymity. They did not give

details or say what narcotic

in Cairo were not available for

and other wealthy Gulf Arabs

often visit Egypt for enter-

tainment and tourism.

Officials at Qatar's embassy

Members of royal families

A quantity of drugs and a

CAIRO, Mar 3: A Qatari

The victim was identified

pate in the re-polling.

said, reports AP.

for drug addiction.

was involved.

comment.

lease in Dhaka vesterday.

resistance.

be resisted.

The main objective of the

Cooperation (SAARC).

ports UNB.

Senior business personali-

"Under the circumstances,

She observed that there

Begum Zia said an accept-

government.

participation of all.

bers in Parliament.

February 15 election.

Some truck drivers told

PM: Non-party govt From Page speedy and effective solution isations and countrymen in

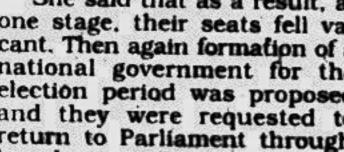
to all problems," the Prime this respect. Minister said. "I firmly believe that all po-Referring to the opposition litical parties of the country demand for appointment of an will take part in the seventh unelected person as Prime parliamentary election, Insha-Minister, she said it was bellah," the Prime Minister said yond the government's capacspelling out the modalities of ity as there was no provision the election-time non-party for it in the Constitution. government. Focusing on the background Her 14-minute speech was

of the crisis, she mentioned aimed at defusing the continuher offer for resignation 30 ing political agitation launched days ahead of election and reby the country's three major quest for the opposition MPs not, to resign and return to cotted the February 15 polls, Parliament on December 28. demanding the votes to be 1994. She said she had proheld under a neutral caretaker posed discussion on the floor of the House on how govern-The Prime Minister said ment will run after her resigshe had wanted to go to polls nation. with all political parties and "We could work out the individuals and also desired to

framework of election-time government through discussion if they would have returned to parliament. But they didn't. Begum Zia said two-thirds

majority is required for constitutional amendment. Knowing it fully well, they tendered resignation en masse and did not return to Sangsad.

She said that as a result, at one stage, their seats fell vacant. Then again formation of a national government for the election period was proposed and they were requested to return to Parliament through by election. But they didn't agree either.



solution of the problem. Because we sincerely want a

SAARC business Feni JCD leader leaders start chopped to death

FENI, Mar 3: A JCD leader was chopped to death by miscreants at his residence at Shankarpur village in Amirabad union of Sonagazi thana on Saturday midnight, reports

Gazi Ahsanul Karim. 22 general secretary of JCD Amirabad unit was attacked and chopped to death by the gang numbering about six. Family sources said the

gang forcibly entered the house and killed him brutally. Police later sent the body to morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, district BNP blamed the Awami League backed Chhatra League for the killing and demanded punishment of the miscreants.

A case was filed with Sonagazi police. Tension was prevailing in the area.

CCC commissioners' 7-day programme

CHITTAGONG, Mar 3: Ward commissioners of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) at a meeting here today drawn up a week-long programme to press home their demand for release of Mayor A B M Mohfuddin Chowdhury, according to a press release signed by over 40 ward commissioners, reports BSS.

The meeting held at the corporation auditorium was presided over by M. Zakaria.

The programme includes hoisting of black flag at the ward offices, day-long hunger strike in front of local press club, rallies at every ward, staging or demonstration, public meeting at Laldighi Maidan and special prayers on Friday

Hasina condemns arrest order against Nilima

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday condemned the government for issuing warrant of arrest against noted educationist Dr Nilima Ibrahim, reports UNB. In a statement, she said the

BNP government has again proved its autocratic character by issuing the warrant and denied the rights of individuals to freedom of speech and opinion as enshrined in the

Constitution. Hasina demanded immediate withdrawal of the warrant of arrest against Nilima

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

lbrahim.

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truck drivers brought out a protest procession at Nagarbari ghat this morning demanding that their serial numbers be given immediately.

They apprehended that the traffic system might collapse owing to lack of maintenance of serial system. Officials said they had called for police reinforcements for maintaining serial amidst rush of vehicles.

More than 2,000 vehicles including buses and trucks remained stranded till noon today.

BIWTC registered some 1,643 vehicles at different terminals. But drivers said more than 600 vehicles were still waiting for registration of their serials.

A total of 2.626 vehicles have been ferried in the last 24 hours, the sources said.

Drivers said vegetables and other perishables worth an estimated Tk 2 crore were rot

Admission seekers queue up on the Dhaka University campus yesterday for buying entry forms for honours classes. - Star photo Redwan reelected

BGMEA President

By Staff Correspondent The executive committee of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BOMEA) in a meeting yesterday re-elected Redwan Ahmed as the president of the association.

With this, Redwan has been elected president of the BGMEA for the third time, says a press release.

The meeting also elected three vice presidents and a treasurer of the association. They are Shahabuddin Ahmed, first vice president

Khalilur Rahman Chowdhury 2nd vice president, Mahfuzur Rahman, vice president, and Mohammad Sirajul Huq. trea-The 27-member executive

committee meeting was held yesterday after the 9 vacant seats of executive committee members were filled in an election on February 29. The election was held for 6 mem bers from the Dhaka region and 3 members Chittagong region.

Radar Case: HC issues rule on govt

'A High Court Division bench yesterday issued rule upon the government to show cause within four weeks as to why the proceedings in special case No. 155 of 1994, better known as Radar Case, against former Air Chief Marshal Sultan Mahmud shall not be quashed, reports BSS.

The court comprised Justice Mohammad Mozammel Huq and Justice Mahfuzur Rahman.

The court also stayed further proceedings till disposal of the rule.

Sultan Mahmud filed application for quashing the proceedings of Special Case No. 155 of 1994, now pending in the court of additional sessions and special judge.

The case, in brief, is that Ali Haider, officer, Bureau of Anti-Corruption, filed FIR on May 4, 1992, with Cantonment police station alleging that the accused as Chief of Bangladesh Air Force, along with former President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, former Air Chief Momtazuddin Ahmed, and Shahjad Ali, director United Traders Limited, in collusion with each other purchased radar at higher price than market price, thereby caused loss of Taka 640442919.10 to the State and they themselves got the money for their own benefit.

Advocate Gaziul Huq. Advocate Shamsuddin Babul and Advocate Obaidur Rahman Mostafa appeared for the petitioner.

Deputy Attorney General Kawseruddin Ahmed appeared for the State.

Sherpur farmers demonstrate for fertiliser

SHERPUR, Mar 3: Hundreds of aggrieved farmers swarmed into the town today and demonstrated at the Deputy Commissioner's residence demanding fertiliser to save their rice crops, reports UNB.

Later, the protesters in a procession went to the DC office to place their demand for supply of urea, an essential input for IRRI-Boro paddy farm-

They returned after the DC assured the agitated peasants that he would manage the fertiliser immediately.

Bodo army deputy C-in-C killed

GUWAHATI, Mar 3: Indian security forces have killed a tribal separatist leader in the northeastern state of Assam, the state government said today, reports Reuter.

It said D Zabrang, a selfstyled deputy commander-inchief of the Bodoland arnty separatist group, was shot dead by paramilitary troopers in a clash on February 26 near Bhur Tinaali in southern Assam.

Mixed reaction to PM's address By Staff Correspondent

The Prime Minister's proposals last night for a dialogue with the Opposition was considered by a section of people as extending an olive branch in resolving the lingering political crisis while many others thought it would have been even better if the PM had outlined her offer more specifi-

It is a positive development that the Prime Minister has eventually conceded to the Opposition demand for general elections under a neutral and non-party government. said Omar Haider Chowdhury. an economist of the BIDS.

According to him, had the PM accepted it earlier, the nation could have averted many political and socio-economic damages caused by the Opposition movement. A retired government offi-

cial said, "It is old wine in a new bottle. It is too little, too late." he added. Professor Abrar Chowdhury of Dhaka University in his in-

stant reaction said, debacle in the February 15 elections has forced the BNP to concede to the demands of the opposition political parties. He said, "It is better late

than never." It would have been even better for negotiations, if the criticism on opposition political parties were avoided in the PM's address he suggested. Dr Asif Iqbal, a physician

said the Prime Minister's offer of negotiation with the Opposition on their demands aims at legitimising the Jativa Sangsad elected through a controversial election. Rosy Rashid, a school

teacher, found some positive points in the PM's proposals She suggested that the Opposition should now accept the PM's offer and enter into a dia logue to bring about an end to the political crisis.

Jahanara Islam Khan, a housewife, said she expected the proposals of the PM to be more concrete and specific



Some of the BNP activists injured in bomb attacks on their procession in the city yesterday to hail the Prime Minister's address to the nation. -Star photo

Processions in city From Page 1 .

Moghbazar, Bangla Motor. Palashi and some other places It was also reported that two mini buses were set ablaze at Kazipara, under Mirpur thana, while a mob threw a bomb on a passenger bus of route number 6 near Gulistan

Cinema Half. The Fire Brigade. however, could not confirm it immediately. The opposition activists were burning tyres and exploding cocktails in these areas in their instant reaction to the PM's speech.

Activists of the pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a procession hailing the PM's speech and held a rally amidst tight police security in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Police diverted vehicles from Paltan and Topkhana crossing to let the JCD rally be held uninterrupted, complained a passer by. Pedestrians ran helter

skelter to escape teargas shelling and shopkeepers at market places in the areas concerned put their shutters down. One office-goer said, some private offices were closed at

least two hours before the

PM's address, apprehending

violence. Our DU correspondent reported that some 10 rounds of gunshots were heard from the TSC area of Dhaka University campus yesterday evening just after the Prime Minister's address. Witnesses said, activists of

pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL) fired the shots after a protest rally on the campus in an instant reaction to the PM's address. They also damaged some

vehicles. Our Narayangani corre spondent adds: Police fired

rubber bullets to contain violence in the town soon after the PM's address. About 100 cocktails were exploded in Chashara, Rail Gate. Ukil Para areas in the town following a bomb attack

on a torch procession at President Road, brought out by wrists. the city unit of Awami League. A land dispute is reportedly At least six buses were damaged by anti-government activists and traffic movement on Narayangani-Dhaka road was suspended for about an

hour till 8:30 pm yesterday. Earlier, AL held a rally protesting the PM's speech at Bangabandhu Road in the town

| Historic 7th Mar programme

Awami League has drawn up an elaborate programme to observe the historic 7th March on Thursday, reports UNB.

On this day in 1971 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered his historic speech at Ramna Racecourse maidan that inspired the nation to struggle for the country's liberation.

AL programmes will begin with hoisting the national and party flags at Bangabandhu Bhaban, and its central office and the party offices across the country at 6:00 am. The portrait of Bangabandhu at the Bangabandhu Bhaban will be garlanded at 7:00 am.

On the occasion, Awami League president Sheikh Hasina will address a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue at 3:00

Awami League and its front organisations will also organise different programmes to mark the day.

One killed in armed clash

By DMCH Correspondent A young man was killed and his two-year-old daughter critically injured during an armed clash between two groups of mastaans in West Kafrul area under Cantonnent

thana in the city last night. The victim identified as Md Hossain Mamun, 32, who received fatal bomb injuries died on the spot. The injured baby was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with serious bomb injuries, medical sources said.

The hour-long clash was due to previous enmity between two rival groups of Shewrapara and Mollahpara in West Kafrul.

Several rounds of gunshots were fired while dozens of cocktails blasted during the violence.

Hot spell likely this month

A couple of hot spell is likely to sweep across the. country in the last half of the current month, a Met Office forecast said in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The Met Office also predicted three to four light or moderate nor' westers over Rajshahi, Sylhet and Dhaka divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Comilla and Noakhali during the period.

The rest of the country may experience one to two light nor' westers. According to the forecast

Sylhet division is likely to experience the highest 60-70 mm rain against normal 81 mm during the current month. Chittagong division may

have 40-50 mm rain against normal 39 mm while Dhaka. Khulna and Barisal Divisions 30-40 mm each against 44, 36 mm and 39 mm each. Rajshahi is likely to have

the lowest 15-20 mm rain against 14 mm during the period.

Wrists of young man chopped off in city By DMCH Correspondent

The wrists of a young man were chopped off by a group of terrorists at Shahidbagh and a person was stabbed at Madhubagh in the city yester-

Shahid, 35, son of Abbas Uddin of East Jurain, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with his wrists chopped off, medical sources said

It was alleged that a relative of Shahid led the gang of about 12 persons, called him out of his house in Jurain at around 2 pm and took him to Shahidbagh. The gang assaulted Shahid and cut his

the cause of the incident. In another incident, an unidentified gang stabbed a motor workshop owner Shamsul Alam, 25, at Madhubagh at around 4:30 pm.

Alam, who received injuries in his abdomen and back was under treatment at the DMCH.

The Midnight Kile

Coalition govt formed in Turkey

ANKARA, Mar 3: Turkey's Conservative leaders Mesut Yilmaz and Tansu Ciller today signed a protocol for the formation of a coalition government between their parties. Ciller told a signing ceremony that Yilmaz, who heads the Motherland Party, would be Prime Minister until the end of this year in a rotating premiership, reports AFP.

Opposition's reaction

From Page 1

Keeping thousands of opposition political leaders and activists in jail, Hasina said, the PM's offer for dialogue was simply a 'farce'.'

The AL chief alleged that the PM in her speech has tried to put the blame on the Opposition for failure of her government.

The people have rejected the 'farcical polls' and credibility of the polls has also been questioned by the international community, Hasina said. She suggested that to prove

her sincerity about the necessity of polls under a caretaker government, the PM should take the following steps: cancellation of the

February 15 elections; • immediate resignation of the present government:

 announcement of a specific date for fresh polls under a neutral caretaker govern-

Jatiya Party

Jatiya Party said that the PM's address was a ploy to give constitutional legitimacy to the sixth Jatiya Sangsad.

The government has lost its legitimacy by unilaterally holding the February 15 parliamentary elections, said a statement, issued after meeting of the party's central secretariat.

"So there is no question of any dialogue with this illegal government," the statement

Jamaat-e-Islami said that there was no acceptable proposal in the PM's speech.

In a joint statement, Naebe-Amir of the Party Abbas Ali Khan and Secretary General Matiur Rahman Nizami said that the people had rejected the February 15 polls as well as this government for its at-

BNP proposals

From Page 1 Another influential BNP leader told this correspondent that if the Opposition, the AL in particular, declined to nego-

tiate on the non-partisan government issue, then his party would be compelled to go alone for initiating the necessary steps in the Sixth parliament for constitutionalising the provisions for general clections under a non-party administration.

"But such a move would be very unfortunate as the BNP wants to resolve the crisis on the basis of a consensus with all the major political parties and ensure a fully-contested polls," he said, asking not to be named.

Earlier, the two top leaders of the country - Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and the AL president Sheikh Hasina — exchanged letters in their abortive bids to resolve the political crisis.

World Cup

From Page 1

debacle has virtually sealed his fate as a "former captain" drawing criticism from even his strongest backers.

But Richardson's will not be the only head on the blocks today. Many of the 14-strong squad have been under fire. Indiscipline and personality

clashes have marred their

BTV and Star Sports will telecast today's match live commencing at 9:30 am (BST). preparations with many top

players missing out on various tours. Their sincerity, very rightly, is in question. And a defeat against the Aussies may put the guillotine

to work earlier than expected.

However, a victory against one of the most impressive sides in the championship seems mere unlikely than not. With the prolific Mark Waugh and skipper Mark Taylor leading from the front, the Caribbeans' reputed yet trou-

bled pace attack may have

their work cut out. Their batsmen - who are yet to cross the 200-mark too will be tested against the mystic magic of Shane Warne. Fresh in their minds will be the lingering memory of their disgraceful score against Kenya

- 93 all out. However, much will depend, as usual, on Brian Lara. The majestic left-hander has been in poor form this World Cup. In the past, whenever his bat blazed. his team won. To add a tinge of irony to the whole affair. Lara maybe the only person to delay his own imminent captaincy. For if Lara blazes, Richard-

son stays. (More on pages 10, 11)

3 Jubo Dal From Page 1

under Daulatpur thana, another person was shot dead at noon today. Police said the victim was kidnapped from the road by some unidentified men who shot him dead.

Police recovered an identity card of Jatiyatabadi Sangskritik Dal from his pocket. The identity card. however, does no bear his name

tempt to cling to power. The PM has spoken of the sixth Sangsad which no longer

exists, they said. The Jamaat statement pointed out that there was no other way to resolve the present crisis but by arranging

fresh elections by May 15. The three parties, in separate statements, gave the call for hartal in Dhaka. Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Gazipur and Narshingdi dis-

tricts on Wednesday. The planned hartal coincides with the BNP public rally on the same day at Manik Mia Avenue in the city.

BNP hails

From Page 1

was led by Minister of State for Shipping, M. Shahjahan Siraj, Mirza Abbas. Salauddin Ahmed and Amanullah Aman. Jubo Dal and Chhatra Dal

leaders including Fazlul Huq

Milan. Nazimuddin Alam. Zahiruddin Swapan and Emran Saleh Prince participated in he procession. They held a brief rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club

was addressed by Amanullah Aman and Mirza Mirza Abbas hailed the PM's speech and said it would help resolve the political crisis in

The city unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought out a big procession which paraded different city streets and converged in front of the Jativa Press Club. The Doctors' Association of

Bangladesh (DAB) and the

Association of Engineers' of

the country.

Bangladesh (AEB) also brought out separate processions welcoming PM's speech. BNP workers and supporters brought out scores of processions from different parts of the city including, Mirpur,

Mohammadpur, Kalabagan Dhanmondi, Green Road, and the old city areas. Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal. Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sanghetha and Jatiyatabadi Sechasevok Dai also

brought out separate pro-

Ctg violence From Page 1 sions in the city halling the

PM's speech. Earlier, BNP supporters led by the Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Abdullah Al Noman and special envoy to the Prime Minister Monjur Morshed Khan brought out a procession that paraded the city streets calling for resisting those who let loose a reign of

terror in the city in recent UNB adds, Opposition activists in Chittagong went on a rampage in the port city immediately after the Prime Minister's address to the na-

tion yesterday evening. Awami League. Jatiya Partv and Jamaat-e-Islami activists brought out a number of processions and damaged vehicles in New Market and Agrabad areas immediately after the PM's address to the nation in the evening. They also exploded crackers in different

parts of the city. Earlier, city BNP brought out a procession from its office premises at about 5 pm and paraded different city streets shouting slogans against vio-

lence. Fisheries and Live Stock Minister Abdulla Al Noman, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister M Morshed Khan led the procession. Later, they held a rally in front of the BNF office.

Jerusalem blast

From Page 1 US Ambassador to Israel. Martin Indvk, delivered messages of condolences to Prime Minister Shimon Peres from President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

AFP reports: Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority banned six armed radical groups in the self-rule territories after a Hamas suicide bombing in Jerusalem today that killed at least 19 people.

HC rule From Page 1

his office. Cyril Sikder, an Awami League leader, was arrested on February 26 and Quader Molla of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, was arrested on February 27 in Dhaka. Subsequently, all of them were served with 30 days' detention orders.

Barrister K S Nabi, Shafiq Ahmed, Advocate Subrata Chowdhury, Nurul Islam Sujan moved the petition for Mohiuddin Chowdhury Advocate Subrata Chowdhury. P C Guha and H S Dev

Brahman appeared for Advo-

cate Cyril Sikder Barrister Abdur Razzak and Advocate Nawab Ali appeared for Abdul Quader Molla.

Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandker Deputy Attorney Generals A F M Hasan Arif and Mujibur Rahman represented the gov-

ernment

at 3 ferry ghats MANIKGANJ, Mar 3: Traffic UNB that ferries, with heavy jam at Aricha. Nagarbari and loads of trucks, hit shoals in Daulatdia ferry terminals conthe channel, slowing down tinued with hundreds of vehiferry traffic. cles remaining stranded for In the wake of worsening navigation problem in Padmaferry problem, a few agitating Jamuna river channels, reports