the House.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali administering oath of office to newly elected members of the Sixth Jatiya Sangsad at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. - PID photo

parties have meanwhile

gramme to resist the holding

of repolling in 202 centres in

the three constituencies of

UNB adds: The ruling BNP

candidate for Gopalganj-3 con-

stituency has withdrawn him-

self from the reelection

Kazi Mahmud Hossain Montu

said that without any prior no-

tice to the candidate, the Elec-

tion Commission announced

fresh repolling date in a very

had postponed the election of

32 centres of Gopalganj-3

constituency on February 15.

Jhenidah reports: The main-

stream opposition parties have

called a "people's curfew" to-

morrow at Kotchandpur and

Maheshpur thanas of the dis-

trict, to resist the schedule re-

polling at 30 centres in

Mannan

From Page 1

schedule for the next general

polls, to be proposed by the

Opposition and confirm by the

Election Commission. But they

(Opposition) must come to the

negotiation table to have their

Sheikh Hasina's rejection of

the PM's proposal for non-

party government, the BNP

Joint Secretary General said,

"It was her instant reaction. I

hope she would change her

stance after considering the

question: Bhuiyan said his

party was willing to move a

Constitution amendment bill

for the proposed non-party.

government in the first session

move, the BNP wanted to fi-

nalise the structure and other

related things, accommodating

the views of the major Oppo-

unilaterally go for such a bill,

the minister said, "I'm unwill-

ing to comment on the issue

right now. Time will say every-

cusation that the present gov-

ernment was illegal, Mannan

Bhuiyan said, "We called the

Ershad government illegal for

long nine years. But we had to

give his regime legitimacy and

took power from him for the

sake of upholding the Cons-

As regards his party's.

changed stand on non-party

government issue, he ex-

plained that they opposed the

idea until recently since it was

not covered by constitutional

dealers, have won licences for

fertiliser in Sirajganj district,

sector trade union leaders ap-

prehended if the situation con-

tinues, for another two to

three weeks, the season's

paddy production shortfall

BSS adds: State Minister for

Industries Lutfor Rahman Khan

yesterday said there was no

reason for any flaw in the dis-

tribution of urea in the current

sowing season nor any scope

for price hike as all measures

were neatly drawn up to en-

sure supply of urea at the farm

about dislocation in the trans-

port of fertiliser by the dealers

after receiving it from the fac-

tory and buffer stock godowns.

due to disruption in the com-

munications system by the

fertiliser dealers not to indulge

in any manipulation which

might disturb the distribution

channel and said any failure on

the part of the dealers would

be taken into account includ-

ing cancellation of licence and

the forfeiting of security

The industry minister di-

rected the chemical industry

money.

Khan also cautioned the

Opposition-led programme.

He, however, apprehended

level at a reasonable price.

could stand at 50 per cent.

Farmers as well as the farm-

provisions.

Farmers barricade

Denying the Opposition ac-

Asked if his party would

But, he added, prior to the

"Responding to another

PM's proposal deeply.'

of the sixth Parliament.

sition parties.

Replying to a question on

suggestions implemented".

Jhenidah-3 constituency.

Our correspondent from

The Election Commission

in a statement yesterday,

scheduled for today.

short time.

Gopalganj district tomorrow.

out elaborate pro-

BNP candidate withdraws

One killed in clash with police in Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ. Mar 4: One person was killed in clashes between police and Opposition activists at Tilsara under Kasiani thana of the district

The Opposition activists also hurled bombs at the Gopalganj district election of-

According to reports, the polling officers were carrying the ballot papers and boxes from Kasiani thana headquarters to Ramdia with BDR and police escort.

The clash started when the opposition activists resisted them. Kalam, 22, a student of Ramdia Govt. College was shot dead on the spot by security forces.

The opposition political

Hartal to resist today's repolling in-Sherpur

From Our Correspondent SHERPUR, Mar 4: Three mainstream opposition parties have called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the town tomorrow to protest the re-polling in three constituencies of the district.

Re-polling will be held tomorrow in 246 centres, out of 307, in Sherpur-1 (Sadar). Sherpur-2 (Nafitabari-Nakhla) and Sherpur-3 (Jhenaigali-Sribordi) constituencies from 8 am to 4 pm.

Police, BDR and Ansar personnel have been deployed at the centres to ensure security during the voting.

when Bangladesh now sends their names, it poses considerable problems.

The UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) which oversees and finances, the repatriation and also the rehabilitation of the refugees has to go by the UN mandate which forbids forced repatriation and also separating any member from a family.

The UNHCR has a total of 104 projects in Myanmar to rehabilitate the repatriated Rohingya refugees.

When this correspondent tried to contact the UNHCR office at Cox's Bazar, an official said that authorisation had to be obtained from its headquarters for any kind of informa-

In addition to UNHCR. World Food Programme (WFP) also provides food to the remaining stranded refugees.

Moreover, five international NGOs — OXFAM, CONCERN, Medecin Sans Frontier (MSF) of France, MSF Holland and IIRO — are at present involved in the welfare activities in the five remaining refugees camps.

From Page 1

government has appointed

some 2,000 dealers for the 16

districts in the country's

northern part for adequate

fertiliser supply to prevent

price spiral, which triggered.

violent peasant protest across

finding, most of the appoint-

ments, about 70 per cent,

were given under political in-

by showing false documents

and papers while some of

them were patronised by up-perhand lobbies", alleged a

veteran peasant leader, Abdul

countrywide demonstration

under the auspices of left

Democratic Front (LDF) against

Sirajganj Deputy Commi-

ssioner's office and staged

demonstration demanding

fertiliser as well as other

agricultural inputs at fair

lition of dealership system and

stern actions against black-

marketers who are selling fer-

least 50 per cent of such deal-

ers have no godowns to store

fertiliser. And as such they al-

legedly blackmarket total quo-

tas of fertiliser after taking de-

unds most of them not demiline

Some 136 'chosen' individ-

livery from mill gates.

tilisers in the blackmarkets.

The leaders demanded abo-

A Sirajganj report says at

The LDF Sunday gheraoed

the "fertiliser scandal.

He said they had planned

But, according to the survey

"The dealers got their job

the country last year.

fluence.

Matin.

prices.

200 new MPs

From Page 1 party MPs and Freedom Party leader Col (rtd) Abdur Rashid Khandaker took oath. Security was beefed up in

and around the Sangsad Bhaban on the occasion. Major opposition parties. including Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami boycotted the February 15

election as it was not held un-

der a caretaker government

they have been demanding.

A number of student leaders who were elected MPs were among those who took oath. They are Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal president Fazlul Hug Milon, general secretary Nazimuddin Alam, organising secretary Abul Khair Bhuiyan and former JCD general secretary

The remaining MPs-elect will be sworn in on March 7.

BNP, AL clash in Kishoreganj: 8 injured

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 4: At Least eight people were injured in a clash between the supporters of ruling BNP and opposition Awami League at Pakundia in the district today. reports UNB.

Earlier, Pakundia thana BNP brought out a procession in support of their candidate A B M Zahidul Haq in the Wednesday's re-polling in Kishoreganj-1 (Pakundia-Hossainpur) constituency.

During the procession. some BNP activists allegedly attacked and ransacked the thana Awami League office at Pakundia that sparked off violent protest by the opposition activists.

The Awami League activists brought out a procession protesting the attack and were locked in a two-hour clash with the BNP workers from about 1 pm.

Five of the injured were identified as the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) while three others of Awami League backed Chhatra League.

Two JCD activists - Kamal Uddin and Nazrul Islam - were admitted to Pakundia thana health complex.

Ctg violence

From Page 1

press for the release of city mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury, a prominent Awami League leader.

Several hundred party activists, supporters and representatives of different sociocultural organisations and ward commissioners took part in the day-long fast.

Among the hunger-strikers were AL presidium member Prof Pulin Dey, planning and finance secretary Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, city unit president M A Mannan and Chittagong Nagorik Committee leader Dr Abu Yusuf Alam.

Leaders of different political parties, including Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury and Jahangir Alam of Jatiya Party, Maulana Mohammad Abu Taher, Alhaj Afsaruddin Chowdhury and former MP Shahjahan Chowdhury of Jamaat-e-Islami, and journalists Aktarunnabi and Syed Murtaza Ali visited the strikers and addressed them.

Later, eminent educationist Principal A A Rezaul Karim Khan offered fruit juice to the hunger strikers marking the end of the programme.

BNP rally

From Page 1 its rally on Saturday while the three Opposition parties — the Awami League, Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami — gave the hartal call after the Prime Minister's address to the nation on Sunday.

BNP chief and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is scheduled to address the rally. planned to project the party's latest stance to resolve the long-standing political impasse and to mobilise public opinion against the Opposition's

'destructive' programmes. Mannan Bhulyan regretted the Opposition's hartal call coinciding with his party's rally. "Holding rallies and processions is everybody's democratic right and none should obstruct others in practising the right," he said.

He also urged the Opposition parties to maintain peace on March. 7, when the Awami League has also planned a public rally The BNP leader also re-

quested the Opposition leaders to suspend their agitation programmes like hartal, blockade and non-cooperation considering the sufferings of the people caused by such programmes.

The Baily Star Russia tries to revive arms links with India

NEW DELHI, Mar 4: Russian arms manufacturers came to India today hoping to tap one of the biggest markets for military aircraft and to revive ties that dried up after the collapse of the Soviet Union, reports

Britain, France and Russia are vying to sell India some of the 400 combat aircraft its air force needs to replace an ageing fleet of Soviet-made planes. "Russia is keen to expand

cooperation with India in all spheres of military production. That's why we have brought an impressive range of arms models," said Oleg Sidorenko, leading a 70-member Russian of arms dealers. The Russian display of scale

models of air defence systems, antitank guided missiles, submarines, torpedoes and ammunition is part of a four-day exhibition of military hardware from several Western nations.

Last year. Russia sold the Indian air force 220 million dollars worth of Mig-29 jet fighters to modernise its fleet. which has not been modernised for a decade due to a cash crunch.

"In the last 30 years, India has turned from being an ordinary partner to a very strategic one," said Sidorenko, the deputy director general of the Rosvooroushenie State Corp. speaking at a news conference.

For decades, India depended on the Soviet Union for its military hardware. But the Soviet collapse led to strains in those ties, as Moscow insisted on hard-currency payments. India said it would preferred to settle the bills with exports of tea, handicrafts and light engineering

The political upheaval in Russia also disrupted the supply of spares for Mig jet fighters, the workhorse of the Indian air fleet. Moscow agreed last year to coordinate with factories in the former Soviet republics to resume the flow of spares.

In late 1994, both nations signed a 7 billion dollars plan on military and technical cooperation. To persuade India to continue its partiality to Russia. Moscow sweetened the deal with a 400 million dollars credit for defence purchases.



Richie Richardson scored 93 not out to lead the beleaguered Caribbeans to a much-needed victory against Australia in Jaipur, India, yesterday. (Story on page 10). Today, South Africa will take on minnows Holland at Karachi. BTV will telecast live. - AFP/UNB photo

Sanghati worker

stabbed to death

From Our Correspondent

of Jubo Sanghati succumbed to

his injuries today. Jahangir

Hossain Bachchu (22) was

severely stabbed in the ab-

domen on Saturday evening by

unidentified assailants at

Khalishpur Housing Estate

The body has been taken to

the hospital morgue for au-

JCD for the murder. But JCD

has denied the charge.

The Jatiya Party has blamed

KHULNA, Mar 4: An activist

6 Shibir activists | Khulna Jubo injured while making bombs

MYMENSINGH, Mar 4: Six activists of the Jamaat-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir were seriously injured in a bomb explosion at its office here today. Police said the explosion rocked the office in "Fatema Manjil" at Akua Chourangi crossing in the town at about 10:30 am when the Shibir activists were making bombs. Meanwhile, Chhatra Shibir brought out a procession in the town blaming the ruling party's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal for the explosion. reports UNB.

15000 devotees of Biswa Ijtema

MANIKGANJ, Mar 4: Traffic congestion at Aricha and Nagarbari ferry ghats remained unchanged while the situation at Daulatdia ghat slightly improve today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said some 15,000 home-bound devotees of Biswa litema were stranded at the ghats due to the congestion.

BIWTC sources said 1.657 vehicles, including trucks and coaches, were waiting in queues at the ghats to cross the Padma and Jamuna rivers.

the ghats in last 24 hours till this noon.

stranded at ghats

They said a total of 2,772 vehicles were ferried through

A 7 7 Akheri Munajat held

From Page 1 Bangladesh and other Muslim countries delivered discourses in the three-day ljtema.

the leg before fleeing.

The Biswa litema is being organised each year in Tongi since 1966.

But this year was the first time that it was held on land donated by the government to the Tablig Jamaat of Bangladesh which hosts the huge spiritual assembly.

An estimated 10 square kilometer area along the banks of river Turag virtually turned into human sea from early hours of the day.

Lakhs of people from all walks of life gathered along the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway from the Cherag Ali market in Tongi to the Zia International Airport and the rooftops of nearby houses and other build-

Forty-two marriages were also solemnised during the 3day litema. At least 5 persons died in

the various field hospitals at

the ljtema venue during the congregation. Of the dead, three were buried at the litema graveyard and the bodies of two were handed over to their relatives, organisers said. Some 25 people were admitted to the 50-bed Tongi

According to the organizers, the attendance at the Biswa Ijtema was slightly lower this year due to recent politi cal turmoil in the country. Large number of people from greater Chittagong and Commilla could not attend the because of recent hartal programme there. Traffic congestion per-

sisted throughout the day in all roads in Tongi and adjacent A section of bus and minibus conductors charged

exorbitant fares to carry the

devotees. Auto-rickshaw and tempo drivers also charged three to four times more fare than normal

The Midnight-Bile

50 feared killed in bus accident

SHIMLA. Mar 4: At least 50 persons were feared killed when a private bus rolled several hundred feet down into a khud near village Ghand, about 75 kms from here this evening, according to a zilla parishad member, reports PIJ.

Low turnout, violence

From Page 1 the BNP candidate. Advocate Abdul Sattar Bhuiyan, received 31.468 votes while his nearest rival. Independent candidate. Akhter Hossain, got 7734

In B'baria-6, Shahjahan Howlader Shujon of BNP received 24342 votes, while his nearest rival, Shamim Ahmed (Independent) got 525 votes. UNB adds from Comilla:

Candidates of ruling BNP won the election in three constituencies of the district yes-

According to unofficial results, Lt Col (retd) Akbar Hossain was elected from Comilla-8 (Sadar), Dr Mohammad Kamruzzaman from Comilla-11 (Nangolkot) and ATM Alamgir from Comilla-10 (Laksam)

Officials said Akbar bagged 46,322 votes while his nearest rival Abdul Malek Chowdhury of Khelafat Andolon polled 984

Dr Kamruzzaman polled 26,206 while his nearest rival

CPI(M) demands Rao's resignation NEW DELHI. Mar 4: The

Communist Party of India (Marxist) has demanded immediate resignation of Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao for allegedly bribing some parliament members to defeat a no-confidence motion against him in July, 1993 and the implications of several of his former cabinet colleagues in the multi-crore rupees hawala (illegal money transaction) case, reports BSS. Hasina

From Page 1

neutral caretaker government. and "I thank her for that". The Awami League chief urged the Prime Minister not to try to give legitimacy to the "farcical election rejected by the people."

Meanwhile, Awams League general secretary Zislur Rahman has strongly condemned the "attack" on the jeep of party chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday by what he said an armed man who claimed himself as the "President's security".

In a statement, Zillur Rahman alleged that the jeep of Sheikh Hasina came under attack near Rabindra Sarani at Uttara on the Dhaka-Tongi highway when she was returning to the city after attending the Akheri Munajat of Biswa An armed man wearing a sa-

fari suit came towards the jeep of Hasina when it slowed down in the area due to heavy rush of the devotees, the statement It said he broke open the

ieep's door-lock and tried to pull out the driver from the vehicle after hitting him repeatedly. At one stage, the statement

said, the armed man introduced himself as the "President's security" when the devotees had tried to resist him and left the scene. The AL general secretary

called for ensuring the safety and security of party chief Sheikh Hasina, and demanded immediate inquiry into the incident and punishment of the offender.

Independent candidate Saifulla Sirai got 1909 votes.

Witnesses said anti-election elements snatched away ballot papers from Nasratpur, Gazimura. Batakhali and Pashchimgaon centers of Comilla-10 constituency during the election.

Police said 10 people were injured in a clash at Nurpur Primary School centre in Comilla-11 constituency. They said opposition activists assaulted the presiding officer of Shingchar Primary School

Meanwhile, the Dhaka-Noakhali Samatat Express frain was stranded for about two hours from 10 am at Daulatganj railway station as the anti-election demonstrators put up barricade on the railway track.

One shot dead in clash over jal mahal

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 4: One person was shot dead and two others sustained bullet injuries when some armed people attacked them in a jal mahal of Tahirpur thana of Sunamganj district today. The lessee of Shanir haor,

along with a group of armed

people, went to the haor at noon today and allegedly swooped on the fishermen. The armed men opened gunshots killing Khairul Islam, 30, of village Bhati Tahirpur on the spot. Two others - Masik and Mezarul — were injured They were admitted to the

Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital. Meanwhile, the Krishak

Samity brought out a procession and held a rally at Tahirpur to protest the killing.

. Dialogue From Page 1

leadership as the Leader of the House. The three parties pointed out that the bill for a caretaker government was submitted in Parliament in 1991, but, they said, Begum Zia did not give any opportunity to move it.

They further said all opposition parties had submitted bills for caretaker government again in 1994 but the Leader of the House again brushed those

The Prime Minister had totally disregarded the Opposition boycott of Parliament sessions as a bid to create pressure in favour of those bills, they said.

During the opposition boycott, the PM was repeatedly requested to take initiative for discussions on the issue. But she continued to decline even when the Opposition MPs resigned, the press release said. On December 29, 1994, the Prime Minister had declared that she would resign 30 days before the next elections but it later proved to be totally false. the Opposition leaders alleged.

The meeting recalled that after eight months, the Opposition had gone for programmes for realising their demands and stressed that if the President took initiative. he would get their support.

Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board

Notice regarding conversion of '31' group analog telephone numbers of two digital at Sher-e-Banglanagar Exchange It is notified for information of the valued telephone subscribers that it

has been decided to convert the analog telephone numbers of '31' Group into digital numbers of Sher-e-Banglanagar Exchange in phases. In the first phase with effect from 7th March '96 at 3 pm, first one

thousand numbers of '31' Group i.e. from '310000' to 310999 numbers will be converted into Digital numbers on trial run basis. The converted numbers will be of 7 Digits instead of present 6 Digits. As a result first two digits i.e. '31' Group will be replaced by '911' and subsequent four digits will remain unchanged.

For example present '31-0157' telephone number will be converted by '911-0157'

Conversion to digital and supply of digital telephone sets will be free of cost.

In the light of the recent experience gained after conversion of analog telephone to digital in Motijheel commercial area and leading to interexchange call congestion, BTTB as a pre-cautionary measure, will convert initially one thousand numbers only. Further conversion will be made in phases, after evaluation of the performance of the first phase of conversion.

In this connection the valued subscribers are requested for co-opperation. The subscribers are requested to contact at Phone -No. 817777 during office hours for any information and in case of any problem.



DFP-5032-4/3

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motuheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd. 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205, PABX 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable DAILYSTAR DHAKA

corporation, the owning company of six public sector fertiliser factories, to keep up their present production pace for the sake of good farm pro-

BNP parliamentary party at its first meeting yesterday elected BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Leader of the House unanimously, reports BSS.

Veteran parliamentarian and Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz proposed Begum Zia's name amid cheers and ap plause of the lawmakers who had just taken the oath at committee room one in the

Jatiya Sangsad. Former Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury was also elected the Deputy Leader of

BNP Chairperson Begum Zia and Deputy Leader Prof Chowdhury made brief speeches at the parliamentary party meeting. Emerging from the parliamentary party meeting, the newly elected Leader of the House smilingly told the awaiting newsmen that February 15 elections were held to maintain the continuity of

the Constitution. Responding to a question, she said with the oath taking a phase was completed yester-

Nilima Ibrahim gets bail

Nilima Ibrahim, against whom warrant of arrest was issued in a criminal case, was granted bail vesterday when she surrendered before the court, reports UNB:

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Shahiduddin Ahmed granted the bail prayer of the 75-year-old educationist considering her age and oldage complications upon a T 25.000 security bond.

Dhanmondi police filed the case against her for 'seditious' article published in the Ajker Kagoj on February 26.

ADAB urges govt **Hold polls under** caretaker govt within 120 days'

By Staff Correspondent The Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) has urged the government to cancel the February 15 polls and hold general elections within 120 days under a neutral caretaker government ensuring the participation of all political par-

The ADAB put forward its demand at an urgent extended meeting in the city yesterday with the president of the executive council of ADAB Dr Kazi Farugue Ahmed in the chair.

The meeting resolved that

the political detainees should

be released to create a conge-

nial atmosphere and the law and order enforcing authorities should stop 'repression' immediately. It said, the Opposition should reconsider their programme soon after the gov-

ernment stops repressive steps'. Meanwhile, three members of Trinomul Janasangathan Jatiya Samannai Parishad', a platform of grass-root level or ganizations, in a joint statement yesterday also demanded immediate annulment of February 15 elections and fresh polls under a caretaker go-

vernment within 90 to 120 The signatories to the joint statement are, Md Abul Hussain, Rafigul Islam and Sheikh

Abdus Sattar. Minor girl dies in truck mishap

From DMCH Correspondent A minor girl was killed in an accident and a man stabbed by muggers in the city yester-

Yasmin, 9, daughter of one Lal Miah of Rayerbagh, Demra sustained fatal injuries when she was hit by a truck from behind while boarding a tempo at the Rayerbagh tempo stand at 8 am. She was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared

her dead. Ruhul Amin, 45, of 40/1 East Jurain, Demra, was attacked by 3-4 muggers who snatched Taka 1000 from him at the Jatrabari Bus Stand at 6 am. The muggers stabbed him in the back and shot him in