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## Opposition on Presidential move

# Cancel Feb 15 polls for a positive outcome

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition parties have expressed doubts about a positive outcome of the presidential move for a solution to the political crisis, as the February 15 election is yet to be declared null and void and the cabinet headed by Begum Khaleda Zia still to resign.

Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami expressed this view in separate letters to President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday.

They sent the letters, almost identical, in response to the President's call for putting forward their respective suggestions on the framework of the proposed caretaker government for holding general elections.

The letters said that with the February 15 polls yet to be declared null and void, and the cabinet headed by Begum Khaleda Zia yet to resign, there was little scope for any effective step towards formation of a non-party caretaker government.

The letters also said immediate cancellation of the 'farical' February polls was the only way to solve the problem.

Referring to her party's March 10 meeting with the President, AL chief Sheikh Hasina said in her letter: "We requested you to immediately stop the ongoing illegal process of elections, and you assured us of doing so. But it is a matter of concern for us that the process of the polls rejected by the people is still on."

In her letter, the AL leader also alleged that the presidential promise of freeing the opposition activists from prisons was yet to be materialised.

Expressing her party's willingness to cooperate with the President in ending the persisting political crisis, the AL chief hoped that the President would pave the way for resolving the problem by ensuring immediate cancellation of the elections and resignation of the Prime Minister.

On the question of the framework of the proposed caretaker government, the letters of the AL, JP and Jamaat said the opposition modalities for the caretaker administration.

See Page 12 col 6

## Head of non-party govt

# BNP may propose name of ex-CJ Habibur Rahman

By Nazmul Ashraf

The ruling BNP is likely to propose the name of former chief justice Habibur Rahman as head of the proposed non-party caretaker government for holding the next general election, competent party sources said last night.

The party may communicate its proposal to the President today, party sources said. The BNP proposal is in response to the President's letters issued Tuesday to BNP and other political parties, represented in the fifth parliament, seeking their immediate suggestions on the structure of the proposed non-party government.

Two top BNP leaders — Information Minister M Shamsul Islam and Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman — met Justice Habibur Rahman yesterday to communicate their proposal, sources close to the ministers said.

See Page 12 col 1

## Windies-Aussies second semi today

# SL shatter Indian dream

CALCUTTA, Mar 13: India's World Cup dream ended in disgrace today after furious home fans rioted during the semi-final and forced match officials to award the game to Sri Lanka, report AFP.

The 110,000 Eden Gardens crowd began flinging projectiles on to the pitch and lighting fires in the stand as India, chasing 251 for eight, slumped to 120 for eight.

That collapse, which saw seven wickets tumble for 22 runs, was too much for the home supporters.

Sri Lanka's players huddled in the middle of the pitch for protection as riot police were rushed in to try and restore order. The players were then led off by match referee Clive Lloyd.

Lloyd said: "It is in my remit to award the match to Sri Lanka. I am very disappointed."

An attempt to restart the Match 15 minutes later was aborted as fans again began to fling projectiles at a Sri Lankan fielder. Indian batsman Vinod Kambli was led off the pitch in tears as it was announced the match had been abandoned.

Banners began to appear in the crowd, saying: "We are sorry, congratulations Sri Lanka."

But the irreparable damage to India's sporting reputation had been done.

Sri Lanka will now play the winners of tomorrow's game between Australia and the West Indies.

The evening took on a surreal feel as an award ceremony went ahead on the pitch as police continued to patrol the stands and put out fires.

Television commentator See Page 12 Col 4



Police patrolling the area after a clash between activists of the ruling BNP and the Opposition in Mirpur Section-1 in the city yesterday.

## Another dies at Sadarghat

# Pedestrian killed as AL, BNP clash at Mirpur

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were killed and at least 50 others were injured in clashes and bomb explosions in the city on the fifth day yesterday of the Opposition launched indefinite country-wide non-cooperation programme.

An unidentified passerby, aged about 25, died on the spot when bullet-hit in a crossfire near the Ansar Camp at Mirpur. The exchange of fire took place between supporters of the ruling BNP and the opposition at around 1:45 pm.

Mirpur police confirmed the death but could not arrest anyone in this connection till last night.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy, reports our DMCH Correspondent.

Of the injured, 25 were admitted to the DMCH with bullet and bomb injuries.

Police picked up six persons from Mirpur, Cantonment and Tejgaon areas.

Six persons were injured, one of them fatally, when two bombs were hurled on them at Sadarghat Launch Terminal at around 7:30 pm, police said.

The injured were rushed to the Mitford Hospital, where one of them died later at 9 pm. The dead was identified as Maniruzzaman, 28, son of Abdul Majeed Sheikh of Gopalganj.

According to the injured, the bombs were thrown on them from a boat on the Buriganga river, said Kotwali police. No arrest was made in this connection till late last night.

A mad rush of clients for withdrawing money was seen at commercial banks and a See Page 12 col 1

## Banks to open after 11 am today: AL

All banks will open after 11 am today as the opposition made some relaxations in their non-cooperation movement for public convenience, reports UNI.

Shops will also remain open from 4 pm to 10 pm everyday from today until further announcements, an Awami League announcement said yesterday.

Export-oriented industries in the private sector, especially garments factories, will operate from 4 pm to 5 am until further instruction.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Hasina yesterday said a 'conspiracy' was on for the sitting of the 'so-called parliament' to legitimise the 'vote thieves'.

People in no way would accept this. Those who stole votes committed a heinous blunder to the nation, she said in a statement at the end of fifth day of the indefinite non-cooperation against the government.

Hasina said the BNP government had arranged the 'farical' polls on Feb 15 ignoring See Page 12 col 8

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
**জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড**  
**ঢাকা**

**মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট)**  
**সম্পর্কে বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, ভ্যাটের আওতায় নিবন্ধিত কিছু কিছু মিশ্রণ সোকা, হোটেল-রেস্তোরা ডেকরেটর্স ও ক্যাটারার্স, যন্ত্রিক লব্ধী, কমিউনিটি সেন্টার, হর্নের সোকা, বিজিট পালার, ইত্যাদি তাদের সেবামূল্য গ্রহণকালে ক্যাশ মেমো (চালানপত্র) ক্রেতাকে প্রদান করছে না। এর ফলে ক্রেতা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত ভ্যাট সরকারী কোষাগারে জমা পদান নিশ্চিত হচ্ছে না।

বিক্রিত জিনিসের দাম সেবামূল্য ও ভ্যাটের পরিমাণ আলাদাভাবে বা মূল্যের মধ্যে অন্তর্ভুক্ত করে তা উল্লেখপূর্বক প্রতি ক্রেতাকে ভ্যাটের নিবন্ধন সংখ্যাসহ নির্দিষ্ট ছকে ক্যাশ মেমো (চালানপত্র) প্রদান করা আইনানুগভাবে বাধ্যতামূলক। কোন সেবার ক্ষেত্রেই চালানপত্র প্রদান ব্যবস্থা শিথিল বা বাতিল করা হয়নি। কোন করদাতার ক্ষেত্রে ক্যাপাসিটি ভিত্তিক ভ্যাটও অগ্রোপ করা হয়নি। অন্তর্ভুক্ত পণ্য কিনে কিংবা সেবা গ্রহণ করে অবশ্যই আপনার ক্যাশ মেমো চেয়ে নিন।

সংশ্লিষ্ট সেবা প্রদানকারী/বিক্রেতা তার সোকা/সেবা প্রদান ক্ষেত্রের নগদ কাউন্টারের সামনে সুস্পষ্টভাবে দৃষ্টিগোচর হয় এমন স্থানে সংশ্লিষ্ট কমিশনার অব কাস্টমস, এক্সাইজ ও মুসক কর্তৃক সরবরাহকৃত ক্রেতাদের ক্যাশ মেমো গ্রহণ/প্রদান সংক্রান্ত 'স্টিকার' সার্বক্ষণিকভাবে সেটে রাখবেন।

যদি কোন বিক্রেতা বা সেবা প্রদানকারী অনুরূপভাবে 'স্টিকার' সেটে না রাখেন কিংবা ক্যাশ মেমো দিতে অস্বীকার করেন তবে নিম্নবর্ণিত টেলিফোনে খবর দিনঃ

ঢাকা :	জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড	৮৩৮১২০-৬/২২৭
	দ্বিতীয় সচিব (মুসক)	৪০৬৪১৬
	প্রথম সচিব (মুসক)	৪১২৫০২
	প্রথম সচিব (মুসক)	৬০৮১১৮ (অবাসিক)
	কমিশনার, চট্টগ্রাম	৫০১৪৬
	কমিশনার, বুলদা	৬১৭৯১
	কমিশনার, যশোর	৩১০৬
	কমিশনার, রাজশাহী	৫৪০৮
	ডেপুটি কমিশনার, সিলেট	৭৬০৪২৩
	ডেপুটি কমিশনার, বরিশাল	৫১৩১
	সহকারী কমিশনার, রংপুর	২৬০৪

আপনার প্রদত্ত ভ্যাট দেশের অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ভূমিকা রাখছে।

একজন সচেতন নাগরিক হিসাবে এ বিষয়ে আপনার আন্তরিক সহযোগিতা একান্ত কাম্য।

ডিএকপি-৫৫৭৭-১১/১০  
জি-৩৬৮

**জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড**

## Slide in index from Jan

# DSE trading couldn't be held for 38 days

By Rafiq Hasan

Trading at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) could not be held for 38 days this year due to hartals and other political programmes and government holidays, resulting in a slide in the All Share Price Index and market capitalisation of the share market.

The DSE All Share Price Index recorded a 39.02 point decline while the market capitalisation fell by Tk 231.78 crore since the beginning of the year.

The DSE index stood at 796.81 points at the close of trading on Thursday last while it was 835.83 points at the end of 1995.

The market capitalisation of the DSE stood at Tk 5192.10 crore on Thursday while it was Tk 5363.68 crore during the closing week of last year.

"We have been able to operate the share market only 11 days in the month of February and 17 days in January this year, while the bourse has experienced six days of trading this month," said Imtiaz Hussain, Chairman of the DSE.

Trading at the DSE remained suspended since Saturday due to the indefinite non-cooperation programme called by the opposition political parties.

"Several bombs and cocktails were exploded in front of the DSE building during each and every political agitation programmes so that we can not open the (trading) floor," Hussain noted.

"Some foreign investors called us asking when the market would be opened but we can not provide them the See Page 12 Col 3

## GPO closed 'by order of authorities'

Star Report

The activities at the General Post Office (GPO) remained totally suspended on the fifth day of the opposition called non-cooperation movement yesterday.

According to witnesses, a small red plaque fixed outside the GPO gate yesterday read, "Office is closed, by order of authorities."

When contacted, the Director General of Bangladesh Postal Department said that no such order for closure of the GPO was issued yesterday. He termed the unscheduled closure as an act of sabotage. He also claimed that the GPO was functioning normally amidst all inconvenience.

A large queue of people were found anxiously waiting outside the GPO gate last afternoon.

Akramuzzaman, a student of Dhaka University, told this correspondent that he came to the GPO in the morning to avail the Express Mail Service (EMS) to send some necessary document to Sweden.

The guard at the gate of the GPO asked him to come after 4 pm, apprehending new instructions for emergency See Page 12 col 7

## Repolling to cost EC over Tk one crore

By Morshed Ali Khan

The ongoing repolling at different centres in the country is costing the Election Commission (EC) more than Tk one crore, excluding the expenses involve in engaging security personnel, EC sources said.

Repolling is being held at 3,777 centres in 84 constituencies across the country as election could not be held there on February 15 because of widespread violence, rigging and resistance from the major opposition parties.

The EC, however, withheld repolling on Tuesday in the remaining 10 constituencies in Rangpur, Sirajganj, Shariatpur, Gopalganj and Comilla as the returning officers concerned expressed their inability to conduct repolling due to present unfavourable situation, the sources pointed out.

At many of the 3,777 centres, repolling is being held again as the second attempt by the EC to conduct polls went in vain, official sources said. They, however, could not confirm the number of such centres.

The cost of repolling is going up due to this re-repolling although the EC had saved some money initially as candidates were elected uncon-

See Page 12 col 8

## Muggers snatch pistol from army officer

By Staff Correspondent

An army officer was attacked and robbed of his pistol by muggers in the city Tuesday night, according to police.

Captain Chowdhury Sabbir Ahmed, residing at Boro Moghbazar, was waylaid outside the Golden Dragon Bar in Eskaton at around 10:30 pm Tuesday by two men who beat him up and snatched his pistol.

He was admitted to a city clinic with serious injuries. However, he left the clinic after treatment.

A case has been filed with the Ramna Thana. Nona was arrested till the writing of this report last night.

## Legal expert tells The Daily Star

# Ord unconstitutional

By R M Titumir

Any ordinance providing for a non-party caretaker government would be unconstitutional while the doctrine of necessity could justify such an arrangement, said a top lawyer of the Supreme Court.

"An ordinance providing for a caretaker government will be unconstitutional being an alteration of the Constitution. Similar will be the case with any other formula. It can be found legal in the present situation only by application of the doctrine of necessity," said Mahmudul Islam, who is practising law since 1961 and is the author of a book on constitutional law and several legal articles.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday the author of the book "Constitutional Law of Bangladesh" said, "The present impasse cannot be overcome unless parties reach a consensus. Once a consensus is reached it may not be difficult to put it into effect."

On a way out which is constitutionally tenable the legal expert said, "The modality cannot be suggested on a hypothetical basis and will vary according to the nature and character of the consensus."

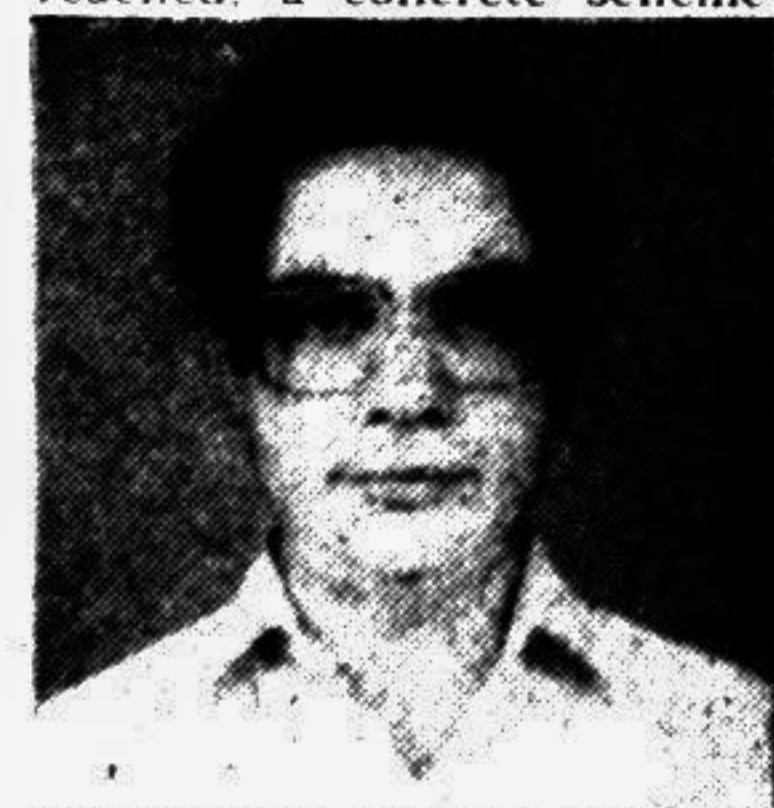
Once a consensus is reached, a concrete scheme may be prepared, he pointed out. "The best course then would be to refer the scheme to the Appellate Division for its advisory opinion," said Advocate Islam.

Asked if any solution can be reached by bypassing the sixth Parliament, he said, "As has been reported by a section of the media, the election held on February 15 is not one contemplated under the Constitution." It reminds one of the situation prevailing in Pakistan in 1977 when the People's Party had won the general election, the opposition alleged massive rigging, a mass movement took place, demanding annulment of the election. The Pakistan episode ended in the destruction of democracy.

Advocate Mahmudul Islam said the Election Commission is entrusted with the duty of holding free and fair election and it has power to scrap an election, which has been found to be so fundamentally flawed.

"It all depends on the good sense of the disputing parties. If they can reach a consensus, a solution is not difficult to find," he added.

Asked whether one can say See Page 12 Col 3



Mahmudul Islam

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