

BUY AN APARTMENT
PROPERTY LAKE FRONT ROAD NO-10 (NEW) 1900 sq ft 3 BED
PROPERTY HEIGHTS 12 R K MISSION ROAD DHAKA
PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT LTD 12 R K MISSION ROAD DHAKA
 VOL. VI NO. 61 REGD. NO. DA 781

The Daily Star

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
 WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
 ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,
 BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESHWARI GREEN,
 MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
 OF DIFFERENT TYPES.
NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
 199, TEJGAON 1/A, DHAKA.
 TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

CHAITRA 4 1402 BS, DHAKA SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 1996 SHAWAL 26, 1416 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

Inside Today

Article

Attacking Corruption: Can Bangladesh Emulate its Asian Neighbours?
 Column: On the Record by Shah AMS Kibria Page 4

Focus

Remembering Bangabandhu
 March 1971 and the emergence of Bangladesh; and Sheikh Mujib—the legendary hero Page 5

International

20 thousand Taiwanese march in Taipei demanding independence
 TB kills 3 million people a year Pages 8 & 9

Business

Trade dispute with Canada poses problems for US exporters
 Thai Opposition for probe into central bank scandals Pages 6, 7

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day
 Spate of Insanity Page 3

President summons JS session Tuesday

By Staff Correspondent

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday summoned the sixth Jatiya Sangsad to session on Tuesday at 4 pm.

Hours after the announcement, the Opposition announced a programme to 'gherao' the Jatiya Sangsad building the same afternoon to resist 'legalisation of the bogus sixth parliament'.

The President had taken an initiative on March 9 for a solution to the long-drawn political crisis through dialogue between the ruling BNP and mainstream Opposition. Summing of the sixth parliament may raise stakes in the ruling party-Opposition stand-off, according to political observers.

The Opposition has been demanding scrapping of the February 15 polls, immediate resignation of the cabinet headed by Begum Khaleda Zia, formation of a non-party caretaker government and fresh polls within May this year.

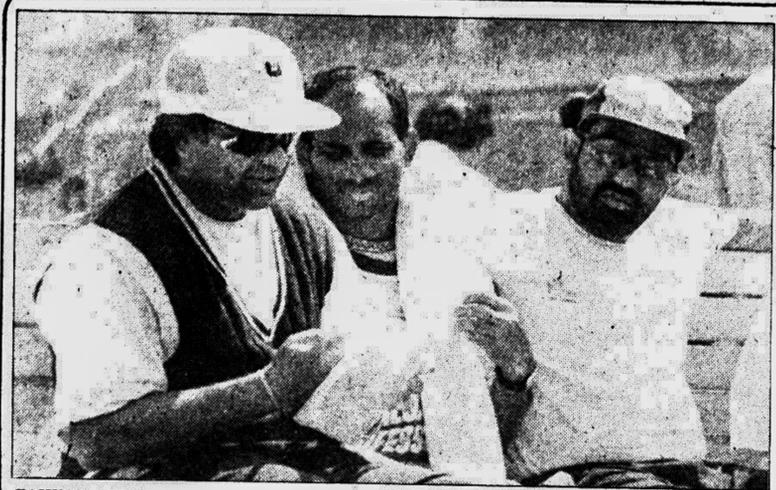
The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) recently announced that it was ready to accept fresh polls under a non-party caretaker government in May, but refused to meet the demand for scrapping the February 15 polls.

As an arbiter in the persisting political dispute between the contending camps, the President had separate discussions with the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Opposition including Awami League (AL), Jatiya Party (JP), Jamaat-e-Islami, Gano Form (GF) and Workers Party (WP). He also discussed with some lawyers on how to legally get rid of the complicated political situation.

Repolling in 10 constituencies are yet to be held as polls there were postponed due to violence. A total of 272 MPs, including one independent and one from National Democratic Alliance have taken oath and 18 more MPs will take oath tomorrow.

After the first round of talks with the Opposition, the President invited them to submit their respective outlines of a caretaker government, but the Opposition did not put forward the outlines on the ground that it would not help resolve the crisis unless the elections on the sixth Parliament are de-

See Page 12 col 5



TAKING A TIME-OUT: Sri Lankan skipper Arjuna Ranatunga (L) shares a letter along with teammates Sanath Jayasuriya (C) and Asanka Gurusinghe during a break in their practice session at the Gaddafi Stadium yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

SL-Aussies battle for title today

LAHORE, Mar 16: Sri Lanka face tomorrow its greatest moment in international cricket as it prepares to meet diehard professional Australia in the World Cup final in Lahore, reports AP.

Once the underdogs of international cricket, Sri Lanka have embraced the sport with new found confidence, and tomorrow's World Cup final may give the squad a chance to take its place in cricketing history.

The final looms as the grudge match of the year after Australia's opening round forfeit because of safety fears in

See Page 12 Col 4

BNP may pass caretaker Bill in first session

By Nazmul Ashraf

The ruling BNP is likely to pass a non-party caretaker government bill in the first session of the sixth parliament, well-placed party sources indicated last night.

The BNP's changed stance was taken after the President's move to resolve the persisting political impasse apparently hit a snag.

A senior party leader noted, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday requested President Abdur Rahman Biswas to summon the new parliament, elected through the controversial February 15 polls.

The President is likely to re-appoint the BNP chairperson, Begum Khaleda as the Prime Minister. She is expected to form her new cabinet prior to beginning of the parliament session, the sources said adding the new cabinet would be formed with minor changes in the present one.

Begum Zia, in a meeting with her senior party colleagues yesterday, discussed the formation of the new cabinet, the framing and passage of the proposed non-party government bill, an early general polls under such a government, President's move to resolve the political crisis, the Opposition's on-going agitation and other relevant issues, according to meeting sources.

The meeting also discussed possible government steps for protecting life and properties of the people and restoring normalcy in the country with the on-going non-cooperation being observed by the Opposition had already creating a deadlock in the country. Suggestions for and against the

See Page 12 col 6



Bangabandhu's anniversary of birth today

By Staff Correspondent

The 76th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be observed throughout the country today.

Mujib, who fought for emancipation of toiling masses throughout his life and led the nation to its independence in

See Page 12 col 8

Hasina accuses President of violating Constitution

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the President of violating the Constitution by summoning an 'illegal' parliament before completion of elections in all the 300 constituencies, reports UNB.

She said the President has betrayed 'with the people by convening Parliament which was formed through 'vote rigging and forgery' and was rejected by the people.

Giving her reaction to the summoning of Parliament, Hasina said the President's act was nothing but an attempt to give legitimacy to a farcical election and an illegal Parliament.

The Awami League chief said the BNP Chairperson lost her membership of Parliament as she took oath by violating Article 71 of the Constitution.

See Page 12 col 8

Opposition to gherao JS. Mar 19, mark it as 'black day'

By Staff Correspondent

The mainstream Opposition yesterday announced that it would 'gherao' the Jatiya Sangsad on March 19 (Tuesday), the day the sixth parliament goes into its first session.

The Opposition also called upon the people to observe the day as a 'black day' to protest, what it called 'installation of this bogus parliament'.

The announcement came after a joint meeting of the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami last night that followed separate meetings of the three opposition parties.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday summoned the sixth parliament to session at 4 pm on March 19.

Held at the Kalabagan residence of AL Presidium Member Abdus Samad Azad, the meeting was attended by AL leaders Tofael Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim and Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, JP leaders Barister Moudud Ahmed and Anwar Hossain Manju, and Jamaat-e-Islami leaders Ali Ahsan Md Mujahid, Abdul Kader Mollah and Md Kamaruzzaman.

After the meeting, AL Organising Secretary Mohammad Nasim told The Daily Star, 'The opposition parties would never recognise the sixth parliament, let alone any law passed by it.'

The 'surprise' summoning

See Page 12 Col 2

Nominees for JS women's seats elected unopposed

The nominees contesting for 30 reserved parliamentary seats for women were declared elected unopposed by the Election Commission yesterday, reports BSS.

An EC press release said, a total of 30 nominees submitted their nomination papers to the returning officer yesterday and the returning officer, finding their nominations valid after scrutiny, declared all of them elected unopposed since there were no other contestants.

See Page 12 Col 2

Banks open from 1-4 pm today, says AL

By Staff Correspondent

The Opposition yesterday relaxed their non-cooperation programme further, saying all banks will remain open for three hours from 1 pm to 4 pm today.

A press release of the Awami League, however, said that the shops will remain open from 4-10 pm and private owned export oriented industries, especially the garments sector will operate for 13 hours from 4 pm today to 5 am tomorrow.

Hospitals, ambulances, medicine shops, kutchas bazars, fire brigade, fertilizer and oil transports, conservancy service, vehicles carrying newsmen and newspapers, and other essential services like water, gas and electricity supply will also remain out of the purview of the programme.

BGMEA asks govt to make ports operative or quit

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday demanded resignation of the BNP government if it fails to take steps within 24-hours to keep the garments industry operative.

"Make all the ports operative within 24 hours. Take all steps to make the industries running again. If the government fails to do so within 24 hours, we demand its resignation," said Redwan Ahmed, president of BGMEA, while addressing a rally organised by the association at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque.

"The garments industry is on the verge of collapse," said Redwan. "We are unable to export due to stoppage of the port. About 500 garments factories are now closed. If the crisis is not resolved immediately, another 500 factories will face the same fate."

"We urge all opposition parties to exempt the sector from their programmes and save the industry," he said.

The rally was attended by a large number of garments factory owners and workers. They chanted slogans like 'Khaleda, Hasina reply why the garments factories are closed.'

Before the BGMEA president addressed the meeting, two bombs were exploded behind the dais creating panic in the area. During his address, another cracker was blasted in the area.

Addressing the rally, Nur-e-Alam Siddiqui urged the politicians to limit themselves within a political process and not to take measures that would cripple the economy.

He accused the BNP government of failing to maintain an atmosphere congenial to business and demanded its resignation if it fails to create such an atmosphere within 24-hours.

See Page 12 Col 4

Businessmen, NGOs, professionals demand Seek SC ref for ordinance

By Staff Correspondent

A huge rally of businessmen, NGO workers and some professional groups in the city yesterday issued a 24-hour ultimatum to the President for seeking Supreme Court reference on formation of a caretaker government through promulgation of an ordinance.

"Mass protests will be staged countrywide, from Teknaf to Tetulia," if the President fails to send a reference, a resolution adopted at the rally said.

The first ever such huge rally in the city demanding solution to the persisting political crisis adopted an eight-point resolution.

In another resolution it urged President Abdur Rahman Biswas to continue his initiative in an 'unbiased' way for a negotiated settlement of the political impasse and cautioned against any attempt by the government to 'legalise' the so-called election held on February 15.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries organised the rally in cooperation with the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB), Salman F Rahman, president of the FBCCI, Kazi Faruk Ahmed, president of ADAB, Barister Amirul Islam, Nure Alam Siddiqui of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), poet and writer Syed Shamsul Huq.

See Page 12 col 1

Fierce gunfight for 4 hrs at Shailakupa: 100 hurt

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Mar 16: At least a hundred people were injured, six of them with bullet, when activists of ruling BNP were locked in a fierce gunfight with pro-Opposition workers at Shailakupa Natun Bazar this afternoon.

Of the injured, 26 persons were rushed to Shailakupa Thana Health Complex and eight others to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital. The people who received bullet injuries were identified as Mukul, 35, Mujahid, 35, Emdad, 30, Ziarat, 35, Sattar, 22 and Roni, 25. Condition of Emdad was reported to be critical. Awami League later claimed that they were all its party activists.

Witnesses said, hundreds of BNP workers took position at Natun Bazar from early hours today in a bid to take control of the Shailakupa town. As soon as the Opposition workers came to the spot at noon, chase and counter-chase began. Later, a gunfight ensued at around 1 pm, which continued till 5 pm, when BNP activists finally gave up and retreated.

Local people said, over a hundred gunshots were traded and hundreds of crackers blasted during the fight, which was a likely sequel to last Friday's attack on the residence of a local Jatiya Party leader.

Police sources said, they fired 19 rounds of shots and lobbed 14 canisters of tear gas shells to disperse the fighting groups. Later, additional police and BDR forces were called in from Jhenidah Sadar to avert further escalation of the law and order situation, they added.

A mob also damaged 17 shops and the residence of Shailakupa Pouroshava Chairman Khalilur Rahman at Natun Bazar area.

Today was a weekly market-day at Natun Bazar and scores of shoppers ran pell mell to escape the melee.

One killed, 100 injured in Ctg gunfights

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 16: One person was killed and 100 others were injured in a series of gunfights between Opposition and ruling BNP activists in different parts of the port city this afternoon.

According to Chittagong Medical College Hospital sources, Muhammad Saiful, 18, a pedestrian, died at the hospital after sustaining bullet injuries during a gunfight at Firing Bazar.

Another 30 of the injured, including 10 with bullet wounds, were admitted at the hospital and others also sent to local clinics.

Police and witnesses said the trouble started at around 3 pm today centring a public meeting organised by the BNP here in Medayet square at Station road.

The meeting ended when the gunbattles amid hundreds of bomb blasts rocked the entire five-mile areas around the venue, lasting for nearly four hours, witnesses and police said.

Police in riot gear aided by BDR contingents kept the meeting venue cordoned off during the rioting. Police opened fire to disperse the rival activists of both BNP and Opposition.

The gunfights mainly erupted at Station road near the meeting venue, Chaltanya Goli, Tiger Pass, Polo Ground, C R V road, Alkaran, City College road, in front of Bangladesh Bank, Matiarpu, Enayet Bazar and Pathantoli areas.

At one stage a mob attacked the Kotwali thana and in the face of resistance by police and BDR, the mob dispersed, according to witnesses.

When contacted, Kotwali police said bombs were hurled

See Page 12 col 6

Navy deployed at Chittagong port

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 16: Navy personnel were deployed at Chittagong port this morning following a directive from the government, official sources said here.

When contacted, Director (security) of the port said that 100 navy personnel were deployed only for security reasons. Strong security is being maintained at Chittagong port due to the on-going Opposition's non-cooperation programme, he claimed.

However, other port officials informed that there was movement of some ships, two outgoing and five incoming — at the port today.

One empty oil tanker and a repaired vessel went out while the incoming vessels included a foodgrain carrying ship, an oil ship and three oil tankers, port sources said adding that no other cargo ship stranded here could be handled as stevedores and other workers were absent.

Meanwhile, over 50 cargo vessels still remained stranded both at the Jetties and at the outer anchorage, due to the non-cooperation programme since March 9, port sources said.

On the other hand, cargo booking for Chittagong port from foreign ports remained suspended as no ships were moving to this port from outside due to the deadlock, the sources said.

Consequently, huge cargo, bound for Chittagong port, reportedly remained dumped at Singapore port as operation of feeder vessels was kept suspended when some of them got stuck up here due to the deadlock.

Even five scheduled vessels in Singapore-Chittagong route were withdrawn and diverted to other ports, other sources informed. Chittagong Feeder Trade Committee (OFTC), in a meeting held at Singapore on March 13, threatened to boycott Chittagong port if the situation does not improve by March 19 at Chittagong port, it

See Page 12 col 7

দেশের বর্তমান পরিস্থিতির প্রেক্ষিতে
বাংলাদেশ এ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেটিভ সার্ভিস এসোসিয়েশন কর্তৃক
সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ

এসোসিয়েশনের সভাপতির সভাপতিত্বে ১৬ই মার্চ, ১৯৯৬ শনিবার বাংলাদেশ এ্যাডমিনিস্ট্রেটিভ সার্ভিস এর কেন্দ্রীয় কার্যনির্বাহী কমিটির জরুরী সভায় সর্বসম্মত সিদ্ধান্তঃ

- এসোসিয়েশন গভীর উদ্বেগের সাথে লক্ষ্য করছে যে, দেশের বিভিন্ন স্থানে, বিশেষ করে মাঠ পর্যায়ে এসোসিয়েশনের সদস্যগণ নানাভাবে সহিংসতার শিকার হচ্ছেন। এসোসিয়েশন সরকারের নিকট সকল কর্মচারীর পূর্ণ নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করার জন্য জোর দাবী জানাচ্ছে।
- এসোসিয়েশনের সদস্য জেলা প্রশাসক ও থানা নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তাগণ নির্বাচন কমিশনের নির্দেশনা অনুসারে সাংবিধানিক দায়িত্ব পালন করেছেন। ভোট গ্রহণ, গণনা ও ফলাফল ঘোষণার দায়িত্বে তাঁরা নিয়োজিত ছিলেন না। ১৫ই ফেব্রুয়ারী অনুষ্ঠিত নির্বাচন বিষয়ে উত্থাপিত যাবতীয় অনিয়ম সম্পর্কে কোন এসোসিয়েশন উচ্চ পর্যায়ের বিচার বিভাগীয় তদন্তের জোর দাবী জানাচ্ছে। এতে কারো সম্পর্কে কোন অনিয়মের অভিযোগ প্রমাণিত হলে তাঁর বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের জন্যও এসোসিয়েশন দাবী জানাচ্ছে।
- সম্প্রতি পরিস্থিতি হচ্ছে যে, মাঠ পর্যায়ে কর্মরত জেলা প্রশাসক ও থানা নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তাদের মতামতকে উপেক্ষা করে বিভিন্ন জনকলুষপূর্ণ সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করা হচ্ছে। এতে প্রশাসনিক বিশৃঙ্খলা সৃষ্টি হচ্ছে এবং জনজীবনে বিপর্যয় নেমে আসছে। তাই মাঠ পর্যায়ে কর্মকর্তাদের বাস্তব অবস্থাস্থিতিক মতামতকে গুরুত্ব আরোপপূর্বক সিদ্ধান্ত গ্রহণ করার জন্য এসোসিয়েশন দাবী জানাচ্ছে। সাথে সাথে প্রশাসনের সকল তত্ত্ব আইনানুগ দায়িত্ব পালনে যে কোন প্রকার অব্যায় হস্তক্ষেপ বন্ধ করার জন্যও এসোসিয়েশন দাবী জানাচ্ছে। এসোসিয়েশন তার সদস্যগণকে জনগণের মৌলিক অধিকার বিরোধী কোন কার্যক্রমে সর্বোচ্চ সতর্কতা না থেকে আইনের শাসন সুসংহত করার ব্যাপারে অনুশাসন পূর্বকৃত করছে।
- দায়িত্ব পালন করতে গিয়ে এসোসিয়েশনের যে সকল সদস্য নানাভাবে কঠিনত হয়েছেন তাঁদেরকে উপযুক্ত ক্ষতিপূরণ প্রদানের জন্য এসোসিয়েশন কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট দাবী জানাচ্ছে।
- এসোসিয়েশন বিরাজমান রাজনৈতিক সংকটে গভীরভাবে উৎকণ্ঠিত। এসোসিয়েশন মনে করে যে দেশের প্রশাসন ও আইন শৃঙ্খলা ভেঙ্গে পড়ছে এবং অর্থনীতি সম্পূর্ণরূপে বিপর্যয় হওয়ার পথে। এর ফলে জনজীবন বিপন্ন হচ্ছে যা কারো কামা হতে পারে না। এ অবস্থার আ্ত নিরসনের জন্য এসোসিয়েশন সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের আন্তরিক প্রয়াস কামনা করে।

মোঃ নুরুজ্জামান মিয়া
 মহাসচিব
 বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, ঢাকা

আতাউল হক
 সভাপতি
 সচিব, পরিসংখ্যান বিভাগ

Businessman stabbed
 KISHOREGANJ, Mar 16: A local businessman received serious stab injuries when unidentified miscreants attacked him at Bkral Malibari in Karimganj thana early today. Mohammod Helaluddin, 43, a brick-filled owner was admitted to Kishoreganj hospital in a critical condition, hospital sources said reports UNB.