8 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

Deadlock at

Ctg Port

continues

From Staff Correspondent

port continued today while all

the port sheds were sealed-off

fearing act of sabotage, port

sources said.

CHITTAGONG. Mar 20: Deadlock at the Chittagong

Notice

an acute shortage of newsprint, we have no way but to bring down the 12-page volume of our paper to an 8 page one from today. We will revert to our normal volume as soon as the newsprint supply position improves. We regret the inconvenience and hope, our valued readers and patrons would bear with us. - Management

-Inside Today -

Article

What is a President's Reference

by Nazim Kamran Choudhury Page 4

International

Indian President refuses to sign two ordinances

US House okays military intervention to defend Taiwan Page 5

Business

Pakistan prepares for transit trade with Central Asia

Page 6

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Foreign Degrees at Dhaka Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Godown rent waived

The government has decided to waive normal godown rent till March 31 to facilitate speedy clearance of goods from Chittagong port. According to an official handout last night, the government has already exempted demurrage charges for late clearance of goods from Chittagong port. reports BSS.

Govt approves Feni Medical College

The government has temporarily approved the Feni Medical College (FMC) set up in private sector in 1992. More than 100 students are now studying in the college in three batches, said a college press release yesterday, reports UNB.

Dhaka opens mission in Tashkent

Government has opened a new diplomatic mission in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, a central Asian republic, with effect from March 13 this year. The government has also appointed Ambassador S K Sharjil Hassan as the head of the new mission. Foreign Office sources said yesterday. reports UNB.

Dacoit beaten to death

From Our Correspondent GAIBANDHA, Mar 20: A da-

coit beaten to death by angry people at village Sadhua under Sundarganj thana of the district last night. Azhar Ali, allegedly a gang

leader was involved in a robbery recently.

He was caught by villagers last night and beaten mercilessly. He died on the spot.

17 killed in Pak road accidents

ISLAMABAD, Mar 20: At least 17 people were killed and nine injured in two separate road accidents in Punjab province today, state-run Pakistan television said. It said a passenger bus heading for nearby Rawalpindi city collided with a van coming from the opposite direction near Kharian town. 120 kilometers east of here. At least 14 people inrluding five women died instantly in the collision, reports

9 hurt in blast

SIRAJGANJ Mar 20: Nine people were injured, four seriously in bomb explosions at Shajadpur thana on Tuesday might reports UNB

Police and witnesses said the bombs went off at the residence of a ruling party leader when some youngsters were making bombs at about 1:10

BNP moves caretaker As we have been facing govt bill today

By Nurul Kabir

The Ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is likely to move in Parliament today a bill proposing constitutional provision for general elections under a non-party caretaker government, party high command sources told

The Daily Star yesterday. The bill will be termed Constitutional (amendment) Bill for Interim Non-party Council of Advisors.

A cabinet meeting held with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair approved the draft of the bill yesterday.

According to BNP insiders. the bill will propose an 11member council of advisers. headed by the immediate past Chief Justice. The President will appoint

the chief adviser first and then other advisers on the

Awami League president

Sheikh Hasina yesterday ap-

pealed to the people for con-

tinuing the current non-coop-

eration movement to force the

'illegal government' to quit for

fresh elections under a neutral

caretaker authority, reports

exchanging views with leaders

of various professional groups

said the BNP government be-

came illegal after February 21

as election in all the 300 con-

stituencies could not be com-

pleted before the deadline as

occupying power forcibly," she

told leaders of the professional

a so-called MP violating Arti-

"This government is now

Hasina also said BNP Chair-

per the Constitution.

at Dhanmondi party centre.

Hasina gave the call while

The Awami League chief

Govt holding power

forcibly: Hasina

advice of the chief adviser, ac cording to the draft of the bill. The chief adviser would exercise the executive powers of the state during the interim period between dissolution of Parliament and a new prime

minister's taking up of office.

the draft said. The general elections should be held within 60 days from the dissolution of Parliament. But in case the elections are not held for any unforeseen reasons within 60 days, the Election Commission (EC) would enjoy the right to shift the polls date by 30 days.

The chief adviser will enjoy the status of Prime Minister while other members of the advisory council the status of minister.

The advisory council would cooperate with the EC in hold-

cle 71 of the Constitution. "She

lost her parliament member-

ship because of violation of the

ment of spoiling the sanctity of

Parliament by holding its ses-

sion with "vote thieves" when

people staged "mass upsurge"

by observing 'black day' Tues-

said the government always

The Awami League leader

She accused the govern-

Constitution."

the people.

ing the national polls in a free and fair manner, while performing the day-to-day affairs of the state, the draft bill said.

remain accountable to the

The advisory council would

President. If the chief justice who retired last declines to head the interim administration, the President would appoint the chief justice who retired just before him. If he is also not available, the last retired judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court would be appointed and in case he is not available, the Appellate Division judge who retired just before him would be appointed chief adviser, the draft said. In case of non-availability of the

said judges, the President will appoint "an eminent citizen. See Page 8 Col 5

Cabinet approves draft Bill for caretaker govt

The cabinet has approved the draft Bill comprising some amendments to the Constitution for holding all parliamentary elections under a nonparty caretaker government reports BSS.

the chair.

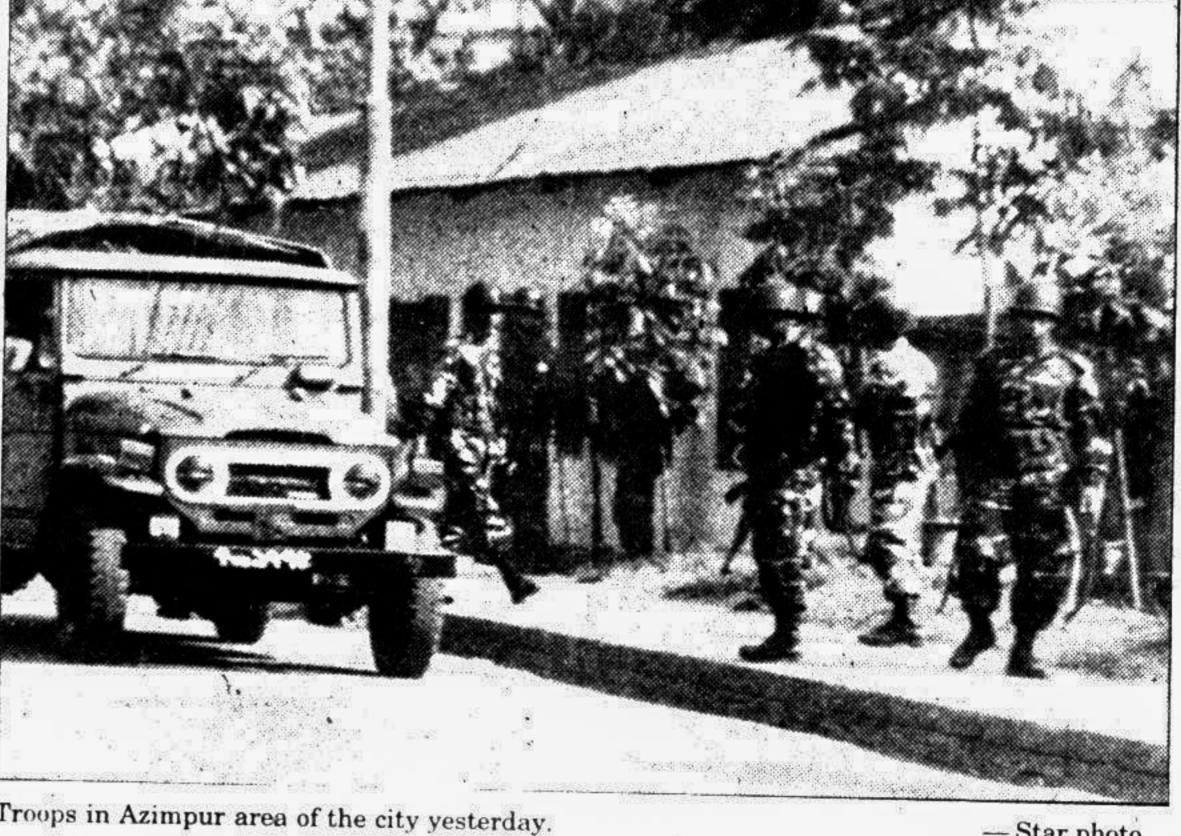
created new problems whenever the Opposition took steps to alleviate the sufferings of "This autocratic government has ruined the economy and the nation to protect its

petty political interests ignor-Ministers state ministers ing the will of the people," she Hasina pointed out, she suggested at least four general elections under a neutral See Page 8 Col 3

The approval was given at a special cabinet meeting held at the cabinet room of the prime minister's office with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in

The cabinet also approved the proposal for amendment to "The Bank Deposit Insurance Ordinance-1984" and the proposal for amendment to 'The Grameen Bank Ordinance-

in charge of different ministries, cabinet secretary, secretary of the prime minister's office and secretaries concemed were present at the



Troops in Azimpur area of the city yesterday.

- Star photo

Reaction

Awami League presidium member Amir Hossain Amu criticised the deployment of army by the "self-styled illegal" government as its last weapon to protect it in the face of intensified mass movement throughout the country, reports UNB.

In an instant reaction last night, the AL leader said BNP by calling out the army and navy proved that it had been completely rejected by and isolated from the people.

Amu said people were not involved in destructive activities. They are engaged in an unarmed non-cooperation movement in a democratic and constitutional way to realise their legitimate voting right. On the other hand, he said, BNP is involved in 'terrorist'

Amu said members of the army are sons of this soil. Under no circumstances. should they be used to protect the interest of any coterie. The armed forces should play their due ple in protecting the in-See Page 8 Col 6

Brawl inside

Secretariat

Star Report

staged demonstrations and

held rallies inside the Secre-

tariat yesterday following as-

sault on an employee allegedly

by a group of Jatiyatabadi Ch-

hatra Dal (JCD) activists, wit-

Normal activities at the

trouble continued for

Secretariat were disrupted as

The JCD activists report-

edly came there to congratu-

late Amanullah Aman, the

newly appointed State Minis-

ter for Education. An alterca-

tion broke out between the vis-

itors and a liftman over finding

the location of the state minis-

ter's office in the 21-storey

legedly beat up the liftman.

Kalu, and also brandished

At one stage, the youths al-

building, said witnesses.

hours, some employees said.

nesses said

firearms.

Several hundred employees

Army called out in Dhaka, Chittagong

gutted at Islambagh

By Staff Correspondent

Army has been called out in the capital and Chittagong, reports UNB.

The government yesterday deployed the army to assist the civil administration in restoring normalcy in public life and road and rail communications between the two cities, according to a Press Note issued last night.

Officials sources said the army was deployed early yesterday to restore law and order and arrange safe transportation of goods between the capital and the port city. Earlier, the navy was de-

ployed at the Chittagong port on Saturday. The government move

came amid the Opposition's continued non-cooperation programme which paralysed public life across the country and halted activities at the Chittagong port. --The Opposition political

A three-year old child was

killed and at least 15 people

were injured in a devastating

fire that gutted about 1500

shanties including shops and

small factories in a slum at

Islambagh in the city vester-

day. The injured people in-

The fire broke out report-

edly from a small factory at

about noon and razed through

the half a-kilometre slum area

till 3 pm. Fifteen fire fighting

engines from different fire bri-

gade stations in the city were

engaged to put out the fire. But

the firefighters were finding

the job difficult as their vehi-

cles could not make ways to

the spot through the narrow

and congested lanes, witnesses

efforts to extinguish the fire

with buckets of water while

Local people made frantic

cluded four firefighters.

parties declared an indefinite non-cooperation programme since March 9 demanding resignation of the government and fresh parliamentary polls under a non-party caretaker government.

The Press Note said that the government had decided to deploy the army forthwith in aid of civil administration to restore normalcy and maintain law and order in Dhaka and Chittagong Metropolitan cities.

Referring to the disruption in normal public life caused by "unlawful and violent activities" by some quarters during the last few days, it said disruption of communications, normal business, export and import trade and industrial production by such activities are adversely affecting the economy of the country. The Press Note said move-

ement of essential commodities See Page 8 Col 7

the firefighters were seen us-

20,000 people homeless and

an unspecified number among

them jobless on about 1500

small industries and about 100

not be ascertained immedi-

fatally injured in his mother's

lap when a wall collapsed also

injuring the mother. Shahnai

Begum. The child later died at

the Dhaka Medical College

Hospital (DMCH), medical

admitted to the DMCH were

identified as Joytun Bibi. 60.

Hasan, 28, Monwara Begum,

40. Shahana, 20. Montu, 27.

Akkas Ali, 45. The four injured

See Page 8 Col 3

Six of the injured persons

The extent of damage could

The child, Janey Alam was

The fire rendered about

ing long hose pipes.

shops were gutted.

sources said.

Perishable export items

The items, including raw fish, had been packed in refrigerated containers to be shipped from the port, but the port remained inoperative since the non-cooperation programme began on March 9.

"The items were damaged after agitators had disconnected power lines to the freezer containers," said an official of a fishing company." As a result, we are facing millions

deep-sea fishing companies are now in a difficult position as they are stuck up with huse

N'ganj clash

Manik Karmaker, 16, a garments worker was killed at about 7 pm. Mitu, 20. Shahin 20.

Mekbar Ali, 35, Abdul Mazid, 47, Alam. 28, Abu, 25, Julekha 17, and Suza Mian, 48, who sustained bullet injuries were admitted to Narayangani hospi-

were released after first aid. Manik, were wounded seriously when a group of 15/20 armed youths attacked the house of one Abu Main at West

Manik succumbed to his injuries while being taken to a local doctor. After the killing of Manik,

the local youths attacked the See Page 8 Col 7

Witnesses said, Saiful Islam Sabbir, president of JCD Baneswar Union Unit, died on the spot and Rukunuzzaman Alam, joint convenor of RU unit of JCD was injured when an armed group numbering about 10 to 12 attacked them while they were taking tea at a tea stall at about 11:30 pm.

ted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. A case was filed with the Putia police station in this connection.

Feni ransacked

FENI, Mar 20: The opposi-tion activists attacked and damaged furniture and fixtures of the Agrani Bank zonal office here today, the 12th day of the "non-cooperation" programme being enforced by the opposition parties, reports UNB.

tered into the bank's zonal office situated at Kadalgachhi in the town at about 12 moon and damaged furniture, typewriter and other fixtures. The supporters of the "non-

bank officers and employees to close the office and leave it for fear of further trouble in the absence of adequate security. *

\$22b IDA loans for LDCs for next 3 yrs

activists and fellow employees yesterday.

Donors meeting in Tokyo yesterday endorsed a package which will allow concessional lending of \$22 billion to poor countries over the next three

Earlier, representatives of more than 30 donor countries agreed on a new funding for the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank affiliate, according to a message received in Dhaka last

New contributions from donor countries to this pack age should total about \$11 billion, with the rest coming mainly from past donor contributions, repayments of IDA credits, and contributions from the World Bank itself.

The government has re-

vived the plan to contract out

two zones of the Dhaka Water

and Sewerage Authority

(WASA) to private parties sig-

nalling its toughening stand on

pending reforms, reports UNB.

Ministry of Local Government

and Rural Development (LGRD)

sent a directive on March 3 to

the Dhaka WASA authorities to

immediately call tender for

contracting out the revenue

collection of two of its six

A Dhaka WASA source indi-

Official sources said the

"IDA is the world's most important channel for providing concessional financing to the low-income developing countries," the donor representatives, known as the IDA deputies, said. "Its beneficiaries are the people of the 78 poorest countries, which have a total population of more than

Agitated employees holding a rally inside the Secretariat following a row between some JCD

"In the face of tough budgetary constraints in many donor countries, this agreement is a vital endorsement of shared responsibility and multilateral action to help the world's poorest people." said Sven Sandstrom, the World Bank's Managing Director who chaired the IDA negotiations See Page 8 Col 7

Fresh move to contract out

two Dhaka WASA zones

cated that the authorities, in

line with the ministry's direc-

tive, were preparing to go for

tendering despite a persisting

threat of hostile resistance

Sources said the directive

from workers and employees

came in the backdrop of a re-

cent warning from the World

Bank to act on the contract out

plan that will enable the pro-

posed 76 million US dollar

credit for development of wa

ter supply in the capital to be

placed at the Bank's board

in case of fathure to go

meeting scheduled April 24

Non-cooperation

- Star photo

Sporadic violence in city

By Staff Correspondent Sporadic incidents of violence marked the twelfth day of the opposition called noncooperation programme in the city yesterday.

An unidentified man aged about 50 was crushed under the wheels of a minibus which reportedly came under cocktail attack near Sydabad bridge at around 10:30 am, police and hospital sources said.

A series of clashes took place in Mirpur on the day. Some people claiming themselves as transport workers started forcing rickshaws off the road while damaging some of them during the morning See Page 8 Col 2

ahead, cautioned the World

Bank, the credit to be available

from the IDA - the Bank's soft

loan arm - would be uncertain

during the current fiscal

matters of Mirpur and Gulshan

zones of Dhaka WASA to pri-

vate parties is a pre-condition

to the approval of the credit to

finance a water treatment

plant at the city's Syedabad

plant would generate an addi-

See Page 8 Col 4

The proposed treatment

Contracting out the revenue

(1995-96)

llam to 1pm today: Opposition

from 11 am to 1 pm today to enable the Hajjs pilgrims to

deposit their money, according to an Opposition announcement yesterday An Awami League press release said shops will remain

Private sector export-oriented industries, specially in the garments sector, will operate for 13 hours from 4 pm till 5 am the following day, the

Besides, hospitals, ambulances, pharmacies, vegetable markets, fire-brigade, vehicles carrying fertilizer and oil taker, garbage carrying vehioles of the city corporation. journalists, newspaper carrying long route vehicles. power, gas and water vehicles will remain out of the non-co-

Flash floods in Kishoregani KISHOREGANJ, Mar 20: A

vast track of land in seven thanas of the district was inundated due to onrush of water from across the border today. reports UNB.

ing crops on about 20,000

acres of land in Itna, Mita-

moin. Astagram, Karimgahi Nikly. Tarail and Bazitpur thanas went under water.

Official sources said stand

Water level in the rivers Dhunu, Ghora Utra and Meghna continued to swell due to onrush of water.

See Page 8 Col 1 Banks open from

By Staff Correspondent The banks will remain open

open from 3 pm to 10 pm un-

til lurther notice. press release said.

operation programmes.

A devastating fire gutted a slum at Islambagh in the city yesterday. - Star photo

The army authorities held a meeting with the port authorities regarding resumption of operation at the port. The port authorities also urged the stevedores and other related agencies to resume work. But their response was not available, port sources said. The sources said that for-

eign shipping lines were refusing cargo booking for Chittagong port due to the continuous deadlock. The 53 ships. now stuck at the port are demanding from the port authorities "relief" and those are incurring huge demurrage, the sources said

Navy. personnel deployed inside the port were on duty See Page 8 Col 1

Perishable export items worth crores of taka damaged at Ctg port

Star Report

worth several crores of taka have been damaged at the Chittagong port during the Opposition's ongoing non-cooperation programme, exporters and shippers said.

of dollars in losses." The export-oriented

See Page 8 Col 8 One killed in Child killed, 1500 huts

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Mar 20: One person was killed and 30 others were injured, 8 of them seriously, in a clash in West Mazdair area in the town this evening.

The rest of the injured Four persons, including

Mazdair.

Rajshahi JCD leader shot dead

From DU Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Mar 20: A local leader of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal' (JCD) was shot dead and another injured seri ously when an unidentified armed group attacked them at Baneswar crossing, three miles away from Rajshahi University campus last night.

The attackers shot dead Sabbir and chopped Alam with Chinese axe. Alam was admit-

Agrani Bank in

Witnesses said a group of militant activists forcibly en-

cooperation" also forced the

KEWRA-WATER ROSE -WATER for Health (EIIS)

VOL. VI NO. 65 REGD. NO. DA 781