# Congress for talks to resolve all Indo-Bangla issues

NEW DELHI, Mar 20: India and Bangladesh should continue the process of negotiations to find solution to all outstanding issues between the two countries, including the sharing of water resources. There is no problem which cannot be solved through discussions.

All India Congress Committee (AICC) sool sems. V N Gadgil said this in an interview with BSS at his official resi dence here today.

Replying to a question on the existing trade imbalance between the two countries. Gadgil, who holds the status of a cabinet minister, said, "India has to increase its imports from Bangladesh to reduce the

The Indian exports to Bangladesh was worth Taka 2150 crore as against its imports worth Taka 140 crore

Gadgil, a former minister of information and broadcasting during Indirà Gandhi's time. said, "We have made progress in establishing good relations with the neighbouring coun tries, excepting Pakistan."

He said, "As we have no expansionist design, we don't want to interfere in any country's internal affairs. He said. the size of India itself, how-

ever, sometimes causes apprehensions in small countries, though there is no basis for

such apprehensions." Replying to a question on Indian Muslims' support to the ruling Congress, the AICC spokesman said. "The demolition of Babri Masjid has eroded the support." He said, the process of rethinking has, however, started among Muslims in certain areas. This, he said. does not mean that they have come back to Congress.

Gadgil said, "there is a growing feeling among Muslims that if they vote for other parties, that would ultimately benefit BJP." The Muslims, he said, do not want BJP to come

to power Replying to a question whether the sensational Hawala (illegal money transaccase would affect Congress in the Lok Sabha polls, Gadgil said, "Common people have welcomed the Hawala action. We will make a campaign that even people belonging to Congress were not spared. That is how we hope to benefit out of it."

Gadgil said Hawala has totally shattered and demor alised the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is the main contender for power at the centre.

# Deadlock at Ctg port

today, also for security reason. Army personnel were seen at strategic points in the city today. The 12th day of non-cooperation passed off almost peacefully barring some stray incidents of violence in the city. According to witnesses. few bombs were blasted at Karnel Hat, Bahaddarhat, Badshamia road and Ice Factory Road while a taxi was damaged by the pickets at Alanker cinema crossing and another tempo at Jubilee Road.

Police raided some houses at Hazari lane and at Nasirabad areas and arrested 8 persons along with bomb making mate-

Few auto-rickshaws, tempos and rickshaws were seen plying on the roads but most of the motorised vehicles stayed

Few shops and offices were seen kept open only in the

The opposition parties including Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami held separate rallies in the city where their leaders asked the government to explain deployment of army. They urged the government not to push the army in a state of confrontation with the people.

UNB adds: Opposition ac tivists staged protests against the deployment of army, hurling bombs at patrols and damaging autorickshaws in the

### 'US doesn't want confrontation with China'

GENEVA, Mar 20: Washington is not seeking a confrontation with China, US ambassador to the UN Madeleine Albright said today amid escalating tensions between the two powers off the coast of Taiwan, reports AFP.

"We are not seeking a confrontation with China. Albright told a press conference, adding that the US had. moved aircraft carriers into the area "in order to avoid any escalation of this and we have made very clear that any aggressive action would cause US the gravest concern."

Beijing has been accused of blatantly intimidating Taiwan with a series of military and naval exercises off the coast of the breakaway Island,

port city yesterday. The army troops picked up 14 youngsters on charge of

their involvement in violence. Witnesses said eight crude bombs were thrown from a hilltop at an army patrol in Tigerpass area at about 11 am.

None was reported hurt. Bombs were also thrown at the army troops at Oxygen and Alkaran, Cheragipahar and near Alanker Cinema in the morning, they said.

The opposition activists damaged at least 15 autorickshaws in Newmarket, Oxygen, Alanker, Amin Jute Mills and Pahartali areas.

In the morning, army personnel, in separate drives in Byejid Bostami and Shersha colony areas nabbed eight young men while they were allegedly making bombs.

They were identified as Jainal Abedin, Selim, Milan, Abul Khair, Muhammad Kamal, Muniruzzaman, Abul Kashem and Masud. Another young man was arrested from Baradaragarhat in Mirsarai thana when he tried to damage a truck on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

The army personnel also picked up five people from Cheragipahar area as they threw bombs at them. Another young man was arrested from Pahartali.

### Non-cooperation

From Page 1

hours at Mirpur Section-10. witnesses said.

Police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the crowd. The mob then took position at different areas wielding sticks and pelting stones. One police vehicle was damaged by the mob. witnesses said.

At least two persons Ripon, 18, and Borhan — sustained bullet injuries in the incident. Thy were both admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, hospital sources

A bus driver Akhter Hossain, 25, and one Asgar, 30, received bomb injuries when pickets threw cocktails in the buses near the GPO at Motijheel and in Panthapath respectively, hospital sources

In another incident, one Rustom Ali, 40, was injured in a bomb blast in Motifheel at around 11:15 am and he was later admitted at the DMCH.

# Brawl inside Sectt

From Page 1

Two of the six JCD activists - A K M Mozammel Hoque and Md Jamaluddin Ahmed - were caught by fellow employees following this and were taken to the 18th floor of the building. An official of the Education

Ministry then took the two under his shelter for their safety. Police later rushed to the spot and brought them to their camp at the Secretariat,! according to a senior police of-

As the news spread inside the Secretariat, many employees came out of their offices and brought out processions that marched within the Secretariat compound, chanting slogans for ensuring security.

The demonstrators demanded that the state minister be removed within 24 hours, witnesses said.

They also gathered near police camp there, broke flower tubs, pelted brickbats and demanded handing over of the two to them, said an official.

Some sources claimed that the JCD activists carried fire arms. Police, however, claimed that no arms were recovered. The two were later shifted to Ramna thana, where a case was lodged in this connection by Kalu, said police.

Witnesses said Amanullah Aman along with four others were seen leaving the Secretariat at that time.

Some security personnel on duty inside the Secretariat said, six persons entered the premises at around 10:30 am with entry passes collected from the private secretary of a state minister.

When contacted, Amanullah Aman said he had heard that two persons misbehaved with some employees at the Secretariat. He expressed concern at the incident and said steps should be taken to punish

When he was told that they claimed themselves as JCD activists, the state minister said, "I do not know them.

Meanwhile, the city unit of Bangladesh Government Employees Solidarity Committee has demanded special conveyance allowance of Tk 100 per day from March 9 strengthening of security measures for the employees, and compensation of Tk 200,000 for each of the employees who were physically disabled dur-

ing the last elections. It also called for immediate formation of a caretaker government, said a press release issued by the committee yes-

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AL rally

# 'Caretaker govt only way out'

Awami League leaders yesterday demanded that the 'illegal government' quit handing over power to a neutral caretaker government for holding fresh election to the sixth parliament, reports UNB.

"Cancel the farcical and fraudulent election and arrange fresh polls under a neutral non-party caretaker government by sending reference on it to the Supreme Court," Awami League Presidium member Abdus Samad Azad said at a protest rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the after-

"People want peace and stability, immediate solution of the longstanding political, crisis." said Samad Azad, adding that everyone would accept opinion of the Supreme Court whatever it says about the formation of caretaker, govern-

City Awami League organised the rally to protest the al leged gunfire at the residence of party chief Sheikh Hasina on Tuesday evening.

City AL president and DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif presided over the rally, also addressed by Abdul Mannan Abdul Momen, Zillur Rahman Begum Sajeda Chowdhury Mozaffar Hossain Paltu. Matia Chowdhury, Obaidul Kader, Momtaz Hossain, Abul Hasan Chowdhury and Rahmat Ali.

· Abdul Mannan said immediate formation of caretaker government to hold fresh election is the only way out of the staggering political deadlock.

Abdul Momen said the people were united on the question of free and fair election under caretaker government and continuing the movement under the leader ship of Sheikh Hasina.

### Telephone boxes set afire on DU campus

By DU Correspondent A group of unidentified young men set fire to two telephone distribution boxes and a Mishuk on the Dhaka Univer-

sity campus yesterday noon. The incident left most of telephone lines in the university area inoperative till last

Besides, a number of cocktails were exploded at different parts of the university yesterday evening creating panic among the general students. A few rounds of gunshots were also heard from the TSC area.

Meanwhile, at a rally in front of the Dhaka University Snacks yesterday evening, the Awami League-backed Chhatra League demanded the immediate resignation of the Prime Minister and cancellation of February 15 "farcical" elec-

# Hasina

From Page 1

caretaker government to improve the economic condition of the people by ensuring their freedom of franchise.

She called for an allout movement to realise the people's demand at any cost.

The meeting was attended by Muktijoddha Command Council Chairman Principal Ahad Chowdhury, Group Theatre Federation President Nasiruddin Bachchu, Khushi Kabir of ADAB, Barrister Amirul Islam of the Supreme Court Bar Association, President of Dhaka University Teachers' Association Dr A T M Zahurul Huq, Jatiya Kabita Parishad President Syed Shamsul Huq, Khalilur Rahman Chowdhury and Anisul Hug of the BGMEA. Dr S A Malek of Bangabandhu Parishad, Khaled Khan of Radio-TV Artistes Association. Dr Sharfuddin Ahmed of the BMA, Dr Abdur

Razzak of Krishibid Institution. It was also attended by Shirin Akhtar of Nari Samaj Nurul Islam of SKOP, Azizul Islam Khan of Gano Oikya Jote, Lutfor Rahman Riton, M R Akhtar Mukul, dramatist Prof Momtazuddin, Golam Kuddus of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote, Fazlul Huq. President of Primary School Teachers' Association, Akhtaruzzaman, President of College-University Teachers' Association, Kazi Luthful Kabir of Diploma Engineers' Professional Council.

### Chowdhury of BFUJ. Islambagh fire

Hasan Imam of the Agitated

Citizens and Iqbal Sobhan

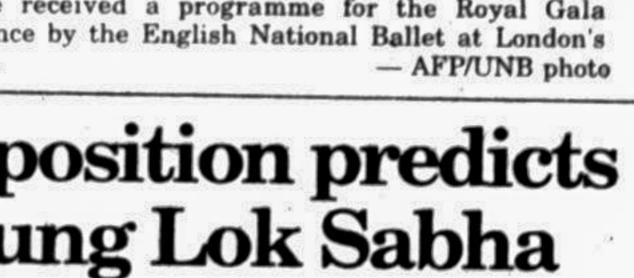
From Page firefighters were Shahadat, 50, Rezaul Kadir, 38, Abdur Razzak and Ripon Barua, 25.

A number of the slum dwellers were also injured when they tried to escape with goods through the narrow and congested lanes.

None of the local people or the firefighters could immediately ascertain the cause of the fire. But some locals claimed that they saw flames first over a paint factory which engulfed the area within a very short time. Some alleged\_that they smelt spirit when the fire was fast spreading.

The main lane that leads to the slum is only 8 feet wide and firebrigade vehicles cannot enter it.

The Ward Commissioner of the area immediately after the incident ordered extension of the road and asked the dwellers and land holders to spare 6 feet land on each side of the road, it was learnt from local people.



NEW DELHI, Mar 20: Opposition parties predicted a hung parliament and political instability today following the announcement that India's first general elections in five years would be held in April and May, reports AFP.

The Janata Dal (People's Party), the dominant centrist group, said no party would get a majority in the 545-seat Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament, in the nationwide balloting between April 27 and

"It will definitely be a hung parliament," Janata Dal leader Ramvilas Praswan told AFP. "Nobody will get a majority." Prakash Karat, a communist leader, şaid a hung parliament could not be ruled out.

"But the possibility is that in such a case, the (centrist-leftist) third front will emerge as the largest block (in parliament)," added Karat, whose Communist Party of India (Marxist) is the country's largest left-wing group.

minority government. India's first coalition government took office in 1989 but collapsed within 11 months, necessitating fresh polls.

Prime Minister P Narasimha Rao also headed a minority government after the May-June 1991 polls, but this Congress (I) Party managed to eventually cobble together a majority by wooing several opposition MPs.

# 20 hurt as N'ganj

two groups of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists at Mondolpara today.

Gate areas.

shot guns and tear gas shells to bring the situation under con-

Political analysts have also predicted a hung parliament from the Lok Sabha scheduled by the election commission on Tuesday for April 27. May 2. May 7 and May 21 Congress leaders voiced

optimism they would win the elections, but acknowledge it would not be a sweeping vic-"We will certainly get a majority though not a big one."

said Congress spokesman Vithal Gadgil. A Congress MP who requested anonymity was not so optimistic. "We will be a lucky

if we get 200 (seats)." the MF

The main opposition Hindurevivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) also claimed it would form the next government but admitted an outright victory would not

### BNP moves

From Page 1 who is qualified to be an adviser", as the chief adviser, the draft added.

The advisers shall neither be a member of any political party, nor they will have any affiliation with any party but they must have the qualifications for being a member of Parliament. Besides. the age of the advisers must be within

It can be recollected that the outline for a non-party caretaker government suggested by Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina proposed that the chief justice or a retired chief justice or a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court head the interim administration.

The ruling party did not opt for a sitting chief justice or a judge on the ground that in such cases, an additional amendment to the Constitution would be required to bring back the head of the caretaker administration to his original job in the Supreme Court. sources in the BNP said. If the bill is adopted by

Parliament, it has to be put to a referendum before being incorporated in the Constitution.

# 2 Dhaka WASA zones

From Page 1

tional 22.5 crore litres water a day using the water from the river Sitalakhya, easing the crippling supply shortfall in the capital city.

The credit, considered crucial in view of increasing water crisis in the capital, was negotiated in June last year. It was originally scheduled to be presented at the World Bank board in September last. But failure to meet the contract out condition in the face of stiff resistance from the WASA workers and employees, the credit could not be taken to be

board for approval. The French government agreed to supply equipment for the proposed plant against a tied grant but, they said, the grant would be available only. after the approval of the IDA

. The government, on different occasions, made abortive attempts to convince the World Bank to reconsider the contract out condition in view of the workers' resistance. The Bank argues that private participation in revenue collection would reduce WASA's mount ing pilferage which is running at around 52 per cent.

"This tie, we have signalled

in clear terms to the WASA

employees than the govern-

ment cannot afford to surren-

der the IDA credit," said an of-

supply from any disaster in future," he said. Meanwhile, the workers

and employees of Dhaka WASA are again up to resist the latest move to contract out the two zones to the private sector. A recent meeting of the Dhaka WASA Officers' and Employees' Unity Council resolved to resist "by any means" any move to contract out revenue collec-

"If there is any such move again, water supply in the Dhaka city will be made crippled," says the resolution of the meeting, copies of which were sent to the Prime Minister and the LGRD minister

### Over 600 civilians killed in Chechnya

GROZNY, Russia, Mar 20. More than 600 civilians have been killed in recent fighting and shelling in the west Chechen village of Samashki, a delegation of Chechen elders who arrived here from the area said, reports AFP.

The report could not be independently confirmed as Russian forces are still depying access to Samashki.

Russians have blocked thousands of civilians who have been trying to flee the village for the past three days on the road from Samashki to the neighbouring village of Sharov. villagers said

The Russians are shelling relentlessly," said Sadula Yusupov, one of the elders. "Again this morning, when we left, we could hear planes and helicopters bombard the vil-

"More than 600 civilians were killed in the first days, March 15 and 16, in air raids and by artillery. We buried many of them, as well as we could, in courtyards but there are still many bodies in the streets," she added.

She said she had left the village along with some 6,000 other civilians on Saturday, but that they had been held up immediately by gunfire and

### Give opportunity for carrying newsprint: BSP

Leaders of the Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad (BSP) yesterday appealed to all quarters concerned to give opportunity for carrying newsprint for the newspapers, reports

Professor Majidul Islam and Abul Kashem Majumder president and general secretary respectively of the BSP in a joint statement to the press said, due to countrywide 'noncooperation,' newsprint from Khulna newsprint mills was not being distributed in different areas of the country This resulted in abnormal rise of newsprint price in the mar ket, they added.

They expressed the apprehension that this may lead to closure of newspapers i supply of newsprint from Khulna newsprint mills is not arranged soon.

## Reaction

From Page 1 terest of the people by upholding their glorious tradition since 1971

**Jatiya Party** 

Jatiya Party acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury said the army should not be

used "against public opinion." "This is a national army, and can not be used against public opinion, he said.

The JP leader told UNB over telephone, "though the calling out of the army in aid of civil power is not contrary to the existing law, but it is unfair to force the people to obey illegal orders of the illegal government."

### Jamaat

Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Moulana Matiur Rahman Nizami, reacting to the deployment of army, said i proved the futility of the pre-

sent government. Nizami reiterated people's rejection of the February 1 polls and observed that the deployment of the army was the clear "indication of the government's inability" to face the prevailing situation.

### **Workers Party**

Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon said government bid to tackle the volatile situation with army or state of emergency, sidetracking a political solution of the problem, would push the nation into a greater danger.

"Virtually, this government has no authority. This is evident from the bid of BNP government to reestablish its control over the country by deploying the armed forces," he

### JSD-Rab

JSD leader A S M Abdur Rab castigated the government for deployment of army, showing no respect to the demand of the people.

In a statement, he said that the deployment of army would make it "controversial." He urged all concerned to keep the armed forces above con-

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Bosnian troops pull out of Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Mar 20: Hundreds of Bosnian army troops have pulled out of Sarajevo, in line with an agreement making the city a demilitarised zone, NATO officials said today. "Troops and equipment belonging to the (Bosnian) army have been removed from the main Tito barracks," said Major Tom Moyer, a spokesman for the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR), reports AFP.

# \$22b IDA credit

From Page 1

over the past 15 months. The three-year package begins with a one-year interim fund of about \$3 billion running from July 1996, with decision-making and procurement limited to contributing donors and developing countries. The United States will not contribute to the interim fund; it is instead undertaking to pay \$934 million remaining due to fulfill its \*commitment to IDA's Tenth Replenishment

which ends in June this year. In each of the two subsequent years, starting mid-1997, all IDA donors will contribute about \$4 billion to the Eleventh Replenishment of

"This agreement provides a strong financial base for IDA for the next three years, and that is a significant achievement," said Sandstrom. "It represents an exceptional ef-

### Rahul Gandhi may contest polls from Amethi

NEW DELHI. Mar 20: Rahul Gandhi, son of assassinated Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, is preparing to contest the Lok Sabha polls from his father's constituency Amethi in Uttar Pradesh, said a report in the Indian Communicator yesterday, reports BSS The Communicator comes

out from Cochin, Kerala. It is speculated in the political circle here that if

Rahul contests the election, Sonia Gandhi, widow of Rajiv, will be in the field to campaign for the Congress Party not only in Amethi but also at other Indian Prime Minister

Narasimha Rao will be too

### happy to support Rahul's candidature as that would strengthen his hands, the re-

One killed

From Page 1 Pakkerpul area and started firing and exploding hand bombs and crackers which left at least 30 injured. The gun fight was continuing till the writing

of this report at midnight. Repeated clashes between the two rival groups have been taking place in this area for the last one month. The group backed by

by Wahab while the Chhatra League backed group is led by The dead body was recov-

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal is led

fort by donors to ensure that IDA financing for poor countries' development can continue without interruption."

The IDA deputies emphasized that private sector-led growth and social and environmental sustainability are the foundations of effective poverty reduction. They called for recipient countries to improve governance and to broaden participation by the poor in development.

To support poor countries efforts. IDA's Country Assistance Strategies should build systematically on poverty assessments, public expenditure reviews and environmen tal action plans. IDA should encourage broad-based consultations within recipient countries, and among donors, about the development priorities which drive country assistance strategies, and should assist governments to make analysis of these issues widely available to interested groups in the country, they added.

In formulating country strategies, the deputies said economic policies should ensure broad-based, equitable growth. They called for structural measures to expand access of the poor - and especially poor women - to land and to market opportunities and to reform legislation and policies that worked to their disadvantage.

## Perishable items

From Page 1 quantity of fish in their

trawlers. The trawlers which had gone to the sea before the beginning of the opposition programme have started returning full with their catches, sources concerned said.

But these trawlers are now stuck at the ghats and are not being able to load their catches into containers for export At the same time, they are

running low on fuel and are not able to operate their onboard freezers to keep the catches fresh. "The oil companies are not being able to provide us with fuel. At the same time, we can not pay the oil companies

for fuel as banks are not func-

tioning," said an official of a deep-sea fishing company based in Chittagong. Meanwhile, importers are also cancelling their orders because of the uncertainty. "Ships are not coming to take containers from the port," said the official. "As a result, our

catch is being stockpiled caus-

### ered by Fatullah Thana police. ing us huge losses." Army called out

to and from various places are being obstructed causing immense sufferings to the people. Educational institutions sould not function due to disruptive activities jeopardising the future of the students and causing concern to the guardians, at added.

"The poorer sections of the people, particularly the daily wage earners, are facing extreme hardships being deprived of their livelihood. The Press Note said the army will also ensure uninter-

through Chittagong-Dhaka highway and railway. It said adequate security measures have been taken to enable people of all walks of

rupted and safe passage of ve-

hicular and railway traffic

life to resume their normal ac-Security sources said the deployment has been named

"Operation Life Link." The official sources said the government has also decided to deploy army in other parts of the country gradually for restoration of normalcy in

public life. They said the order for deployment of army was issued after Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia held meetings with Chief of Army Staff and

military officials on March 18. The sources said the government was trying to restore normalcy, maintain law and order, and road and rail communications by civil order instead of imposing the state of emergency.

Witnesses said army have been posted in different strategic points in the capital including road crossings, and rooftops of government and private offices.

patrolling the city thorough-Official sources said army is likely to escort the convoy of vehicles carrying goods be-

Army vehicles were seen

tween Chittagong and Dhaka. In the port city of Chittagong, the army was posted at all strategic points early morning yesterday. Army personnel, assisted by

government and private buildings. Army vans were seen patrolling the city thoroughfares. Most people stayed indoors in the morning. The city dwellers, however, started

coming out of their houses in

মালিক-শ্রমিক

small numbers after 8 am.

BDR and Ansar, took position

in bunkers at different road

crossings and on the rooftop of



বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানীকারক সমিতি

রপ্তানীমূখী পোশাক শিল্প মালিকদের আহ্বানে অবস্থান ধর্মঘট রাজনৈতিক অচলাবস্থার কারণে ধ্বংসোনাখ পোশাক শিল্পসহ

শিল্পকে রক্ষার দাবীতে

কর্মচারীদের অবস্থান ধর্মঘটঃ নিজ নিজ ফ্যান্ট্রীর সন্যথের রাস্তার উপর। श्वान १

২৪ মার্চ, ১৯৯৬ (রবিবার)।

সকাল ৮ ঘটিকা থেকে দুপুর ১২ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

বিস্তারিত কর্মসূচী আগামীকাল পত্রিকার মাধ্যমে জানানো হবে।

বিজিএমইএ

# shelling.

Princess Diana thanks four-year old Greta Born Tuesday after she received a programme for the Royal Gala performance by the English National Ballet at London's Coliseum.

# Opposition predicts hung Lok Sabha

May 21.

The two previous parliamentary polls in 1989 and 1991 led to the formation of

JCD factions clash From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Mar 20: At least 20 people were injured, five of them received bullet wounds, in a gunfight between

The gunfight spread to surrounding areas including DIT Market and Number 2 Rail Police fired a number of

> He said Syedabad treatment plant was badly required to

meet the increasing demand of

ply 67.8 crore litres per day

Dhaka WASA can now sup-

water in the capital.

through 197 deep tubewells against a daily requirement of 140 crore litres, leaving a shortfall of about 60 per cent. The WASA authorities were learnt to be planning to install some more deep tubewells. But the official, quoting water experts, said increase in extraction of ground water was not

water sources. "Syedabad plant is badly required to save the city's water

safe for the soil of Dhaka and

the WASA should go for surface