



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting from Janatar Mancha in front of the Jatiya Press Club on Tuesday. — Star photo

**Hasina**  
From Page 1  
Press Club on Tuesday.  
"People do not want to see you (Khaleda) in power anymore. Do not increase their sufferings by sticking to power," Hasina said.

The AL chief said that after two days of relaxation, the non-cooperation programme would resume again from the morning of March 28 and called upon the people to carry forward the movement till the "final victory." But she appealed to the people not to take law in their hands and to maintain peace. She also appealed to the people to help law enforcing agencies maintain law and order.

Speaking on the caretaker government issue, the former leader of the Opposition in the Fifth Parliament said: "The unfortunate part is that the Prime Minister did not understand the need for a caretaker government in time, but understood it later. The ruling BNP did not bring the bill in the fifth parliament, but introduced it in the Parliament of vote thieves."

"You (PM) accepted the demand at last. Then why did you kill so many people?" Hasina posed the question without naming Begum Zia. Hasina claimed that nearly 100 people were killed in the movement for the caretaker government.

The sixth Jatiya Sangsad passed the caretaker government bill Tuesday morning.

Sheikh Hasina also congratulated the civil servants for joining the peoples' movement.

**Cg port**  
From Page 1  
have sorted out the labour problem after holding a meeting with their leaders and we assured them of taking up the matter with the government later."

As a result, the dock workers and merchant labourers resumed their duties after 2 pm today, he added.

At least 53 vessels remained stranded at Chittagong port jetties and outer-anchorage following non-operation of the port due to continuous non-cooperation movement called by the opposition parties.

Besides, over two lakh metric tons of cargo remained stockpiled at the port sheds due to suspension of delivery, port sources said.

Meanwhile, further relaxations in port operations including delivery of goods to and from Chittagong port are expected shortly after another round of meeting between the port officials and the Opposition leaders, port sources said.

## Immunisation days now Apr 16 & May 16

By Staff Correspondent

The National Immunisation Days (NIDs) 1996, scheduled for April 4 and May 7, have been rescheduled for April 16 and May 16.

The new dates were announced at a press conference jointly organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the UNICEF at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday.

Nearly 20 million children, aged 0-5, are expected to be vaccinated against polio on a single day at 120 thousand centres across the country on the NIDs, as supplement to the routine immunisation coverage to eradicate poliomyelitis.

Two doses of oral polio vaccine (OPV) will be administered to each child, irrespective of their present vaccination status, one month apart on the NIDs.

In a joint statement, the WHO and UNICEF representatives called upon all to cooperate to make the NIDs a success by ensuring the free movement of transport and proper distribution of vaccines and other supplies.

The budget for this year's NID programme is 7.1 million dollars, the most of which is being provided by the Government of Japan. The rest will be contributed by Rotary International, the Government of Bangladesh, CDC-Atlanta (USA), UNICEF, WHO, USAID and Swedish SIDA. The Canadian SIDA will supply the Vitamin A.

The press conference was addressed by Dr Harjotoanojo, representative of the WHO, Rolf C Carriere, representative of the UNICEF, and by representatives of other donor agencies.

**20 injured as BNP, Opposition clash in Jhalakathi**  
JHALAKATHI, Mar 27: Twenty people including three local leaders and police officials were injured in a clash between pro-government and opposition activists in the town yesterday, reports UNB.

Both the groups hurled bombs and chased each other with lethal weapons during the clash that erupted at Kamarpotti at 11 am following holding of meetings of the BNP and combined opposition parties at the same venue scheduled to be held today.

Police lobbed tear gas shells and resorted to lathicharge to disperse the unruly people. The injured opposition leaders and workers — district Awami League Organising Secretary Alamgir Hossain Dulal, Chhatra League Organising Secretary Rifat Hasan Rubel, Chhatra Shamaj President Soyebrur, Morshed Sohai, Sayedur Rahman Tuhin, Imran, Razzak Hossain, Motu Sheikh, Masud Parvez and Firoz Khan Tuku — were admitted to Sadar Hospital. Among them, Sayedur Rahman Tuhin was shifted to Barisal.

OC Forkan Sikder, Second Officer Obaidul Haque and two constables Mohammad Shahjahan and Asaduzzaman were also hurt during the clash. Meanwhile, District Magistrate banned the scheduled meetings at the district stadium today. Tension was prevailing in the town area.

**35 secys**  
From Page 1  
Prior to their meeting with the President that lasted nearly three hours, the secretaries had a meeting of their own at the Secretariat to review the prevailing situation in the country, according to a press release issued by the Cabinet Secretary.

The meeting unanimously adopted 35 proposals and decided to bring it to the notice of the President immediately.

A member of the delegation which met the President told The Daily Star that the President gave them a patient hearing and assured them of using his good offices in removing their grievances at the earliest.

Ataul Haq, Secretary, Statistics Division, said: "We talked about our security, current economic stalemate, deterioration of law and order, administrative dislocation besides the formation of a neutral caretaker government."

Of the total of 53 secretaries of Bangladesh government, 35 went with the delegation that called on the President at 1:40 pm at the Bangabhaban.

UNB adds: Foreign Ministry officials endorsed unanimously the memorandum of the government secretaries submitted to the President for forming a caretaker government forthwith.

The BCS (Foreign Affairs) Association gave the support in a special meeting held yesterday, said a press release of the association, signed by its General Secretary and Director (FSO) M Humayun Kabir. It was presided over by Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan.

## Hajj flight begins

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday saw off the first batch of Hajj pilgrims at the Zia International Airport and called upon them to seek the blessings of the Almighty Allah in Arafat Maidan for the peace and prosperity of Bangladesh and welfare of the people, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister talked to the batch of 301 Hajj pilgrims at the airport and wished them that they perform well their religious tasks in Arafat Maidan and Madina Al Monwarah and return home safely after the holy Hajj.

The Prime Minister along with the Hajj pilgrims offered munajat.

State Minister for Religious Affairs and Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism MA Mannan were also present at the airport.

## PM's holding of office challenged

A writ petition was filed with the High Court Division yesterday challenging the legality and authority of Begum Khaleda Zia to hold and continue in the office of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The petitioner also wants the court to declare that the seat Begum Zia holds as a member of parliament from Constituency No. 286 Feul-1 stands vacated under Article 71 of the Constitution.

The petition could not be moved yesterday as the court was not functioning.

It will be formally moved as soon as the High Court Division resumes its function, said Barrister Moudud Ahmed, one of the lawyers who will be representing the petitioner.

Petitioner Fakhruddin Islam Manik, a voter of Fulgata thana from where the Prime Minister was elected in the controversial February 15 polls and has retained the seat as member of parliament.

## Amir gets life term for killing Rabin

TEL AVIV, Mar 27: A court sentenced Yigal Amir to life imprisonment today after finding him guilty of murdering Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, reports Reuters.

"He is not worthy of mercy because he lost all semblance of humanity," presiding judge Edmond Levy said, passing sentence.

"The state of Israel is a monstrosity," Amir shouted as police hustled him out of the courtroom.

The sentence included a six-year term, to run consecutively, for aggravated assault in wounding Rabin's bodyguard during the November 4 shooting at a Tel Aviv peace rally.

Amir will have 45 days to appeal to Israel's Supreme Court, Levy said.

## Marathon parley

From Page 1  
that the President would appoint a non-MP to be the Chief Adviser with the status and privileges of the Prime Minister, the bill would be required to be put to referendum, they said. Some legal experts who attended the Select Committee meeting also expressed the same view.

Only Khandaker Mahbubuddin of the Select Committee argued that the referendum could be avoided by insertion of a new Article in the Constitution declaring that certain provisions would remain ineffective during the tenure of the non-party caretaker government.

The original Select Committee report submitted before the House contained the views of the majority members of the Committee.

But Mahbubuddin got his proposals approved by the Prime Minister at a marathon meeting of the BNP high command.

When the House took up the bill, it appeared that the



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia exchanging views with disabled freedom fighters at Bangabhaban on March 26. — Star photo

## Independence Day

From Page 1  
organisations chalked out elaborate programmes to celebrate the silver jubilee of the independence.

National flag was hoisted atop all government and private buildings while some government buildings were illuminated with colourful lights. The city's main streets were decorated with miniature national flags.

Band parties of army, navy air force, BDR, police and ansar-VDP played bands at selected points in the capital. School and college students organised colourful rallies and sports events while different organisations organised screening of films on liberation war, art exhibition, assembly of children and women, discussion meetings and cultural programmes.

Special prayers were offered in mosques, temples, churches and pagodas seeking divine blessings for the peace, prosperity and continued success of the nation.

The national dailies published special supplements while radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh television put up special programmes on the day.

Inmates of hospitals, jails, orphanages, children and vagrant centres were served with improved diets.

The Awami League's programme on the day included hoisting of national flag and party flag at Bangabandhu Bha-

## Astomy snan held

From Our Correspondent  
NARAYANGANJ, Mar 27: The traditional 'Astomy snan,' the holy bath of the Hindu community, ended at Langalbandh on the bank of the old Brahmaputra river under Bandar Thana tonight.

About 1.5 lakh Hindu devotees from across the country as well as from India and Nepal took part in the bathing which is believed to cure all kinds of maladies.

Devotees believe that Hindus have been taking this holy bath at this place for thousands of years.

The auspicious time for bathing began at 7 pm yesterday and ended at 8 pm today. Some thirteen ghats were set up along one kilometer stretch of the river.

The district administration took adequate steps to ensure the safety and security of the devotees and set up medical centres. About 80 private organizations, including the Red Crescent Society, Ram Krishna Mission, Lions and Rotary clubs provided volunteers for the peaceful bathing.

As part of the bathing, a two-day folk fair was organised at the site. Devotees and 'Shadus' were also seen singing devotional songs.

Select Committee failed to scrutinise the minor but important technical aspects of the constitutional amendment bill. Then the entire House engaged itself for more than two hours to scrutinise the technical aspects of the bill.

The Speaker could only take up the bill for consideration at 3:00 pm. In the process, the House had to undo the part of the original Select Committee report seeking referendum by a voice vote. A fresh amendment proposal seeking inoperativeness of the constitutional provision regarding referendum also came directly from the House.

The independent MPs who moved various amendments to the bill were not allowed to argue in favour of their respective views.

As per the Rules of Procedure, the bill was adopted in the House by division votes twice. It was at 6:00 am Tuesday when the Speaker announced that the bill seeking elections under a non-party government was passed.

## The Midnight File

### Writ against Indian CEC

NEW DELHI, Mar 27: Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court today issued a notice to the Indian Chief Election Commissioner on a writ petition seeking changes in the dates of the forthcoming Lok Sabha polls, said an agency report. The notice is returnable on April two, reports BSS.

## Opposition may sit

From Page 1  
quoted.  
"The very idea of dissolving the JS within a couple of days after its constitution, the passage of the caretaker government bill which the ruling party was not even ready to talk about evidently reflects the success of the struggle of the Opposition," he said.

A Jamaat leader said that his party would go for the elections provided the Opposition's demands were met.

"On setting up of a caretaker government, all the political parties including the BNP might sit in a roundtable conference on invitation from the President to sort out other formalities," the Jamaat leader suggested.

The briefing on behalf of the three major opposition parties, which earlier used to call upon the people to intensify the agitation made a departure yesterday and called for more restraint and discipline.

Justice Rahman  
From Page 1  
of the bill which I will have to study thoroughly. Besides, I will advise myself before taking a decision."

According to the newly passed caretaker government bill, the President would approach first the last retired chief justice to head the non-party caretaker government as chief adviser.

Justice Habibur Rahman retired on May 1, 1995 as the seventh Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

**Ban on rallies**  
From Page 1  
Secretariat are scheduled to stage a sit-in in front of the VIP gate of the Secretariat today.

The sit-in programme was earlier announced from a joint rally of the officers and employees held inside the Secretariat on March 25. At that rally, they had demanded of the President announcement of the formation of a caretaker government by March 27.

A leaflet was circulated yesterday in the Secretariat urging all the employees and officers to report at the Secretariat at 7:30 am and take position at the VIP gate.

## Caretaker bill passed

From Page 1  
The outgoing Prime Minister, Ministers and the State Ministers will continue to hold their offices till the caretaker government is formed.

A retired Chief Justice, or a retired judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, or a competent citizen would head the caretaker government. In case, the persons concerned are not available or unwilling to head the interim government, the President would take over as the head of the caretaker administration.

The caretaker government would comprise 10 'advisers and a chief adviser,' according to the Bill. The President will appoint the chief adviser first and then other advisers on the advice of the chief adviser. The caretaker government will be accountable to the President.

The caretaker government will remain in power till a new elected Prime Minister enters the office.

During the interim period, the chief adviser will exercise the executive power of the state in consultation with the advisers.

The status and privilege of the chief adviser will be that of the Prime Minister. Other members of the advisory council will enjoy the status of ministers.

While cooperating with the EC in holding an impartial poll to elect members of Parliament, the caretaker government would run the day-to-day affairs of the state. But it would not make any policy decision.

According to the provisions of the Bill the President will approach the chief justice who retired last to head the caretaker government. If the last Chief Justice declines to head the interim government, the President will invite the 2nd last Chief Justice. If the 2nd last Chief Justice is not available, the last retired judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court will be approached. If the last retired judge of the Appellate Division is not available, the 2nd last retired judge of the Appellate Division will be appointed as the chief of the advisory council.

In case the said judges are not available, the President will appoint, on the basis of discussions with the major political parties, a citizen of the country as the chief adviser.

If none of the persons concerned is available or willing to head the caretaker government, the President will, in addition to his constitutionally defined duties of the head of state, discharge the responsibilities of the head of the interim government. In that case, the President would require oaths of affirmation and secrecy from the sitting Chief Justice.

The chief adviser and the advisers will neither be members of any political party, nor they will have any affiliation with any party. They will have to be qualified for being a member of Parliament but will not contest the general elections. The age of the advisers must be within 72.

The advisers will enjoy the right to resign, addressed to the President.

**ঢাকা ওয়াসা জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

পানির অপচয় বন্ধ করুন।  
ম্যানহোলের ঢাকনা চুরি রোধ করুন।

ঢাকা ওয়াসা উহার বিভিন্ন পানি উত্তোলন কেন্দ্র হতে মহানগরীতে স্থাপিত সরবরাহ লাইনে গ্লাউন্ড লেভেলে নির্দিষ্ট সময়সূচী মোতাবেক পানি সরবরাহ করছে। সম্প্রতি বারিধারা, গুলশান, বনানী, মহাখালী, নতুন ও পুরাতন ডি, ও, এইচ, এস, শাহীনবাগসহ নগরীর অন্যান্য এলাকা হতে জনসাধারণ সর্বক্ষণ সরাসরি ট্যাপে পানি সরবরাহের জন্য ওয়াসার বিভিন্ন আঞ্চলিক অফিসে এবং পানি উত্তোলন কেন্দ্রে দাবী জানাচ্ছেন যা মোটেই যুক্তিযুক্ত নেহে। তাদের পানি সেক্টরে ব্যাপারে তদন্তে দেখা গেছে যে, অধিকাংশ ক্ষেত্রে যাদের বাড়িতে ডু-গর্তস্থ জলাধার নেই তাদেরই পানির সমস্যা বেশি হচ্ছে।

উপরোক্ত অবস্থায় প্রয়োজনীয় পানি সরবরাহের জন্য প্রতিটি হোমিংয়ে নির্দিষ্ট মাপের ডু-গর্তস্থ জলাধার নির্মাণসহ বহুল বিশিষ্ট ভবন-গুলোতে গ্লাউন্ড লেভেলের উর্ধ্বে পানি উত্তোলনের নিয়ন্ত্রণ ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য সর্বশ্রিষ্ট গ্লাহকসাধারণকে পুনরায় বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে।

**ওয়াসা ঢাকা ওয়াসা**

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