

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a rally at the 'ganatantra mancha' in front of the party central office in the city yesterday. - Star photo



Leaders of the Officials Coordination Council of the Republic and Bangladesh Sachibalay Karmachari Sanjukta Parishad joined the Janatar Mancha in front of the Jatiya Press Club to express solidarity with Mayor Hanif's movement. — Star photo

#### Khaleda

From Page 1 "Since the BNP believes that the people are the source of power, it has always been the people on the streets," Khaleda Zia said adding, "I hope people will once again vote the BNP to

Criticising the "opposition's politics of destruction" Khaleda Zia said, "We have repaired a destroyed economy. What we have done for national development in the last five years, others could not do it in 20 years."

The former Prime Minister urged the people to help maintain law and order in the face of what she called provocation by other political par-

Prof Badruddoza Chowd hury, vice-president of BNP, strongly criticised the Secretariat officials and employees who had stopped work demanding formation of a caretaker government and said: "With these people running the administration, an impartial election is impossible."

He demanded their removal from service within 72 hours "in the interest of impartiality of the administration and holding of a fair poll."

The rally was also addressed by, among others, BNP secretary general Abdus Salam Talukder, Fazlur Rahman Patal and JCD leader Nasiruddin

### Gold seized at ZIA: Japanese woman held

By Staff Correspondent

A Japanese woman was arrested for carrying gold bars worth about Tk 15.5 lakh at Zia International Airport (ZIA) vesterday.

The customs surveillance team at the airport challenged the woman when she was crossing the green channel and recovered 32 gold, bars weighing 320 tolas after searching her body, customs sources said.

She arrived in Dhaka from Bangkok by a Thai Airways flight at about 12:30 pm.

Customs officials later took the woman to the Cantonment · thana where a case was filed She was in the custody of the Cantonment police till last

#### Govt officials urged to join duties

By Staff Correspondent

Government officers vesterday announced they would extend all coor eration to the neutral caretal r government to enable it to discharge its duties impartially, said a press release issued by the officers of the Republic's Co-ordination Council

A meeting of the Council held yesterday with Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir in the chair urged all officials to join their duties immediately. The press release was signed by Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, vice president, the

BCS admin cadre, Engineer M A Kashem, vice president, Engineers Institution, Bangladesh, Dr Kazi Shaheedul Alam, general secretary. Bangladesh Medical Associa tion and Dr M A Razzak, general secretary. Bangladesh Agricultural Institution.

# Thana.OC stabbed

From Our Correspondent MOULVIBAZAR, Mar 30: The Officer In-charge of

later the baby boy, Bluejay Keatley, was born alive and Kamalganj police sta' on was stabbed allegedly by a position The operations was carried activists today. out two years ago but doctors Police say, a group of oppodid not previously release information about it because of sition activists went to Kamaluncertainly about the extent to ganj Thana Nirbahi Officer's which it helped the baby's

office this noon to remove the portrait of Prime Minister Khaleda 7 1. When some employees resisted them, they stabled the Ifficer In-charge. The vic in azul Islam was ada. led to Kamalganj Thana Heatin Complex and then he was shifted to the Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital in a critical condition.

## : Mahfuz Anam

otherwise.

condition.

since birth.

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# CCC Mayor urges people to maintain peace

CHITTAGONG, Mar 30: The Mayor of Chittagong, A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury, has called upon all to maintain peace and discipline in the port city, reports UNB.

"Don't take law in your own hands and hand over to police if anyone is found committing anti-social acts." he said in a statement today after the dissolution of Parliament was announced.

In his statement, the mayor, an Awami League leader, paid homage to those killed in the anti-government movement. He also expressed sympathy for all those affected in the movement.

Meanwhile, paramilitary BDR and extra police forces have been deployed at various points in the city today to protect both public and private property, district administra-

tion sources said. Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) sources said police were also deployed at the residences of top BNP leaders

NEW DELHI, Mar 30: India

and Russia today signed three

agreements, including one for

setting up a hotline between

the prime minister's office

here and the Kremlin, even as

they pledged to combat fun-

damentalism, terrorism and

extremist violence, reports

signed soon after the delega-

tion level talks between visit-

ing Russian Foreign Minister

Yevgeny Primakov and Exter-

nal Affairs Minister Pranab

Mukherjee. The two ministers

initialled the agreement on the

The other two agreements

hotline communication facility.

covered Indo-Russian scien-

tific and technical cooperation

till the year 2000 and cultural

Russian Foreign Minister for

Hartal observed

in Barisal

long hartal, enforced by liaison

committee of the mainstream

opposition parties, was ob-

served peacefully in the town

today. The Awami League,

Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-

Islami called the hartal

protesting the killing of

Chhatra League activist Sohel

who was killed in a clash be-

tween the opposition activists

Heart operation

on baby in

mother's womb

Mar 30: Doctors here have

performed a heart operation

on a baby while it was still in

its mother's womb, hospital

officials said Friday, reports

valve by passing a wire through

the mother and into the baby's

heart during the three-hour

operation at the Birmingham

was six months pregnant at

the time and three months

The mother Michelle Evans

Bluejay still has heart dis-

But his parents are con-

ease and has had to undergo a

series of heart operations

vinced the operation saved his

life and doctors say his illness

might have been more severe

Women's Hospital.

Surgeons unblocked a heart

BIRMINGHAM, England.

and BNP on Friday.

BARISAL, Mar 30: A day-

visit India after the disintegra-

Primakov, who is the first

cooperation for 1996-98.

The agreements were

A CMP press release advised those who are feeling insecure or apprehending disruption of peace to dial 624100, 220691 and 225106

in the city

or get in touch with the local Talking to UNB tonight CMP Commissioner Osman Ali Khan said measures have been

taken for a foolproof security The CMP Commissioner also called upon the city dwellers, not to do anything that might disturb peace in the port city.

Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong adds: Sporadic gunshots and blasts of cocktails rocked the port city this evening following the dissolution of the 6th Parliament

Hundreds of opposition activists expressed jubilation and brought out processions in the city as part of their celebra tions in the victory in the antigovernment movement.

Opposition sources said they would also organise big processions in the port city at 10 am tomorrow.

tion of the erstwhile Soviet

Union, called on President Dr

The leaders stressed the need

for greater cooperation to

tackle fundamentalism and

matters relating to the Afghan

problem and threats posed to

the security and territorial in

tegrity of the region by terror-

ism figured during Primakov's

talks with Pranab Mukherjee.

Non-cooperation

From Page 1

ple to extend all cooperation

to the caretaker government

March 31 as a day of gratitude

and asked all partymen and

workers to join the rally and

procession to be organised on

the non-cooperation pro-

gramme passed off amid spo-

radic incidents of bomb blasts

injuring at least 10 persons in-

cluding Jatiya Party Secretary

General Anwar Hossain Manju,

party leader Zafar Imam and

OC of Lalbagh thana Akhtaruz-

zaman in the city. They were

injured along with two other

party activists when a bomb

was hurled at a Jatiya Party

persons, Zahir, 25, and Abul

Kalam, 45, were injured when

a petrol bomb was hurled at a

bus at Azampur bus stand at

Uttara at around 7 pm. An-

other person, Habib, was in-

jured in a bomb blast at Farm-

gate at noon. The injured per-

sons were admitted to the

Dhaka Medical College Hospi-

Dhaka University (DU) area in

the afternoon creating panic.

Gunshots were fired in the

MOSCOW, Mar 30: Russian

President Boris Yeltsin an-

nounced today he was com-

pleting a treaty on power-

sharing between Moscow and

Chechnya but excluded the

separatist rebels from a dia-

logue on the north Caucasus

in the Komsomolskaya Pravda

daily. Yeltsin said he was ready

for a "Dialogue" to define a

"Special status" for Chechnya

based on the power-sharing

unveil a peace plan for

Chechnya tomorrow, appeared

to rule out negotiations with

the separatists loyal to inde-

pendence leader Dzhokhar

Dudayev, whom he described

as "terrorists" and "illegal

The open letter was a re-

sponse to thousands of letters

from Komsomolskaya Pravda

readers urging him to stop the

armed groups."

war in Chechnya.

But Yeltsin, who is set to

In an open letter published

republic's status, reports AFP.

tal, said medical sources.

residents there said.

In another incident two

procession at Lalbagh.

The last day yesterday of

Jamaat decided to observe

in discharging its duties.

the occasion.

Besides bilateral issues,

Shankar Dayal Sharma here.

India, Russia to

set up hotline

terrorism.

Meanwhile, life was almost normal in the city today, the 3rd day after resumption of the non-cooperation move-

All kinds of vehicles were seen plying in the city as well as in the long-distance routes. The Chittagong port also functioned normally today. But in a few government of-

fices there was no work due to absence of employees. In the evening, a victory rally was held at "Bir Janatar Mancha" erected by Nagorik

Committee at the New Market Awami League leaders, including Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, Pulin Dey, engineer Mosharraf Hossain and Nurul Islam BSc addressed the rally. City AL president M A

Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami also held separate victory rallies at "Ershad Mancha" and "Caretaker Mancha" respectively at K C Dey Road and Laldighi Maidan.

Mannan presided.

# Young man beaten to death in Feni

FENI, Mar 30: A young man was beaten to death by unknown assailants at Daulatpur village in Sonagazi thana early today, reports UNB. The dead was identified as

Noor Mohammad, 30. Police and hospital sources said, 10 miscreants kidnapped Noor Mohammad from his village home on Friday midnight and confined him in a room of Sheikh Shahidul Islam College.

He was beaten seriously during his confinement. Two youngmen took injured Noor Mohammed to Sonagazi thana health complex at 7 this morning, but the on-duty doc-

tor declared him dead. Getting information from the hospital sources, police rushed to the hospital and arrested Azizul Karim, 25, one of

the two youngmen. Awami League-backed Jubo League claimed Noor Mohammad as their activist and blamed BNP for the killing. Noor Mohammad was the

number-one accused of a murder case in Sonagazi thana. The body was sent to sadar hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with Sonagazi thana.

## JCD activist shot dead in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Mar 30: A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activist was shot dead reportedly by opposition activists during a protest rally at Muladi today.

Tuhin Mahmud was chased and gunned down by the activists when he arrived at the rally organised by the three main opposition parties to protest yesterday's killing of AL worker Sohel

Meanwhile, thousands of people attended Sohel's namaz-e-janaza at Barisal town

Yeltsin unveils peace plan

for Chechnya today

Yeltsin again proposed the

creation of "islands of peace"

in the breakaway republic,

which would get federal subsi-

dies to pay pensions and other

social benefits provided they

agreed to peace on Moscow's

"no quick, easy solution" to the

15-month conflict, which was

triggered by Moscow's deci-

sion to pour troops into

Chechnya in December 1994

"In this situation, calls for

to crush Dudayev's indepen-

an immediate, total withdrawal

of troops from the Chechen

republic are not the way to

peace but rather a road leading

directly to an extension of the

war to the entire Caucasus," he

forces have unleashed a major

offensive with aircraft and

heavy artillery against Chechen

villages in a bid to force them

to accept peace accords and

drive out the separatists.

In the past month Russian

dence drive.

He stressed that there was

#### political parties to press for his release Jatiya Party chairman and

Ershad urges.

former president Hussain Muhamfnad Ershad has said the people had reposed their faith in him by electing him in five seats in 1991, reports

A lawyer of the former pres ident, Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun, yesterday quoted Ershad as having told him during a meeting that the people have proved again his (Ershad's) innocence by resisting the farcical election on February 15.

"Injustice was done to Jatiya Party in 1991 during the election by violating commit ment to the people," said the statement by Ershad.

He called upon the political parties in the on-going movement to press for his release in the interest of free and fair elections.

#### BTV wakes up By Staff Correspondent

Suddenly BTV news ap peared interesting last night After years of government control, and total dominance of government and ruling party news, there was a sudden breath of freedom which made the news programmes of the near abandoned BTV suddenly an event worth watching. Like a giant waking up from a long sleep. BTV suddenly appears to have realised that a great mass movement had occurred.

Last evening it gave news of all the political parties holding rallies and demonstrations. In fact, it was the BTV news that gave the latest comments of the Chief Advisor, the former Prime Minister and the former Leader of the Opposition after the swearing-in ceremony at Bangabhaban.

It is quite possible that BTV and Radio Bangladesh will be operating in comparative freedom under the caretaker government. But the main problem of lack of autonomy of the state-controlled media still remains with us. We raise once again the demand of making appropriate laws that will free the state-funded media from government control. Can the caretaker government act in this regard?

# Raushan, Manju

From Page 1 crude bombs from nearby lanes and rooftops of some buildings, party sources

During the attack, a procession of Jubo Sanghati was coming from Lalbagh to join the meeting, which was intercepted by police near the Central Jail A clash ensued in the area

when the processionists and the party activists from the meeting venue tried to resist the attackers. The violence

lasted about half an hour. Police fired teargas shells and rubber bullets to disperse the rival groups. Another source of the party

said their activists Ibrahim. Ramjan Bhuiyan, and Mohiuddin were also injured. Jatiya Party leaders held BNP activists responsible for

Aware that the unpopular

Chechnya campaign is a major

political handicap in the run-

up to the June 16 presidential

elections, Yeltsin stressed that

he was "deeply affected" by the

pain suffered by those who had

lost relatives in the Chechnya

letters causes unrelieved pain,

Yeltsin said, appealing to read-

ers to be patient.

Irish nationalists.

Chechnya.

the conflict

"Believe me, each of these

"Time is required to cure

terrorism, especially that

which is rooted in nationalism

and separatism," said Yeltsin,

referring to the long-standing

conflicts involving Basque and

He said the mass hostage-

takings by Chechen guerillas in

Budennovsk in southern Russia

in June 1995 and Dagestan in

January 1996 "prove the ex-

tent of the terrorism rooted in

mostly civilians, have died in

More than 30,000 people.

# Two murdered, 20 hurt in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

least 20 people injured creat

Mitford Hospital were identi-

fied as Rafik, Farhad, Alim,

Fazal, Eklas, Anis, Iqbal, Zaman

and Mubarak. The body was

sent to the hospital morgue for

was gunned down at Rayer-

bazar under Mohammadpur

Riazuddin, received bullet in-

juries in his head and died on

the way to the Dhaka Medical

stabbed by a group of unidenti-

fied youths at Konapara

Matuail, on March 15 died at

the PG Hospital yesterday

the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

SC Bar polls:

581 votes cast

on first day

By SC Correspondent

The two-day annual election

the Supreme Court Bar

A total of 581 votes out of

The polling will begin today

at 10 am and will continue till

Shawkat Ali Khan, Alhaj H K

Abdul Hye and Nazmul Huda -

are contesting for the post of

withdrew his candidature in

support of Shawkat Ali Khan

backed by the Lawyers

decided in support of Alhaj H

K Abdul Hye and Nazmul Huda.

ing for the post of Secretary.

But the fight is limited among

Md. Mamtazuddin Ahmed,

backed by the Lawyers Co-

ordination Council, S M Munir

Muzammel Hussain, Shah

and Nazrul Islam Chowdhury.

Md Khasruzzaman and A F

Hassan Ariff are the leading

candidates among the six for

the two posts of Vice-

Contesting for the post of trea-

surer seven for the two posts

of Assistant Secretary and 14

for the posts of 7 members.

Three candidates are

Pro-BNP voters have been

Five candidates are contest-

Coordination Council.

a former Minister.

President.

Md Sirajul Islam Khan

Association began here yester-

day and will conclude today.

1388 were cast yesterday.

5 pm with one hour break.

Three candidates

The bodies were sent to

Sayedur Rahman (27)

thana yesterday evening.

College Hospital (DMCH).

morning

A young man aged about 20

Shahjalal, son of one

autopsy, police said.

The injured admitted to the

ing panic in the whole area.

Two persons were mur- The armed fight also left at dered and 20 others injured in separate clashes in the city yesterday. A young man also succumbed to his injuries at the PG Hospital.

Bashir Miah, 30, was killed in a crossfire during an armed clash between two rival groups of fruits sellers in Badamtoli area under Kotwali thana ves terday afternon, police and hospital sources said.

# 2 killed, 15 hurt as rivals clash in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Mar 30: Two persons were killed and 15 others injured in a clash between two rival groups in Bahubal thana under Habiganj district yester-

Of the injured, one was admitted to the Sylhet M A G Osmani Medical College Hospital. The others were sent to the Bahubal hospital. The clash first erupted fol-

lowing an exchange of hot words between Abdul Mannaf ex-UP member and one Nandu Miah on Thursday, when five persons were injured. They had enmity over a Jal Mahal. Yesterday, the two groups

used lethal weapons. One Paro Miah, 30, died on the spot and 15 others were injured in the 2-hour clash. Later, Kanchon Mia, 35, succumbed to his injuries in the hospital.

### Gunshots rock JU campus

From JU Correspondent Several rounds of gunshots rocked the Jahangirnagar University campus last night. A heavy contingent of police was later deployed on the campus. The origins of the shots,

which were heard around 11 pm, could not be ascertained till the writing of this report late last night. Police were found patrolling the campus. Earlier, a JCD activist was

admitted to the JU medical centre with self-inflicted bullet injuries as Chhatra Dal members at various JU halls prepared themselves for possible attacks by Islamic Chhatra Shibir and Jatiya Chhatra Samaj following the Prime Minister's resignation yesterday.

Muradul Haque, a third year student of the English Department, shot himself in the leg while toying with a gun.

#### Maneka to contest polls on Janata, Dal ticket

NEW DELHI, Mar 30: Ms Maneka Gandhi, daughter-inlaw of assassinated Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, will contest the Lok Sabha polls on Janata Dal (JD) ticket from Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh (UP), reports BSS.

Earlier, she had left Sama jwadi Janata Party to rejoin JD which she had left in 1991.

### Two killed

From Page 1

BDR. Three persons - Babu of Bodu group — and Rahmatullah and Sentu of Hasan group, were arrested from the spot. In the second incident, a Sramik League leader was

stabbed in Hajiganj area. The victim, Akbar Ali, General Secretary of Narayanganj District Sramik League, was leading a workers' procession to 'janatar mancha' when he was attacked allegedly by BNP pickets at Khalpur railgate. He was ad-

The pickets were active in support of a half-day hartal called by the local BNP to protest the killing of an acfivist on March 22.

mitted to a local clinic.

At least 40 people, including 4 policemen, were injured when a clash broke out between police and BNP activists when police arrived at BNP's Mission Para office at around 11:15 am to pick up those responsible for the attack on Akbar Ali.

Police lobbed tear gas shells to bring the situation under control and arrested five Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal activists from there.

# Uneasy calm on DU campus

An uneasy calm was prevailing on the Dhaka University

new faces with firearms in hand or in their waists have positioned themselves at the hall gates along with the dominating student groups of the

portedly pledged support to the Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, the

the adjoining Salimullah Hall. now dominated by the pro-Awami League Chhatra League. Chhatra League sources said

defend their position. Meanwhile several rounds of gunshots were heard from the TSC area at around 7:30

#### pm, but there was no report of any injury. criticise aid plan for

DUBAI, Mar 30: Gulf news papers today criticised a USsponsored emergency aid plan for the Palestinians because it keeps Israel's closure of the

"It is a sedative to divert people's attention from the real causes of the Palestinians' suffering, which is the closure of the territories," said the United Arab Emirates daily Al-

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher on

The closure, which keeps Palestinians away from jobs in Israel, was imposed in late February after the start of an Islamic suicide bombing campaign in the Jewish state that

#### 10 Advisers From Page 1 Bangabhaban at about 9:45 pm.\*

From Page 1 national anthem. One-minute

Begum Khaleda Zia, Awami League président Sheikh Hasina, Jatiya Party acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Moulana Matiur Rahman Nizami, other political leaders, diplomats, high civil and military officials and elite of the city were pre-

Former prime minister

Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif and Chiefs of the three services also attended the ceremony. The ceremony over, Justice

Rahman shook hands with the President and exchanged greetings with Begum Zia, Hasina and other political

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Leaders of the country's major political parties called upon the people to maintain peace and order in the interest of the nation.

Urging the people to maintain peace, BNP chairperson and former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia said: "Restoration of law and order is very important for democracy and development. I call upon the people to uphold law and order and allow the process of development my government had set in motion to go on."

She also hoped that the people from all walks would actively participate in the ensuing general elections.

Calling upon the people to show restraint. Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina said: "We have enabled the people to get back their power, and now the people should not take revenge on any one." She also asked the people not to take the law in their own hands.

Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Mattur Rahman Nizami said "A sound law and order was now very important to institutionalise democracy

campus yesterday amidst tension as a large number of armed outsiders were seen roaming around different residential halls, reports UNB. Campus sources said many

respective halls An armed student group of Zahurul Haque Hall, has re-

student front of Jatiya Party. The two armed groups were seen guarding the hall together. The sources said that in a bid to strengthen their power base, the group might capture

they were aware of the intention of their rivals and would

Gulf newspapers

Palestinian territories in place, reports AFP.

"Though it looks positive, the plan ignored the importance of lifting the closure which has turned the Palestinian territories into a big jail," the Qatari daily Al-Sharq said.

Bayan.

Thursday announced a sixpoint plan that calls for a jobcreation programme and partial reopening of the borders between Israel and the Palestinian autonomous terri-

claimed more than 60 lives.

#### Janatar mancha

silence was also observed in

memory of those killed during the anti-government move-Awami League activists arranged sporadic processions around the Mancha. The pro-

cessionists carried national flag and portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina. In the morning, the liaison

committee of government officials and employees held a rally at the Janatar Mancha expressing solidarity with the movement for ouster of the "illegal" government.

# JS dissolved

From Page

power through 'farcical polls' and an 'illegal parliament.

The BNP had insisted that it had conducted the polls for the sake of constitutional continuity while party chief Begum Zia after the elections stated that the new parliament would pass a caretaker bill in its first session and quit.

#### JKLF :

From Page 1 tragedy and continue its

"freedom struggle until India is shunted out of Kashmir. Police in Srinagar said Siddiqui and 20 other mili-

tants were killed in a gun bat tle with Indian troop near the holiest mosque in the Kashmir summer capital A JKLF commander in Sri-

nagar said Siddiqui was killed when Indian troops attacked the organization's head quarters near the Hazratbal