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NEWS BRIEFS

Army chief calls on President

Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, Bir Bikram, Chief of Army Staff, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday. He stayed with the President, who is also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, for sometime, reports BSS.



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting from 'Gonatantra Mancha' near the party central office at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday. (Right) Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting from 'Janatar Mancha' in front of the Jatiya Press Club on the day. — Star photo

Khaleda threatens agitation Sack officials doing politics to ensure fair elections

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has called upon the non-party caretaker government to take immediate action against those "officials and employees of the Republic" who addressed rallies from the dais of a particular political party.

"The Chief Adviser must ensure their trial and punishment. Otherwise, a new movement would be launched," she said while addressing a huge public meeting from the Gonatantra Mancha (democracy podium) in front of the BNP central office at Naya Paltan in the capital yesterday afternoon.

"Those officials and employees of the Republic who are doing politics have no right to continue in their services. The non-party caretaker government cannot ensure fair elections unless action is taken against them," the former prime minister said. Begum Zia also addressed a rally at the same venue after

she requested the President to dissolve the sixth parliament Saturday afternoon.

The crowd at yesterday's rally spread over the Inner Circular Road, from Fakir-circular crossing to Kakrail crossing. Many others listened to the BNP leaders from rooftops and balconies of the

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Cabinet Secy's office fails to carry out presidential order

By Staff Correspondent

The office of the cabinet secretary failed to carry out a presidential instruction also to invite the leaders of smaller parties at the swearing-in ceremony of Justice Habibur Rahman as head of the caretaker government Saturday.

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Chief Adviser addresses nation Law & order must for holding polls

Chief Adviser Mohammed Habibur Rahman said here last night that the maintenance of law and order was a pre-condition for holding the election peacefully and smoothly, reports BSS.

Addressing the nation over the radio and television, the former Chief Justice said we have to see that the law and

order was not disturbed under any circumstances. For this we have to take stern measures, he stressed.

He said, "We will have to take steps to enable the Election Commission to perform its work smoothly. We are neither concerned nor perturbed in the matter of maintaining law and order."

Rahman said the people of the country want peace. We shall not hesitate in any way to take most stern measures for the maintenance of law and order, he said in unequivocal term.

He held out the assurance that none would be harassed in anyway unnecessarily. In curbing crime the accused would be handed to the criminal courts on the basis of definite allegation under the existing laws and only after investigation.

The Chief Adviser sought cooperation of all irrespective of their parties and opinions for discharging his great responsibility of the caretaker government. It was the responsibility of all of us to fulfill the pledge we have made in the constitution. The responsibility of the citizens was more significant than that of the government employees from one point of view, he added.

The Chief Adviser made a fervent request to the lawyers to extend their full cooperation to the courts. Adjournment of hearing without valid reasons entailed the loss of money and time and caused suffering to both sides in a case. Definite accusation in respect of court or administration would be investigated into

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Chief Adviser of the caretaker government Mohammad Habibur Rahman addressing the nation over the Radio and Television yesterday. — PID photo

Arrest all terrorists: Hasina BNP inciting party workers to destroy 'people's victory'

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the BNP was trying to instigate violence and instability to destroy the hard-earned 'people's victory'.

"When we are urging people to remain patient and shun violence, Begum Khaleda Zia (BNP chief) provoking her party workers to unleash ter-

rorism," Hasina said. "People will give proper reply to the repression on them by the autocratic BNP through the next election," she said while addressing a huge rally from the 'Janatar Mancha' (peoples podium) in front of the Jatiya Press Club organised by the city unit of

AL. "BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday used provocative words as part of her plans to destroy the victory of the people. She is inciting violence. As a result, shooting and violent incidents have taken place in different parts of the country. Where does she (Begum Zia) want to push the country?" Hasina posed the question.

"I urge the caretaker government, the army and the police to arrest these armed elements within 24 hours. Even if they belong to our party, arrest them. These terrorists are identified. They are now threatening government employees, artists and others who joined the peoples' side," she said.

"If they are not arrested people will be compelled to punish them," she added.

She said that the peoples' victory earned through bringing down the Khaleda Zia government would be consolidated when Awami League

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Free Ershad for fair polls: JP

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party yesterday demanded unconditional release of party chief and former president H M Ershad and said this would create a congenial atmosphere for holding a free and fair election under a caretaker government.

"Ershad has to be released to exercise his constitutional right to project his party programme before the people of his constituencies," Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, acting chairman of the party, said. "Under the law of the land, Ershad can be released on bail," he said while addressing a big rally from the Jatiya Mancha (national podium) at the south gate of the Baitul Mukarram mosque in the city.

"Dissolution of the parliament would be investigated into

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The Daily Star **PHILIPS**
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Polls must be held by June 28 Preparatory steps at EC begin

By Staff Correspondent

As the countdown for the 7th parliamentary elections, to be held within 90 days, began with the dissolution of parliament on Saturday, the Election Commission (EC) started taking preparatory steps for holding the polls.

Officials at the EC said that they were already holding informal talks in this regard and taking measures for the polls which must be held by June 28, as required under constitutional provisions. "Since the sixth Parliament was dissolved on Saturday, we have 89 days' time within which the polls must be conducted," an EC official pointed out yesterday.

Before announcing the election schedule for the 7th Parliament, the EC was now chalking out preparatory steps for the polls which involve a range of factors, EC officials said. The preparations include election budget, appointment

of returning officers and other polling officials and personnel, setting up of polling centres, procurement of election materials, printing of ballot papers and disbursement of election materials, they added.

Procurement of election materials, printing of ballot papers and the disbursement of the materials across the country take the maximum time in the election process, they noted.

The law requires that tenders must be floated to procure materials such as ballot boxes, rubber stamps, indelible ink and a wide range of other materials. Printing of a total of 17 forms in large volumes in addition to the ballot papers consume a long time as the Bangladesh Government Press has to accommodate the printing work in addition to its busy schedule, an official pointed out.

Two killed, 10 hurt in Ctg violence

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 31. At least two persons were killed and 10 others were injured in sporadic incidents of violence in the city and its surrounding areas today, hospital and political party sources said.

The two dead were identified as activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, party sources informed.

Another BCL activist injured earlier, died at a hospital today.

Mir Hassan, 24, was shot dead at Bahaddardhat area at around 5:30 pm today by unidentified gunmen who at

lacked a rally of BCL there, police and party sources said.

BCL blamed the activists of BNP for the killing. But BNP denied the charge.

In the face of resistance, the gunmen, however, fled from the spot, witnesses said. BCL organised the rally to celebrate the success of non-cooperation movement.

Bipul Shaha, 27, was gunned down allegedly by his rivals early today at Rahman Nagar under Panchaish thana, police said. Police recovered the body of Shaha at 8 am today. — See Page 8 Col 6

**METROPOLITAN CHAMBER
 OF
 COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, DHAKA**

has decided to sponsor an expert study on the losses suffered by trade and industry during the political stalemate over the last two years and more recently, during the non-cooperation programme. The study is intended to identify policy measures which are needed to help trade and industry recover expeditiously and contribute to economic regeneration.

All business enterprises, banks, insurance companies etc. are requested to kindly send by 10th April, 1996 to the following address facts and figures of their losses, (production, sales, man-hours lost etc.) along with their comments and suggestions as to how the affected business organisations may be given policy support to overcome such losses, preferably in the Proforma which may be obtained from the Chamber Secretariat.

**The Chairman,
 Task Force on
 Economic Losses for Political Stalemate,
 Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Dhaka,
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