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# The Daily Star

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**Notice**

We are happy to announce that as the supply position of newsprint has improved, we shall revert to our normal 12-page format from tomorrow (Wednesday).

We take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to our valued readers and patrons for their support during our rainy days.

— Management

**Inside Today**

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**DSE MARKET**

DSE prior close 91336 (41.74%)  
Market capital Tk 5980.94 cr  
Transactions in volume 188126  
Transactions in value Tk 3.42 cr

**Dhaka Day by Day**

**DOWN WITH BNP**

**Floodlight Cricket on a Dhaka Street**  
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Chief Adviser to address secys**  
By Staff Correspondent  
Chief Adviser of the caretaker government Mohammad Habibur Rahman will address all the secretaries of the government today, according to sources. The Chief Adviser will deliver his speech at the Prime Minister's secretariat at around 9:30 am, said a secretary.

**AL 'victory rally' on Apr 5**  
By Staff Correspondent  
The Awami League will hold a 'victory rally' at Manik Mia Avenue in the city on April 5. Party chief Sheikh Hasina will address the rally beginning at 2:30 pm. They will also bring out a procession, said a press release yesterday.

**Khaleda's meet in Ctg Apr 9**  
CHITTAGONG, Apr 1: BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting in the city's outer stadium on April 9. This is the first public meeting scheduled for Begum Zia outside capital Dhaka after she relinquished the Prime Minister office, reports UNB.

**Attack on BUET VC's house condemned**  
Bangladesh Engineering University Teachers' Association yesterday condemned the attack on the residence of BUET Vice Chancellor on March 30. At an emergency meeting, the association leaders demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those responsible for the attack, said a press release. Dr. M. Abdur Rauf presided over the meeting, reports UNB.

## Party leaders meet Chief Adviser

# CEC must resign, AL, JP demand

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of BNP, Awami League, Jatiya Party and some other smaller parties met Chief Adviser of the caretaker government Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman at his office yesterday.

They felicitated him on his assumption of the office of the Chief Adviser.

During meetings, Awami League and Jatiya Party put forward separate lists of their nominees to the Council of Advisers of the caretaker government and demanded resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner, according to sources in the parties.

The other parties whose leaders met the Chief Adviser were Gano Forum (GF), National Democratic Party (NDP) and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD).

The delegation of BNP was led by Professor A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, member of the party standing committee.

They exchanged views with the Chief Adviser on holding the next parliamentary elections in a free and fair manner. They emphasized the need for neutral administration and security of the voters during elections. The BNP leaders also expressed their readiness to hold elections in May.

BNP leaders Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Saifur Rahman, Oli Ahmed, Dr Khondoker Mosharrif Hossain, Barrister Zamiruddin Sircar and Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia were present during the meeting.

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina led her party leaders at the meeting with the Chief Adviser.

During the meeting, Sheikh Hasina laid stress on speedy improvement of law and order situation in the country by recovering all illegal arms for free and fair elections.

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## Electoral alliance unlikely

# 3 parties now to go their own way

By Nurul Kabir

The three major parties which fought unitedly against the BNP government for the last two years are now to go their own way with the next general elections around the corner.

According to sources in the parties, the liaison committee of Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami would, however, continue to meet to discuss "some technical" aspects, including the issue of political prisoners, until the election campaign gains momentum.

"A common aspiration for a non-party caretaker government prompted us to forge temporary unity with the JP and the Jamaat," a top AL leader told The Daily Star yesterday.

With the main demand now met, we shall contest the elections independently," the leader said on the condition of anonymity.

Ruling out any possibility of forging an electoral alliance with any of its agitation partners, an AL presidium member told this correspondent last night: The electoral alliance with some parties in the 1991 general elections proved to be counter-productive for our party. We are not going to make that fatal mistake this time again.

A top JP leader, confident about a better election result this year, said that the party did not need to forge electoral

See Page 8 Col 3

## Acute water, power crisis in DMCH

# OT, other units in sorry state

By Masud Arif and Ripon Baig

Normal functioning of operation theatres (OT) and some other vital units at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) being greatly hampered due to irregular supply of electricity and water.

Doctors are facing acute problems in doing major operations at the hospital for the last couple of weeks due to frequent disruption in electricity supply, according to some doctors and staff at the DMCH, the largest hospital in the country.

Functioning of the Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Coronary Care Unit (CCU), Haemodialysis unit in kidney-related complications and other important and expensive electro-medical instruments are also being badly affected, they said.

Laparoscopic cholecystectomy surgery for removing gall bladder stone without opening the abdomen has been stopped because it becomes highly risky if electricity supply fails during operation, a doctor said.

"If the situation continues, it may not be possible to conduct major operations," a senior surgeon of the hospital said.

"Power failure during operation may cause complications threatening the life of a patient," said another surgeon. "It is highly risky to go for such operations which need

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## Project to rehabilitate cyclone-hit fishermen remains uncertain

By Sharier Khan

The fate of a project for rehabilitation of fishermen affected in the 1991 cyclone still remains uncertain causing suffering to them for the last five years, according to official sources.

The sources attributed this to bureaucratic tangles and indecision.

Under the project, the government initially had plans to provide 958 engine boats to some 13,000 affected fishermen in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Barisal regions and had arranged financial support of about Tk 140 crore from the OECF of Japan. But due to delay in implementing the project, the time-limit for the OECF funding had expired in 1994, the sources said.

The government then revised the project in 1995 under which 600 motorised boats were to be given to the affected fishermen at a cost of Tk 103 crore from the debt relief fund (DRG). But little progress has been made in this regard as yet.

Indecision of the Ministry of LGRD over awarding contracts for the supply of engines and timbers had caused this delay, according to the sources.

The LGRD Ministry had invited a tender for supply of different categories of engines for the boats in early 1993. Of some 15 participants, the Ministry found only two companies 'responsive' and one of those scored higher points in technical and financial evaluation, they said.

But due to bureaucratic delays, the fate of the project became uncertain when the time-limit for OECF funding expired in 1994. The government later revised the project and went for re-tendering in 1995.

The LGRD Ministry outlined a package bidding for the participants under which the most competent bidder would have to supply three types of engines.

But the company which was the 'most responsive' in 1993 was again found the 'most competent' in 1995, after the technical evaluation was completed by both the tender committee and technical sub-committee, one source pointed out. Finally, earlier this month, the Ministry went for tendering for the third time changing one major condition of the tender document that two tenders would be floated for two types of engine, showing the reason that there should be more participation in the bidding.

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## People will resist BNP threat, says Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has demanded resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), accusing him of collaboration in vote rigging.

Those who had rigged votes, killed people, indulged in corruption and prevented people from casting votes should be tried, she said.

Hasina was addressing the newly elected office bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Association and some of the party leaders released from jail when they met her at her Dhanmondi residence yesterday.

The association office bearers were led by its President Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan and the AL leaders released from jail included Alhaj Makbul Husain and Abul Kalam Azad.

Referring to BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia's 'threat' to officials and employees of the Republic who joined the recent movement, the AL

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## 'Partisan' officials BNP standing body endorsed agitation

By Nazmul Ashraf

BNP chairperson and former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday disclosed that while in power she had ordered action against the government officials, whose removal she is now demanding, for their 'political role'.

"Action against them was ordered. But by then they had taken to the streets", Begum Zia told a group of newsmen at her party's Naya Paltan central office.

She reiterated her views that a fair election cannot be held with those "partisan" officials.

"No matter how much neutral the advisers of the caretaker government are, fair polls cannot be held with the partisan secretaries with whom the caretaker government would function," she asserted.

"You've seen what they did. They openly spoke from the dais of a political party and they did it knowingly," the former PM said.

Begum Zia also clarified that the demand for action against those officials and a decision to launch a movement in non-compliance have been endorsed by the BNP standing committee, the highest policy-making body of the party.

She, however, made it clear that their allegation is not against all the 35 secretaries (who met the President to express their inability to perform duties unless a caretaker government was formed). "They are a few", she said but declined to mention the number.

Asked if her party would

See Page 8 Col 7



## Walesa back to his old job

WARSAW, Apr 1: Former president Lech Walesa will be back in blue overalls tomorrow at the Gdansk Shipyards, after his defeat at the polls in November left him out of job and out of pocket, reports AFP.

Walesa will clock on at 6:30 am (0430 GMT) when he resumes his electrician's job at a monthly wage of 330 dollars — half that of his bodyguard.

See Page 8 Col 2



Artistes rendering songs on the Bijoy Manch in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

## Curtain falls on Bijoy Manch

Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif yesterday urged the Chief Adviser of the caretaker government to take immediate steps for recovering illegal arms to ensure a free and fair election, reports UNB.

The first step to ensure a fair election will be to recover the illegal arms and punish their holders," he said from the Bijoy Manch (victory podium) in front of the National Press Club in the evening.

The Mayor said armed hoodlums must be tackled with strong hand. "Even if illegal arms are found in the possession of my father or son, arrest them without any hesitation."

See Page 8 Col 7

## 9 killed, 20 hurt in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least nine persons were killed and 20 injured in road accidents in the city and two other districts during the last two days.

Our DMCH Correspondent adds: At least four persons were killed in separate road mishaps in the city during the last two days.

A woman was killed when a speeding truck ran over her at Shahjahanpur at about 1 pm yesterday.

The victim aged about 30 was not immediately identified. She died on the spot.

In another road accident, Dulal, 40, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Gulshan and succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) early hours yesterday.

Meanwhile, two persons were killed when a speeding bus knocked their bicycle in front of the Civil Aviation office at Airport road Sunday night.

The victims identified as Jahangir, 30, and Abdur Rahman, 25, died on the spot.

All the bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue.

UNB says from Mymensingh

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## Young man murdered, 10 injured in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A young man was murdered and at least 10 people were injured in separate incidents of violence in the city yesterday, according to witnesses and hospital sources.

A gang of armed men shot dead one Mukhter Hossain, 25, inside his construction materials shop at Shanir Akhra under Demra thana in the city yesterday evening, witnesses said.

Mukhter, son of late Lala Sheikh of the area, was chatting with his elder brother Belal Hossain in their shop Smritidhara when he was fatally

shot by the gang. He succumbed to the injuries while being shifted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, at least five people were injured when two groups of musclemen clashed at the tempo stand at Khilkhet at around noon yesterday.

Of the injured, one Mintu, aged about 20, was admitted to

See Page 8 Col 8

## Armed outsiders Syndicate to apprise Chief Adviser of DU situation

The Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University, Prof Ema-juddin Ahmed, at a Syndicate meeting yesterday informed the members that the law and order situation on campus is not good, reports BSS.

A press release issued by the university said an emergency meeting of the DU Syndicate held at the administration building was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor.

He said armed outsiders were now sheltered in different residential halls of Dhaka University. He cited the incident of a gunfight in front of the Dhaka University Club and the bomb attack on the office of a faculty member of the Department of Law on March 30.

The Syndicate decided to apprise the Chief Adviser of

See Page 8 Col 1

## BAUCSU general secy arrested with arms

MYMENSINGH, Apr 1: The law enforcing agencies in a pre-dawn raid at a hall of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition, and arrested a student leader today, reports UNB.

Campus sources said a contingent of 200 police and BDR jawans gheraoed the Shamsul Huq Hall at about 3 am and broke into the hall at about 6 am after the Vice-Chancellor refused them to conduct the operation.

Shamsul Alam Tofa, general secretary of the BAU central students' union and a leader of the Jatiyatadaji Chhatra Dal,

See Page 8 Col 7

## Section 144 in Khulna

KHULNA, Apr 1: Metropolitan Police Commissioner imposed Section 144 with effect from 3 pm today in Khulna, Sonadanga and Khalishpur thana areas in order to maintain law and order.

KMP commissioner, M Fazlul Haq, said Section 144 will remain in force until further order. It was imposed apprehending serious breach of peace as the liaison committee of Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat and the city BNP both decided to hold a rally at the same place, 'Maharaj square' and at the same time today, he said.

But none of them gave any prior information to the authorities concerned about the venue of the rally, KMP source said.

The Daily Star **PHILIPS**

## Cricket World Cup Quiz '96

It's your date with The Daily Star!

### Quiz 2: BUMPER ROUND

### The DRAW is here!

Date : April 3, 1996  
Venue : Jatiya Press Club  
Time : 4:30 pm

Former national cricket stars A.S.M. Faruq, Tanvir Haider, Jahangir Shah Badshah, Mainul Haq and Gazi Ashraf Hossain Lipu have kindly consented to draw the winners.

All the participants and our valued readers are most cordially invited to attend the draw.