### Huge number of candidates

### Elections in three Indian constituencies postponed

NEW DELHI, Apr 10: India's Election Commission said on Tuesday it had postponed elections in three southern constituencies due to the huge number of candidates, reports

An election commission spokesman said Nalgonda Constituency in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh had 480 candidates for a single seat to the lower house of parliament while Belgaum in Karnataka had 456 contestants vying for a single seat.

The Modakuruchi assembly constituency in Tamil Nadu had a whooping 1033 candidates" for one seat, the spokesman said.

The decision came in view of the "enormous administrative and logistic difficulties in conducting a fair and peaceful poll," the election commissioner. GVG Krishnamurthy told the Press Trust of India.

"All of them may require printing of ballot booklets in stead of papers and there are problems in allotting symbols to each candidate, he said.

#### Ctg violence

From Page 1

processions and the killing of party activists. The protest march was held after the namaj-e-janazas for those who · died in the violence. The supporters of Chhatra

League also brought out processions in the city today protesting the attacks on their activists on Tuesday.

Both BNP and Awami League blamed each other for the violence on Tuesday. UNB adds: Jubo Dal activists

Qaiyum and Azad, Sramik Dal supporter Abdur Rahman, and school teacher Jahanara Begum were buried at their respective family graveyards to-

They were killed during bloody clashes in the port city on Tuesday. Separate namej-e-janajas for

the dead were held at Laldighi Maidan in the city this after-Leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations, in-

cluding party joint secretary general Abdullah Al Noman, attended the janazas. Later, a procession, carrying the bodies, paraded the

city streets. . Jahanara Begum, a teacher of Bakulia High School of the Port City, was buried at her Fouzdarhat family graveyard in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao warned today that India's economic reforms would face danger if the opposition won upcoming gen-

eral elections Rao told thousands of supporters in the southern town of Srisailam that the country had made great progress since he launched the liberalisation process in June 1991 after becoming the prime minister.

"This could be derailed if (my) Congress (I) Party was not voted to power with adequate majority." the Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted him as saying in the town which forms part of his Nandayal constituency.

Rao, who is seeking re-election from two constituencies this time, again offered prayers at a Hindur temple in the region before asserting that there was no stable alternative to the Congress. India's oldest

Only the Congress can en sure stability," he said

### Election issues

From Page 1

"Just wait and see. I believe in work - not talks. We are now assessing the whole situation and you will be duly informed about every development," Abu Hena said.

About the selection of the Election Commissioners and other electoral preparations. the CBC said that he was looking into all the issues concerning the electoral process.

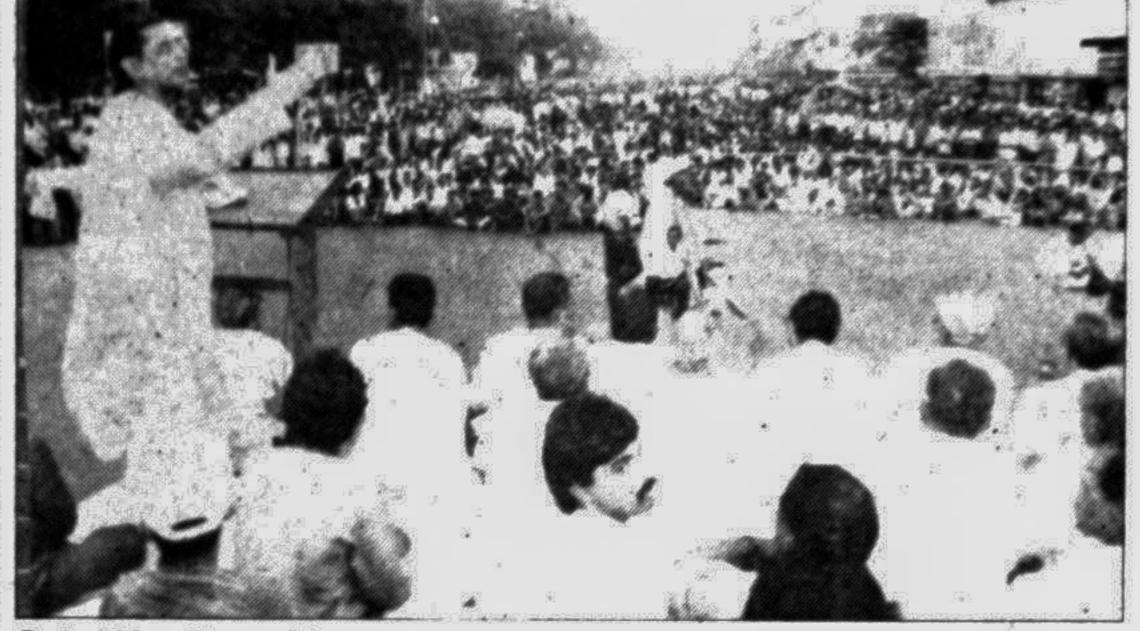
Earlier in the day, the CEC and the EC Secretary called on the Chief Adviser. When asked about the agenda of the meeting, the CEC replied that it was confidential.

Meanwhile, the CEC yesterday called upon all EC officials to do everything to present the nation with a free and fair election, says an EC press re-

Abu Hena was addressing the officials, his first after taking over office, at the conference room of the EC Secre-

He said that all must work unitedly to ensure a free and fair election which the nation desired. He also appealed to the officials to give their sin-' cere effort to uphold the image of the EC

Abu Hena also noted the time constraint for the upcoming general elections and said that every one should work to make the preparations as quickly as possible, the press



Rashed Khan Menon addressing a public meeting organised by the Left Democratic Front at the Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday. - Star photo

#### LDF's 9-point suggestion for fair polls

The Left Democratic Front leaders yesterday demanded that all the corrupt people and arms holders be booked for ensuring a free and fair election in the country, reports

"The caretaker government should take effective steps to put the corrupts trial an reor ganise the politicised Election Commission and administration for an impartial election. said Rushed Khan Menon at a big rally of the Front in the afternoon.

The LDF, an alliance of some eight left-leaning parties. organised the rally at the south gate of Baitul Mugarram mosque, where it placed a 9point recommendation about holding a free and fair elec-

Addressing the rally Menon. General Secretary of the Workers Party, demanded recovery of illegal arms for a peaceful voting.

The left leader said a national consensus is needed to consolidate democracy and to free the country's economy from the grip of World Bank and IMF.

LDF leaders Nirmal Sen, Hasanul Hug Inu, Mjahidul Islam Seim, Abdullah Sarkar, AFM Mahbubul Huq, Dilip Barua and Naim Jahangir also addressed the rally.

#### 6 killed

From Page 1 truck at Shahabajpur while

playing on the road in the morning. The bodies were sent to

sadar hospital A pedestrian was killed when a five brigade vehicle ran over him in front of Azad Rest House in the town at about 8:30 pm.

The victim, Alek, 17, succumbed to his injuries shortly after admission at the Sadar hospital.

#### Trader robbed in city

By Staff Correspondent One trader was robbed of Tk 1.2 lakh near the veterinary hospital at Fulbaria in the city yesterday afternoon.

It was learnt that the trader, who was travelling in a rickshaw, came under attack by a group of about four muggers. They also hurled cock-

including the president and

general secretary of the Natore

Press Club (NPC), were

seriously injured when a group

of miscreants made a sudden

attack on them at the Club

Club around noon and beat up

the journalists with sticks and

The miscreants entered the

The injured are Mahfuz

premises today.

iron rods.

Rupali.

BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday called upon the nationalist forces to unitedly resist what he said conspiracy of foreign agents against the very existence of

the country, reports UNB There is no alternative to casting votes for sheaf of paddy', the election symbol of BNP, in the coming polls to safeguard the country's independence and sovereignty," he told a largely attended rally of employees and workers at the Motifheel Shapla square in the afternoon.

The BNP secretary general urged the caretaker government to prove its genuine neutral character by taking measures for giving exemplary punishment to the killers of his party activists.

He accused the armed cadres' of Awami League of letting loose a reign of terror in Chittagong on Tuesday during the BNP meeting addressed by Begum Khaleda Zia that claimed four lives, including three of BNP activists.

Strongly criticising the activities of the three parties which had spearheaded the anti-BNP movement that culminated in the taking over power by the caretaker gov-

#### Sec 144

From Page 1

notice. The action has been taken apprehending breach of peace following the call of a joint meeting by Awami League, Jatyia Party, JSD (Rob) and Jamaat-e-Islami and another by the BNP at the same venue and at the same time today. The BNP later changed the

venue and held a meeting at the local Chourasta at 4 pm. Tarikul Islam, a former minister, spoke at the meeting. The joint meeting of the four parties were cancelled.

#### DU admission

From Page 1

compete for every single seat under this unit. Under Ka unit, 19 students

will contest for a seat while some 15 students will compete for a seat under Ga unit. The number of seats under four units were 3636 but the number was increased to 3880 this year in view of increasing pressure of students. **Attack on Natore Press** 

## Resist conspiracy of foreign agents: BNP

ernment. Talukdar said a design was behind their hartal programmes and non-cooperation movement. The motive was to stop the pace of development, cripple the economy and make

foreign country."

Presided over by Jaffyatabadi Sramik Dal vicepresident Abul Kasem Chowdhury, the rally was also addressed, by Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Mir Shawkat Ali. Mirza Abbas, Sadeq Hossain Khoka, Nazrul Islam Khan, Salahuddin Ahmed and Faziul Huq Milon, Jabrul Hasan, Alamgir Majumder, Abul

Bangladesh subservient to a

### UK: Wealthy

From Page 1

Hossain and Jane Alam.

An overwhelming majority of Bangladeshis in Britain are now engaged in restaurant ininformed dustry. Choudhury

There are some 10,000 Bangladeshi restaurants across Britain, employing some 70.000 people, mostly of Bangladeshi origin. The annual turnover of these Bangladeshi restaurants is nearly 1.5 billion pound sterling, sources here

Between 3,000 and 4,000 Bangladeshi doctors are working in the British health services, besides an equal number of accountants in different businesses and industries. The number of engineers could be up to 400, sources informed.

Nasir Ahmed, Chairman of Bangladesh Council at the city of Birmingham, underscored the need for frequent visits home by the new generation of NRBs. Otherwise, they would be out of touch with their original homeland ... they would become rootless," he feared.

### reviews gas reserve

High level meet

A high level meeting yesterday reviewed reserve, production and distribution of the country's gas asset with adviser for energy, mineral resources and water resources Dr. Jamilur Reza Chowdhury in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed in details the present requirement and production of gas. and position and progress of various gas-related projects, an official handout said.

The meeting was informed that the country at present has 10.33 trillion cubic feet of liftable gas in 18 gas fields and out of this about 715 million cubic feet gas is being produced every day. It was also informed that the present re quirement of gas per day is 850 million cubic feet.

The adviser instructed the concerned authorities to complete the projects related to development and production of gas so that the requirement can be met. The meeting also discussed the progress of Barapukuria coal mine and Madhyapara Hard Rock Projects.

Additional Secretary of the **Energy and Mineral Resources** Ministry Aziz Ahmed Chairman of Petrobangla Dr Mujibur Rahman Khan and the officials of Petrobangla and power board were present at the meeting

#### Hasina

From Page 1 struggling for long for people; right to vote and food. Partial victory of the movement has been achieved. if returned to power,

Awami League will establish a neutral corruption-free administration in the country, she told the meeting. Hasina warned that a "dirty

conspiracy" was under way to destroy the people's victory After losing power, BNP was making a cobweb of plots to save itself from the wrath of the people, she said. BNP activists are issuing

death threats to renowned in tellectuals for their support in ousting Begum Zia to make way for non-party neutral caretaker government. Referring to the killings in Chittagong on Tuesday, Hasina

said the incidents were the outburst of the inner conflict of the BNP leadership in Chit-The Awami League chief contradicted BNP Secretary

General Abdus Salam Talukder's statement, saying that it is clear that the killings were committed by two cadre groups of BNP to establish their leaderships. Presided over by Tungipara thana AL President Laik Ali

Biswas, the meeting was also addressed, by Tofael Ahmed. Mayor Mohammad Hanif. Obaidul Qader, Mohd Ali Khan Abu Mia and Sheikh Mohd Ab-

# The Midnight Elife

#### Afghan govt jets bomb Taliban positions: 6 killed

PESHAWAR, Apr 10: Afghan government jets bombed positions of the rebel Taliban militia south of Kabul today. killing at least six people and wounding 12, the Peshawarbased Afghan Islamic Press (API) reported. The agency said the planes made four bombing runs over Taliban positions in Charasiyab: about 15 km (nine miles) south of the Afghan capital amid fierce artillery duels, reports Reuter,

#### One killed in Shibchar clash

By DMCH Correspondent

A young man who sustained bullet injuries during a clash in Shibchar, Madaripur, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Kohinoor Miah 25, son of Toyeb Ali, received fatal injuries when two groups were locked in an armed clash over a land dispute Tuesday after-

## satellite

BBC TV. changes

By Staff Correspondent The BBC World Service

Television has changed its satellite from Star TV on Asiasat 1 to PANAMSAT 4 from April 1, says a press release of

The viewers will need either to request their cable operators to make the necessary changes or they have to install their own satellite dishes. reposition them and adjust the frequency on their receivers. No decoder is required for

BBC World Service, says the press release.

#### ADB: Economy

in Bangladesh for the foresee able future.

said, there is a need to accelerate GDP growth in a an equitable and sustainable manner with a view to increasing productive employment opportunities in all sectors.

sidering a private-sector investment for power generation, possibly for 1996, while technical assistance is also envisaged to provide institutional support for private sector's involvement in infrastructure projects.

#### JCD<sup>2</sup>BCL clash in Rajshahi

A group of armed men attacked Aslam. 18. Rafiqui

leaders of Dupchancing thana of Bogra district were stabbed by sharp weapons by some unidentified men near Adamdighi, when they were going to Naogaon by a motor-

The injured ilias Hossain and Firoj Ahmed were admitted into Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in critical

#### DEOs assaulted From Page 1

To achieve the objective, it

While reassuring its continued support to the country's energy sector, the ADB said industrial, financial and capital market reforms and the alleviatton of the acute bottlenecks in energy and transport would be the focus of the Bank's medium-term strategy for growth of the industrial sector. Although the Bank's support

for the private sector has been limited in Bangladesh, the ADB identified several potential private-sector projects for possible final possible final the Bank's private-sector window, possibly at least one loan per

The Bank is currently con-

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Apr 10: Three activists of Chhatra Dal and two of the Chhatra League were seriously injuted today in two separate incidents of attack.

Islam, 20, and Mamun, 19, at about 1 pm at Puthia thana headquarters in Rajshahi when they were returning from college. They were admitted into Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in critical condition. Chhatra Dal claimed all three as its activists and blamed Chhatra League for the attack. The two Chhatra League

## recently, had also demanded

that services of all in the EC.

Secretarial be made transfer-

able. This angered the 3rd and

From Page 1

4th class employees who do not favour transfer, the employees claimed. As per the EC rules of service, services of the 3rd and 4th class employees are not transferable. The Association had, however, stated on

> not include the transfer of the 3rd and 4th class employees but only the officials. The situation was brought under control when the joint secretary of the EC(Admin) intervened and rescued the terrified district election officials.

Tuesday that its demand did

This attack on us was manipulated by an official of the Election Commission as one of our demands is for the removal of the additional secretary," a district election official from Narayangani later told this correspondent.

When the incident was brought to the notice of the CEC he said that the problem would be sorted out soon.

UNB adds: Meanwhile, district election officials have threatened to boycott the coming election if Additional Secretary of the Election Commission S M Zakaris is not removed.

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#### From Page 1 When contacted, Quamruz-

zaman, assistant secretary general of the Jamaat, told The Daily Star that highlighting the failures of the previous government would be among the major themes to dominate the election campaign of his party. Speaking on other issues, the Jamaat leader said his

bilising and standardising the national politics and for creating an atmosphere where the practice of positive politics can take place." "Jamaat would also call for discarding filthy language in political speeches and statements, mobilising public opinion for the country's due share

of Gangage waters, and it would also mobilise public

opinion against the economic.

political and cultural aggres-

sion," Quamruzzaman said

party "would campaign for sta-

IMF to help

From Page 1 oping as well as developed countries have a BOP deficit.

but they are growing fast."

Central bank experts opined that the recent devaluation of Taka would improve the country's BOP situation as garments sector, the country's largest foreign exchange earning sector, is likely to be bene-

Citing an example of a neighbouring country's economy, a senior BB official said: "Its foreign exchange market could not be stabilised due to frequent changes in the policies. Bangladesh's position is better than that of the neighbouring country." Talking to The Daily Star,

an official of the Janata Bank

said that central bank's current monetary policy was ouraging imports of goods. "A high Letter of Credit margin, the down payment against total import value, is shown as 'non-encouraging'

factor," said the Janata Bank official. Meanwhile, Export Promotion Bureau statistics reveal that the exports during the July-January period of the current fiscal has exceeded its target. The target was determined at 2216.66 million US dollars while the actual export was 2386.46 million dolfars during the period.

"This proves that the country has not been affected much during that period," said a senior official of the EPB, while noting that export activities since February could have been affected.

### **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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Common campaign issue adding that the Indo-Bangla Friendship Treaty would also come up in the election cam-

Workers' Party general secretary Rashed Khan Menon said that in the election campaign, his party would emphasise most on the practice of a democratic culture in line with the joint declaration by the

guarantee people's fundamental rights and against criminalisation of politics by means of black money and muscle power", Menon told The Daily

consistent with our socio-economic realities," Menon added.

based politics, autonomy of the electronic media and responsibility of the print media. suddoha, while approached on the issue, said his party would campaign for an election free

that the non-party caretaker government gear up its drive to recover illegal arms. politics of consensus instead of to publicly announce their sev-

#### RU students demand cancellation of summer vacation

erance with the arms cadre."

campus today demanding can-

mer vacation. They handed over the memorandum to the Vice Chancellor. Muhammad Yusuf Ali containing over three thousand signatures of students.

to be closed from April 20 to June 6 for Summer, Eid-ul-Ajha and May Day holiday. Meanwhile, a meeting was held on the campus today con-doling the death of Prof. Fazlul Halim Chowdhury.

identified.

then three political alliances that toppled the autocratic regime of Ershad in 1990. "We'll also canvass for freeing the Constitution from all sorts of black laws including the Special Powers Act to

"Another vital issue to dominate our election campaign would be an economic policy

Among other issues to dominate the WP polls campaign are speaking against fundamentalism and religion-Gano Forum leader Sham-

"We'll also advocate for a the current politics of confrontation". Shamsuddoha said. "We'll also urge the big parties

from the influence of money

and muscle power and insist

From RU Correspondent RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY. Apr 10: Several hundred students of Rajshahi University brought out a procession in the cellation of the coming sum-

Professor The University is scheduled

> ing, police said. Railway police recovered the body from the Jamuna Express which reached Dhaka from Rajshahi at around 10:30 am. The victim could not be

seven journalists belonging to different national dailies.

any preemptive action." general secretary of the club.

When contacted last night, Natore police sources said they Alam Moony, president of the press club, Manzurul Hassan, were unable to go ahead with making arrests as higher general secretary, S M Babu of Daily Janakantha, Halim Khan authorities had convened a of Bangla Bazar Patrika, meeting tomorrow morning to Mizanur Rahman Masud of settle the issue. Daily Meillat, Farazi Ahmed

Club: 7 injured

From Our Correspondent

Sadar Hospital and released soon after treatment, fearing further attacks. Another member added,"We

filed a GD Tuesday night

anticipating such an attack, but

Baban of Desh Janata and

Jayanta Krishna Mani of Daily

They were admitted to the

#### Body recovered from rooftop of train

By Staff Correspondent The body of an unidentified person aged about 25 was recovered from the rooftop of an Inter City train at Kamalapur railway station yesterday morn-

There were marks of injuries in the head. The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

the authorities failed to take NATORE, Apr 10: At least

During the hour-long attack, the miscreants also snatched a micro-cassette recorder, one camera, two wrist watches and a large amount of money from the A case has been filed with Natore Sadar Thana in this connection. However, no arrest was made till filing of this report last night.

## Electoral alliance

From Page 1 changed political perspective this year the BNP needs to draw individuals with political importance into the party on the one hand, and reach an "electoral understanding" with smaller parties and groups in-cluding the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Gano Fo-

rum on the other. In support of the opinion, a BNP leader said: "Not that we need to hime competent candi-dates from outside. But such an electoral understanding would contribute to outwit the political parties who have unleashed anarchy in the political arena over the last few years."

political atmosphere in the future, he said. The leader, however, admitted strong opposition to the idea of an electoral alliance from within the party. The extreme right wing

Such an alliance would

contribute to creating a sound

parties and groups are also trying to build up a common platform to contest in the elections, while the Jamaat is out to use its forces in its favour.