

# 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 AFP.

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 whopping 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 instead of papers and there are problems in allotting symbols to each candidate, he said.

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

Rao told thousands of supporters in the southern town of Srisaillam 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 Hindu temple in the region before asserting that there was no stable alternative to the Congress, India's oldest party.

"Only the Congress can ensure 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 release.

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

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 sincere 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 release said.



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 UNB.

"The caretaker government should take effective steps to put the corrupts trial and reorganise the politicised Election Commission and administration for an impartial election," said Rashed 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 Muqarram mosque, where it placed a 9-point recommendation about holding a free and fair elections.

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 Huq Inu, Mjahidul Islam Sem, Abdullah Sarkar, AFM Mububul Huq, Dilip Barua and Naim Jahangir also addressed the rally.

## Resist conspiracy of foreign agents: BNP

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 sheer 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 Motijheel 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 government, Talukdar said a design was behind their harial programmes and non-cooperation movement.

The motive was to stop the pace of development, cripple the economy and make Bangladesh subservient to a foreign country.

## High level meet reviews gas reserve

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 flammable 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 requirement 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.

Presided over by Jajyatabadi Sramik Dal vice-president 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 Fazlul Huq Millon, Jabrul Hasan, Alamgir Majumder, Abul Hossain and Jarie Alam.

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## The Midnight File

### 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 Peshawar-based Afghan Islamic Press (API) reported. The agency said the planes made four bombing runs over Taliban positions in Charasiyah, 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.

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

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.

### BBC TV, changes satellite

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 BBC.

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### JCD-BCL clash in Rajshahi

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

A group of armed men, attacked Aslam, 18, Rafiqul 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 leaders of Dupchanching thana of Bogra district were stabbed by unidentified men near Adamdighi, when they were going to Naogaon by a motorcycle.

The injured Ilias Hossain and Firoj Ahmad were admitted into Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

### DEOs assaulted

From Page 1  
recently, had also demanded that services of all in the EC Secretariat be made transferable. This angered the 3rd and 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 Tuesday that its demand did 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.

"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 Narayanagar 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.

## Ctg violence

From Page 1  
processions and the killing of party activists. The protest march was held after the namaj-e-janajas 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 Qayyum and Azad, Sramik Dal supporter Abdur Rahman, and school teacher Jahanaara Begum were buried at their respective family graveyards today.

They were killed during bloody clashes in the port city on Tuesday.

Separate namaj-e-janajas for the dead were held at Laldighi Maidan in the city this afternoon.

Leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations, including party joint secretary general Abdullah Al Noman, attended the janajas.

Later, a procession, carrying the bodies, paraded the city streets.

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

## Common campaign issue

From Page 1  
When contacted, Quamruzzaman, 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 party "would campaign for stabilising 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 Gange waters, and it would also mobilise public opinion against the economic, political and cultural aggression," Quamruzzaman said.

Another vital issue to dominate our election campaign would be an economic policy consistent with our socio-economic realities," Menon added.

Among other issues to dominate the WP polls campaign are speaking against fundamentalism and religion-based politics, autonomy of the electronic media and responsibility of the print media.

Gano Forum leader Shamsuddoha, while approached on the issue, said his party would campaign for an election free from the influence of money and muscle power and insist that the non-party caretaker government gear up its drive to recover illegal arms.

"We'll also advocate for a politics of consensus instead of the current politics of confrontation," Shamsuddoha said.

"We'll also urge the big parties to publicly announce their severance with the arms cadre."

RU students demand cancellation of summer vacation

From RU Correspondent  
RAJSHAH, Apr 10: Several hundred students of Rajshahi University brought out a procession in the campus today demanding cancellation of the coming summer vacation.

The students headed over the memorandum to the Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammad Yusuf Ali containing over three thousand signatures of students.

The University is scheduled 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 condoling the death of Prof. Fazlul Halim Chowdhury.

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

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

## 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 cocktails.

## Attack on Natore Press Club: 7 injured

From Our Correspondent  
NATORE, Apr 10: At least seven journalists belonging to different national dailies, 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 premises today.

The miscreants entered the Club around noon and beat up the journalists with sticks and iron rods.

The injured are Mahfuz Alam Moony, president of the press club, Manzurul Hassan, general secretary, S M Babu of Daily Janakantha, Halim Khan of Bangla Bazar Patrika, Mizanur Rahman Masud of Daily Meilatt, Farazi Ahmed Baban of Desh Janata and Jayanta Krishna Mani of Daily Rupali.

They were admitted to the Sadar Hospital and released soon after treatment, fearing further attacks.

Another member added, "We filed a GD Tuesday night anticipating such an attack, but the authorities failed to take any preemptive action."

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 general secretary of the club.

A case has been filed with Natore Sadar Thana in this connection. However, no arrest was made till filing of this report last night.

When contacted last night, Natore police sources said they were unable to go ahead with making arrests as higher authorities had convened a meeting tomorrow morning to settle the issue.

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 including the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the Gano Forum on the other.

In support of the opinion, a BNP leader said: "Not that we need to hire competent candidates 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."

Such an alliance would contribute to creating a sound 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 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.

## 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, Jatya 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. Tarkul Islam, a former minister, spoke at the meeting.

The joint meeting of the four parties were cancelled.

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## 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 morning, 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 identified.

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

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