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# The Daily Star

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**শুভ নববর্ষ**  
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The Daily Star  
wishes its valued  
readers and patrons  
a very happy  
Bangla New Year.

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**DSE MARKET**

DSE price index 811.43 (+0.05%)  
Market capital Tk 5921.61 cr  
Transactions in volume 199869  
Transactions in value Tk 4.48 cr

**Holiday**

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today (Sunday) on the occasion of Bangla New Year.

Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow (Monday).

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Gen Nasim meets Biswas**  
The Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, Bir Bikram, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday. General Nasim stayed with the President for some time, reports UNB.

**2 killed in Pabna road accident**

PABNA, Apr 13: Two people were killed and 10 others injured when a truck fell into a roadside ditch near Jalalpur in Sadar thana on the Pabna-Nagarbari highway today. The dead were identified as Abul Hossain, 50, of Kankorkata in Sadar thana and Yunus Ali, 25, of Atakula in Sathia thana of the district. Police said the accident occurred when a Nagarbari-bound truck loaded with passengers tried to give side to another truck coming from opposite direction in the afternoon, reports UNB.

**Jamaat public meet in Ctg tomorrow**

CHITTAGONG, Apr 13: Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Prof Golam Azam will address a public meeting at Laidighi Maidan here on April 15 at 3 pm. According to a press release here today, the Jamaat chief will also be accorded a reception at the same venue, reports BSS.

**33 killed in Indian bus plunge**

NEW DELHI, Apr 13: Thirty-three people were drowned today when a bus plunged into a river in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, the United News of India (UNI) reported. The state-run bus fell into the Godavari river from a bridge near the town of Rajahmundry after the driver lost control of the vehicle, the news agency said. Fifty-four people were travelling in the bus, police said, reports AFP.

## Chief Adviser's appeal to all Stop raising controversy on various issues

Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday made a fervent appeal to all to refrain from whipping up controversy on various issues that could impede functioning of the caretaker government, reports UNB.

"The caretaker government has been formed to do some specific jobs within a certain period of time. Within the stipulated timeframe, it is not possible to resolve diverse problems facing the country, nor is it consistent with the concept of caretaker government."

Addressing the nation over radio and television on the eve of the Bangla new year, the Chief Adviser also sent a call to all parties for withdrawing all their support and shelter to possessors of unauthorised arms.

Rahman said his government was carrying out its responsibilities following the expressed understanding of political parties.

He said the government had filled in key posts in consultation with the political parties. He further stated that the caretaker government was continuing its work on the basis of consensus with political parties.

To continue work on the basis of consensus is a time-consuming process. But, despite that, the caretaker government will continue its operation on the basis of consensus, stated the head of the caretaker government who took over on March 30 after Begum Khaleda Zia stood down as Prime Minister.

He further said the caretaker government had extremely limited time at its disposal. "Therefore, if necessary, it would not hesitate to carry out its tasks as per its own judgement independently."

Rahman said the caretaker government was formed under a constitutional arrangement and it has constitutional and legal jurisdiction to carry out administrative functions and hold a free and fair election in the country.

"The government, he said, is determined to create a congenial atmosphere and take necessary administrative measures to that end.

To make this process a success, cooperation of the people and political leaders and workers as well as tolerance among themselves are imperative.

Rahman gave an assurance that the caretaker government would do nothing outside the purview of the Constitution and the existing laws.

The Chief Adviser hoped that with the cooperation of political parties and constructive criticism of the media this government would succeed in doing its onerous duties.

Apart from taking measures to improve law and order, it is also the duty of the present government to give an impetus to economic activities of the country, he observed.

The government has taken steps to curtail excess spendings to set aside fund for productive sectors. The government, he said, kept strict vigil on the industrial sector, particularly on ensuring unhindered supplies of raw material to the garments industries.

The ports are functioning at full speed and the government has taken steps to ensure steady supply of diesel and fertilizer on an emergency basis to meet requirements of the northern region, he noted.

Giving a brief resume of the performance of his government, Rahman said it had achieved a limited success in improving law and order and in gearing up the economic and administrative sectors.

"There is no cause for complacency, the nation has to continue to strive to consolidate and strengthen this process," the Chief Adviser said.

He concluded with a new year's greetings to his compatriots and urged them to work harder with dedication for the greater glory of the nation.

## CEC for code of conduct thru' open discussions

By Morshed Ali Khan

All political parties may be urged to agree on an election code of conduct through open discussions on radio and television to create public opinion," Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Mohammad Abu Hena said yesterday.

In an interview with The Daily Star at his office, the CEC also said that he was giving thoughts on how to seek fresh promulgation of the ordinance concerning bank loan defaulters, which died a natural death after the short-lived sixth Parliament failed to pass it as an act.

"If all the political parties agree on a code of conduct through discussions on the TV and radio, which may be conducted by an impartial media personality, public opinion can easily be created," said the CEC, adding that implementation of it would then become much easier.

He said that he would decide whether to make some changes in the ordinance or have it in its original form before requesting fresh promulgation of it.

The ordinance had debarred bank loan defaulters from contesting polls.

The CEC, replying to a question, said that he was in favour of engaging the 'civil apparatus' to recover illegal arms which have been a concern for both the Election Commission (EC) and the political parties.

"I am not thinking of bringing the army to recover the illegal arms," he said.

The CEC said that his appointment was greeted by the leaders of political parties with whom he held talks after taking office.

"I have discussed a practical and acceptable election schedule, voters' list and other matters with the political parties," he said.

About making a fresh voters' list as demanded by some political parties, the CEC said that despite his sincere wish, he could not really go for a



Mohammad Abu Hena

## AL team meets President, Chief Adviser

By Staff Correspondent

A five-member delegation of the Awami League yesterday met with Chief Adviser Mohammad Habibur Rahman and demanded that the defence ministry be placed under him to keep the armed forces above controversy, reports UNB.

The AL leaders expressed surprise over the placement of the defence ministry under the President by what they said changing the basic framework of the Constitution.

Under the parliamentary system, they said, the President is the titular head of the State and cannot hold any 'executive post', according to a party press release.

Earlier, the delegation called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban.

During the meeting with the Chief Adviser at his office this evening, the AL leaders put forward to him some proposals for holding the upcoming parliamentary elections in a free, fair and impartial manner.

They demanded reorganisation of the defence ministry.

## Welcome, Bangla Year 1403

By Staff Correspondent

Today is Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the new Bangla year 1403.

Pahela Baishakh, which heralds the beginning of the Bangla year based on a solar calendar, has been permanently fixed to fall on April 14 of the Gregorian calendar from this year (1996) onwards, by the Bangla Academy Calendar Reform Committee.

The Bangla New Year's Day, a public holiday, will be celebrated with traditional festivities across the country.

In keeping with the age-old tradition, traders and shopkeepers will open their doors to fresh account books and offer sweets to their customers.

In a message on the occasion, President Abdur Rahman Biswas extended his greetings to the people and hoped the nation would achieve further progress in the new year.

The President observed that the Bangla New Year celebrations had been playing an important role in projecting and nurturing the traditional culture and practices of the nation.

President Biswas said it was imperative to educate the country's illiterate masses for the nation's socio-economic development and flourishing of its language, literature and culture.

Various socio-political and cultural organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes which include Baishakhi melas or fairs, cultural functions and street pageants, to welcome the new year in a befitting manner.

Musical soiree in the morning at the 'Ramna Green', every year occupies an important part of the Pahela Baishakh celebrations.

Radio and Television will put up special programmes and newspapers bring out special supplement highlighting the significance of the day.

The Bangla Academy has chalked out a three-day programme with the 'barsha baran' function taking place

## Major changes in police admn soon

Star Report

The government will soon go for major changes in the police administration at the grassroots level and upward to improve law and order, according to Home Ministry sources.

Two committees have already been formed in this regard — one comprising officials of the Home Ministry for changes at the higher level and the other consisting of high police officials at the thana level.

Meanwhile, the Home Ministry official pointed out.

About the criteria fixed by the two committees for the changes, the official said, "It will depend on the personal reputation of a police official. Besides, the period of stay at a

## 4 OCs under KMP transferred

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 13: The officers-in-charge of four out of five thanas of the metropolitan city have been transferred as part of the government move to reorganising the police administration.

The OC of Sonadanga and Khalispur thanas have been posted to DB and the OC of Daulatpur thana have been transferred to Sonadanga and Khalispur thanas respectively. Inspector Samad of DB has been posted to Khanjahan Ali thana, while the OC of Khanjahan Ali thana has been transferred to Daulatpur thana.

The OC of Kotwali thana Kazi Shahabuddin Ahmed is yet to be transferred, although there are allegations against him from both BNP and Awami League.

Meanwhile, the Police Superintendent, Khulna and the DC of KMP Awlad Hossain Miah and Sattar Ali have been transferred to Gaibandha and Satkhira.

## AL, JP, Jamaat demand Place Defence Ministry under Chief Adviser

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami in a joint meeting yesterday made a strong demand for immediate placing of the Defence Ministry and the armed forces division under the disposal of the Chief Adviser.

The three parties observed that keeping the Defence Ministry under the disposal of the President was contrary to the spirit of the parliamentary system and basic structure of the Constitution.

The joint meeting, held at the residence of AL presidium member Abdus Samad Azad, was attended by AL leaders Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Tofael Ahmed and Suranjit Sen Gupta; JP leaders Moudud Ahmed; Kazi Zafar Ahmed and

## Teenaged boy murdered in city

By Staff Correspondent

A teenaged boy was murdered at Kazlarpar in the city on Friday night.

Nurul Amin, 19, was stabbed to death allegedly by one of his relatives in Kazlarpar under Demra thana last Friday night.

The incident occurred in front of a tea stall near Amin's house at Kazlarpar when the two were having a chat, said a source quoting locals. At one stage, their chat turned in to a terrible row and the angry relative stabbed Amin in his belly with a dagger indiscriminately. He died within a very short time, police said.

Later, police picked up the body and sent it to the Mitford hospital for autopsy. Amin's sister filed a case with Demra thana in this connection.

## 4 killed in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Four persons died in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

One Abul Kalam Azad Liton, 25, who was picked up by police from a footpath near the foreign ministry at Shegun Bagicha in an unconscious state late Thursday night, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) early yesterday, police and hospital sources said.

Police sent the body of Liton of Kazi Nazrul Islam Road, Mohammadpur, was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. Police said, Liton, who was abroad for about four years returned to Dhaka a couple of months ago. A case has been filed with Ramna thana in this regard.

Police also picked up one Siraj from Segun Bagicha. He was admitted to the DMCH. Siraj against whom a case was filed for drinking alcohol was produced before the metropolitan magistrate's court yesterday.

Besides, one Malek, 40, who was seriously injured in a road accident at Belabo bus stand at Narsingdi Thursday evening died at the DMCH yesterday afternoon.

One Bilkis, 18, wife of Asgar Ali of Rayer Bagh, Sanir Akra under Demra thana, was electrocuted at about 2:30 pm

## 'Vested Property Act violation of inheritance law'

Speakers at a seminar here yesterday unanimously observed that the Vested Property Act should be annulled as it is a gross violation of the fundamentals of the law of inheritance, reports BSS.

They said in a sovereign country this law itself is conceptually illegal as the country's Constitution guarantees right to life and property to all, irrespective of caste, creed and religion.

The speakers pointed out that after the creation of sovereign Bangladesh, the very concept and conditions under which this law was promulgated as the 'Enemy Property Act' in the then Pakistan, have ceased to exist.

While calling for immediate dissolution of the act, the speakers observed that nothing is more tyrannical than the tyranny that goes in the name of law.

The seminar on 'The impact of the Vested Property Act in the society of the rural Bangladesh' was organised by the Association for Land Reforms and Land Development (ALRLD) at the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) auditorium.

Eminent economist Mohammad Anisur Rahman presided over the seminar which was participated by Ahmedul Kabir, Barrister Amir Ul Islam, Advocate Sudhangshu Sekhar Halder, Dr Atiur Rahman, Kamal Lohani, Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Khushi Kabir and Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury. Dr Abul Barkat presented the key-note paper which he prepared jointly with Shafiq-Uz-Zaman of Dhaka University. ALRLD Executive Director Shamsul Huda made the introductory speech while Minister Mansur of ADAB conducted the seminar proceedings.

In the keynote paper, the authors said that as many as 53 lakh members of the Hindu community were forced to migrate out of the country since the mid-sixties following the promulgation of this discriminatory act. According to their statistics, 538 people migrated away from the country every day on an average. The number of people leaving the country on an average everyday in the period between 1965 and 1971 was 703, they noted.

## Transport workers abduct policeman, Ansar, take away 5 arrested men



From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 13: A group of armed transport workers attacked a police van and took away a police constable, an Ansar and five arrested workers from near the Kadamtoli bus terminal in the town this evening.

They also snatched a rifle with 10 bullets, police said.

A police contingent headed by the SP in-charge rushed to the spot immediately after the incident.

But police could not provide any further information till writing of the report at 11 pm.

The five persons were arrested when an armed group of transport workers were going to Monglabazar to avenge a chase by local people there some hours back.

The local people had chased the transport workers who went there from the town in several mini buses to fall a meeting to protest a transport strike in Sylhet-Monglabazar road from yesterday.

The strike began after police arrested a transport worker Tuesday last in connection with dacoity in two mini buses in the Sylhet-Monglabazar road earlier. The arrested transport worker had confessed his involvement in the dacoity, police said.

## Illegal arms factory found in Maheshkhali

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 13: Police unearthed an illegal firearms factory in a hill at Maheshkhali last Friday.

The police recovered 7 guns and ammunition from the Shapla Hill situated at the south of the island.

Meanwhile, the police of Cox's Bazar district recovered 50 illegal arms and arrested 367 alleged criminals, during the last 12 days, police said.

UNB added: A Rohingya refugee couple was arrested for possessing firearms at a refugee camp in Ukhiya thana on Friday evening.

Noor Mohammad and his wife, Rasheda Begum, who were staying at no-7, shade in Ghumdhun area, were picked up when police found a country-made gun in their room.

They were sent to court today (Saturday) and later to the district jail.

## Jessore JCD leader shot dead

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Apr 13: A Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader was shot dead in Jhikorgacha today.

Waliur Rahman, 31, convener of the district JCD, was hit by a bullet in the chest when some people opened fire on a public meeting at village Satpur at about 5 pm. He died on the spot.

About 20 people were also wounded as the attackers exploded a series of bombs. The condition of one Shamsul Haque who received bullet injury was reported to be critical.

Another JCD leader, Mohidul Islam, was reportedly kidnapped by the rival group.

A case was filed with Jhikorgacha thana in this connection. The JCD blamed Awami League's 'armed cadres' for the attack.

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