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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 822.42 (-0.99%)  
Market capital Tk 558.68 cr  
Transactions in volume 188620  
Transactions in value Tk 436 cr

NEWS BRIEFS

**City AL holds spl extended meet today**

By Staff Correspondent

A special extended meeting of Awami League Dhaka city unit will be held at 7 pm today at the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city. With city unit chief and Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif in the chair.

The meeting is expected to be attended by presidents and secretaries of all 15 thana units of the city, said party sources.

This special extended meeting is going to be held just two days after another extended meeting of the city AL which was attended by leaders of all thana, ward and union units.

**WB seminar in Nepal from today**

The World Bank is sponsoring a high-level seminar in Kathmandu beginning today to bring together the senior South Asian government officials and the policy analysts with agriculture and trade specialists from the bank and several other international organisations including the SAARC. The three-day seminar will focus on the implications of the Uruguay Round Agreement for Agriculture in South Asian countries. Besides the World Bank, the specialist of World Trade Organisation (WTO) and Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) are also taking part in the seminar, reports BSS.

**Appointments**

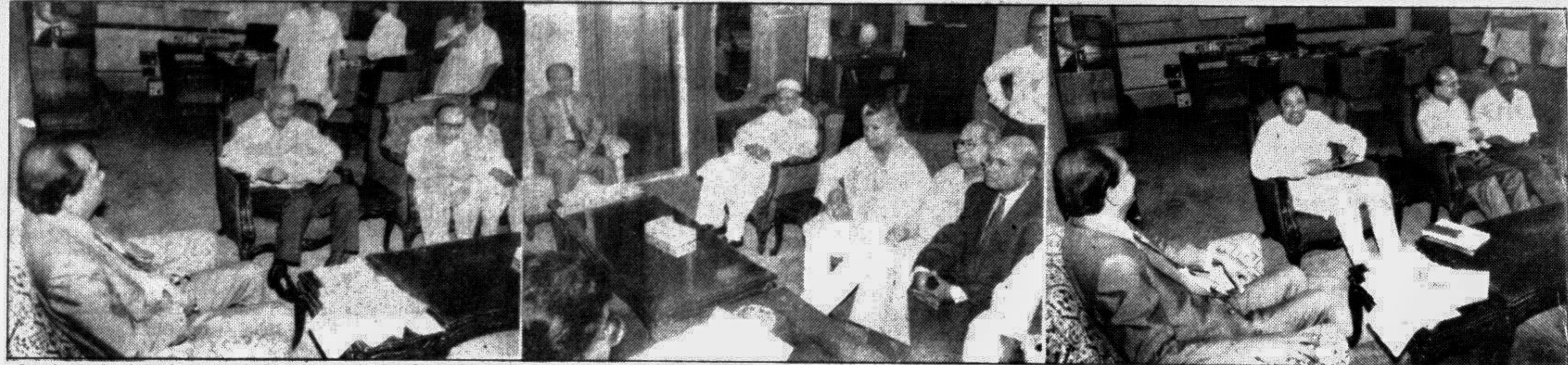
Md. Helaluddin Khan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Youth and Sports has been appointed the director general at the office of the Chief Adviser. Syed Abdur Rashid, Joint Secretary of the Election Commission Secretariat, has been appointed the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, reports BSS.

**Ananda Puraskar for Akhtaruzzaman Ilyas**

CALCUTTA, April 21: Bangladesh Writer Akhtaruzzaman Ilyas was yesterday awarded the Prafulla Kumar Smriti Ananda Puraskar for his Khoabnama, while Dr Ramakanta Chakraborty won the Sureshchandra Smriti Ananda Puraskar for his research work on Banga Vaishnav Dharm (Vaishnavism in Bengal). The annual awards are instituted by the Ananda Bazar group of publications, reports PTI.

**RCC Mayor calls on Chief Adviser**

Mizanur Rahman Minu, Mayor of Rajshahi, made a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman at his office yesterday. He stayed with the Chief Adviser for some time.



Leaders of political parties hold talks with the Chief Election Commissioner at the EC Secretariat yesterday. Photo shows

(L-R) leaders of BNP, Awami League and Jatiya Party

— Star photo

**Leaders hold meetings with CEC**  
**Major parties agree on code of conduct**

By Staff Correspondent

Secretariat.

Leaders of the political parties separately met CEC Mohammad Abu Hena from 2.20 pm.

Top leaders of the BNP, Awami League, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, and Ganj Forum and some other parties met the CEC following invitation.

Election Commissioners Md Abdur Rahman and Mushtaq Ahmed Chowdhury and Secretary M Fazur Razzak were also present at the meeting.

BNP leaders, after meeting the CEC at about 10.30 pm, told newsmen that they had particularly drawn the attention of the EC that no party activists should be harassed in the name of arms recovery drive.

"We have seen in the past that false cases were lodged against our activists. I told the CEC that this should not happen this time," BNP Secretary General Salam Talukdar said. He was accompanied by Saifur Rahman and Shamsul Islam.

Regarding election schedule, Talukdar reiterated the party demand for elections in May.

The BNP may, however,

soften its stance on the election schedule, Saifur Rahman indicated. "We understand the EC needs time," he said.

AL leaders, following their meeting with the CEC at around 10 pm, told newsmen that the arms recovery drive was at the top of their agenda for discussion, followed by preparing a correct voters' list.

Terming the talks with the CEC "very useful," AL Presidium member Abdus Samad Azad said that they had requested the EC to hold the elections at least 15 days before the expiry of the 90-day time-limit as per constitutional provisions.

"In other words, we have recommended to the EC to hold the elections on June 13," Samad Azad said. He was accompanied by Amir Hossain Amu, Tofael Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, ASM Kibria and ATM Shamsul Haq.

Jatiya Party leaders, after their meeting with the CEC at about 11 pm, told newsmen that they emphasised arms recovery and release of their party chief former president HM Ershad.

The JP team consisted of

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**No mechanism to control polls expenses'**

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission (EC), under the existing laws of the country, has no mechanism to check or control the election expenses of candidates, said an EC official.

The EC has to depend completely on the returns sent by candidate regarding his expenses.

Even if a complaint is made about over-expenses by a candidate, the EC, on its own, cannot set aside the election result of that candidate, as the matter is required to be referred to the court, the EC official pointed out.

According to the Representation of the People's Order 1972 (RPO), the election expenses of a candidate, excluding his personal expenditure, shall not exceed Tk three lakh.

Personal expenditure of a candidate will not exceed Tk 5000 as per the RPO.

Election expenses, as stated in the RPO means, "any expenditure incurred or payment made, whether by way of gift, loan, advance, deposit or otherwise, for the arrangement, conduct or benefit of, or in connection with, or incidental to, the election of a candidate, including the expenditure on account of issuing circulars or publications or otherwise presenting to the electors the candidate or his views, aims or objects."

Expenses for public meetings arranged by the political parties in a particular constituency

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**Sundarbans burning**

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 21: The devastating forest fire in the Sundarbans that broke out on Friday, has already destroyed flora and fauna on more than 500 acres of the world's largest mangrove.

All efforts to tame the fire have proved futile for want of water and adequate number of fire fighters, according to officials.

"Massive activities to control the fire could not be conducted for shortage of water in the Bhola river, the nearest source of water due to the current ebb-tide," Divisional Forest Officer (DOF) said.

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He said adequate number of fire fighters could not reach the affected areas due to lack of proper communication facilities. The divisional forest officials, however, visited the areas today.

A fire service motor launch of Bangladesh Navy reached the spot from Mongla tonight.

But none of the press community was allowed by the DOF to get in the affected area.

A huge number of trees, including valuable Sundari and Gewa, are being incinerated by the devastating fire that broke out at Baidya Mahal of Changpali range in the deep forest in Bagerhat district, forest offi-

**PO '72 amendment Advisory Council okays proposal to debar bank loan defaulters**

The Council of Advisers has approved the proposal for amendment of the Representation of the People's Order 1972 (PO No 155 of 1972), an official handout said in the city last night, reports BSS.

The approval was given at a meeting of the Council of Advisers held yesterday evening at the Chief Adviser's office with Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman in the chair.

The amendment has been made in order to debar the bank loan defaulters from contesting in the coming general election and to enable the voters to exercise their franchise in the election without voter's identity cards.

Besides, violation of the code of conduct to be framed by the Election Commission has been made a punishable offence in the Representation of Peoples Order 1972.

**Dhaka College student shot dead**

A college student was shot dead while gossiping with his friends at a coffee shop at Elephant Road in the city last night, reports UNB.

Witnesses said that Nasir Sadek Kanak (20), a first year Accounting Honours student of Dhaka College, received bullet injuries when an armed group fired 15-16 rounds of bullet. Kanak died on way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The incident occurred while he was talking to his friends at the coffee shop at around 10:15 pm.

The four other seriously injured during the incident are Masud (22), Tapash (24), Sadek (20) and Tanvir (23). They were admitted to DMCH.

Our DMCH Correspondent said: Police yesterday morning recovered body of one Kismat Ali, 65, from 333 West Rampura.

Gulshan police said they found Kismat hanging from the ceiling of his house.

He might have committed suicide because of prolonged illness, police said.

Ruma, 20, wife of one Asad Mia was admitted to DMCH with serious cut injuries. It was alleged that she was attacked with sharp weapon by her husband's first wife.

**BNP tried best to realise due share of Ganges water: Salam**

By Staff Correspondent BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday denied allegations that his party failed to realise the country's due share of the Ganges waters during its five year rule.

"It's not our failure. We tried our best to realise our just shares of the Ganges waters. We held talks on the issue at the levels of prime minister, foreign minister and officials on different occasions. We will continue our efforts and adopt more effective measures to succeed if the people re-elect us," he said at the regular press briefing at the BNP central office at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday evening.

Salam Talukdar told journalists that party chief Begum Khaleda Zia would undertake an extensive tour of the country soon after the schedule for the coming general elections was announced.

Begum Zia will visit the district headquarters and also some thana headquarters for

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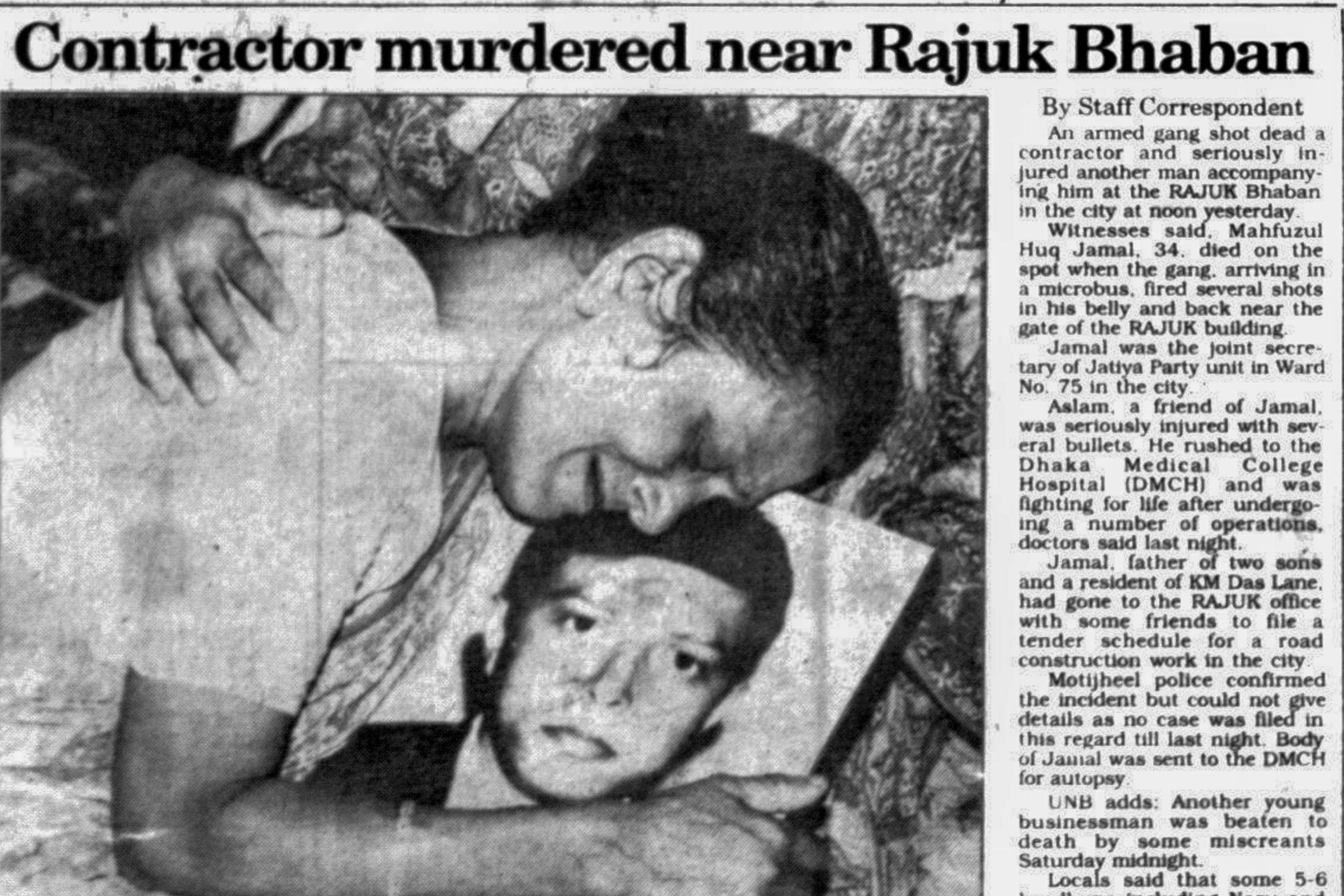
**K M Obaid joins BNP today**

By Staff Correspondent KM Obaidur Rahman is expected to return to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) by merging his Bangladesh Janata Dal with the BNP through a special council of his party in the city today.

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has been invited to attend the Janata Dal council, scheduled to be held at the Diploma Engineers' Institution auditorium at 3 pm, as the chief guest.

When asked, BNP secretary general Abdus Salam Talukdar reported at the party's central office yesterday evening that KM Obaid had expressed the hope to return to the BNP. Other central leaders of the BNP had also been invited to attend the Janata Dal programme, he added.

Former secretary general of the BNP, KM Obaidur Rahman was expelled from the party on the eve of his reported plan to join the Jatiya Party of HM Ershad in late 80s. Later, he and other expelled BNP leaders formed the Janata Dal.



Mother of Jamal breaks down holding a photograph of her son at her residence in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

**Hasina tells newcomers to party**  
**AL to frame policies on the basis of consensus**

By Staff Correspondent

Prominent among those who joined the AL included former secretary Asafuddoula, former Jatiya Party MP and a leading businessman AKM Rahmatullah, former Director of IPGMA, Dr M A Mannan and former Upazila chairman Nurul Karim, who is also son-in-law of late Nurul Amin, chief minister of then East Pakistan.

Besides thana and ward level leaders and workers of BNP and JP and businessmen of Gulshan Shopping Centre, DMC Market and DCC Market, the area also joined the AL, it was said at the function.

Some 10,000 leaders and workers of BNP and Jatiya Party and businessmen from the city's Gulshan and Uttara areas joined the AL yesterday.

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**Dr Kamal for nat'l consensus on fair polls**

CHITTAGONG, Apr 21: Gano Forum president Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged all progressive political parties to reach a national consensus for the holding of a free and fair election, reports UNB.

Addressing a public meeting at Lalbagh Maidan here this afternoon, he said the contesting political parties should strictly follow a code of conduct for a smooth and meaningful election.

He lambasted those political parties which pursue negative and sick politics and lamented that in last 25 years, democracy, the Constitution and the rule of law were obstructed time and again.

The next generation will be endangered if democracy and the rule of law are not

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**Twenty more DU students fall sick**  
**Most DU hall kitchens unhygienic**

By DU Correspondent

At least 20 more students of Mohsin Hall of Dhaka University fell sick with food poisoning yesterday.

The university authorities have engaged a special medical team for treatment of the sick students in the hall.

Meanwhile, most of the 300 or so students of the hall who were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and the ICDR, with food poisoning Saturday were released yesterday, sources said.

The students started falling sick with serious stomach ache after they took their meal at the dining room of the hall Friday night.

The Dhaka University au-

thorities have formed a three-member inquiry committee to investigate the scourge of food poisoning.