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# The Daily Star

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## Share market scam: SEC seeks AG's advice for action

**Star Report**  
 The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has sought legal advice from the Attorney General and other lawyers to take action against the persons and companies allegedly responsible for the share market scam, according to sources in the SEC.

Action is being contemplated against 20 companies and persons, identified by the committee for "white-collar crimes leading to last year's boom-and-bust in the capital market."

The offenders may face criminal proceedings, suspension of brokerage licence and fines, the sources said.

## Gunshots, blasts during funeral procession at Feni

FENI, Mar 30: Feni remained tense as guns and crackers boomed when mourners were carrying the body of Nasir in a funeral procession today, reports UNB.

The town dwellers also had passed the whole Saturday night amidst tension with sporadic cracker blasts and gunshots taking place following the day's bloody shooting.

Nasir-e-jannaaz for Jubo Dal leader Shariful Islam Nasir, killed in a gun attack during a rally on Saturday, was held at Mizan Maidan here today. He was buried at the Rampur family graveyard on the outskirts of the town.

Jatiyatadabi Jubo Dal acting president Barkat Ullah Bhulu MP, Opposition Whip Jinal Abedin Farooq, Feni district BNP Convenor Mosharraf Hossain MP, and Joint Convenor Prof Jinal Abedin and Mohammad Shahjahan MP addressed the gathering prior to the procession.

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## AL-BNP meet at Feni DC's office not held

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 A scheduled meeting between the local leaders of Awami League and BNP at the Deputy Commissioner's office at Feni was not held yesterday, the DC told The Daily Star over telephone last night.

The meeting was to discuss the tense situation in the town following the killing of two BNP activists on Thursday and Saturday last.

The DC, however, said that three MPs of the BNP met the district officials yesterday and "registered their complaints". Leaders of both the sides had agreed earlier to attend the meeting, the DC said.

Meanwhile, when contacted, See Page 12 Col 8

## Khaleda goes to Feni today

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia leaves Dhaka for Feni this morning where two activists of her party were killed on Thursday and Saturday, reports UNB.

Begum Zia will return to Dhaka later on the day, party sources said last night.

## Inside Today

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# Cong withdraws support from United Front govt

NEW DELHI, Mar 30: The Congress Party withdrew support from India's governing coalition Sunday and demanded the right to form its own government, the party leader announced report agencies.

The move virtually assured the collapse of the Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda's government — India's second government since elections last May.

Congress Party leader Sitaram Kesri released a letter he gave to India's President, Shankar Dayal Sharma, explaining his party's decision to end its backing for Gowda's 14-party United Front government.

"The Congress Party has staked a claim to form the government," Kesri told reporters after returning from the presidential palace.

Lacking Congress support, Kesri said, the government

"must now resign and give an opportunity to Congress."

The Congress Party controls 138 seats in 545-member Lok Sabha, the lower house of Parliament. It never joined the coalition government but guaranteed its support to Gowda to block the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party from power after elections last May. The United Front controls 190 seats.

Kesri's letter to the President said the Gowda government was "determined to marginalise the Congress," and failed to curb what he called communal forces, a reference to the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The Hindu party recently joined coalitions in the two powerful states of Uttar Pradesh and Punjab.

"The law and order situation of the country had completely collapsed," Kesri's three-page letter said. "Sensitive defence

issues and security requirements are not being properly addressed."

If the government falls as expected, the Congress Party may try to draw on some factions in the United Front to win a majority.

The Bharatiya Janata Party, the largest party in Parliament, formed a federal government immediately after the election, but failed to muster a majority and was forced to resign after just 13 days.

Hindu nationalist leader Atal Behari Vajpayee said fresh general elections in India are "inevitable" after the country's United Front coalition government was ditched by its key parliamentary ally today.

Vajpayee told reporters no party would be able to form a coalition government after the Congress (I) Party decided today to withdraw support from H D

## Deve Gowda won't resign

NEW DELHI, Mar 30: Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda today said he would not resign, an official said, reports AFP.

"There is no question of the Prime Minister stepping down," a spokesman for the prime minister's United Front minority coalition said after its main ally withdrew its parliamentary support.

"We are prepared for a trial of strength," the spokesman said after an emergency cabinet meeting headed by Deve Gowda.

The Congress (I) Party, the coalition's key ally withdrew support earlier today, taking the centre-left government to the brink of collapse.

The United Front spokesman said: "We may go down. But we will go down fighting."

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Congress (I) president Sitaram Kesri announcing the withdrawal of Congress support from the UF government in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

## Nor'wester hits Narsingdi, Sirajganj: 4 killed

NARSINGDI, Mar 30: Two youths and a minor girl were electrocuted when a snapped electric wire fell on them during a nor'wester at a village in Shibpur thana today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the three pedestrians died on the spot as they came in touch of the wire near Shashpur village on Dhaka-Sylhet road at about 7 pm.

The victims could not be identified.

Meanwhile on Saturday evening, one person was killed and 32 others were wounded as severe nor'westers lashed over

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## Companies seeking to float IPOs SEC to reject applicants with defaulting loans

**Star Report**  
 The Securities and Exchange Commission has decided to reject the applications of companies seeking to float shares if the companies or their directors turn out to be bank loan defaulters, according to SEC sources.

The SEC has decided to seek clearance from the central bank on the bank loan status of companies, including their affiliates, seeking permission to float initial public offerings (IPOs).

The SEC has forwarded applications of about 100 companies, seeking permission to float shares, to Bangladesh

Bank for scanning their loan status through its Central Information Bureau (CIB) before permitting them to go public.

The screening would check the applicants' financial history, including their loan status with the banks and tax department, according to highly placed SEC sources.

The new system has, however, met with strong resentment from powerful groups, who are trying to scuttle the screening process that looks at the performance of the applicant and its affiliates, instead of the previous mode of scanning.

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## BNP to announce fresh programmes tomorrow

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP, will announce a fresh anti-government agitation programme of the party at a press conference at the Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad at 5 pm tomorrow.

The programme was earlier scheduled to be announced today.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Mannan Bhuiyan said that announcement has been deferred by a day because party chief Begum Khaleda Zia and himself along with some other central leaders are going to Feni today for a day's visit.

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## Dhaka to place proposal on microcredit, rural development at D-8 meet

**By M Anwarul Haq**  
 Bangladesh which heads one of the 10 working groups of the proposed D-8 economic bloc is preparing a string of proposals for placement at the next high level meeting of the group comprising eight OIC countries.

The proposals are in the sphere of rural development and microcredit. The meeting of the working groups would be held at Istanbul on May 12 and 13 ahead of the summit that would formally launch the organisation in June, according to diplomatic sources.

Several model projects in the fields of rural uplift, cooperatives, rural infrastructure and credit disbursement among those not generally considered credit worthy have been proposed. The projects could be taken up for common implementation or replication by the D-8 countries if approved by them, said a senior official of the Foreign Ministry.

The proposals for the projects and other recommendations are learnt to have been prepared in consultation with reputed NGOs and different

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The boys rescued from a house at Banani in the city. The house owner (inset). — Star photo

## 16 boys rescued from city house

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Sixteen boys brought from Daudkandi, reportedly to be admitted to a Madrasa-cum-Orphanage in Tangail, were rescued from a house at Banani under Gulshan thana in the city late Saturday night.

The boys were placed in safe custody of Dhaka Central Jail and two persons were arrested in this connection, Gulshan police said.

The rescued children were identified as Musa Karimullah, 9; Manik, 9; Nur-e-Alam, 10; Fazu, 7; Hashem, 7; Mizan, 7; Shamim, 7; Naseruddin, 8; Jahangir Alam, 9; Sohal, 8; Shaheen, 9; Amanullah, 8; Sumon, 8; Shamim, 6; Akhter, 8 and Al-Amin, 10.

According to police, the boys were not orphans and the arrested could not produce the necessary documents for sending them to the orphanage. Police, however, added they were yet to ascertain where these

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## Bangladesh emerge group champs beating Malaysia

Bangladesh emerged Group B champions of the ICC Trophy with an all-win record beating Malaysia by 59 runs at the Kilat Kelab ground in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, reports UNB.

With this victory, the second seeds and ACC Trophy champions Bangladesh, who earlier confirmed a second round berth, crossed the first hurdle in quest of a place in the 1999 World Cup in England.

On completion of the first phase group matches, eight teams moved to the second round. They are: Kenya and Ireland (Group A), Bangladesh and Denmark (Group B), Holland and Canada (Group C), Scotland and Hong Kong (Group D).

In one of the opening second round matches, Bangladesh will face Group F runners-up Hong Kong on Tuesday.

Former national skipper Minhazul Abedin Nannu, who was adjudged man-of-the-



match against West Africa on Tuesday, repeated the feat contributing highest 42. Nannu also took one wicket giving away 29 runs in eight

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## City AL leader shot dead

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 A ward-level leader of Awami League was shot dead at Muradpur under Demra thana in the city last night.

Abdus Salam, 45, Vice President of AL in Ward No 88 in Demra sustained fatal injuries in his chest and belly as an unidentified gang fired on him at about 9 pm. He died on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), police and hospital sources said.

A member of the managing committee of the Somirunessa High School in his locality, Abdus Salam was attacked when he was taking tea at a stall near his house, police said.

The cause of the killing could not be known immediately. The body was sent for autopsy.

None was arrested in this connection, police said.

## Tk 10.71 lakh, car snatched in city

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 An armed gang of muggers snatched Tk 10 lakh 71 thousand and a car of Bangladesh Beverage Industries Ltd in front of a bank at Mohakhali in the city yesterday afternoon.

The General Manager Md Hossain and Cashier Shamsuzzaman of the company came under attack when they went to a branch of National Bank near Bon Bhaban at Mohakhali from their office at Tejgaon to deposit the money at about 2:45 pm, police said.

The five muggers brandishing firearms gheraoed the GM and the cashier when the driver, Anwar Hossain, stopped their car in front of the bank. The muggers then hurled at least three cocktails and snatched the bag containing the money.

According to police, they left the car driving the car.

A case has been filed with Gulshan thana. Police were interrogating the driver. None was arrested in his connection till last night.

## Tejgaon Thana OC closed

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 The Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Tejgaon thana, ABM Sultan Ahmed, was closed at the headquarters of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday in the wake of demands for his removal.

According to police sources, the action was taken as a section of people of Tejgaon area staged demonstrations and demanded removal of the OC following the killing of a leader of pro-Awami League Jubo League on March 27.

President of Jubo League unit of a ward in Tejgaon area Mahmudul Huq Khan Galib was gunned down by an unidentified group of persons near his house in Tejgunipara, when he was reportedly going to attend a party rally in Farmgate area.

None was, however, arrested in this connection till last night.

Earlier, three persons were interrogated.

Detective Branch of DMP may take up investigation into the case, police sources said.

## 'Refugees eager to return if proper rehabilitation ensured'

**From Nurul Alam**  
 RAMGARH (Khagrachhari), Mar 30: Homesickness has gripped most of the tribal refugees who took shelter in the Tripura state of India after fleeing Chittagong Hill Tracts, according to tribal returnees and their leaders.

Sainda Mogh, 70, who was one of the refugees repatriated on Friday through Ramgarh transit point from Mondirhat of South Tripura, said: "my mind always felt inclined to be back to my homeland, but I could not due to absence of government measures earlier."

She further added, "When I was leaving the Kathalchhari refugee camp today for repatriation, other refugee members were found crying for returning home as early as possible."

Sainda hailed from Fenikul village of Ramgarh police station.

### 452 more tribal refugees return

KHAGRACHHARI, Mar 30: Ninety-seven more families consisting of 452 tribal refugees returned home today on the third day of repatriation from

See Page 12 Col 1

## Temporary bypass in E-W interconnector made permanent

PABNA, Mar 30: The temporary bypass installed at the 230 KV East-West Interconnector has been made permanent, reports UNB.

The grid line will now be able to supply 200 MW power through the permanent bypass which was installed temporarily on March 18 after the collapse of two towers.

Engineers and technicians of Power Development Board (PDB) had installed the temporary bypass line between the pillars No 40 and 41 following the collapse of the two towers at Malighacha in Sadar thana on March 14.

Meanwhile, police on the

See Page 12 Col 2

## People want BNP to shun path of conspiracy: AL

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Awami League presidium member Abdus Samad Azad said yesterday that the forces defeated in the June 12 elections were creating a law and order situation and anarchy in the country.

"People of the country want to warn Begum Khaleda Zia to shun the path of conspiracy and get back to the track of democracy," he said.

Abdus Samad Azad, Minister of Foreign Affairs, who was also addressing a party rally held in front of its central office marking the first anniversary of the fall of BNP government.

Senior party leaders Abdur

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## Energy Ministry tells The Daily Star 390 MW power to be added to national grid by Sept

**By Sharier Khan**  
 Energy Minister Noor Uddin Khan yesterday expressed the hope that the bleak power situation would gradually improve by the end of the year, starting from April, as the government had given thrust on completing a number of schemes in the sector.

"I am confident that the work of the Ashuganj-Bakhrabad pipeline will be completed by the end of April, no matter how hard the task might be," he told The Daily Star in an interview yesterday.

"With its completion, we will be able to resume operation of the 210 MW Rajan power plant."

The minister noted that besides the fast improvement of gas

supplies to different power units to augment power generation, a number of power units which are now under rehabilitation will come into operation by September next and add another 390 MW power to the national grid.

Besides, three barge mounted power units having 300 MW generation capacity would come into operation from February or March next year, he said.

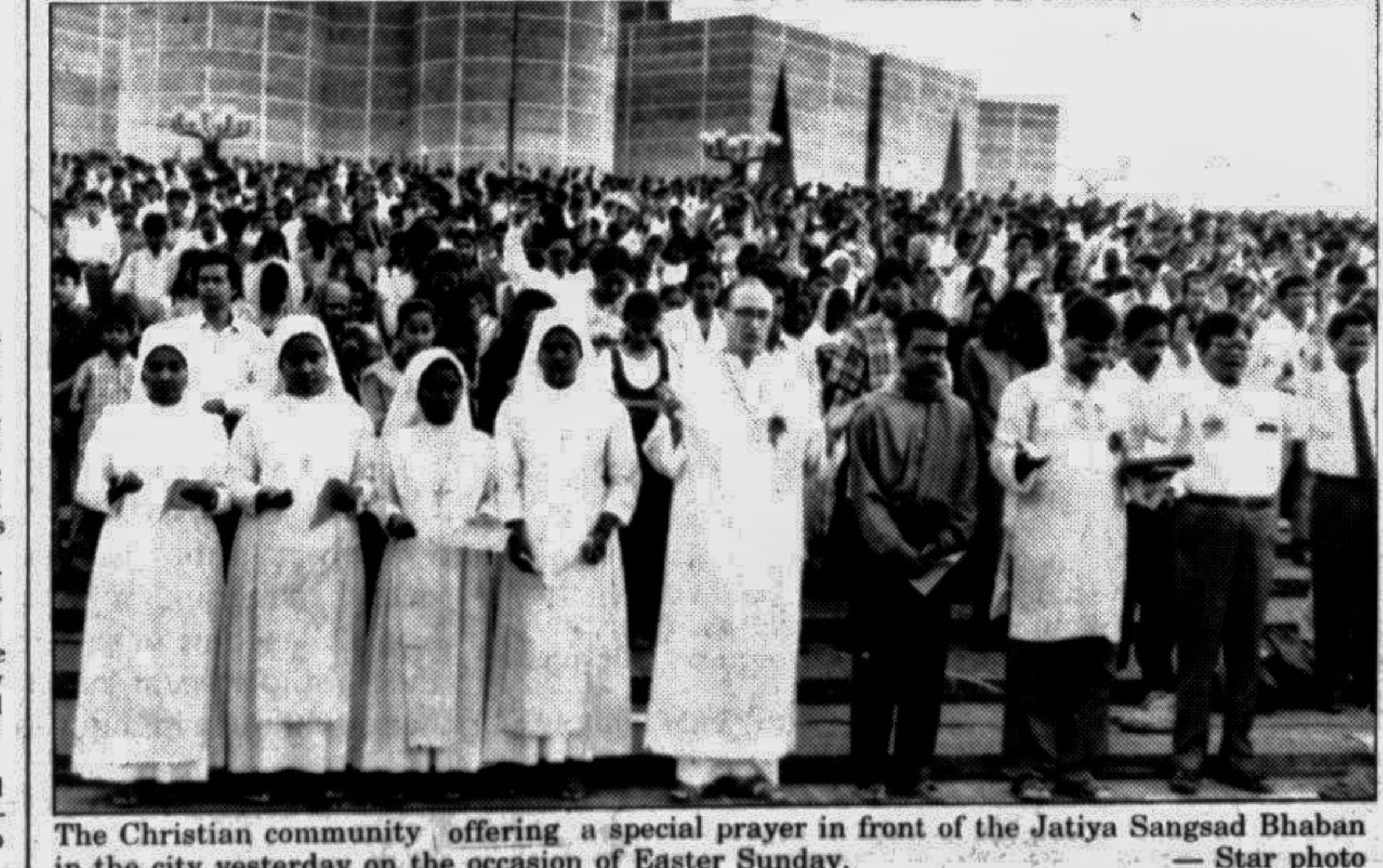
The current level of load shedding fluctuates between 400 MW and 500 MW. The country's power plants can generate around 2200 MW but they are actually generating around 1600 MW against a demand of 2100 MW.

"Usually the demand for power rises sharply in the month of March because of irrigation across Bangladesh. The demand next year would increase by at least 8 per cent," he pointed out indicating that there would still be some crisis next year.

Many power and fertilizer units are being over-used. For instance, a 60 MW unit in Khulna became inoperative from the day before yesterday because it was being operated forcibly, without proper maintenance."

Noor Uddin Khan informed The Daily Star that the Ghorashal Fertiliser Factory also

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The Christian community offering a special prayer in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan in the city yesterday on the occasion of Easter Sunday. — Star photo

## Ershad hospitalised

Former President and Jatiya Party Chairman Ershad was admitted to a city hospital yesterday for treatment of his cardiac vascular problem, reports UNB.

Party and family sources said he is now undergoing treatment at the Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases and Hospital. An eight-member medical board, led by Prof Akhtaruzzaman, is examining the ailing JLP leader.

Earlier, national professor Nurul Islam examined Ershad at his Gulshan residence at Noon and suggested for check-up at PG Hospital.

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## Police raid 2 DU halls

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Police recovered a foreign made revolver and a sawed-off rifle from two halls of Dhaka University yesterday afternoon.

Acting on a tip-off, police recovered the revolver with bullets from a bathroom on the first floor of Mukttijoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall.

The 303 sawed-off rifle with eight bullets in its magazine was recovered from the bathroom on the fourth floor of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall.

## Services of BB employees declared essential

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 The government has declared the services of the employees and officials of Bangladesh Bank as essential. According to a handout issued yesterday, the government has taken the decision under the EP Ordinance of 1958.