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## Share scam 20 get ad-interim bail for 8 weeks, 3 more surrender

By SC Correspondent  
Twenty of the 32 people accused in the share market scam case have been granted ad-interim bail for eight weeks while three more accused surrendered before the High Court seeking bail yesterday.  
The division bench of the HC comprising Justice AM Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Iftekhar Rasul also issued separate rules on the government, returnable within seven weeks, and fixed the hearing in the following week.  
The court in its order observed that the HC does not suffer from want of jurisdiction to grant anticipatory bail in any case in which warrant of arrest has already been issued. In the order it was also observed that the accused are not fugitives.  
Those who were granted bail include Intiyaz Hossain of Intiyaz Hossain and Company and the Chairman of Dhaka Stock Exchange and Sohel F. See Page 12 Col 5

## Indemnity (repeal) ordn: Appeals against HC verdict on writs

By Staff Correspondent  
Two accused in the Bangabandhu murder case have filed appeals in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against a High Court Division judgement quashing their petitions for declaring the Indemnity (repeal) Ordinance, 1996, unconstitutional.  
The High Court on January 28 set aside their writs.  
In their writs, they claimed that the Jatiya Sangsad had no authority to repeal, without two-third majority, the ordinance that indemnified the killers from prosecution for the August 15, 1975 killing of the then President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with members of his family.  
The Sangsad passed the Indemnity Repeal Ordinance last year.  
Barrister Korban Ali counsel for Col (ret'd) Farookur Rahman and Col (ret'd) Sharif Rashid Khan, filed the appeals yesterday and on Monday.

## HC order on Gayeswar's writ stayed

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed the operation of the High Court judgement and orders of *habeas corpus* writ petition of Gayeswar Chandra Roy relating to compensatory cost imposed upon the government for eight weeks, reports BSS.  
Appellate Division Judge Justice Latifur Rahman passed the order at his chamber after hearing the stay petition along with a provisional leave prayer filed by the state against the impugned judgement and orders by the High Court given Monday declaring the detention orders of four BNP leaders illegal. The court had directed the government to pay Taka one lakh to each of the detainees as compensatory cost.  
Attorney General Barrister K S Nabil, while submitting his See Page 12 Col 2

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## Business

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Bangladesh wicketkeeper Khaled Masud cuts the ball square of the wicket during his superb knock of 70 in the second semifinal of the ICC Trophy against Scotland in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Bangladesh scored 243 for 7 in their 50 overs. Scotland's reply was held back due to bad weather. The match will continue today (Details on Page 10). — AFP/UNB photo

## Delhi conference concludes NAM for increase in UNSC membership

NEW DELHI, Apr 8: The two-day ministerial conference of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) ended here today calling for a special UN General Assembly session to discuss the Middle-East situation and demand a time-bound programme for elimination of nuclear weapons, reports BSS.  
At the concluding session of the conference the NAM foreign ministers adopted a special declaration on the Middle-East peace process and a declaration opposing the partial or selective expansion of the UN Security Council.  
Bangladesh delegation to the conference was led by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad.  
After intensive discussions the conference agreed on a common formulation that the membership of the Security Council should be increased by not less than eleven, based on the principles of equitable geographical distribution and sovereign equality of states.  
In the chapter on international economic issues, the NAM foreign ministers urged the developed countries to refrain from the use of trade and investment to achieve non-economic objectives, like labour standards, intellectual property rights, human rights and environment.  
The conference demanded the "destruction of all existing nuclear arsenals under effective international verification within a time-bound framework."  
Bangladesh pleaded for evolving a mechanism to resolve peacefully the conflicts between non-aligned countries.  
Intervening in the discussion on NAM role in the post cold war era, Abdus Samad Azad said that NAM should play an effective role to resolve peacefully the crisis in the Middle-East.  
See Page 12 Col 3

## Investigation into JSAC, JMB projects not warranted: WB

The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors has accepted the recommendations of Inspection Panels that investigation into two Bangladesh projects is not warranted at this time, reports UNB.  
The projects are the Jute Sector Adjustment Credit (JSAC) — both financed by the International Development Association (IDA), the Bank's concessionary lending affiliate.  
A local NGO requested an investigation into the harmful effects of Jamuna Bridge project on the char people while some private jute mill operators claimed that the JSAC had resulted in financial damage and closure of some private jute mills.  
A World Bank press release said in Dhaka yesterday that an inspection panel found that a 1993 Revised Resettlement Action Plan of the bridge project did not specially identify and incorporate char people of the Jamuna river.  
The panel believed the 1996 Erosion and Flood Policy — finally issued on September 7, 1996 after the request was filed — could constitute an adequate and enforceable basis for IDA to meet the char dwellers' concerns and to comply with its policies and procedures.  
Full and informed participation of char dwellers would be needed to ensure its success, said the panel of the World Bank, which is giving 200 million US dollars for the project.  
The Board accepted the panel's recommendation after a full discussion on it and on the updated report of the management of the 700 million US dollar project presented at the meeting.  
See Page 12 Col 7

## Four killed as train rams autorickshaw

Four passengers of an autorickshaw were killed when it was rammed by an express train at a level-crossing near Pubail rail station yesterday, reports UNB.  
Railway sources said the Kishoreganj-bound Egarosindhu Express from Dhaka smashed the autorickshaw at the unmanned level crossing in between Pubail and Arikhola stations at 10:30 am.  
Two passengers — a man and a woman — died on the spot. The two others, one succumbed to his injuries at Arikhola station See Page 12 Col 3

## Repression on women in 1996 Press reported 718 incidents, only 336 cases filed

By Masud Arif  
At least 718 women faced repression in different ways across the country in 1996, according to statistics available from Ain-O-Salish Kendra (ASK), a non-government legal aid centre.  
The ASK statistics, based on press reports, that 262 women were raped, topping the list of various categories of torture.  
Of the rape victims, 13 were killed after being violated, 100 were gang-raped and eight were raped by police.  
However, 336 cases, less than half of the incidents, were filed in connection with those.  
Meanwhile, the Women's Cell of the Directorate of Women Affairs in the city received 2,963 complaints from women who faced repression during July 1996 to January last, according to statistics of the cell.  
Since its inception in 1991, the cell filed 13,352 complaints, of which 9,075 were settled. The nature of torture reported to the cell include physical torture, rape, murder, torture related to dowry, acid-throwing, trafficking of women and children, divorce and kidnapping.  
Besides, data received from Naripakkha, a women's organization, show that at least 56 females were subjected to acid-throwing in different parts of the country in 1996.  
Naripakkha, which is monitoring the acid-throwing incidents and following-up on the cases of acid-victims, pointed out that most of them were aged between 11 and 20.  
The ASK data show that 36 women died due to physical torture over dowry. Thirty-four women were killed allegedly by their husbands.  
Besides, 22 women were subjected to *fatwa* pronounced by a section of local people. The reasons for passing these *fatwa* included: conceiving due to rape, being raped, living together after divorce, pre-marital physical affairs and being pregnant, leaving for paternal house, death of a son of another wife of the same husband, filing of case concerning dowry and love affair before marriage, according to the ASK findings.  
The punishments ranged from five to 101 floggings, stoning and isolating the 'guilty', the ASK mentioned, adding that in one instance in 1996 a woman See Page 12 Col 1

## GDP growth target may be achieved: BB report

The country may achieve a 5.5 per cent growth targeted for the current fiscal as country's socio-economic condition appears to have stabilised, forecast the central bank, reports UNB.  
In its annual report for 1995-96 fiscal, released yesterday, nine months after the expiry of the year, the Bangladesh Bank gave a set of recommendations for accelerating the GDP growth rate.  
The report pointed out that the country achieved a domestic product growth of 5.3 per cent in 1995-96 fiscal, despite natural calamities, socio-economic unrest and other non-economic factors.  
The socio-economic unrest caused disruption in overall production process, resulting in a slowdown in growth in the manufacturing sector. Industrial growth dropped to 5.3 from 8.6 per cent in the 1994-95 fiscal.  
Growth in the construction sector also marked a sharp decline, the central bank said. The sector grew 4 per cent in the 1995-96 fiscal against 7 per cent the previous year.  
Growth in the power, gas, water and sanitary sectors dropped to 9.9 per cent last year from 11.3 a year back. Cumulative growth in other sectors also declined.  
But a positive 3.5 per cent growth in the agriculture sector in 1995-96 fiscal, up from a negative 1 per cent the previous year, contributed to the overall GDP growth rate in the year.  
It is expected that increased dynamism would be infused into the overall economic activities in 1996-97 fiscal because of strengthening reform programmes and the realistic and pragmatic policies being followed in economic management, the report said.  
It forecast that the agriculture growth might exceed 2 per cent if there be no natural disruption and the service sector and industrial output are likely to increase in the year, helping the country achieve the targeted growth keeping the inflation at tolerable level.  
The report, however, suggested that domestic credit and deficit financing should be kept limited reducing current expenditure.  
See Page 12 Col 3

## Street agitation by BNP in Ctg Division unlikely

By Nazmul Ashraf  
BNP is unlikely to go for a "massive street agitation" in Chittagong Division as announced by party chief Begum Khaleda Zia last week, highly placed sources in the party said last night.  
Begum Zia, at a public meeting at Feni on March 31, had threatened of a massive agitation if the killers of two of her party activists there (Feni) were not arrested in a week.  
Until yesterday, police arrested only five suspects but none of the 48 accused in the two murder cases.  
The party is now preferring a "go-slow policy" to protest the two killings in Feni, an influential member of the BNP Standing Committee told The Daily Star.  
As per the revised decision, the BNP submitted a memorandum to the Home Minister yesterday demanding immediate arrest and trial of all the accused.  
See Page 12 Col 5

## BNP submits memo Home Minister urged to visit Feni, rally today

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Home Minister requesting him to visit Feni to enquire into the killing of two party activists in the town last week, reports UNB.  
In the memorandum signed by BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, the main opposition party proposed a discussion between BNP leaders and the minister at Feni today, if it is possible for him to visit the district town.  
Central BNP leaders and party MPs elected from Chittagong division are scheduled to meet the two learned judges today demanding arrest of the killers of Jubo Dal leader Nasir and JCD leader Tushar.  
A party delegation comprising MK Anwar MP, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury MP and Mohammad Shahjahan MP handed over the memo to the private secretary of the Home Minister Major (Retd) Rafiqul Islam, who was not present at the ministry.  
Party sources said the delegation had been trying to meet with the Home Minister for the last three days, but he avoided the opposition BNP legislators.  
They said Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury made a phone call to the Home Minister on Sunday seeking an appointment to submit the memorandum. In reply, the minister told Chowdhury that his private secretary would inform the time-table later.  
The Home Minister's PS on Monday phoned Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and informed him that the appointment had been fixed for April 8 (Tuesday) at 11 am.  
But the officials at the minister's office informed the BNP leaders yesterday that the Home Minister has not yet come and the BNP leaders should come after.  
See Page 12 Col 4

## Commentary Wake-up call for Awami League

By Mahfuz Anam  
It is a major set back for the government. But the tragedy is that it is a set back brought upon itself by arrogance, self-righteousness and "damn with the opposition" attitude. On the completion of its one hundred days this writer had written that the "Government so far had been right on policies and wrong on attitude". Nine months down the line it is its attitude towards the opposition that has brought upon the government this stern and unprecedented judicial reprimand. More than the legal defeat, the judgement is a moral defeat for the government in the sense that all its claim of dealing fairly with the opposition stand shattered and the contrary claim of political victimisation stands substantiated. The brightside for the government in all this is that it can boast as to how independently our judiciary functions during its tenure.  
In an impetuous and knee jerk reaction to the hartal call of the BNP, ruling party went on the offensive and arrested four leading opposition figures, claiming that they were involved in disruptive activities. No proof was submitted to back the claim then or later.  
In rejecting the contention of the government the judges not only found the detained leaders innocent of the charges but also declared the whole process "illegal without jurisdiction and made in an unlawful manner". To prove how unlawful the law enforcing authorities. However, it lost much of its credibility when it was linked with four leading personalities of the BNP, and that also immediately following the hartal call.  
Rounding them up under the Special Powers Act was really the last straw on the credibility-camel's back which broke when even after several days no evidence was produced to support their alleged link with the so-called sabotage. What is even more inexplicable is the fact that Prime Minister herself stated to the press on return from her trip to Pakistan, that "government had enough information" that the detained BNP were involved in "destructive activities". Why did the PM put the prestige of her own office and that of her person behind a claim which was so thoroughly turned down by the High Court? Where does her credibility stand today? Was it wrong briefing that led to this embarrassing claim? Or was it a prejudiced mind delivering a pre-conceived point of view without bothering to know what the facts are?  
We believe that the judgement comes as a much needed wake-up call for the ruling party and its government. If they are wise then they will react humbly. They will calmly assess what they have done wrong which brought them such a strong judicial rebuff. We believe that the harsh judgement has come as a blessing for the See Page 12 Col 3

## Eid-ul-Azha April 18

The holy Eid-ul-Azha will be celebrated on April 18 (Friday), the National Moon Sighting Committee decided at a meeting yesterday, reports BSS.  
The meeting presided over by State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Md Nurul Islam reviewed the information received by it on the sighting of the moon of the Zilhaj month and came to the decision that the moon of the month was sighted in Bangladesh yesterday. The Zilhaj month will begin today.  
The meeting was attended, among others, by Acting Director General of Islamic Foundation Abdul Qudus and Khatib of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque.  
19 Eid cattle markets to be set up  
By Staff Correspondent  
A total of 19 temporary cattle markets will be set up in the city for the coming Eid-ul-Azha, source in the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) said yesterday.  
The process of leasing out the markets is nearly complete and the markets will open at least three days before the Eid festival. DCC officials said, the DCC may earn around Tk 78 lakh as lease money, they added.  
Three DCC surveillance teams will be on duty at the cattle markets. The teams are scheduled to be headed by magistrates. But deployment of magistrates could not be confirmed yesterday as the three See Page 12 Col 2

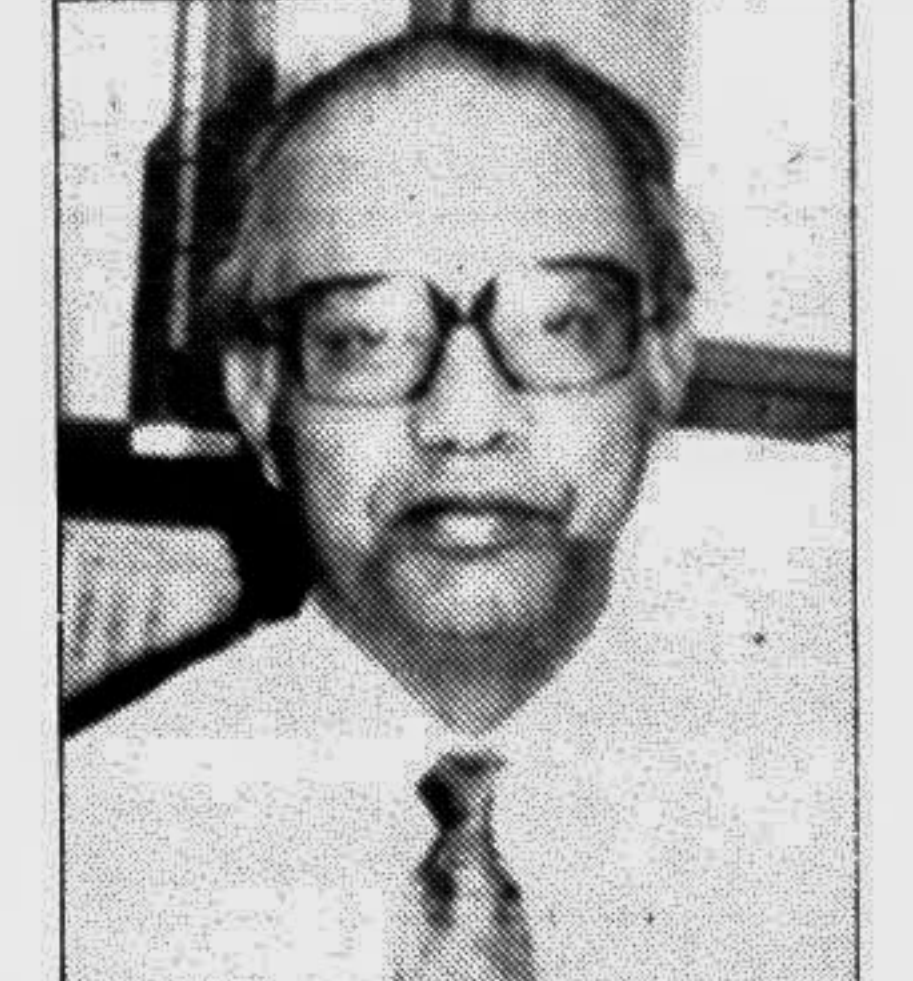
## Australian DPM lauds Dhaka's efforts for regional peace

The visiting Australian Deputy Prime Minister appreciated that Bangladesh under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was doing very well in keeping peace in this region promoting cooperation with the neighbours, reports UNB.  
"You cast a very bright image outside," Tim Fischer told Hasina when he called on her yesterday at the Prime Minister's Ganobhaban residence.  
Sheikh Hasina thanked Fischer, a very senior politician of his country and a six-time parliament member, for attending the mammoth public meeting organised by Awami League at Manik Mia Avenue on Monday.  
The Prime Minister said the friendship between Australia and Bangladesh which got spe- See Page 12 Col 8

## Biman to ferry 1200 more Hajj pilgrims from today

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has got permission from the Saudi authorities to operate four extra Hajj flights to carry additional 1,200 non-ballottee Hajj pilgrims to Jeddah, reports UNB.  
Biman will operate the flights from today by making some changes in its flight-schedule, a Biman press release said yesterday.

**FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY**



Today we commemorate the first death anniversary of Professor **Fazlul Halim Chowdhury**, ex-Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University. A Milad Mahfil will be held on April 11, Friday, after Asr prayers at House 40A, Road 10A (New), Dhanmondi. Relatives, well-wishers and friends are requested to attend.  
**The family of Late Dr. Fazlul Halim Chowdhury.**

## Unregistered schools Directive to submit information by Apr 30

By Morshed Ali Khan  
Unregistered English and mixed-medium schools of the country have been asked to provide necessary information to the Ministry of Education for formulation of a national policy for such schools, sources in the ministry said.  
The move came following formation of a seven-member committee by the Ministry of Education to look into different aspects of the ministerial role against the backdrop of rapid growth of nursery, preparatory, kindergarten (English and Mixed medium) and English medium schools in the private sector.  
Despite legal provisions, most of these schools have so far been running without any government control whatsoever, the sources said.  
All such schools have been given time until April 30 to provide the necessary information in prescribed forms. Any such institution failing to provide the information will face legal action, the sources said.  
The information sought by the ministry are related to establishment and registration of such educational institutions, the sources added.  
At the same time, district education officers have also been asked to collect the same information in their respective areas.  
The Bangladesh Bureau of Educational Information and Statistics (BANBEIS) under the Education Ministry does not have any statistics on the number of such schools.  
"After we have the information on these schools, we will start formulating a national policy," a source said.  
As per the Bangladesh Registration of Private Schools Or- See Page 12 Col 6