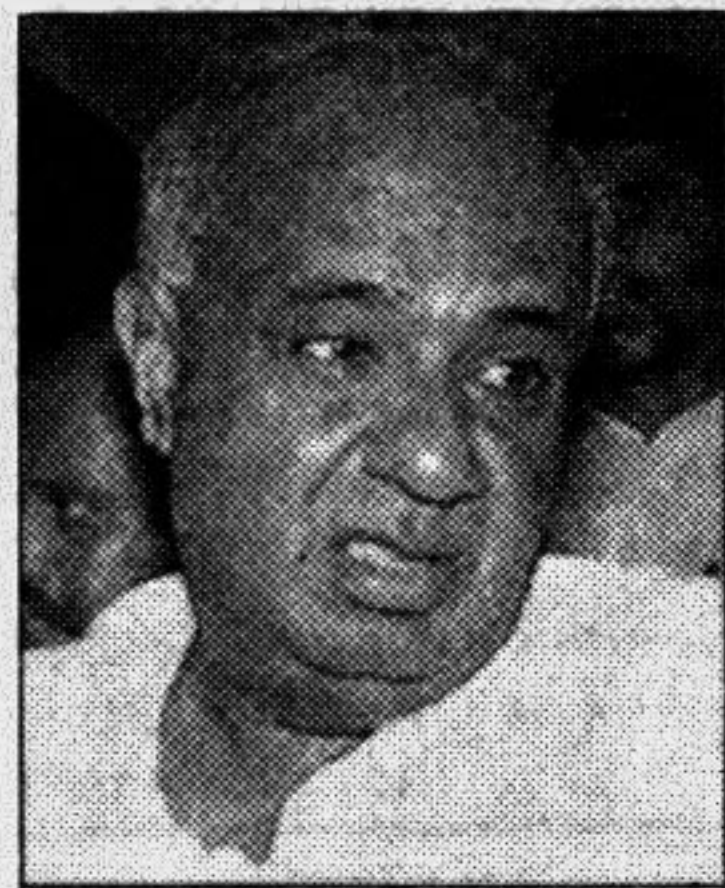


14 to vie for each DU (Hons) seat

By DU Correspondent
At least 14 students are going to compete for each seat in the First Year Honours courses of the Dhaka University this year, according to data available in the offices concerned.
Distribution of application forms were closed yesterday. Applications will be received till Saturday.
According to university officials, there are around 4300 seats in the Honours courses under five faculties of the DU. A total of 61,200 forms were sold till the last date yesterday.
Around 15,100 candidates are expected to compete for 2000 seats in Khatun (Humanities group) while 21,480 students will vie for 1100 seats under Kaunit (Science, Biological Science and Pharmacy faculties).
A total of 9900 forms were sold in Ga (Faculty of Business See Page 12 Col 4

Talks fail: Mid-term polls likely

Deve Gowda faces vote of confidence today



HD Deve Gowda

NEW DELHI, Apr 10: Talks to save the minority government failed today and Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda prepared to face a confidence vote in Parliament and if needed, go for mid-term polls, reports AP.
The powerful Congress Party, which decided to withdraw support to the ruling coalition, ordered its lawmakers to bring down the 10-month-old government in tomorrow's vote.
The collapse of the government almost certain, the 14-party coalition said it would urge the President to call for general elections.
Laloo Prasad Yadav, a key leader of the coalition, said the

talks with Congress had broken down.
"Talks are closed. It's all over," he told reporters. "We are ready for polls if the situation arises," he said. Elections were last held in May 1996. Elections this time, could be held in May, coalition leaders said in private.
A Congress spokesman, V N Gadgil, said his party remained adamant that the prime minister resign, and was setting a deadline for 11 am Friday (0530 GMT), when Parliament meets in an emergency session.
Voting is expected to be held after several hours of debate.
Earlier, Congress issued a See Page 12 Col 4

Daisy murder Main accused executed

A young man convicted of murdering a teenaged girl was executed in the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday, reports UNB.
Hasan, alias Mahmudur Rahman, 27, the main accused in the sensational Daisy murder case in Gazipur, was hanged to death in the jail at 0059 hours, officials said.
Lutfunnahar Daisy, 15, sustained severe burn injuries when some youths set her ablaze after pouring petrol on her body on the night of January 13, 1990.
Daisy, daughter of labour leader Shahabuddin of Baligan village in Kaliganj thana of Gazipur district and a class ten student of Kaliganj Pilot High School, succumbed to her injuries in Dhaka Medical College Hospital on January 20.
Her family sued six young men, accusing them of murder. Hasan, who failed to develop an affair with Daisy, was the main accused.
See Page 12 Col 1

Zafar expelled again, 3 rebel leaders want Ershad to step down

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad yesterday expelled Kazi Zafar Ahmed, a presidium member, from the party while the three rebel party leaders issued a statement seeking resignation of Ershad as party chairman.
According to a party press release last night, Ershad ordered expulsion of Kazi Zafar from the party for his 'anti-party' activities.
Zafar was earlier removed from the party on March 18 soon after the party's rally at the Manik Mia Avenue, but was reinstated the next day.
Meanwhile, a joint statement signed by Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Shah Moazzam Hossain and Kazi Zafar Ahmed demanded resignation of the party chief saying, "If the chairman loves the party truly and wants to maintain its solidarity he should resign and hand over power to the presidium and the working committee. Otherwise, he will be responsible for any damage to the party."
They also demanded that party Secretary General and Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju resign from the cabinet.
"The JP is not a piece of private property of an individual," the statement said adding that the party was being run arbitrarily on the whims of the chairman. It also charged Ershad for 'destroying the image of the party'.
See Page 12 Col 7

Exploding crackers, sprinkling of colours banned

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday imposed a ban under the DMP ordinance on exploding crackers and sprinkling of colours in the metropolitan area, reports BSS.
The move has been taken to protect the honour of the school and college going students and women, for free movement of traffic and maintaining law and order, according to a press release of DMP.
The press release said, different opportunistic individuals, organisations and institutions during the moment of national jubilation, were causing annoyance to the citizens, obstructing traffic movement, teasing school and college going girls and harassing women pedestrians by exploding crackers and sprinkling colours.
Exploding of crackers and sprinkling of colours in the metropolitan area are punishable.
See Page 12 Col 3

Dhaka, Bonn to strengthen ties

Bangladesh and Germany have agreed to bolster bilateral ties in all existing fields of co-operation, reports UNB.
The agreement was reached at the official talks between the two countries held in the city yesterday.
German State Minister for Foreign Affairs and Law Dr Werner Hoyer, who flew to Dhaka on Wednesday for a three-day visit, led his country's side at the meeting, while State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury led the home team.
The meeting, held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations and international issues of common concern.
Chowdhury briefed his German counterpart on the developments in Bangladesh and the efforts of the present government to institutionalise democracy in the country.
The State Minister emphasised See Page 12 Col 5



The pavement, alongwith part of the road, in front of the Nayabazar Yousuf Market in the city has long been occupied by vendors. — Star photo

Khaleda's Khulna rally now Apr 13

The public meeting of BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia scheduled for April 12 at Khulna has been deferred, reports UNB.
The meeting will now be held on April 13 instead of 12, said a party press release yesterday.
Meanwhile, the party will submit memoranda to deputy commissioners of all districts of the country on April 13 instead of 12.
The previous schedule has been changed due to the final match of ICC Trophy on April 12, said a press release today.

Cargo handling at Ctg Port disrupted for 18-hr

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 10: Some five thousand merchant labourers went on a wildcat strike, disrupting normal work in the Chittagong Port for 18 hours till 2 pm today.
They went on the strike from 8 last night in protest against the entry of coaster workers inside the port. The coaster workers, wanted to share the port's works, port sources said.
Earlier, coaster labourers were not allowed to work inside the port.
Work in the port resumed from 2 pm after the merchant workers called off their strike following talks with the port authorities, officials said.

Inside Today

Article

Toward Strengthened and Effective Local Governance: Constraints and Opportunities
by Zarina Rahman Khan
Page 4

Business

Huge gap in import, production, sale prices of urea: BCIC incurs Tk 483cr loss in 9 months
DSE index falls by 7 points
Pages 6,7

Rising Stars

Cricket victory celebrations; and Striking striker
Page 9

Shahabuddin at first KU convocation

Political parties urged again to dismantle student wings

KHULNA, Apr 10: President Shahabuddin Ahmed has reiterated his call for the political parties to dismantle their student wings to maintain academic atmosphere on the campuses and save posterity from ruination, reports UNB.
"Spread of violence and lawlessness in educational institutions, specially in the universities, now impede the learning process..." he said at the first convocation of Khulna University.
The President, who is also the Chancellor of the university, regretted that violence and lawlessness have tarnished the glorious role of country's student community in Language Movement, freedom struggle and democratic upsurge.
Shahabuddin said the act of terrorism sometimes reaches such a stage that the university area becomes a battle field. "The routine speech and statement of the political leaders against such incidents bear no effect," he remarked.
He said the conscious students should also be alert so that they are not used as weapons of the political parties.

The President, however, praised the "pragmatic programme" of Khulna University and hoped that it would contribute a lot to national development through cultivation of scientific education and innovation of appropriate technology.
He said a skilled manpower is essential to explore and extract country's natural wealth.

Ershad's application for pension, benefits sent to Law Ministry

By Staff Correspondent
The application of former president HM Ershad to the cabinet division for his pension and benefits has been referred to the Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs for opinion, according to sources concerned.
Another application to the Speaker for issuance of Ershad's passport has also been sent to the Home Ministry by See Page 12 Col 2

and ensure its proper use and preservation.
"To reach the economic take-off, alleviate poverty, and to meet the growing demands of the changing world, we must restructure our education system," he said.
He noted with satisfaction that work is underway to formulate a balanced education policy.
A total of 139 students were given certificates in the convocation of the university, which started its academic curriculum in 1991.
First batch student of Computer Science and Engineering discipline Anisur Rahman and Khandaker Shahidul Islam of the second batch were awarded gold medals.
Education Minister A S H K Sadique, former education adviser Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui and KU Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Golam Ali Fakir also addressed the function.
Registrar of the university Prof Abu Baker conducted the convocation programme while treasurer Prof Abdur Razzak gave vote of thanks.

Road encroachment No DCC action in last one month

By Staff Correspondent
Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) officials yesterday said they were unable to prevent encroachments on the city roads as the three magistrates, who joined the DCC recently, were yet to get magisterial powers from the Establishment Ministry.
They disclosed this when asked about what they were doing to remove the construction materials and the illegal occupants from the city roads.
See Page 12 Col 8

BCL activist shot dead in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 10: One activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League was shot dead by his rivals near the Pahartoli Fazlul Hazara College today, police said.
According to police, Md Russel, 18, a second year student, was chased by his rivals who later fired on him. He died shortly afterwards.
Police said, the killing was a sequel to internal conflict. Later, some supporters of Russel staged a demonstration protesting the killing.

IMF team due this month to negotiate \$600m loan

By Govinda Shil

An International Monetary Fund mission is likely to visit Bangladesh later this month to open negotiations for a 600 million US dollar loan, official sources said.
"The negotiations will be based on the Policy Framework Paper prepared by the IMF," said an official of the Ministry of Finance.
He said the loan, if disbursed, would help the country in its Balance of Payment (BOP) situation and strengthen the foreign exchange reserve.
The foreign exchange reserve stood at about 1.77 billion dollar on March 17 of this year as against its peak position of 3.4 billion dollar in April 1995, according to Bangladesh Bank statistics.
A Bangladesh Bank official told The Daily Star that IMF was not happy with the reform programmes, specifically over the privatisation process of the losing state-owned enterprises.
Bangladesh may not require IMF's Standby Arrangements for which interest is higher, indicated the finance ministry official. "The other window, which is left for us is taking up programmes under the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF)," he said. The

official also added that a three-year ESAF programme might be considered by the government.
The IMF resident mission chief Jane Bove, talking to The Daily Star on Monday said the amount of two years of negotiations, he noted. "But this time, we have developed the extensions."
See Page 12 Col 3

Some BNP leaders get ad-interim bail

A High Court Division bench yesterday granted ad-interim bail to a number of BNP leaders, said a press release, reports UNB.
The division bench, comprising Justice A M Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Mohammad Iftikhar Rasul, granted ad-interim bail to former state minister Shahjahan Siraj, former deputy minister Abdul Hye, former MP Abu Taher, former Upazila Chairman Advocate Mujibur Rahman, Bagerhat district BNP leader A T M Akram Hossain.
The bench also granted ad-interim bail to DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman, MP, and AGS Nazimuddin Alam, MP, BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed, Jubo Dal leader Abdus Salam Azad, Commissioner of Ward No-56 Chowdhury Alam, Sabubagh thana BNP president Shamsul Huda, Motijheel thana BNP president Borhanuzzaman Omar, Ramna thana BNP general secretary Abul Ahsan Noni Talukder, act- See Page 12 Col 4

ESCAP-BOI regional meet recommends BOI network should promote relocation of industries

The ESCAP-BOI regional meeting recommended that the network of Board of Investment (BOI) in Asia and the Pacific region should design its activities in a manner to promote industrial relocation and utilisation of industrial complementarity, reports BSS.
"The ongoing industrial relocation process was making a significant contribution to the industrial development of the countries and strengthening the fundamentals in sustaining the region's dynamism," said the ESCAP-BOI recommendations adopted in the concluding session of its first regional network meeting yesterday.
Thirty-four participants from nine regional countries including Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea and Vietnam attended the three-day meeting held in the city.
The meeting in its recommendations observed that industrial relocation and utilisation of industrial complemen-

ties along the sub-groups of countries held a great promise in reshaping the industrial scene in the region.
It also recommended that the network could be used by one BOI to request another BOI for identifying selected groups of investors who would be willing to relocate their industries abroad — such as textiles, garments, leather, electronics components and parts and food processing.
The meeting recommended that the regional network should assist the countries in benefiting from emerging new production processes.
It recommended that ESCAP should mobilise extra-budgetary resources to undertake activities of the regional network.
The meeting said that the regional network should aggressively promote dissemination of information on investment opportunities and specific investors/manufacturers who were seeking investment collaboration in the developing countries.
It recommended that, where relevant, the national BOIs should be further strengthened to perform their promotional role. In this regard, the meeting recommended that resources should be made available to the national BOIs to upgrade their technical and managerial capability in providing their services.
See Page 12 Col 5

Holiday for tribal people in CHT Apr 13

The government has declared holiday on the 30th Chaitra (April 13) for Chittagong Hill Tracts on the occasion of 'Bijur', the greatest tribal festival, reports UNB.
An official announcement here yesterday said the special holiday will be applicable for the tribal people and in the CHT region. From now on the day will be a "regional holiday."

Murder case filed against Benazir, 2 ex-ministers

KARACHI, Apr 10: Pakistani police has registered a murder case against former prime minister Benazir Bhutto following a complaint by the head of an ethnic party, a police official said today, reports AFP.
Bhutto and two former ministers have been accused of involvement in the alleged 1995 murders of two relatives of the

exiled chief of the Karachi-based Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), Altaf Hussain, he said.
Police will "soon" start investigating the complaint lodged by local MQM leader, Shoaib Bokhari, at a Karachi police station late Wednesday.
Bhutto left Pakistan for London on Tuesday. It is her first trip abroad since she was dismissed last November by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari for alleged corruption and misuse.
Bokhari has also named three police officials in his complaint, the police official said.
The accused ex-ministers are Naseerullah Babar, interior minister in the Bhutto cabinet, and Syed Abdullah Shah, former chief minister of Sindh province of which Karachi is the capital.
The complaint alleges that Bhutto and five others were involved in a "murder conspiracy" leading to the killings of a nephew of the MQM leader, Arif Hussain, and a brother, Nasir Hussain, in Karachi in December 1995.
At the time authorities said bullet-ridden bodies of the two were found in eastern Karachi.

87 Pak civil servants suspended for corruption

ISLAMABAD, Apr 10: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has launched a crackdown against corruption suspending 87 senior civil servants on charges of graft and malpractice, reports AFP.
An official statement, announcing the sweeping action late Wednesday, said inquiries had also been initiated against a number of other officers.
The suspended officers included seven federal secretaries, a few serving and former president See Page 12 Col 3

Rajuk Commercial Plot Auction Notice

Most ideally located Commercial Plot
Nos. 7 and 9 measuring more or less
640.14 sq. metre (9 katha 9 chattak) and
560.59 sq. metre (8 katha 6 chattak)
respectively on Saidabad-Jatrabari main
road, Dhaka will be allotted for 99
years lease on open auction as it as where
basis.

Applications on prescribed form to
be obtained with terms and conditions
from Janata Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch,
Dhaka on payment of Tk. 500/- (Taka five
hundred) only in cash for each set (non-
refundable) and will be received by the
Deputy Director (Estates), Rajuk from
the intending bidders up to 2.00 PM on
29-4-97.

The auction will be held on 30-4-97 in
the conference room, 3rd floor of the Rajuk
Bhaban, Dhaka at 10.00 AM.

Chairman
Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha
Dhaka

DFF-8483-7/4
G-988