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## AJM polls amid tight security today

From Our Correspondent  
NARAYANGANJ, Mar 13: CBA election at the Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) will be held tomorrow (Sunday) amid tight security as violence is apprehended.

Campaigning ended at 9 am today without any untoward incident. But it was alleged that the trade unions were bringing out processions and carrying out propaganda in the name of "zikir" and other religious rites.

Official sources said one thousand policemen and contingents of BDR and Armed Police will maintain law and order in and around the AJM during the day.

Ten magistrates led by an Additional Deputy Magistrate will also be there to take quick decision in any emergency situation.

Ten to fifteen 'trouble spots' have been identified and police will also be deployed near labour colonies to maintain law and order.

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### Share scam

## Hearing on appeal for transfer of cases today

By Staff Correspondent  
Hearing on an application for transfer of share scam cases to the court of the First Additional Sessions Judge, Dhaka will resume in the court of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge today.

Defence lawyers had filed an application before the court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge on Thursday last praying for sending the cases back to the court of the First Additional Sessions Judge's court for their quick disposal since it had heard those earlier.

The Metropolitan Session Judge's court had started hearing the application on Thursday but the prosecution objected to the defence prayer.

The cases involve Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Shinetupukur Holdings and Doha Securities.

Earlier, hearing on charge framing a joint the accused had started on January 3 in the court of Mia Mohammad Sharif, First Additional Sessions Judge.

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## Report on city corporation bills finalised

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry yesterday finalised report on the four City Corporation (Amendment) bills for placing in the Jatiya Sangsads, reports UNB.

The bills are: The Dhaka City Corporation (Amendment) Bill 1999, The Chittagong City Corporation (Amendment) Bill 1999, The Khulna City Corporation (Amendment) Bill 1999 and The Rajshahi City Corporation (Amendment) Bill 1999.

The bills were earlier placed before the House and sent to the committee for scrutiny, said a press release.

The committee after elaborate discussion made the final report with some amendments, the release added.

Presided over by committee chairman Abdul Mannan, the meeting was attended by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, Advocate M Rahmat Ali, State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abu'l Khaleque and Whip Mujibul Iqaz.

### Inside Today

#### Article

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Praful Bidwai writes from New Delhi

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## Law and Our Rights

Litigating women's human rights; and Human Rights Commission: Perspective Bangladesh

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## Prayer Timings

March 14

Azan	Jamaat
5:30	5:35
Zohr	12:45
Asr	4:30
Maghrib	6:20
Esha	7:30
	7:35

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Ambitious plan to fund industrial projects

By Staff Correspondent

"Of the total amount US\$ 150 would be distributed as loans for you," Kibria told a group of businessmen at a seminar in the city on "Impact of High Equity Requirement on Industrial Development", organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).

According to the plan, the government is eyeing as much as Tk 2120 crore for the purpose.

Kibria said the government would issue industrial bond worth Tk 1000 crore in two phases. Bonds to raise Tk 500 crore would be floated this month.

Foreign currency bonds would be floated soon to raise US\$ 200 million (Tk 1000 crore) from non-resident Bangladeshis.

The minister said the World Bank had also agreed to provide US \$ 25 million (Tk 120 crore), to be replenished after one year. The finance secretary returned last Thursday after signing a deal in this regard with the World Bank, he said.

Kibria said the process of loan distribution would be disclosed shortly.

## AL won't use students in party interest: PM

CHITTAGONG, Mar 13:

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today unequivocally declared she or her party would never use the students in party interest and urged the opposition to reciprocate her overture, reported UNB.

The student community has long been used to serve party and narrow political interests," she said urging all other political parties to sincerely come up supporting the initiative as a measure to free the educational institutions from violence.

"We never used the student community for political purposes and will never do so," she said addressing the second convocation of Chittagong University as Chancellor of the varsity.

Earlier, the Prime Minister, as president of the ceremony, formally inaugurated the convocation programme immediately after ascending the podium, leading to a convocation parade.

Vice Chancellor, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Deans of the Faculties, Education Minister A S H K

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## Protests against terrorism in Ctg continue

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 13: Protests against terrorism continued in the port city.

Local dailies again kept blank space on the front page of today's issues protesting terrorism and published story on the same on crime incidents.

Chattogram Sangbad Patrika Parishad, Chittagong Union of Journalists and Chittagong Press Club jointly demanded arrest of all terrorists irrespective of party affiliation and this was written in the blank space of local newspapers again today.

The 'Azadi' today carried out a story on the front page headlined "Chittagong heaven for terrorism, people are hostage to it."

The local newspapers last

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## Businessman's son abducted in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 13: Armed terrorists abducted a son of a businessman from the city's Agrababu area last night.

The victim, Shamsul Alam, son of Raja Mia, was abducted from their shop at gun point at around 8 pm after his father refused to pay tolls to the terrorists, police said.

Raja Mia also received injuries as he tried to resist them, police added.

Police failed to rescue the victim till filing of this report tonight.

## JCD calls strike at DU to protest PM's visit

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of opposition BNP, has called for a strike at Dhaka University on Tuesday to protest Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to the campus on the day.

JCD general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu gave the call at a rally in front of the Aprajeya Bangla yesterday.

Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to visit the university on Tuesday to inaugurate Bangabandhu Chair in the Department of History.

"We are going to enforce the strike to protest Sheikh Hasina's arrival on the campus as her government continues repression on JCD men across the country and failure of DU authorities to take action against those responsible for attack on

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## A tale of 'generous' muggers

By Staff Correspondent

The muggers were generous.

They left Tk 500 for Shehab Ahmed. Special Correspondent of The Daily Star, before robbing him off more than Tk 3000 and his tape recorder near the Zia Airport. The thugs boarded his auto-rickshaw, which had stopped on the plea of engine trouble.

It was like a movie. Only about a hundred yards away from a police patrol van, a stocky man with cropped hair and armed with a handgun and his consort, a lanky short youth, boarded the auto-rickshaw at 7:15 pm.

The correspondent had returned from Jessore by the evening Birman flight. He had then hired the auto-rickshaw driven by a young man wearing a white cap, the type normally worn by Hajis from the domestic wing's parking lot. The auto-rickshaw stopped at a short distance from the airport on account of engine trouble. The driver cleaned the scooter's spark plug, started again but came again to a halt near a shadowy place about a km from the airport.

When the auto moved again slowly the two muggers came and forcibly boarded the vehicle.

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## Begum Zia demands

## Form judicial body to probe Jessore tragedy

By Staff Correspondent

JESSORE, Mar 13: Opposition leader Begum Kheda Zia today asked the government to form a judicial body with a sitting judge of the High Court to probe the explosions here that left at least 9 killed and more than 150 injured early Saturday, reports UNB.

Addressing a public meeting at the Eidgah Maidan here this afternoon she said the people of 10 southwestern districts have become hostage of armed terrorists under the rule of present regime.

"Law and order has completely collapsed in this region when all kinds of crimes have increased manifold. Security of life and property is at stake," Begum Zia said.

The BNP chairperson accompanied by her deputies flew in here to sympathise with the bereaved families of the grenade victims.

Coming out of the airport she drove straight to the general hospital and later to the makeshift army hospital where the injured were being treated. She wanted to know about the tragic incident from the injured.

Begum Zia went to the residences of Tapan, Sandhya Rani and Nurul Islam who were killed in the grenade blasts at a

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## '80 pc structures in city deviated from approved plan'

By Staff Correspondent

Steps must be taken urgently to implement the Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (Master Plan) 1995-2015 which was gazetted about two years ago.

This was said at a seminar on "Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (1995-2015) Implementation Situation" held at the Rajuk auditorium in the city yesterday.

The seminar was jointly organised by Rajuk, Paribesh

Rakkha Shapoth (Parash), Centre for Urban Studies, Coalition of Environmental NGOs, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association, Centre for Sustainable Development, Bangladesh Environment Network and Institute for Environment and Development.

The speakers stressed the need for immediate start of the first phase of reviewing the rec-

ommendations in the Master Plan. The plan suggested that its recommendations must be reviewed every five years, the speakers noted and called for formation of a high-powered task force for this.

They observed that Rajuk was not a people-oriented organisation and it did not also have any accountability. The common man must be involved in Rajuk's development process, they stressed.

It is not necessary to have new laws. Only if the existing laws are implemented, a lot can be achieved. He said adding that the concept of trustee should be brought back.

Rajuk Chairman Azizul Haque presented a list of development activities but said the organisation was facing various problems regarding land acquisition. It has now become a 'culture in our society to violate construction laws'. More

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## Opposition's mass contact programme March 22

BNP-led opposition alliance will observe countrywide mass contact programme on March 22 to gear up the current anti-government movement, reports UNB.

BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Okiya Jote will hold separate public meetings in the capital on the day.

It was decided at a meeting of the liaison committee of the allied opposition at 29 Minto Road yesterday morning.

BNP will hold its meeting at Paltan Maidan at 3 pm while Jamaat at Muktangon and IOJ near its party office at Purana Paltan.

Party sources said the Jatiya Party would announce the venue of its meeting later.

Chaired by BNP vice-chairman Shamsul Islam, the meeting was attended by Anwar Zaidi of BNP, Kazi Firoz Rashid of JP, Quamaruzzaman of Jamaat and A R M Abdul Matin of IOJ.

## Alleged dacoit beaten to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

An alleged dacoit was beaten to death by a mob in the city's Kafir area where two dacoits were committed in the early morning yesterday.

Police and hospital sources identified the dead as Mohammad Selim, 22, son of Alaudin.

According to police, Selim was caught by the mob while he along with six others attempted to escape after robbing Tk 79,000 in cash, gold ornaments and valuables.

The gang broke open a window glass of a ground floor flat at North Kafir at about 5 am, pointed a pistol at the old mother of the landlord and forced her to open the door.

When she opened the door, the gang stormed into the house, looted the cash and valuables and tried to escape after a scuffle with some young inmates.

Hearing a hue and cry, people from nearby houses rushed there and caught Selim but the six others escaped.

The mob beat Selim. Police rescued Selim from the mob in a fatally injured condition and took him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died at about 10:40 am.

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## Schoolboy beaten to death in city

A schoolboy was murdered allegedly by his friends in the city's Kafir area yesterday, reports APB.

Hospital sources quoting family members said Selim Chowdhury, 14, son of Alaudin and a student of class X at Lalar Sarai High School of Ibrahimpur under Kafir thana was called out from his residence and beaten up mercilessly at about 9 in the morning.

Later, police rescued him from the locality in a critical condition and sent him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at 10:30 am.

None was arrested in this connection till the filing of this report.

## Rubber, soap factories gutted

By Staff Correspondent