

# The Daily Star

**BUY NOW ... PAY LATER**



**Whirlpool**  
HOME APPLIANCES USA  
Refrigerator  
Transcom Electronics Limited  
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA

**LEASE FINANCING**  
Are You Looking For Financial Assistance In

- Capital Machinery
- Medical Equipment
- Marine Transport
- Generator & Boiler
- Vehicle like Luxury Buses, Microbuses, Trucks, Tractors
- Cargo Carriers, Pick-Up, Cars
- Lifts/Elevators
- Air Conditioning Plants

**PHOENIX LEASING COMPANY LTD.**  
Shadhinata Bhaban (1st fl.) 88, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka  
Phone: 9569007 (Auto Hunting) Fax: 9567787  
Agrabad Branch, R.M. House, 31 Agrabad C/A, Ctg. Ph: 710089, Fax: 710086

## 'US plane forced down in India for alleged espionage'

NEW DELHI, Mar 21: A US plane was forced down and detained in western India for alleged espionage, a report said here today, reports AFP.

The private Zee Television news channel quoted sources as saying the private plane was detained in the western city of Ahmedabad.

It said the pilot was flying to the Pakistani city of Karachi when it "disappeared from the radar screen."

The plane was forced to land in Ahmedabad and an inspection revealed spy cameras, the report said, adding the plane had stopped for re-fueling in the western city of Nagpur.

The crew was suspected of filming unspecified "sensitive installations" at low range, it added without giving further details.

The report said Indian Civil Aviation Minister Anant Kumar had declined to comment on the incident.

The US Embassy here said it had no information on the reported incident.

The plane was forced to land in Ahmedabad and an inspection revealed spy cameras, the report said, adding the plane had stopped for re-fueling in the western city of Nagpur.

The crew was suspected of filming unspecified "sensitive installations" at low range, it added without giving further details.

The report said Indian Civil Aviation Minister Anant Kumar had declined to comment on the incident.

The US Embassy here said it had no information on the reported incident.

The report said Indian Civil Aviation Minister Anant Kumar had declined to comment on the incident.

The US Embassy here said it had no information on the reported incident.

## 5 power units in Ctg out of order

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Mar 21: Five power generation units in the district still remained closed, triggering an acute power crisis, PDB sources said.

The inoperative units are Raozan 210 MW power plants - first and second, Shikalbaha 60 MW power plant and Shikalbaha 25 MW barge-mounted unit-1 and 2, the sources said.

Of them, the two units of Raozan 210 MW plants stumbled Friday afternoon, forcing suspension of power generation.

PDB sources said that efforts were on to reactivate both the

See Page 12 Col 3

## Protest Day BNP, allies hold public meetings in city today

By Staff Correspondent  
Activists of BNP-led opposition alliance yesterday brought out processions and held rallies in different wards of the city to drum up support for their "Protest Day" today.

The alliance will observe the day across the country to protest deterioration of law and order, government's "failure" to ensure security of life and property of commonman, terrorism, price hike of essentials and repression on opposition activists.

As part of the central programme, the BNP will hold public meeting at Paltan maidan, Jatiya Party at Muktangan, Jamaat-e-Islami at Paltan and Islamic Oikya Jote at Purana Paltan in the afternoon.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will address her party meeting at Paltan maidan at 3 pm.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will address her party meeting at Paltan maidan at 3 pm.

**Inside Today**  
**Article**  
**Star War II and its Strategic Fallout**  
Column: Perspectives by Brig (Rtd) M Abdul Hafiz  
Page 4

**Focus**  
Racial discrimination in Australia: UN takes serious view on complaints by Aborigines  
Page 5

**Business**  
Poor performance forces govt to scale down export target  
Gulf Arab states to cut oil output by 1m BPD  
DSE, CSE price quotations  
Pages 8, 9 & 10

**Prayer Timings**  
March 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-20
Asr	4-30	4-35
Maghrib	6-20	6-23
Esha	7-30	7-35

Source: Islamic Foundation

# Appointments of CMMs since '92 illegal: HC

By SC Correspondent

The High Court Division yesterday declared the appointment and posting of former Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka, Shahiduddin Ahmed illegal and without lawful authority.

The HC in a verdict on a writ petition also observed that the subsequent appointments and postings of the CMMs, Dhaka, have been made in violation of the mandatory provisions under Article 116 of the Constitution.

Shahiduddin Ahmed was appointed in an order dated February 26, 1992 and subsequently two CMMs, Dhaka, have been appointed successively after transfer of the re-

spective predecessors.

The court further observed that the President of the Republic should take endeavour to frame rules as per the mandate of Article 115 of the Constitution.

The Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Syed Amirul Islam and Justice Shah Abu Naim Mominur Rahman passed the judgement on the writ petition filed by Advocate Idrisur Rahman challenging the appointment and posting of Shahiduddin Ahmed to the office of the CMM, Dhaka as the same was made without any consultation with the Supreme Court as per Article 116 of the Constitution.

Article 116 of the Constitution says, "The control (including the power of posting, promotion and grant of leave) and discipline of persons employed in the judicial service and magistrates exercising judicial functions shall vest in the President and shall be exercised by him in consultation with the Supreme Court."

It was stated in the petition that the President has yet not made any rule on the appointments of subordinate Courts as per the mandatory provision of Article 115 of the Constitution.

Article 115 runs, "Appointments of persons to offices in the judicial service or as magistrates exercising judicial func-

tions shall be made by the President in accordance with rules made by him in that behalf."

The petitioner by swearing an affidavit also asserted that subsequent appointments and postings of the CMMs, Dhaka have also been made without any consultation with the Supreme Court.

Advocate M K Rahman moved for the writ petitioner Idrisur Rahman, a practising lawyer of the Supreme Court.

Deputy Attorney General AKM Shahiduddin with Assistant Attorney General Obaidul Hasan Shaheen and Naïma Haider represented the government.

## Zimbabwe too strong for Bangladesh

By Hasan Masood

As predicted, Zimbabwe last night won their second match of the Meril International Cricket Tournament. They defeated hosts Bangladesh by a comprehensive margin of 126 runs at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

Chasing a mammoth Zimbabwe total of 310 in 50 overs, Bangladesh once again showed a lack of match temperament as they were shot out for 184 in 42.2 overs. Thanks, however, to workmanlike 73 by opener

Mehrab Hossain, Bangladesh were saved from downright humiliation.

Bangladesh, who lost their opening match to Kenya by eight wickets on the previous night, were off to a horrible start when they lost their two top order batsmen in three overs for only seven runs.

Opener Shahriar Hossain, who scored 95 against Kenya on Saturday, was first to go when he was run out in the last ball of

See Page 12 Col 4

we SCORE... while others watch



Standard Chartered



Zimbabwe captain Alistair Campbell is trapped lbw by Naimur Rahman yesterday at the Bangabandhu National Stadium. —Star photo

## No plan to export gas, reaffirms PM Jalalabad Gas Plant opens

SYLHET, Mar 21: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government wanted optimum utilisation of the hydrocarbons in downstream economy, reports UNB.

She made it clear that the government was not thinking of exporting gas, because people's welfare is the top most priority of her administration.

"We can spur socio-economic

development attaining self-reliance in the energy sector," she said, inaugurating the Jalalabad Gas Plant, first such in the country.

Mentioning that 85 per cent of the 125 million-strong population are deprived of the benefits of electricity, she said: "We have to utilise gas to increase power generation so that we can give them power supply."

The prime minister also sug-

gested setting up fertiliser and plastic industries based on gas for generation of employment and multiple uses of gas.

Mentioning a package of incentives announced for the foreign investors, she called upon the foreign investors to come forward to invest in gas-based industries like other sectors.

"We have opened up the sector of gas and gas-based industries like other sectors for foreign investment."

Hasina suggested multiple uses of natural gas in order to cut down foreign exchange expenditure on imports and maintain economic balance.

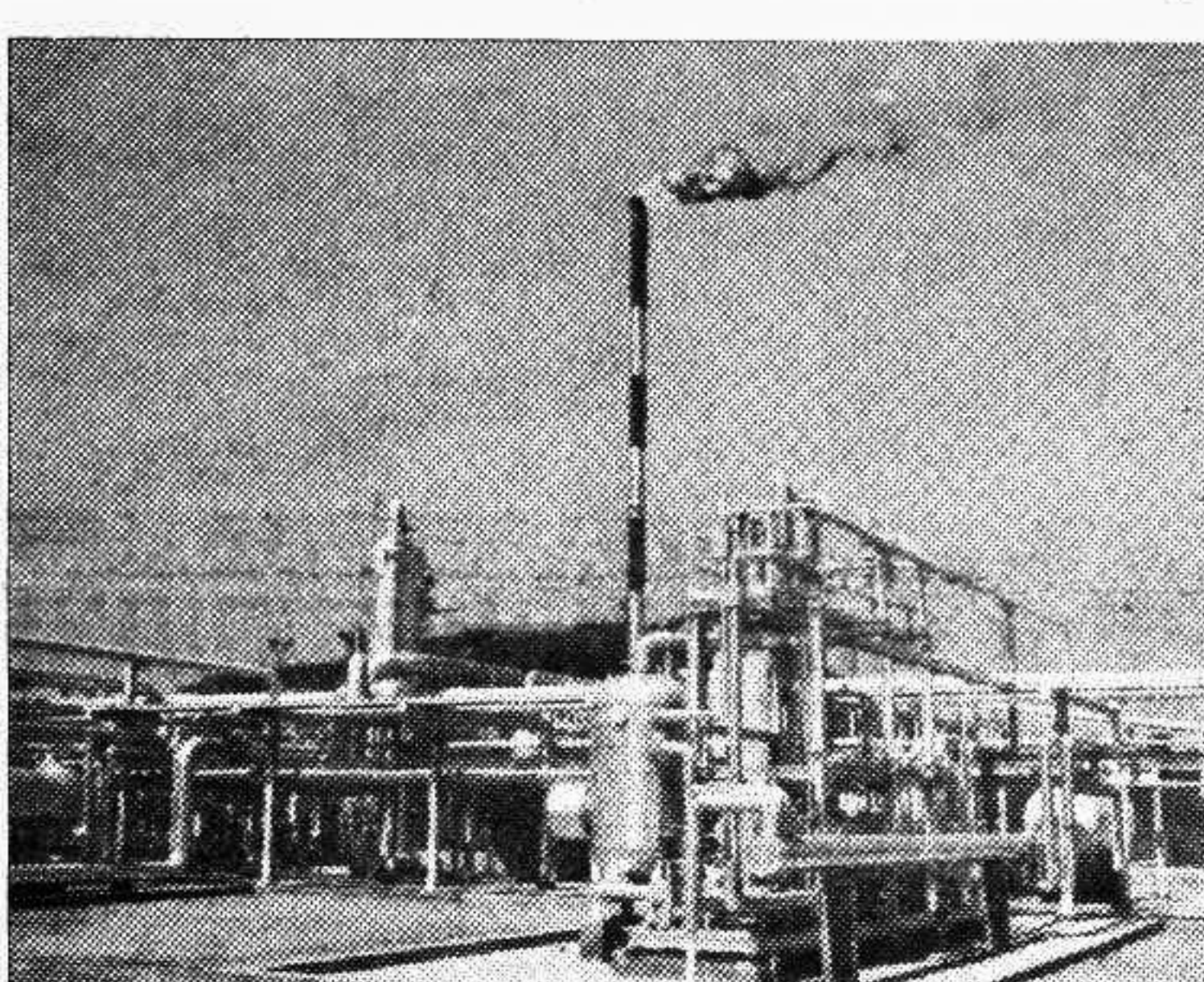
Located in the middle of the Lakkatura Tea Garden, five km off Sylhet town, the plant was readied last month.

It is currently producing 100 MMscf natural gas from the Jalalabad gasfield. Phase-I of this plant will allow up to 150 MMscf of dry gas per day to be processed. A phase-II expansion in future will increase the capacity to 250 MMscf.

The plant utilises IPEXOL process, a unique process that removes water from the gas by introducing methanol into the gas stream prior to the refrigeration process. The IPEXOL process is licensed by the Institute Francaise de Petrole.

Propane refrigeration is then used to dehydrate the gas and recover liquid hydrocarbons, called condensate, which

See Page 12 Col 4



Jalalabad Gas Plant in Sylhet. —PID photo

## British HC confirms rape report

The British High Commission in Dhaka yesterday confirmed the rape of a British woman early last year at a city police station where she had gone to report a theft, reports UNB.

After the incident, Consul Geoffrey Fairhurst wrote to the Inspector General of Police on December 21, 1998 that a British woman had been "raped by four policemen at a city police station early in 1998," said the British High Commission in a statement.

The statement was issued as Home Minister Mohammad Nasim aired doubts about the

See Page 12 Col 3

## BBC report to serve purpose of a vested quarter: Nasim

Home and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday reiterated that the BBC report on the rape of a British woman was fully "imaginary" and said the motive behind this type of "untrue and baseless" news was to tarnish the image of a democratic government as well as create public wrath against the law enforcing agencies, reports BSS.

"I will write a letter to the BBC authority as to how they got a news like this and broad-

See Page 12 Col 3

## Dhaka's prospects for winning C'wealth SG post bright

By M Anwarul Haq



Farooq Sobhan, Bangladesh nominee

The prospects of Dhaka winning the prestigious position of Commonwealth Secretary General are bright, diplomatic sources feel.

Former foreign secretary Farooq Sobhan is Bangladesh's nominee for the coveted post.

Talking to The Daily Star on Saturday, Farooq Sobhan said the chances of Bangladesh's being elected to the position "are definitely bright" since 50 out of 54 members of the Commonwealth are developing countries. Only Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand are developed countries and the rest are developing nations of Asia and Africa.

"There is a strong feeling among most of the Commonwealth nations that the next Secretary General should be from an Asian developing na-

tion", he said.

"The Commonwealth is now increasingly focussing on the economic agenda including trade and investment and on good governance. These issues are of great concern to most of the developing countries, and a candidate from Bangladesh could effectively echo these core issues," Sobhan noted.

The Commonwealth now comprises 19 nations from Africa, 12 from the Caribbean region, eight from Asia, nine from the Pacific region and two from the Mediterranean rim.

No Asian has ever been elected Secretary General of the 54-nation organisation. The first Secretary General was Sir Arnold Smith of Canada who served two terms, the second was Sir Sridath Ramphal of

See Page 12 Col 1,

## Discord over finalising rules for next BCS exams

By Gobinda Bar

The Bangladesh Public Service Commission (PSC) and the Secretariat Committee are at odds over finalising some new rules, particularly concerning viva voce marks, for BCS examinations from next year.

The new rules are likely to be effective from the 21st BCS examination, sources in the PSC and the Committee said.

Correspondence between the PSC and the Committee began more than a year ago, widening the difference on viva voce marks but narrowing down on some other issues.

The PSC is firmly trying to fix the viva voce marks at 200 while the Secretariat Committee thinks it should not be more than 100.

PSC recently sent a fresh proposal accepting some recommendations of the Secretariat Committee but remained

firm on its earlier opinion in favour of 200 marks for viva voce, with a suggestion that the examination should be of a total of 1000 marks. But the Secretariat Committee stuck to its proposal for 900.

An official of the Establishment Ministry said the Secretariat Committee will sit for further discussion on the proposal shortly.

According to the PSC's latest proposal, written examinations on Bangla, English, Bangladesh Affairs, International Affairs, Mathematical Logic, Psychological Skill, General Science and Technology and General Social Science will be of 100 marks each and the viva voce will be of 200 marks.

Candidates for all the technical and non-technical cadres will have to sit for the same written tests on these subjects.

In the new system, there will be no elective subjects in written tests and unlike in the existing rules, framed in 1982, all the candidates will have to answer the same questions in the same examinations.

After scrutinising the PSC proposal, the Secretariat Committee suggested that the examinations should be of 900 marks including 100 for viva voce. The rest 800 marks for written tests will include 200

See Page 12 Col 1

## 'Help check abuse of power and promote role of opposition'

Khaleda at SAARC Speakers' confce

Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the Speakers of South Asian countries to play their due role in checking abuse of power by ruling party and promoting the role of opposition in making Parliament effective, reports UNB.

She also requested them to initiate the process of dialogue, understanding and consensus to its logical conclusion so that all parties have a meaningful voice in Parliament.

"As arbitrators of democracy in Parliament, the role of Speaker is crucial... They have a duty to contribute towards greater accountability and transparency by all political parties including the ruling party," Khaleda told the concluding session of the SAARC conference of the Speakers and Parliamentarians as chief guest at Hotel Sonargaon.

The BNP chief who along with her party MPs, failed to turn up at the opening session of the three-day conference inaugurated by Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina at ICC Friday, said: Speakers must be impartial guardians in maintaining balances and to ensure that the solution to the problems of democracy is more democracy."

Presided over by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, the current Chairman of the Association of the SAARC Speakers and Parliamentarians, the concluding session was addressed by Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru and Speakers of the SAARC countries.

Khaleda said SAARC was launched 20 years ago to find ways to improve the quality of life of ordinary people in South Asia in an environment of peace.

"I would like to re-emphasise here that the most important thrust for SAARC is promoting socio-economic growth and reform and that development remains the most compelling security challenge facing the region."

Referring to the nuclear arms race by India and Pakistan, she said overt nuclearisa-

tion by the two countries has propelled South Asia to the edge of nuclear abyss. "It has become the most dangerous nuclear perimeter in the world, for reasons that are well known, not least the danger of catastrophe by accident."

Khaleda stressed the point of poverty alleviation and environmental protection and noted that without progress in these programmes, "social upheaval and political unrest is inevitable."

The resulting instability sparks disaffection, lawlessness, corruption and demagoguery... These escalate traditional and territorial disputes. They are the real seeds of insecurity and conflict that have suffocated South Asia, retarding growth and inhibiting forward thinking," she said in her written statement.

Khaleda said sustained development could reduce even deep-rooted tension. "Unfortunately the link between development and security in South

See Page 12 Col 8

## Regional seminar told Stronger legal institutions key to curbing corruption

By Staff Correspondent

Enacting fresh laws, establishing anti-corruption commission, strengthening legal institutions and government committees and taking stern action against perpetrators of forgery were some of the steps suggested to tackle corruption in South Asian countries.

The suggestions came from a five-day regional seminar on "Parliament and Good Governance" at BRAC Centre in Rajshahi, Bangladesh, yesterday, the second day.

Yesterday's topic of the seminar was "Strengthening Accountability to Control Corruption - An Emerging Agenda."

Other recommendations to curb corruption included: ensuring accountability and transparency of parliament which should create public awareness against corrupt practices, changing political behaviour, strengthening the civil society institutions, setting up strong institutions to ensure sustainable development, punishing those involved in

bribery and other malpractice, incorporating clauses prohibiting bribery in contracts with donors, monitoring performance of the public servants and expediting the process of privatisation.

Panelists in the seminar also dealt with the nature of corruption in the South Asian countries and the mechanism to combat it.

Group discussion by them found that abuse of public offices was the root of corruption in the administration. Bribing by citizens for availing public services and by the civil servants for getting undue advantages were rampant, they observed.

On the one hand, they said, public officials have monopolised power with a lot of discretionary authority; on the other, the common people have limited rights. Adding to it is the less effective legal institutions, they observed pointing out the factors behind unabated cor-

See Page 12 Col 4

**TITAN**  
As seen around the world  
Kallol Distributions Ltd.  
Tel: 988246, 987590



Man of the Match Andy Flower of Zimbabwe

## Mujibur was drowned, says autopsy report

By Staff Correspondent  
The government yesterday formed a three-member inquiry committee to probe the death of Mujibur Rahman.

Mujibur was allegedly drowned by police in a jheel in the city's Bashabo area Sunday afternoon. His body was found floating in the jheel Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, the autopsy report said that there were signs of injuries on the back of Mujibur's head. But, his death was caused by 'dry drowning', that is water reached the larynx of the victim.

Earlier, neighbours of the victim and eyewitnesses alleged that police beat Mujibur with a bamboo stick in the jheel on March 14 when he tried to escape from them. Police also plunged and drowned Mujibur in the jheel.

The three-member committee headed by joint secretary (political) of home ministry Mohammad Janibul Huq is likely to submit its report by Thursday.

Other members of the committee are deputy secretary (law) of home ministry Abdul Wahab Sarkar and additional chief metropolitan magistrate Mohammad Abu Sayeed.

## Token hunger strike in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Mar 21: The BNP-led opposition alliance observed a token hunger strike here today for five hours from 8 am in front of the Chittagong Press Club protesting terrorism in the city.

The alliance earlier staged demonstration and rallies to protest the acts of terrorism.

## Erratum

Steve Tikolo of Kenya, not of Zimbabwe, was adjudged Man of the Match in Saturday's Bangladesh-Kenya tie, as printed in the front page photo caption in The Daily Star yesterday. The inadvertent error is regretted.

**Dhaka Sheraton HOTEL**

DHAKA SHERATON IS THE ONLY HOTEL IN BANGLADESH TO OFFER GUESTS A CHOICE OF STARWOOD'S 600 HOTELS AND RESORTS AROUND THE GLOBE AND MORE THAN 20 AIRLINES.

Enroll in Starwood Guest Preferred The Best Frequent Guest Program in the world of Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc. and enjoy a world of Benefits and Rewards without boundaries including Free Nights in hotels and Free Flights.

For information: Contact our SPG Coordinator Phone: 861191

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Westin Hotels & Resorts The Luxury Collection Four Points Hotels Caesars World W Hotels