

# The Daily Star

COMMITTED TO  
People's Right to Know

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XI No. 44

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MARCH 22, 2001

www.dailystarnews.com

FALGUN 16, 1407 BS

ZELHAJ 3, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE: Tk 6.00

## AL reaction Opposition wants chaos, not polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League has sharply reacted to the opposition's ultimatum to the government to quit power by March 30.

Leaders of the party said the opposition by giving an ultimatum has proved that it does not want the national election. Rather, they have indulged in a ploy to create chaos and instability in the country.

The ultimatum was declared from an opposition rally at the city's Paltan Maidan yesterday.

Giving an instant reaction to The Daily Star, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru said, "There is no reason for giving ultimatum. We've already told the President that

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## Resign by Mar 30, Khaleda gives ultimatum to govt

### Highlights of Khaleda's speech

!A March 30 ultimatum to the government to quit

!Two-day non-stop countrywide hartal on April 1 and 2 for non-compliance to the ultimatum

!Non-stop hartal and other agitation programme to follow if the government continue in power

!Street protests from March 23 to 29

!Civil servants asked to defy the government and join the opposition

!Donors urged not to sanction fresh loans or disburse fund for the government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia yesterday gave an ultimatum to the Awami League government to resign by March 30.

Otherwise, she announced, there would be a countrywide 48-hour hartal on April 1 and 2. Also, if the government didn't respond to it, more non-stop hartal and other tougher agitation programmes would follow, she warned.

The ultimatum was issued at a public meeting of the four-party opposition alliance at the Paltan Maidan in the city, apparently in response to the Prime Minister's warning that her government would serve out its full tenure, if the opposition issued any deadline.

Tens of thousands of people from Dhaka and its adjoining districts converged at the meeting, turning Paltan and its adjoining areas into a human sea. City BNP President Sadeque Hossain Khoka presided over the meeting.

She also announced that the opposition would stage demonstration and bring out procession everyday from tomorrow to March 29 to press home the demand for the government's resignation, arrest of Dr HBM Iqbal, terrorists

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## HC hearing on move to revive case against Khaleda May 31

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A Division Bench of the High Court yesterday fixed May 31 for hearing on a government move to revive a case against Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Khaleda Zia on charge of abusing her authority as prime minister to cancel the process of appointment of 287 sub-inspectors in the police in 1991.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## INSIDE TODAY

Article 4

Begum Khaleda Zia's visit to China  
Column: Currents and Crosscurrents  
MM Rezaul Karim

Focus 5

Water-borne diseases and environmental health situation

Business 6, 7 & 8

JS body blasts PSI agents for harassing traders

OPEC warns of further output cut  
DSE, CSE price quotations

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Mar 22		6.10pm
Mar 23	6-00 am	

## Prayer Timings

March 22		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	5-20	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-30
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-13	6-18
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addresses a public rally of the four-party alliance at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday. Khaleda gave a March 30 ultimatum to resign.

## Raushan skips Paltan rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Raushan Ershad, a senior presidium member of the Jatiya Party faction loyal to jailed former president HM Ershad, did not attend yesterday's crucial public meeting of the four-party opposition alliance in the city where a March 30 ultimatum was issued for the government to resign.

Raushan is leading a party faction that has decided to join the parliament's upcoming session in a bid to get 'plough' as its election symbol. But another faction led by JP Secretary General Nazir Rahman Manzur is opposing the decision.

On the night before the rally, BNP chief Khaleda Zia asked Raushan not to join the parliament session when they met at the Minto Road residence of the opposition leader.

Since Ershad was sent back to jail

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

## Bring ministers, MPs, political leaders under tax-net

JS body on finance ministry suggests

SHAHRIAR KARIM

The parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance Ministry has suggested bringing ministers, lawmakers, political leaders and government officials under the tax-net saying that whoever has income should pay tax.

The suggestion was made a meeting of the Committee yesterday when the National Board of Revenue (NBR) presented a report on its effort for widening the tax base by bringing more people under tax-net through its spot assessment and internal survey, meeting sources said.

The meeting gave the proposal as revenue earning from income tax has failed to meet the target.

According to NBR statistics, revenue earning from income tax was Tk 69.85 crore less than the target of Tk 1755.46 crore in the first eight months (July-February) of the current fiscal year. However, it was Tk 382.76 crore or 29.38 per cent more than that during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

Despite the failure to meet the target in income tax sector, the overall revenue collection during the period stood at Tk 10,935.77 crore, Tk 348.78 crore more than he target for the period.

The NBR hoped at the meeting that its new efforts to bring owners of household property and business enterprises under tax-net would cover 1,50,000 new taxpayers. The

drive would end this month.

The number of taxpayers has risen to 10,58,419 from 9,77,511 in the last eight months due to the drive, NBR mentioned. The number would stand at around 1.2 million by the end of this fiscal year, it hoped.

Presided over by Chairman of the Committee Prof Ali Ashraf, the meeting was attended by its members and high officials of NBR and Economic Relations Division (ERD).

The Committee members also expressed dissatisfaction over the 'bulging aid pipeline' that also has commitments for 1986-87, the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## 20 new DCs including 4 women 3 Div Commissioners, 11 DCs transferred

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

In major reshuffle in administration at divisional and district levels, the government yesterday transferred three Divisional Commissioners and 11 Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and posted 20 officials as DCs.

Of the new DCs, four are women, holding such post for first time in the country.

According to a notification issued by the Establishment Ministry, Divisional Commissioner of Khulna Mohammad Abu Taher has been transferred to Chittagong, replacing Mobaidul Islam. Islam was earlier transferred as Director General of the Civil Service Training Academy.

Hemayetuddin Talukder, Joint-Secretary in Land Ministry, goes to Khulna as Divisional Commissioner and Mohammad Abu Hafij, Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet, has been transferred to Rajshahi.

Besides, Fazlul Huq, Jt Secretary of the Election Commission, has been transferred as Jt Secretary, Ministry of Finance; Nuruzzaman Bhuiya, DG, Rural Employment Foundation, goes to ERD as Jt Secretary and Khan Mohammad Belayet Hossain, member (administration) of RAJUK, has been made Jt Secretary, Science and Technology Ministry.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Ershad not produced in court due to 'chest pain'

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday fixed April 22 to produce former president HM Ershad before the court in connection with two corruption cases.

CMM Shailendra Kumer Adhikary fixed the date following placing of two "custody warrants".

The jail authorities could not produce Ershad before the court yesterday due to pain in his chest, sources said.

The CMM's court issued "custody warrant" against Ershad in the cases on March 11.

In the first case, it was alleged that Ershad, by misusing power, sent

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

## Policy for international polls observers being formulated

NAZRUL ISLAM

The government is going to formulate a policy for the international observers who would visit the country during the 2001 general elections.

The move follows the abduction of three European engineers at Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) on February 16.

"We need a comprehensive policy for the international observers to ensure adequate security and other facilities for them during the polls," Foreign Secretary Syed Moazzem Ali told the Daily Star yesterday.

Ali, who took charge of the foreign office on January 31, discussed various election related

issues including the expatriates' enrollment in the voter list when he called on Chief Election Commissioner M A Syed at the latter's office yesterday.

The Foreign Ministry officials would hold a series of meetings with the Election Commission to work out guidelines for the international observers, the foreign secretary said.

"Who will take responsibility if such an unwanted situation arises during the election?" the foreign secretary said, referring to the recent kidnapping of three foreign nationals in the CHT.

"It is our responsibility to ensure security and free movement of the foreign observers," he said, adding that necessary arrangements

would be made in consultation with foreign missions in Dhaka and the Election Commission.

According to available statistics, 250 foreign nationals, including 99 diplomats, observed the June 1996 elections while the number of local observers was nearly 40,000.

This time, the EC is considering guidelines for local observers, as well.

The Election Commission considers the ensuing election a crucial one on many counts and believes the number of international observers will be higher than the previous general election's.

As regards the enlistment of the expatriates in the electoral roll, the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## 3 suspected terrorists beaten to death in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Chittagong

Three suspected terrorists were beaten to death by a mob in Mirerkhil village under Hathazari thana in Chittagong yesterday morning.

One light gun and some ammunition were seized by the mob, when they went to the house of Abdur Sukkur, a Union Parishad member, at 9 a.m. yesterday in an attempt to attack him, police said.

The UP member aided by the mob caught the three unidentified youths and started beating them immediately, police added.

At one stage, the seriously

## PM opens IDEB confce today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

'Save the Rivers, Save Bangladesh' is the theme of a three-day national conference of the Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh (IDEB), to be opened today by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The conference and 25th council of the IDEB begins at 10:00am at the IDEB premises at Kakarail.

According to a IDEB press release

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

injured youths were taken to the local health complex where they succumbed to their injuries.

Earlier, Sukkur caught two alleged snatchers and handed them over to Hathazari thana Tuesday night. Police said yesterday's incident was a sequel to the arrest of two alleged snatchers.

Those alleged snatchers were identified as Lokman and Jasim from neighbouring Raozan thana. They were rounded up from Mirerkhil village under Hathazari thana.

Police could not confirm identities of the dead till writing this report last night.

Chittagong police also recovered three bodies from different places yesterday.

Two bodies were recovered from Mirsarai upazila while third one from a residential hotel in the city.

Police recovered the body of GM Chowdhury from Atlantic Hotel at Laldighir Par in the city yesterday morning.

District police recovered the body of Rinku Barua, 30, from a bush at Joor Pukuria village under Haithkandi union in Mirsarai. The cause of his death could not be known.

Body of Sukumar Das, 40, was recovered from near a pond at Mirsarai Sadar union.