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## Another 'fit list' underway for posting as DCs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Establishment Ministry is preparing another 'fit list' of officials for posting as deputy commissioners (DCs).

Sources concerned said they would be posted in small batches. They pointed out that this would be done to avert sharp reaction from the Opposition which smelled foul play in the recent posting of 21 new DCs and transfer of 10 DCs.

Most of the new DCs have joined their posts, the sources said. The recent postings and transfers evoked bitter criticism from the Opposition which claimed that it was being done before the general elections to suit the needs of the ruling party.

The sources however said that except a few, the new DCs are known for 'professionalism' and 'no inclination' towards any political camp.

Meanwhile, the Establishment Ministry has almost finalised a 'fit list'

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## Warm-up match in Zimbabwe today

AL-AMIN, from Harare

Bangladesh begin their maiden tour of Zimbabwe with a limited-overs match against the CFX Academy at the Alexander Sports Club ground on Wednesday.

The warm-up match ahead of the one-day series starting on April 7, will give Naimur Rahman's men an opportunity to get accustomed to the local conditions.

The national team practised for two hours at the HRC ground on Tuesday afternoon. The lush green ground with a capacity of 10,000 is a sight to behold. It boasts excellent facilities.

Coach Trevor Chappell said that the team would be announced just before the match begins.

Skipper Naimur meanwhile looked more concerned about the

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# EC now preparing for election in Oct

NAZRUL ISLAM

With chances of an early general election all but disappeared, the Election Commission has rescheduled its preparatory activities for the upcoming polls, keeping October in mind as a tentative timeframe, hinted Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed yesterday at a meeting with a diplomatic delegation at the EC Secretariat. The delegation comprised chiefs of six missions in Bangladesh.

According to meeting sources, in response to a query from one of the diplomats, Syed said that the EC would determine the election schedule in consultation with the caretaker government once the parliament is dissolved.

"We will fix the date for the next general election, maybe, sometime in October," the CEC was quoted as telling the diplomats.

As per the constitution, the tenure of the present government expires on July 13, and the government can continue for 15 more days before handing over power to a non-party caretaker government. The caretaker administration must hold the parliamentary election

within 90 days of its assumption of office.

US Ambassador Mary Ann Peters, Swedish Ambassador Sven Anders Johnson, Charge d' Affairs of Japan Embassy Kiyokazu, Canadian High Commissioner David Preston, British High Commissioner David Carter and European Union Ambassador Antonio B de Souza Menezes attended the meeting at the EC Secretariat.

None of the three commissioners on the four-member constitutional body was at the meeting.

The diplomats made queries related to the upcoming general election including EC's preparation, electoral law reforms, preparation and printing of the voter list, security arrangement for international observers, latest political situation and problems in the EC during the nearly two-hour meeting.

According to the sources the CEC informed the diplomats of EC's preparation, its shortcomings and other issues in detail.

"We have a productive meeting with the Chief Election Commissioner," Canadian High Commissioner David Preston, who coordinated the diplomatic delega-

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Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed listens as a diplomat poses a question during yesterday's meeting at the Election Commission Secretariat. The diplomatic delegation comprised chiefs of six missions in the country.

## Opposition calls 72-hr hartal from Monday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led opposition alliance yesterday announced a 72-hour hartal across the country from Monday next to press the government to quit power immediately.

The fresh hartal call came at a press briefing held at the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia last night.

Following a meeting of the liaison committee of four-party alliance, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan announced the fresh programme which also includes protest rallies across the country today (Wednesday), demonstrations and processions on Saturday, and torch processions on Sunday.

The 72-hour shutdown programme came following the 60-hour hartal that ended at 6 pm yesterday. Starting at 6 am on

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## Business bodies concerned at fresh hartal call

UNB, Dhaka

Leading chambers and a major trade body yesterday expressed concern at opposition plan to go for yet another series of shutdown.

In separate statements, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) reiterated their call to the parties to settle disputes through dialogue discarding programmes harmful to the country's economy.

The FICCI in a statement yesterday appealed to all concerned to reach a consensus for avoiding confrontational politics and refrain from any further step harmful to the national interest.

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## Racists kill expatriate Bangladeshi in London

UNB, London

With his day's work done at a restaurant in London, Shibli Rahman, father of two, was on his way home around midnight on Sunday last. He never imagined he would not see his kids again.

The 34-year-old Bangladeshi expatriate drove safely up to his apartment and parked the car in front of his flat at Rownton Road in East London.

Before long, three white racists appeared on the scene and stabbed Shibli indiscriminately at about 12:30 am when he was walking towards his flat.

Hearing his scream for help, one of his neighbours informed police who rushed to the spot and took badly injured Shibli to the Royal London Hospital. Shibli succumbed to his injury two and a half hours after admission to the hospital.

A pal of gloom descended on the Bangladeshi community at the brutal murder of Shibli, a victim of racial hatred.

The Bangladeshi community at a press conference has demanded that the killers be punished and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



A policeman kicks a picket (left) on his shoulder in front of AG office at Kakrail during hartal hours yesterday. Away in Dholaikhal, opposition activists engaged in a gun battle with law enforcers (bottom R) after a cracker was hurled on a police lorry.

## 2 injured rickshawpullers die: 570 hurt in 3 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Opposition-called 60-hour countrywide hartal ended yesterday claiming three lives and injuring at least 570 people in clashes, bomb explosions and gunfire.

Truck driver Fayez Ahmed, 50, was killed in Feni on Sunday when pro-hartal pickets hurled a bomb on his truck.

An unidentified rickshawpuller, injured in a bomb blast near Tejpurbaraz in the city on Sunday, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. Another rickshawpuller, Badaruddin, 32, injured in a bomb explosion near New Market on Monday, died at Suhrawardy Hospital yesterday.

At least 270 people were injured yesterday in clashes involving pro-and anti-hartal activists and police. Of them 12 were in the city.

Of the rest, 100 were in Pabna, 50 in Munshiganj, 20 in

Chittagong, 30 in Natore, 20 in Kushtia, 10 in Magura, 15 in Chandpur, eight in Kurigram and five in Narsingdi, according to our correspondents and news agency reports.

About 200 people were injured on Sunday and 100 on Monday across the country. Police yesterday arrested 43 people in Dhaka, 15 in Chittagong, 14 in Magura, three in Chandpur and 15 in Munshiganj.

The BNP-led opposition alliance had called hartal on Sunday and Monday as its ultimatum to the government to resign by March 30 went unheeded. It later supported yesterday's hartal call, given by pro-Opposition student bodies.

The hartal disrupted normal life and economic activities and kept motorised vehicles off the roads.

In Munshiganj, at least 50 people were injured, 12 of

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## 'Why resignation, not polls?'

People should take to streets to defy hartal, PM tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina doubts whether the agitating opposition would contest the general elections as 'opposition leader Khaleda Zia only talks the government's resignation instead of election.

"We're talking about election, but the opposition is yet to make it clear whether it wants election or would participate in it. This has caused suspicion in the public mind about the opposition motive," she told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

The prime minister accused the opposition leader of conspiring to foil election and destroy democracy.

During the PM's Question Time, Hasina asked the opposition leader to pledge to the nation that she would join the election, never call hartal again and sit across the table to settle all election-related issues including the polling date and formation of the caretaker government if she really wanted polls.

"An early election can take place only through early settlement of elected-related issues because an understanding between the government and opposition is a must to ensure a free, fair and peaceful election.

"It is also needed to eliminate chances of a crisis once power is

transferred to the caretaker government."

Otherwise, she reiterated, the opposition will have to wait for election and the transfer of power in 15 days on expiry of the government's tenure on July 13.

Replying to questions on the opposition-sponsored hartal, the prime minister reminded the House of her previous offer for early polls by June 12 and leaving office after the Mujibnagar Day on April 17.

But, she regretted, the opposition leader rejected her offer and opted for an ultimatum and a non-stop hartal. The opposition leader even rejected the president's request to sit for dialogue with the government to settle matters of election, she

noted.

She asked the opposition leader what she was getting out of hartal, which only grinds common men.

Voicing deep concern at the killing of and injury to innocent people, and damage to vehicles in bomb blasts and gunfire, the prime minister said the opposition programmes were designed only to create anarchy and cause public sufferings.

She said that government offices, parliament and industrial units, even those belonging to the opposition leaders, remained open during the hartal hours while the poor like rickshawpullers and truck, bus and baby-taxi drivers were the victims of

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## INSIDE TODAY

Article 4

Slobodan Milosevic: Beginning of the end  
Column: The Horizon this Week  
Arshad-uz-Zaman

Business 8

SEC plans series of talks to bring govt PLCs to bourses

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
April 4		6.16 pm
Apr 5	5-47 am	

## Prayer Timings

April 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Eazr	5-10	5-40
Zohr	1-00	1-30
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Change in govt doesn't mean change in accord: Larma

SHEHAB AHMED

Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council Jyotirindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma says he does not think that whoever forms the next government will alter the CHT peace agreement although the present government failed to fully implement it.

"It has been signed by the government. The party in power has failed to fully implement it. It will have to bear the responsibility for the failure. Similarly, if another party comes to power winning the next elections, they will have to bear the same responsibility if they too fail to implement it", Larma said.

His was asked to comment on the future political scenario vis-a-vis the state of the agreement he signed with the government on December 2, 1997, ending decades of insurgency for self-rule in 14,200 sq km CHT region.



J B Larma

ment and we shall continue our struggle for its full implementation".

He complained that there is a conspiracy to undo the agreement. "The Land Commission for the CHT is yet to be set up fully to start the vital survey for land ownership. It is not the question of land being taken away. It is the question of existence of a nationality. A similar situation is being faced in the plains and elsewhere by Santals, Rakhaines, Oraos, Khasias and Garos".

Larma said Adibashi Adhikar Forum (AAF) has been formed for better protection of their rights.

A 15-member convening committee of the AAF was formed last week with Larma as its convener.

Larma said the AAF aims at safeguarding rights of the ethnic minorities in the country in the face of "onslaught by extreme nationalism, fundamentalism and imperialism".

But he would not name anyone to explain the forces which he classified as Shahshak Goshthi, using the left euphemism for ruling class.

The former guerrilla chief said the AAF would hold a national convention soon to consolidate the "small peoples' rights".

He also hinted that it would

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## DMCH patients forced to go to pvt path labs

NAIMUL HAQ

Most of the patients at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) are forced to go to private diagnostic centres for routine tests.

An investigation by The Daily Star found that patients, both admitted and outdoor, are almost regularly referred to private establishments by the doctors for different laboratory examinations, although the hospital has its own diagnostic wing that remains open throughout the day.

Mohammed Moslem, an eighty-year-old from Sutrapur, was admitted to the DMCH with severe chest pain. The doctors sent him for X-ray of his chest and some routine blood tests at MS X-ray and Pathological Centre in Mohakhali on January 30. All those tests could have been done at the hospital.

"For the tests I spent Tk 560 which I borrowed from a neighbour," said Moslem.

The same was the case with Sonia. The eighteen-year-old girl, suffering from tubercular meningitis, had

biochemical tests like sugar, protein, sodium, potassium, chloride, etc done at City Diagnostic Complex, referred to by Professor Rafiquddin, on February 28.

Honorary doctor on duty in Ward 3, where Sonia was under treatment, said he frequently referred patients to private diagnostic centres at the instruction of Prof. Rafiquddin.

An interneer doctor, who identified himself as Mostafa and was also on duty in the same ward, admitted that patients were regularly sent outside.

Ramjan Ali, 8, was asked to have a highly expensive CT scan of the whole abdomen at Popular Diagnostic Centre by Dr Alauddin Shantu. Prior to this, he had his urine cultured at Prime Diagnostic Ltd on Dr Zaul Haque's reference.

Ramjan's father showed the prescriptions to this correspondent and said his son had been also told to have blood, urea and creatinine tests on February 5 and 9 at Padma Diagnostic Centre.

On February 23 Ramjan needed urine culture and

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## তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড



(পেট্রোলিংএর একটি কোম্পানী)

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ঢাকা-১২১৫

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গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

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