

Beware of 'beware'
 NAZMUL ASHRAF

The Far Eastern Economic Review's cover story headlined "Beware of Bangladesh" appears to have greatly influenced the national politics as far as its worst face is concerned.

Since the Hong Kong-based newsmagazine came up with the cover story in its April 4 issue, the coalition government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has been pointing its finger more at the opposition than the magazine authorities to blame for the report, considered to be a slur on Bangladesh's international image.

Which has so far been a covert allegation was spelt out in clear terms by the prime minister on Wednesday when she launched a scathing attack on the Awami League, accusing the main opposition party of planting the Review story to make Bangladesh friendless.

The AL hosted the Review reporter in Bangladesh to have the story published under a blueprint to taint the country's image abroad as a moderate

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Damsel with drums
 Performance of the Japan Yamate Spirit Tour to South Asia at the Osmany Memorial Auditorium yesterday.

Rancour in BCL ranks over non-students in new body

ABUL KALAM AZAD

Inclusion of a large number of non-students in the newly formed central committee has touched off tension among workers and supporters of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

More than two-thirds of the central committee members, including the general secretary and most of the vice-presidents, are not students, reveals a Daily Star investigation. Some have completed their academic life three to five years ago.

Only 50 members of the 190-strong central committee, including the new president, Liaquat Sikder, are currently enrolled in Dhaka University and other educational institutions in the country.

Ashraful Azim Ruban, Iqbal Hossain Bhuiyan and Bishwanath Bitu are the only students among the 21 vice-presidents.

Mihir Kanti Ghoshal is the only student among the six joint secretaries. Similar is the case with the six posts of

organising secretaries, with Soheli Hazari the odd man out.

Students hold only ten of the 41 secretarial posts. They are Abdul Alim of Dhaka University (publicity secretary), Sirajum Munir Tipu of Dhaka College (assistant office secretary), MA Momin Patwary and Mizanur Rahman Sajal of Jagannath University College (social welfare secretary and cultural secretary respectively), Khokon of Institute of Fine Arts (assistant cultural secretary), Miraj Hossain of Open University (information and research secretary), Sheuli Samsheer Shilu of Eden University College (secretary for school students affairs), Nabarun Das Ripin and Nurul Islam Raja of DU (secretary and assistant secretary for environment affairs respectively), and Nasir Haider Bablu of Chittagong University (assistant secretary).

Among 113 members of the central committee, 35 are students.

Some senior members of the new committee are

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Apr 12		6-19 pm
Apr 13	5-39 am	

Prayer Timings

Apr 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Juma	12-15	1-20
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Buddhadev asks centre to resolve border issues

SHEIKH NAZRUL ISLAM
 from Kolkata

Chief Minister of West Bengal Buddhadev Bhattacharya has said his government has asked the centre to resolve contentious issues regarding adverse possession of lands and border demarcation between the two countries.

Talking to a group of visiting journalists from Bangladesh here yesterday, he also said border trade between the two countries is increasing and the Dhaka-Kolkata bus service has cast a positive

impact on the two peoples.

He added that progress is being made on the opening of other bus routes including the Dhaka-Agartala one as well as passenger train service.

About water sharing, Buddhadev said he had informed Dhaka that they are 'satisfied'.

Turning to other issues, the chief minister said, "Fundamentalism is a common threat to Bangladesh and India."

Asked about gas export and corridor facilities, he said no talks in

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Ward-65 DCC polls stoke BNP infighting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Intra-party rivalry in BNP in Ward-65 centring the coming election of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has intensified with an untoward incident between the two sides and filing of cases against each other on Wednesday and separate press conferences by them yesterday.

Both the factions -- one backed by BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and the other led by three 'independent' ward commissioner candidates from the party--blamed each other for Wednesday's incident.

The Pintu-backed faction held its press conference at the Jatiya Press Club and the other faction at the DRU auditorium, both demanding exemplary punishment of their 'rivals' involved in the incident in Rahmatganj area of ward-65 in Lalbagh thana.

Pintu, who was also president of the now suspended central committee of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)-- was kept confined for about half an hour and manhandled by a group of BNP activists at Haji Ballur

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HOSPITAL WATCH Surgeons in the dark

NAIMUL HAQ

Surgeons at Mitford Hospital in the city have to perform operation with great risk as most of the overhead bulbs in operation theatres remain out of order.

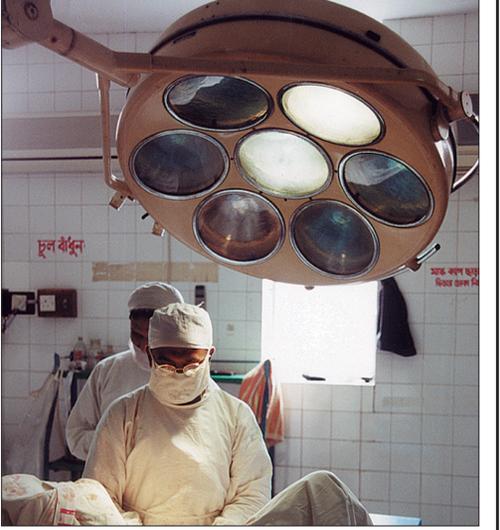
During a visit to the country's second biggest government hospital on Sunday, only two out of eight bulbs in the 'special OT' on the 2nd floor were found functioning. The rest are not functioning since September last year, surgeons said.

"We don't have sufficient light in the OT. Still, we work under such condition, which is not allowed in medical practice," said one surgeon.

"We are not supposed to operate unless there is enough light. But we are compelled to do so", he said.

On an average, three operations are performed at the special OT daily, some of which are very critical. Surgeries from four different hospitals

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A surgeon operates on a patient under insufficient light in the special operation theatre at Mitford Hospital.