

# No sign of end to DU class boycott

DU CORRESPONDENT

The prospect for Dhaka University to resume its regular academic routine remained remote after 13 consecutive days as the agitating teachers showed no sign of budging from their class boycott stance. The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) yesterday

formed a human chain on the campus yesterday to press for its demands.

The Duta began boycotting class since February 28 demanding immediate arrest and punishment of the culprits responsible for the d e a d l y

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PHOTO: STAR

L to R: AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury addresses a crowd at Mohakhali crossing; activists with apparent ties to the ruling BNP beat a supporter of Badruddoza, while police try to resist the attackers; and hundreds of coalition adherents mill around at Muktangan in a bid to overrun the rally site where the former president was due to launch his alternative political stream yesterday.

## 10-year-old girl raped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 10-year-old girl was gang-raped in Sutrapur Wednesday evening.

The victim is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The victim was going to her aunts' house at Sutrapur by a rickshaw in the evening when two culprits stopped the rickshaw near

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# Dr Kamal launches new political platform Sunday

REAZ AHMAD

Oikya Procheshta, a socio-political organisation, will launch a 'national unity platform' on Sunday with politicians and socio-cultural leaders in an effort to fight crimes and corruption, sources close to the move said yesterday.

The new platform to be declared at a national convention at Paltan Maidan coincided with former president Badruddoza Chowdhury's efforts to go ahead

with his alternative stream of politics in protest at what he said was a serious failure of the ruling coalition.

Dr Kamal Hossain, convener of Oikya Procheshta, spearheaded the unity-building move, denouncing crime and corruption that he said spread their tentacles wide in society.

He spoke loud against the rise of an informal power centre during the 30-month-old administration

of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who allied with three other parties, including Jamaat-e-Islami, and was voted into office in 2001.

Political leaders, academics, journalists and civil society members will be invited to the convention with Dr Kamal in the chair. Mafizul Islam Kamal, convener of the national convention preparation committee, told The Daily Star yesterday.

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## Fatwa against Ahmadiyyas in Noakhali village

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

People of the Ahmadiyya community of Ambarnagar village in Noakhali district are passing through utter insecurity after a local Imam ostracized them issuing a fatwa that they were non-Muslim.

Moshed Alam Chowdhury, claiming to be a victim of the fatwa, alleged Maulabi Salauddin, the Imam of local Baitush Sharif Mosque declared the community non-Muslim after the Jummah prayers On March 5 and asked the locals to boycott them socially.

He said the fatwa put his community under siege as people f e a r e d

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## 3 Iraqis, GI killed in Iraq

AFP, Basra

Two Iraqi women employed by a unit of US oilfield services company Halliburton were shot dead late Wednesday in this southern port city, while an Iraqi and a US soldier died in separate bomb blasts.

The violence directed against collaborators with the US-led coalition continued in Basra late Wednesday when four assailants gunned down two women on their way home from work amid a wave of targeted killings.

"The assailants stopped their car and shot them dead," said coalition spokesman Dominic d'Angelo yesterday of the women,

employed as laundresses by Halliburton subsidiary Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR).

The women's driver told AFP on condition of anonymity that four men stopped the car and warned him not to intervene.

"They pulled the first woman out of the car and immediately shot her, and did the same with the second, shooting her in the head," he said.

The women's families said they believed the killers belonged to radical Islamist groups.

Coalition officials have warned that the threat of violence in Iraq now stems less from loyalists of Saddam Hussein than from Islamic

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## Hasina predicts early fall of govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday once again predicted an early fall of the present coalition government and said people will oust the government of Khaleda Zia very soon.

Referring to the resignations of two BNP lawmakers, former army major MA Mannan and Mahi B Chowdhury, Hasina said: "Two wickets have gone and the rest will fall very soon."

"This is the beginning of an end, (it's) the end of the government of Khaleda Zia," Hasina said while speaking at a discussion on historic

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Prayer Timings		
March 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	5-55
Juma	12-15	1-20
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-12	6-16
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

