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## Curfew exemptions

BSS, Dhaka

Members of the emergency services, including fire service, ambulance, telephone, gas, electricity and water supply, will remain out of the purview of curfew, a home ministry press release said last night.

It said all medicine shops could remain open during the curfew.

Officials and employees of the Bangabhaban, Chief Adviser's Office, Bangladesh Secretariat and other government, semi-government and autonomous institutions will be able to use their official identity cards/entry passes as curfew passes, the release said.

In case of necessity, other people can collect curfew passes from the metropolitan police commissioner's office concerned.

If curfew passes cannot be collected for any reason, passports/air tickets/ID cards can be used as curfew passes for the time being, the release added.

## Business suffers for mob violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Business and commercial activities in the capital remained almost suspended yesterday due to the ongoing sporadic clashes between police and agitating people.

Business activities at corporate hub Motijheel, and wholesale supply markets at Babubazar, Moulivibazar, Chawkbazar and at other parts of the old town were badly affected due to mob violence.

Major shopping complexes at Dharmamandi, New Market, Elephant Road and Mouchak remained closed due to the city-wide clashes.

The city wore a hartial-like look as most of the roadside shops at Gulistan, Nababpur Road, Tantibazar, Lalbagh and other parts of the old town kept their

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## Curfew imposed to quell chaos

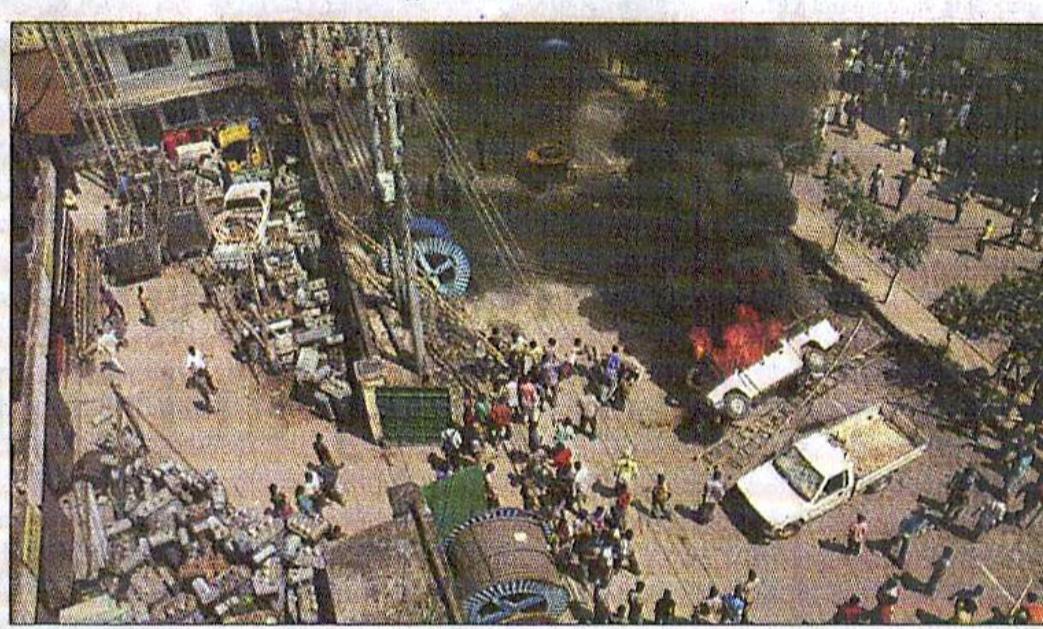
Govt appeals for calm, warns tough action against trouble makers, all universities closed for indefinite period

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid escalating violence, the caretaker government yesterday imposed indefinite curfew in six divisional cities from 8:00pm last night and shut down all universities in the country and colleges in the metropolitan cities sine die, asking students to vacate halls.

Prior to ordering the curfew, the caretaker government appealed to all concerned to maintain peace and discipline in public life and refrain from disorderly acts and started stern action against the perpetrators in order to bring back normalcy and protect life and property of the citizens.

The interim government that assumed power through declaration of emergency on January 11 has enforced the curfew in an effort to curb violence, which sparked from Dhaka University campus on Monday evening and started spreading over other educational institutions and adjacent areas



A motor vehicle in flames after agitators set fire to it on English Road in old part of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

across the country.

As students continued clashing with police for the third consecutive day yesterday, many hawkers joined with the agitators and damaged a number of vehicles and launched attack on important government establishments including Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, residence and business house of two advisers in the capital.

The fierce clashes from the campuses spilled over into the cities, leaving scores of people wounded and one person dead on the Rajshahi University campus.

In such a situation, the government, for the first time in last 16 years since restoration of democracy through a mass upsurge in 1990, was compelled to shut down all universities in the country and colleges in all metropolitan cities to quell the situation. It also asked the students to vacate the halls by 8:00pm last night.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Curfew temporary step against violence: CA

*It will be lifted immediately as situation improves*

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed last night said curfew and closure of universities and colleges are temporary measures against violence and curfew will be withdrawn immediately after improvement of the situation.

"Showing utmost patience in the evolving situation, the government has taken measures, including the imposition of curfew, to protect public life and property

and to stop illegal activities," he said in an address to the nation over state-owned radio and television.

The CA said the government hoped that the people irrespective of class and profession would extend all cooperation to the administration in maintaining peace and discipline in society and the trend of democratic and economic progress.

On Monday's Dhaka University

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Falu's wife jailed for 8yrs for tax offences

Fined Tk 1.58cr; Tk 6.32cr wealth to be confiscated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court for dealing with graft cases yesterday sentenced Mahbuba Sultan, wife of political secretary to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, to eight years' imprisonment for committing two offences including evasion of taxes.

Mahbuba was awarded five years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) under section 166 of the Income Tax Ordinance 1984 for evading tax. She was also fined Tk 1 crore 58 lakh in default of which she has to suffer one more year of RI.

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## Polls within EC timeframe

Reiterates president

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday reiterated that the next parliamentary election would be held within the timeframe set by the Election Commission.

The president said this when outgoing Ambassador of Egypt Ismail Abdel Rahman Ghoneim made a farewell call on him at Bangabhaban.

Iajuddin appreciated his sincere

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## Chaos reported from outside Dhaka

STAR REPORT

The countrywide chaos that erupted from Dhaka University campus on Monday further spread yesterday, leaving one person killed and several hundred injured.

Clashes triggered by the agitating people and the law enforcers took place in the capital and elsewhere in the country. Huge public and private properties were destroyed.

Angry students damaged the vice-chancellor's (VC) residence and set fire to furniture. They also torched four vehicles on the cam-

pus including three in the VC's garage.

They barricaded Rajshahi-Dhaka highway in the morning felling trees, and set fires on the road stopping all vehicular movement.

Although the demonstrations had begun in protest at police attack on Dhaka University students, soon the demonstrating RU students started demanding withdrawal of the state of emergency. They also demanded removal of police from the campus.

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rickshaw puller, Anwar, of Dasmari area near the campus.

He died instantly after being hit in the chest by a hail of rubber bullets around 12:00pm when police were entering the campus to secure the vice-chancellor's residence from the hands of angry students.

The demonstrating students later brought out a procession carrying Anwar's body.

Mahbubur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, claimed that

Iajuddin appreciated his sincere

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## EC firm on following poll roadmap

Says CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda today said the Election Commission (EC) is determined to follow the roadmap declared for holding the stalled general elections by December 2008.

He made the comment at a view exchange meeting with local officials at Khulna's Zia Hall in relation to voter registration and preparation of national ID cards.

Living up to its election plan, the CEC said, the EC will ensure that the voter list with photographs gets completed and national identity cards reach every citizen before the

next parliamentary polls.

The national ID cards will leave no room for false votes, he added.

The CEC hoped that the interim government will lift ban on political activities by September so the EC could begin dialogue with political parties according to the roadmap.

He regretted that all the past governments had misused the EC for political ends but said the present government has made the commission fully independent.

Huda warned that any individual trying to list themselves in the electoral roll from more than one place will be handed down

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Journos asked to play responsible role

UNB, Dhaka

Information and Law Adviser Mainul Hosein yesterday urged journalists to play responsible role in projecting news so the government does not require to impose censorship under the emergency rules.

"We don't like to impose censorship, but that does not mean we will not do it if necessary... We've confidence in the press and seek cooperation from them," he told newsmen at information ministry's office.

The adviser reminded that there is censorship provision in the emergency rules, but the government does not want to apply those rules in view of its relations with the press.

"The government expects the media will show respect to the existing laws and play a responsible role in this situation, producing news by exercising their own judgment."

He, however, said if the media do not abide by the law, they would do so at their own responsibility.

Mainul said the government is engaged in bringing about reforms but "some are speaking in such a manner that means we are the

guilty."

## US, UK call for restraint from all sides

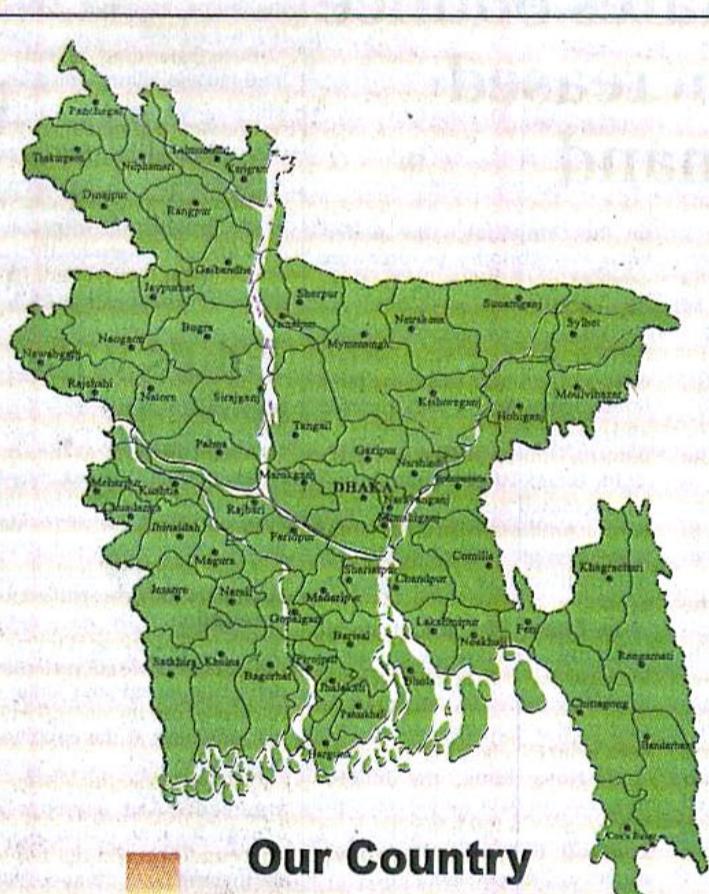
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US and the UK yesterday said they are closely monitoring the current situation in Bangladesh and called for restraint from all sides concerned.

Their reaction came following last three days' violent protests across the country resulted in indefinite curfew, a fallout of manhandling a Dhaka University student by an army soldier on the campus.

A US state department spokesperson in Washington, D.C. said, "The US Embassy in Dhaka expresses sympathy to all those injured in the unrest and the embassy is also monitoring the situation closely."

Replying to a question at a press briefing, Gonzalo R Gallegos, director at the state department's Office of Press Relations, said, "Well, you know, we continue to expect and encourage the caretaker government in Bangladesh to uphold due process, the rule of law, and respect for human rights during their state of emergency. We



Our Country



## DBBL's 40th Branch Opens today

Aziz Shopping Center, 163 S.S.K Road, Feni

The following Branches will be opened soon

Comilla Branch

32/30, Bandi Shahi Market

Chawkbazar, Comilla

Jubilee Road Branch

Kader Tower, 128 Jubilee Road

Tinpool, Chittagong

Mirzapur Branch

Askabor Biponi Bitan

Mirzapur, Tangail

Kadamtoli Branch

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar Branch

Cox's Bazar



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৩,৫০০ বাড়ি

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