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The Daily Star

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VOL. 1 NO. 80 REGD. NO. DA 781

CHAITRA 23, 1397 BS,

DHAKA SUNDAY APRIL 7, 1991

RAMADAN 21, 1411 HIJRI

10 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 3.00

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An exclusive interview of Subramaniam Swamy, Indian Minister of Commerce, Law and Justice to The Daily Star. Page 6

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Dhaka Day by Day



Two-woman designer team started with Tk 6,000. Now Shehnaaz and Humaira welcome the discerning buyer with a heavy purse at their Dhanmondi house. Page 3

Article

Today, April 7, is another World Health Day. "Health for all and for Health", this WHO theme is directed to all who are engaged in community health development. Page 4

NEWS BRIEFS

Flood in Sunamganj

SUNAMGANJ, Apr 6: Water level of Kushaira and Kalni rivers rose further today submerging boro crops of 10,000 acres in four hours of Shaila upazila, officials said, and local people reported one villager was missing after his boat overturned, reports UNB.

Indian polls date Apr 13

NEW DELHI, Apr 6: India's Election Commission said today the general election date would be announced by April 13. Chief Election Commissioner T. N. Seshan said possible dates were May 18, 21 and 24 or May 19, 22 and 25 or May 20, 23 and 26, reports Reuter.

Arafat in Algeria

ALGIERS, Apr 6: Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived today, the official Algerian news agency APS reported.

Three-point priority programme for speedy development

Stamp out smuggling: PM

NATORE, Apr 6: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today announced her government's three-point priority programme for bringing about speedy economic development, accelerating the process of industrialisation and strengthening national independence and sovereignty, reports BSS.

Addressing a meeting of high officials of Rajshahi and Khulna divisions at Uttara Ganobhaban, Begum Zia said her government would lay high emphasis on curbing smuggling, stamping out corruption from administration, maintenance of law and order and recovery of unauthorised arms and ammunition.

Begum Zia termed smuggling as a curse for the society and the national economy and said, many of our small and cottage industries had to be shut down because of smuggling.

The Prime Minister urged

the government officials to play their important role of service to the people with hard work and sincerity to bring about a qualitative change in the administration within a month.

Begum Zia assured there would be no undue interference in checking corruption and smuggling. She, however, advised the officials to take care so that no innocent people were harassed.

The meeting was attended among others by Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Superintendents of Police, Sector Commanders of Bangladesh Rifles and Collectors of Customs.

Commerce Minister Keramat Ali, Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan, Secretary of the BNP Parliamentary Party, Fazlur Rahman Patal, MP, Roushan Elahi, MP, BDR Director

General, Major General M A Latif and Inspector General of Police A M Chowdhury were present at the meeting.

At the outset of the meeting which lasted for over four hours, the Prime Minister allowed field-level officials to discuss openly the problems and prospects of achieving the three-point priority programme.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for identifying the main culprits behind smuggling and directed the members of law-enforcing agencies to bring to book those criminals and award them exemplary punishment.

Begum Zia said: "My government is determined to eradicate smuggling and corruption from the country and shall not spare anybody, however strong or influential he might be, in our attempt to stamp out smuggling and corruption". She urged the officials to be

courageous in implementing anti-smuggling measures and discharge their duties with sincerity and honesty.

The Prime Minister said officials who would perform their responsibilities faithfully and honestly would be rewarded, on the other hand, stern action would be taken against those who were found to be indulging in corruption.

The Prime Minister appealed to the officials to continue to work for the welfare of

See Page 10 Col. 3

Home Affairs allocated to Khaleda Zia

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, on Saturday allocated the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, an official announcement said, reports BSS.

JS may discuss obituary references today

Session likely to continue till after Eid

By Staff Correspondent

The session of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) which resumes today at 11 a.m. is likely to continue till after the Eid-ul-Fitr. The business of the day will include the moving of a motion of thanks on the Acting President's inaugural address to the House and the felicitation of the new Speaker.

Out of the 44 ordinances placed before the House on Friday, five to six are likely to be placed in the form of bills today.

The Parliament may also appoint the Business Advisory Committee and the House Committee today.

The 15-member Business Advisory Committee normally includes eight Treasury Bench members and six Opposition members. The Speaker is its

Chairman. Other committees will be formed gradually in consultation with members, according to a reliable source.

The obituary references, which were adopted during the inaugural session of the Parliament on Friday, are also likely to be discussed today.

According to reliable source, Leaders of both the Treasury and the Opposition benches might be provided time to pay tributes to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the nine-year anti-autocracy movement.

In the obituary references, a list of 106 martyrs in the anti-autocracy movement have been incorporated.

There was a demand from the See Page 10 Col. 3

World Health Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The World Health Day will be observed in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world today (Sunday).

The day's theme highlights the need to be adequately prepared to face natural calamities that often claim a heavy toll of life and property.

The slogan of the year, as announced by the World Health Organisation (WHO) is, "Should Disaster Strike Be Prepared".

The slogan is particularly relevant to the South East Asian region, with its history of frequent natural disasters ranging from floods, cyclones, earthquakes and droughts.

According to data revealed by the WHO in 1988 alone there were 74 major floods, five cyclones, 17 earthquakes, 18 droughts and 162 major accidents in the world.

The list does not include storms, landslides, hurricanes and man-made disasters.

In the South-East Asia region Bangladesh and the See Page 10 Col. 7



Kurdish refugees fleeing from Iraqi government forces cross a bridge on Saturday that was not destroyed during Operation Desert Storm at the Iraqi-Turkish border, allowing them to enter Turkey. —AFP photo

DDT production to be stopped

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

Bangladesh has decided to stop the production of DDT (Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane), an internationally banned insecticide, in view of its harmful environmental impacts.

The Ministry of Industries at a meeting recently decided to convert the DDT plant at Barabkunda in Chittagong into one producing less harmful pesticides like Diazinon, reliable sources say.

The Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) had taken up a proposal last year for Balancing Modernisation, Rehabilitation and Expansion (BMRE) of the plant at a cost of Taka three crore to make it suitable for DDT production for another two years.

The Ministry of Environment, however, raised objections because the proposed BMRE of the DDT plant would only be a wastage of money since it could not be in

operation after two years. Environment Ministry officials suggested that the BMRE of the plant should be undertaken to convert it into one producing less harmful insecticides.

The Industries Ministry and BCIC accepted the suggestion. A BCIC source told The Daily Star that they have appointed an Indian firm to suggest the needed BMRE of the DDT plant.

The government-owned DDT plant was set up in 1966 by the then East Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation (EPIDC) basically to support the massive malaria eradication drive of that time.

DDT was also used for checking pest attacks on agricultural crops.

The use of DDT was so extensive in the late sixties and early seventies that it led to the loss of many species of useful insects, birds and fish. See Page 10 Col. 2

Pak PM's special envoy in city

Mir Hazar Khan Bijrani, Railway Minister of Pakistan, arrived Dhaka on Saturday night on a four-day visit to Bangladesh as the special envoy of Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, reports BSS.

He was received at the Zia International Airport by Communications Minister, Oll Ahmed, Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Kamal, was also present.

Talking to newsmen at the airport, Bijrani said "the main purpose of our visit is to felicitate the newly elected government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and people of Bangladesh in general."

Bijrani who heads a five-member delegation, said he was carrying a personal letter from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to Begum Khaleda Zia and also a personal letter from President Ghulam Ishaq Khan for Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

He said, "we are confident that with the holding of free and fair election in your country, the aspirations of the people of Bangladesh have been fulfilled. We in Pakistan See Page 10 Col. 6

India out of step with neighbours Tin Bigha should be pursued at highest level: Subramaniam

From Mahfuz Anam

SEOUL, Apr 6: "Bangladesh should push for an urgent resolution of the Tin Bigha land corridor issue at the political level. Left to bureaucratic dispensation, it may take a long time. Subramaniam Swamy, Indian Minister of Commerce, Law and Justice told The Daily Star in an exclusive interview last week in the South Korean capital, where he had come to address the 47th session of the Economic and Social Commission for the Asia and the Pacific.

Professor of Economics at Delhi University with a Ph D from Harvard and a renowned parliamentarian, Subramaniam is known to be a key actor in the current political scene in India.

"India will abide by international law. After the ruling by the Indian Supreme Court no other obstacle remains in the way of resolution of the Tin Bigha issue." However, bureau-

cratic procedures may delay the matter unnecessarily. Subramaniam cautioned. "Frankly this issue is not the most urgent thing in the minds of the Indian politicians," he admitted. "Leaders of Bangladesh should urgently push this issue at the political level" the minister advised.

Subramaniam admitted that Indian foreign policy was out of step with the rest of her neighbours as far as SAARC was concerned. He said India still operated on the premise that SAARC countries would use the forum to gang-up against India. Therefore, she does not allow it to become anything more than a discussion club.

"The world had changed since SAARC was formed. Regionalism has found renewed strength and relevance in the new international context. Therefore SAARC must be allowed to act as a genuine regional block and not as an informal discussion club." The

main obstacle against SAARC playing its due role "is the mental block that India has about the role of SAARC", the Indian minister said.

Welcoming the democratic changes in Bangladesh the Commerce, Law and Justice Minister said India feels very happy at the transition to democracy and restoration of elected government in Bangladesh. He felt confident that bilateral issues can be resolved to mutual satisfaction of both. India feels relieved at the defeat of fundamentalist forces in the India. It will help India fight its own communal forces, he added.

Emphasising his government's approach to relations with the neighbouring countries the minister said the Congress Government believes in "reciprocity" whereas Janata government believes in "mutual capacity to accommodate". That is why relations See Page 10 Col. 3

30 injured as prisoners clash at Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 6: At least 30 persons were injured, three of them critically, in two separate clashes between two rival groups of prisoners here today.

Jail sources said 10 persons were injured when prisoners clashed first in the morning. Of the injured, Gura Mia (35) was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in a critical state.

The clash that continued for an hour ensued following an altercation over the entry of visitors into the jail.

Another 20 persons were injured when trouble started again as a sequel to the morning clash. Both the groups exchanged brickbats and used lethal weapons.

Agitation however continued till writing of this report at 10 pm.

About 1700 prisoners have been staying outside the lock-ups since March 23 when they revolted for the third time.

Jail authorities said the prisoners have gone beyond their control.

Chautala sacked President's rule in Haryana

NEW DELHI, Apr 6: Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman sacked the Deputy Premier's son from his post as chief Minister of Haryana today and brought the tiny northern state under New Delhi's direct rule, reports AFP.

It was the third time in less than three years that Om Prakash Chauthala has been forced to step down from office in the prosperous farming state of 12 million people.

He quit in disgrace twice last year and his latest tenure lasted just 15 days.

The Presidential Palace announced Venkataraman's decision a day after the federal cabinet approved the dismissal of Chauthala, who is also General Secretary of the ruling Janata Dal (JD-S, People's Party-Socialist).

"My ouster is not going to affect the electoral prospects of the party in Haryana, Chauthala, 56, the eldest son of Deputy Prime Minister Devi

Lal," said of the cabinet decisions.

"This is the only party which exists in the state," he said Friday night.

"I am bound by the decision of the party leadership and whatever it decides will be binding on me," he added.

Governor Dhanik Lal Mandal, a New Delhi-appointed recommended the state governments dismissal Tuesday after Chauthala definitely refused to take a confidence vote in the legislature.

The governor had ordered him to take the vote after the disqualification of three lawmakers under an anti-defection law reduced the JD-S to a minority in Haryana.

Chauthala, a close aide of Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, took over as Chief Minister in a surprise move on March 22.

He was forced to quit a first time in May 1990 after an outcry sparked by allegations See Page 10 Col. 1

Lucky winners of British Airways free tickets

By Staff Correspondent

The British Airways (BA) on Saturday named 22 persons winning its lucky draw, contested by about 150,000 people, for the Dhaka-London-Dhaka free tickets of a BA flight on April 23.

Each of the winners will get two tickets so that they might have a companion with them.

The lucky draw was held at Sonargaon Hotel on Saturday evening.

Of the 22 entries, pulled out from the lucky draw, two are for the first class, eight for Club World and rest 12 for World Traveller.

Students led the winners' list. Seven students including three from Dhaka won the draw.

Other winners include: four businessmen, three engineers, two housewives, and only journalist Mrs Saghira Asefa Molla, Sub-Editor of the Bangladesh Times.

Earlier, the BA announced that each of the passengers who booked on the April 23 BA flight from Dhaka before March 21 will get a refund of See Page 10 Col. 1

Saddam accepts Security Council ceasefire terms

BAGHDAD, Apr 6: The Iraqi parliament today accepted the United Nations conditions for a formal ceasefire in the Gulf War, Iraqi officials here announced, report Agencies.

They said the resolution was endorsed by 160-31 vote.

The vote followed a recommendation from parliamentary speaker, Sadi Mehdi Saleh, to accept UN Security Council resolution 687 adopted Wednesday, even though it was unjust.

The recommendation followed a meeting of the parliamentary committees for foreign and legal affairs, which discussed resolution 687. While declaring that this

resolution is unjust, they have found there was no other choice than to accept it in order to defeat the American-Zionist plot against Iraq, he said in an opening address to parliament.

We must sometimes, for our own good, accept that which displeases us, he said citing Holy Quran.

Resolution 687 demands that Iraq formally accepts its 1963 border with Kuwait, that it destroys its most dangerous weapons and sets aside a portion of oil export revenues for war reparations.

The official Iraqi news agency reported meanwhile that President Saddam Hus-

sein had chaired a meeting of the decision-making Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) but did not specify when.

The RCC discussed the return to normalcy in the northern parts of the homeland and the latest political developments in the international arena, the official media said.

The Iraqi leadership on Friday offered a partial amnesty to Kurdish rebels in the north and said a month-long uprising which broke out after Baghdad's defeat in the Gulf war had been totally crushed. Saleh, quoted by Al-Iraq

newspaper today, said Resolution 687 amounted to meddling in the internal affairs of a sovereign state and would create an imbalance in the Middle East to the benefit of Israel.

Security and peace will be threatened by the lack of an equilibrium and the void in creates will reduce the chances of progress and of positive and constructive co-operation, he said.

The parliamentary speaker said the resolution should have been placing the Arab nation and the region as a whole under the hammer of Zionist blackmail, backed by an impressive arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, he said.

Saleh warned of new crises that would emerge in the region.

Another report from Ni-costa adds: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Saturday appointed Hussein Kael Hassan, his son-in-law, as Defence Minister to replace Saadi Taoma Abbas.

The official Iraqi News Agency (INA) monitored here, said Abbas had been named Military Advisor to the President.

Hassan had previously held the posts of Minister of Industry and Military Industrialisation and Interim Oil Minister. He was replaced in both jobs

by Amer Hammoudi Al-Saadi, INA said.

On March 23, the Iraqi President had formed a new government, in which Hassan and Abbas had retained their posts, to oversee post-war reconstruction and democratic reforms.

Since a provisional ceasefire in the Gulf war in late February, Hussein has reshuffled his cabinet several times, moving his closest aides to key posts.

In northern Iraq, up to three million starving Kurdish civilians streamed through the mountains to Turkey and Iran after the collapse of their anti-Saddam rising.

Moudud's release delayed

By Staff Correspondent

Former Vice-President and Jatiya Party (JP) Leader Moudud Ahmed could not be released on Saturday as procedures for release order were not complete.

Moudud was granted bail on Thursday by a Division Bench of the High Court on condition that his passport and ownership deed of his house should be surrendered to the court.

JP sources said he failed to produce original copy of the deed on Saturday which delayed his release. The source said he would be released on Sunday.

Day	Last time	Star
Sunday	4:34 am	6:22 pm
Monday	4:33 am	6:22 pm