

Come to CHITTAGONG Come to
BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT
The only place for ORIGINAL THAI FOOD & SEAFOOD
in CHITTAGONG (NO BRANCH). Please try us and you
will love BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT more than
ever before.
143 ASIAN HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE Y.M.C.A. NASIRABAD.
CHITTAGONG. TEL: 22603. FAX: (880) (31) -22538

The Daily Star



BAYTUL ABEEN SHOPPING CENTRE, 01, NEW BAITUL ROAD, DHAKA - 1000
12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

VOL II NO. 67 REGD. NO. DA 784 CHAITRA 8, 1398 BS, DHAKA SUNDAY MARCH 22, 1992 RAMADAN 16, 1412 HIJRI


Inside Today

- Article**
- AL Goes for Privatisation — But Much Work Lies Ahead**
Column: At Home and Abroad
by S M Ali
Page 4

- International**
- Muslim states considering withdrawing en bloc from UN**
Page 5

- Business**
- Mongla Port requires upgradation to boost transit use by Nepal, Bhutan**
Page 7

Historic March



Col Osmany tells old soldiers to stand behind movement led by Mujib
Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



In Quest of a Raison d'Etre
Page 3

Khaleda, Ghali discuss Rohingya problem

UN to look for permanent political solution

NEW YORK, Mar 21: United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has assured UN support to Bangladesh for solving the Rohingya refugee problem through political means, reports BSS.

The assurance came when Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia met him at his office at the UN headquarters here yesterday.

The Secretary General informed the Prime Minister that in order to find a solution, the United Nations would adopt a 'step-by-step' approach for assessment of the overall situation and repatriation of the refugees to their homeland. He said the UN would endeavour to achieve a political solution to the crisis not merely for the time being but for future as well.

Ghali mentioned that ambassador Jan Eclason, the newly appointed coordinator for humanitarian affairs, was working to find out means to solve the problem.

Highlighting the Rohingya problem, Begum Zia said the number of refugees to Bangladesh had already exceeded two lakh. Bangladesh was doing its best to look after them despite limited resources, she told the Secretary General.

She said Bangladesh was endeavouring to solve the problem peacefully. She said the Myanmar Foreign Minister was invited to visit Bangladesh to hold talks on this issue to resolve the crisis. She regretted that there had been no response from the Myanmar side.

Begum Zia said the military build-up in Myanmar had further complicated the situation. The build-up is not only a matter of concern to Bangladesh, it has threatened peace and stability in the region, she observed.

Begum Zia said it was at this point Bangladesh was forced to appeal to the international community to help resolve the problem.

She thanked the UNHCR for the statement and appeal to the international community in this regard.

Begum Khaleda Zia expressed her appreciation for the Secretary General's role and effort but underlined that urgency of the problem needed to maintain pressure through preventive diplomacy.

Ghali appreciated Bangladesh's contribution to the UN peace keeping role in Namibia, Iraq, Iran and Cambodia.

The Prime Minister congratulated Ghali for becoming the Secretary General of the United Nations and extended an invitation to him to visit Bangladesh.

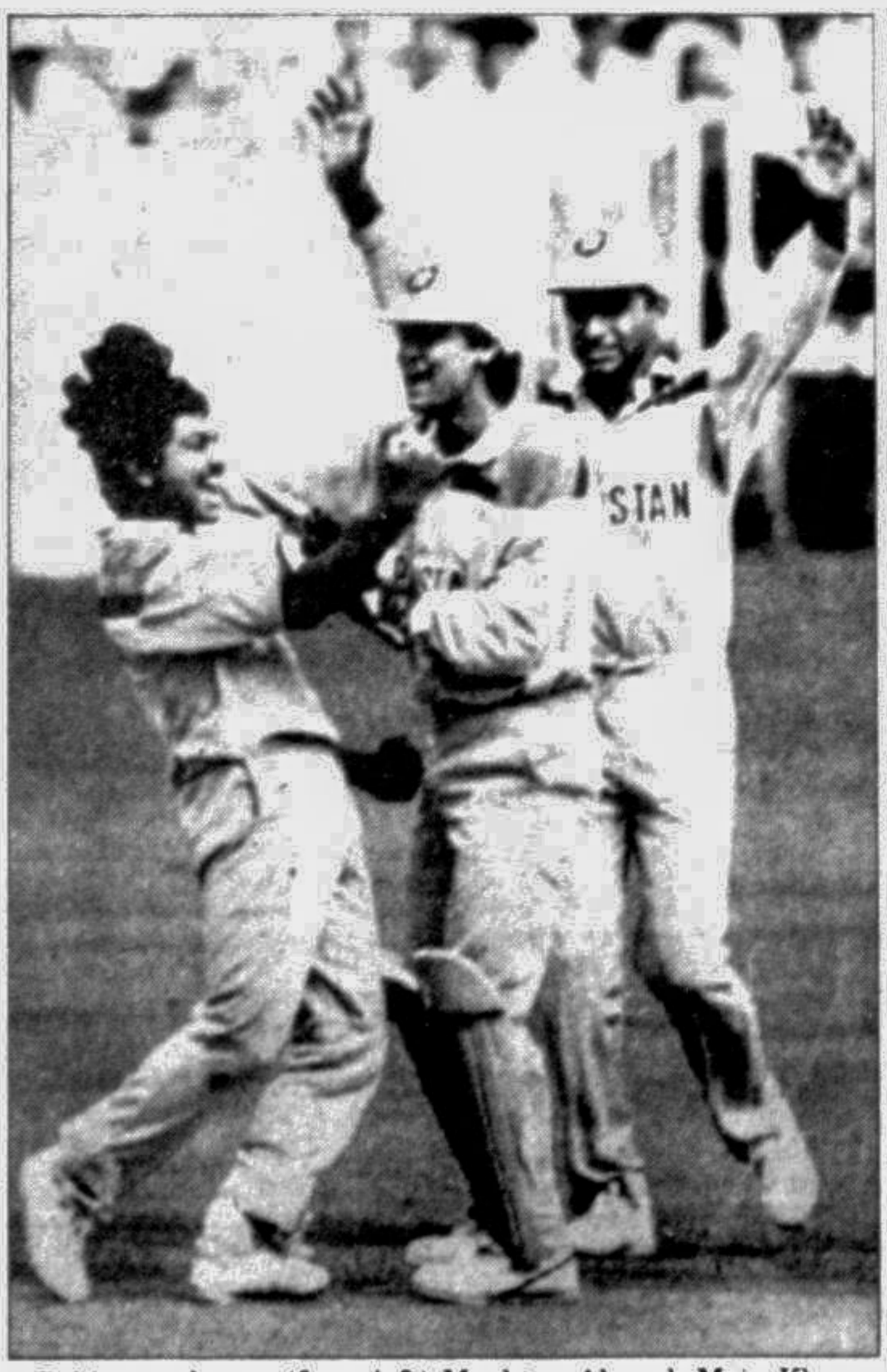
She thanked him for the assistance extended by the UN to Bangladesh in various fields. She outlined the difficulties her government was facing right from the cyclone of April last year which was followed by floods. Due to the international community's help including the assistance from the UN and resilience and courage of the people, Bangladesh could overcome the disaster, she said.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Information Minister Nazmul Huda and Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the United Nations Humayun Kabir were, among others, present.

The Prime Minister also met UN General Assembly President Samir Shahbi and congratulated him for his election.

Begum Zia explained to him the situation obtaining in Bangladesh out of the Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. She called for support and cooperation of the international community to resolve the crisis.

She urged the UNGA president to help mobilise support for Bangladesh to put pressure on the Myanmar authority to take back their citizens.



Pakistan players (from left) Mushtaq Ahmed, Moin Khan and Aamir Sohail show their delight on the dismissal of New Zealand batsman Mark Greatbatch during the World Cup cricket semi-final in Auckland. — AFP photo

North Korean economic team due today

A four member North Korean delegation led by External Economic Affairs Minister Cheng Song Nam arrives Dhaka today on a 4-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will receive the team at the Zia International Airport.

During the visit the delegation will discuss matters relating to further strengthening of bilateral economic, trade, science and technical cooperation between the two friendly countries.

The Bangladesh side will be led by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the talks.

DPRK is keen to extend cooperation and support in the areas like agricultural development, fisheries sector, coal development and extraction, construction of embankment and thermal power centres, communication, ship building, development of irrigation system, industrialisation etc.

It is expected that areas of bilateral cooperation and collaboration will be identified during the discussions and a memorandum of understanding (MOU) will be signed.

Attend trial in thousands, Jahanara's call

By Staff Correspondent

Jahanara Imam has called upon the people in the country to attend the March 26 public trial of Golam Azam at the Suhrawardy Uddyan in thousands braving all obstructions.

Jahanara, the convener of the National Coordination Committee for Implementation of the Spirit of the Liberation War and Elimination of the Killers and Collaborators of the 1971, has called for a public meeting at the Bahadur Shah Park in the capital Saturday.

Presided over by Kotwali Thana unit of the elimination committee, sculptor Rasha, the meeting was also addressed, among others, by Sadek Ahmed Khan and Mamunur Rashid. A leader of the committee Lt Col Kazi Nuruzzaman also spoke at the meeting as special guest.

Jahanara Imam said that the organisers were being threatened and conspiracies hatched foil the planned trial.

She urged the bus owners and the workers to arrange special transports to carry the people to the trial venue from across the country.

The convener also urged the railway authorities to arrange special trains in this regard.

Kazi Nuruzzaman said that the people would hold the trial at any cost and that threats and arrests to foil the planned trial would fail.

The central leaders of the committee will address a rally tomorrow at Mirpur Section One.

Govt may finalise today nature of legal steps against Azam

By Mahfuz Ullah

The government is expected to finalise the nature of legal actions against Golam Azam today.

Authorities sources said a senior leader of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) holding a key position was assigned last night to contact the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, now on an official visit to USA, for her decision.

The leader, when contacted at midnight, requesting anonymity said he was expecting the return call from the Prime Minister soon.

Earlier, this BNP top brass had two rounds of closed door meeting to discuss the legal options already okayed by the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Home Ministry sources, confirming the position of the Ministry of Law and Justice, said, 'the proposals are now pending a political decision.'

Authoritative sources further said as the issue carries political significance so the decision needs to be endorsed by the Prime Minister. The government is also considering other measures because 'only legal measures may not be enough to cool down the heat generated in the process of campaigning for the public trial,' sources further said.

One of the legal options envisages serving legal notice on Golam Azam asking him why action will not be taken against him for his stay in the country without authorisation.

The other suggestion provides for a suo motu action on the part of the government by which the President will refer the case to the Supreme Court for an interpretation. The President will seek opinion of the Supreme Court on Golam Azam's election as the Amir of the Jamaat-e-Islami being a foreign citizen and the legality of the people's court.

The National Coordination Committee for Implementation of the Spirit of Liberation War and Annihilation of the Collaborators and Killers of 1971 has decided to hold a public trial of Golam Azam on March 26 at Suhrawardy Uddyan.

Earlier, making a statement in the Jatiya Sangsad on January 12, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Home Minister, had said that the government was studying the legal implications of Jamaat's electing Golam Azam its Amir.

Golam Azam's citizenship was cancelled by the government in 1973 on the charges of his collaboration with Pakistan occupation forces during the War of Liberation.

The Home Minister in his statement informed Golam Azam first applied for restoration of his citizenship in 1976 from London.

He applied for the second time on January 16, 1978. Both the prayers were turned down. He then entered the

National mosque Khatib under fire

By Staff Correspondent

Statement of the Khatib of Baitul Mukarram Mosque at a post-prayer congregation Friday in the Mosque premises have sparked off protests and resentment.

Fifty-one Alems in a joint statement Saturday demanded removal of the Khatib, Muhammad Obaidul Huq to save the Baitul Mukarram Mosque from politics.

The statement said that Islam was above all kinds of conspiracies and politics. The pro-Moududis have made religion a political tool by misinterpreting Islam, it said adding that the Jamaat leaders were engaged in all kinds of anti-Islamic activities with an aim to subvert the country's independence.

It said that the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque could never be a property of the Jamaat-e-Islami Party.

But the Khatib of the Mosque had involved himself in the Jamaat-Golam Azam issue by advocating in favour of the controversial Jamaat chief, it said.

Pakistan in final

AUCKLAND (New Zealand), Mar 21: Inzamam-ul-Haq scored a sizzling 60 Saturday to spearhead Pakistan to a four-wicket win over New Zealand in the first World Cup semi-final at Eden Park, reports AP.

The 21-year-old right-hander scored his total of only 37 runs to steer Pakistan to 261 for six in reply to New Zealand's intimidating 262 for seven.

The Pakistanis reached the victory target with an over to spare and with four wickets in hand.

They scored their second win over previously unbeaten New Zealand in the space of four days and made the World Cup final for the first time.

Pakistan will face either South Africa or England in the final in Melbourne next Wednesday. Those teams play Sunday at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Rameez Raja and captain Inzamam-ul-Haq scored 44 runs to get Pakistan on track and Inzamam and veteran Javed Miandad carried on the good work.

The duo shared a fifth-wicket partnership of 87, carrying Pakistan from 140 for four to 227 for five.

Javed was unbeaten on 57 after playing an anchor role, while Moin Khan was with him at the end, unbeaten on 20.

The Pakistanis did not panic when required to score at a rate in excess of seven runs per over in the final 10 overs. The winning runs came on a four by Moin.

Pakistan were particularly severe on Chris Harris, who conceded 72 runs, and pace-man Danny Morrison gave up 55.

(Details on Page 10)

NEWS BRIEFS

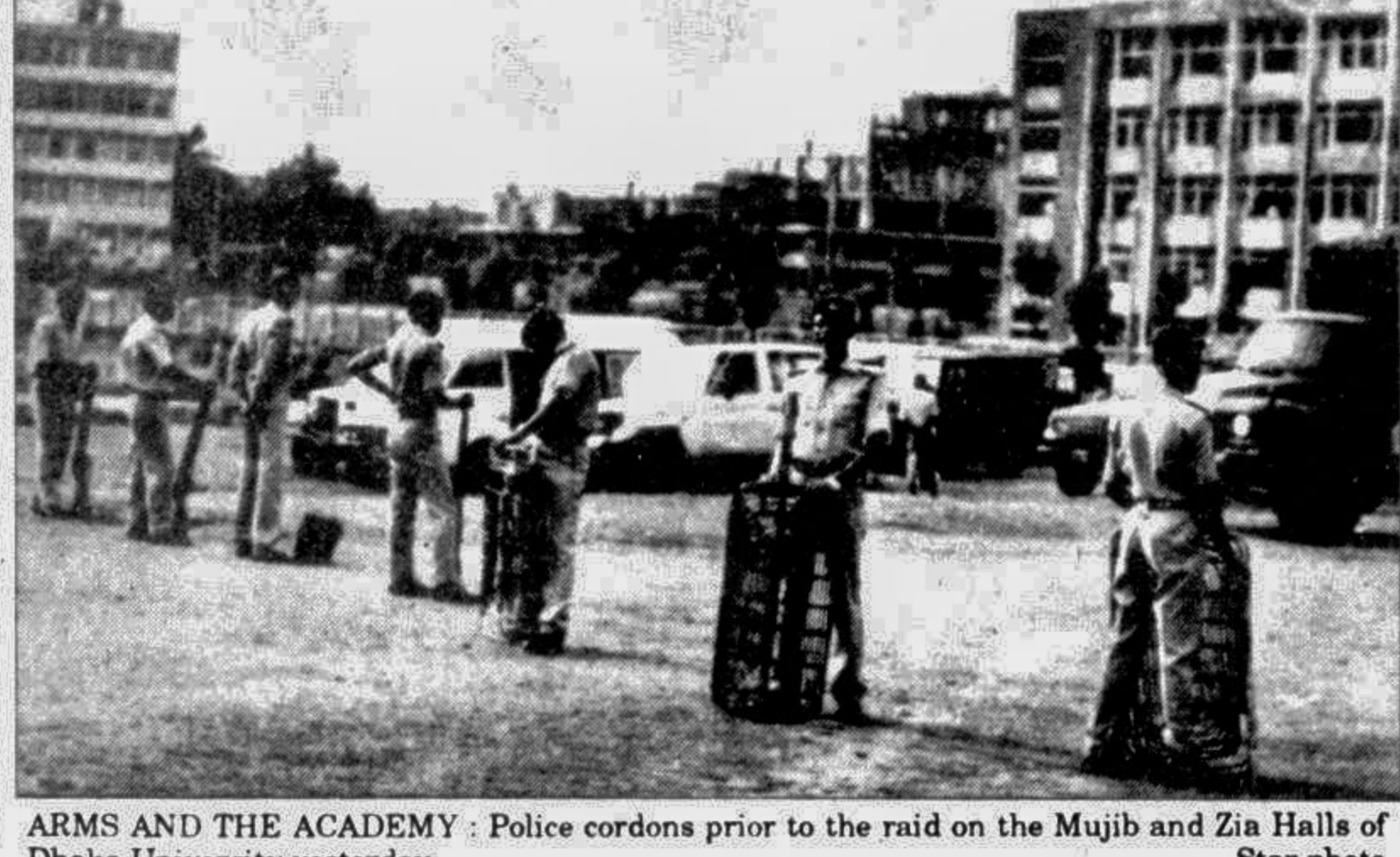
- Salary, bonus on March 28**
The salaries and allowances due for the month of March of all the government, semi-govt and autonomous organisations will be disbursed on March 28 on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Fitr, an official handout said today, reports BSS. This order will also be applicable for the three armed-forces.
- Sk Hasina off to Gopalganj**
Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina left Dhaka Saturday morning for her home town Gopalganj. She will return to Dhaka on March 23, reports UNB.
- Kamalur Rahman Dy Press Secy to PM**
Kamalur Rahman Bhuiyan, Officer on Special Duty, Ministry of Establishment, took over as Deputy Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Saturday, an official handout said, reports UNB.

WASA installs new deep tubewell

Dhaka WASA has installed a new deep tubewell at Hatkhola old pump compound to meet demand of water at Hatkhola, Gopibag, R K Mission Road, Abhoy Das Lane, Swambag, K M Das Lane, Bhagwati Banerjee Road and the adjoining areas, reports UNB.

Sheri, Iftar timings

| Ramzan | March Sehri | Iftar |
|--------|-------------|-----------------|
| 16 | 22 | 6.18 pm |
| 17 | 23 | 4.40 am 6.19 pm |



ARMS AND THE ACADEMY: Police cordons prior to the raid on the Mujib and Zia Halls of Dhaka University yesterday. — Star photo

Refugees face 'major health crisis' Sufferings to mount with onset of monsoon

From Nadeem Qadir

BALU KHALI CAMP, Mar 21: Children, who form the majority of the Myanmar refugees fleeing atrocities at home, suffer from fear and need urgent medical help to fight diseases before the monsoon starts, officials and doctors said.

The refugees are poor and their children are mostly malnourished as well as suffering from fear and shock", S M Rahim, the government doctor in charge of this camp on the hill slopes said, adding disease was also a major problem for the children.

He said most were communicable diseases like measles, chicken pox, dysentery, skin diseases and diarrhoea, besides respiratory infections and malnourished children were easy victims.

"We know children were naturally suffering from psychological problems like fear, but under emergency situation it was lower in priority," the doctor said.

Most doctors see a "major health crisis" looming when the monsoon starts sometime this month with many refugees still passing their days under the open sky.

Myanmar troops were taking boys to work as labourers and many did not return, so I fled with my family," 10-year-old Saidur Rahman said, fear still

See Page 12 Col 4

Police raid DU halls: Arms recovered

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police Saturday raided two residential halls of Dhaka University and recovered arms and ammunition.

The police conducted raids on Sheikh Mujib Hall and Ziaur Rahman Hall from 3.30 pm to 5 pm.

During the raid, police recovered one revolver, with six rounds of bullets, 13 rifle bullet chargers and an abandoned motor cycle from Ziaur Rahman Hall.

The police however, found no arms in Sheikh Mujib Hall.

BSS adds: The Dhanmondi Police Saturday arrested six youths from opposite the New Market Mosque and recovered

See Page 12 Col 6

Rohingyas causing destruction of forests

From Farid Hossain

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 21: Unscrupulous contractors have pillaged nearly 16,000 cubic feet of forest wood worth Taka 31 lakh to construct makeshift shelters for the Rohingya refugees, officials said here today.

Besides, the refugees are illegally cutting saplings and tree branches from reserve forests for fuel wood at the rate of more than 27,000 cft a day. This is causing an estimated loss of Taka four lakh daily.

Local forest officials said, 1200 acres of forest land have already been used for setting

See Page 12 Col 8

Bureaucracy bungles aid utilisation: WB

Rigid bureaucratic structure of personnel policies is a major impediment to aid utilisation in Bangladesh, said World Bank, suggesting that its civil service be rationalised, reports UNB.

Bureaucratic structure, carried over from pre-independence era, provides limited scope for "improving accountability and rewarding performance," the Bank says in its appraisal report prepared for placing at next month's Aid Club moot in Paris.

The tangle has an adverse impact on speedy aid utilisation, it noted.

The world Bank warned that "rationalisation of the civil service" ought to be the Government's medium-term objective if project aid utilisation was to improve.

It is critical of the existing procedures which require rotation of officials every three years, often placing them in positions inconsistent to previous assignment.

"This requirement needs to be relaxed for key project staff," the Bank suggests.

Its report further observes "strong reluctance" on the part of some high officials to decentralise authority even for relatively trivial matters because of concern about "incompetence or corruption."

As a result, it says, even the most talented staff spend an inordinate amount of time seeking approval from above

See Page 12 Col 8

Govt planning to widen tax base

By Inam Ahmed and Masud Hasan Khan

The government plans to expand the tax base of the country to increase the percentage of tax to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The present share of tax in the GDP is about eight per cent. The government has a plan to increase it to about 15 per cent.

Finance Ministry sources said that the increase is essential to finance development projects as well as to sustain them.

The increase will be all the more necessary as the government policy aims at giving greater support to the Annual Development Programme (ADP) from the internal revenue.

The government also plans to allocate one-third of the total ADP outlay from internal resources by 1995.

The increase in the share of tax to the target would need about ten years sources said. It would be increased gradually.

To achieve the goal, tax rate on the goods consumed in the country would be increased. On the other hand, the government is searching effective

See Page 12 Col 7

'Public trial' of Azam JCD's JU unit breaks from Committee

By JU Correspondent

Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Jahangirnagar University unit has disassociated itself from the committee for the implementation of the spirit of the Liberation War and elimination of the killers and collaborators of 1971.

This was announced Saturday at a press conference of the BNP-backed student wing, the JCD held on the Jahangirnagar University campus.

In a written statement, the JCD leaders alleged that an undemocratic vested quarter was trying to create anarchy in the country when the nation was facing a severe border crisis. Mentioning the Myanmar refugee crisis, the JCD leaders said that the present government was trying to find a solution to the issue. "Anarchism of any kind is a threat to this problem as well as to the establishment of democracy," they added.

They said that Golam Azam should be prosecuted under the existing law of the country to avoid unwanted circumstances.

Pointing to the planned public trial of Golam Azam on March 26, the JCD leaders

See Page 12 Col 2