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NEWS BRIEFS

Body on Indemnity Bill meets today

The meeting of the special parliamentary committee on the Indemnity Ordinance Repeal Bill will be held at 6 pm today in the Cabinet Room of the Sangsad Bhaban with Law Minister Mirza Golam Haif in the chair, according to an official handout. All members of the committee have been requested to attend the meeting, reports BSS.

Transport strike in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 8: Inter-district road communications were disrupted for more than six hours due to a transport strike here today. Buses and trucks were off the road as Motor Sramik Union enforced the strike protesting alleged assault of a driver by the sponsors of house in Shahid Shamsuddin Stadium Tuesday night. The union called off its indefinite strike at 12 noon after the district administration had assured it of looking into the matter, reports UNB.

Pravda reappears

MOSCOW, Apr 8: Pravda newspaper, the former organ of the Soviet Communist Party, reappeared at news-stands today after having suspended publication since March 14. Editor-in-Chief Gennadi Seleznev told AFP that the newspaper should now appear three times a week. Its price has been 'decontrolled'. Pravda still sports its three effigies of Lenin — but it lacks the Karl Marx motto it used to bear: 'Workers of the world, unite. The newspaper opposes Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Two feature films seized

Bangladesh Film Censor Board has seized two full-length feature films titled 'Golden Ninja Warrior' and 'The Hunted' from Naz Cinema hall. The films were seized for violation of Clause 'A' of Article 7 of the Film Censorship Act, 1972, reports BSS.

Arafat survives plane crash

TRIPOLI, Apr 8: Search planes found PLO chief Yasser Arafat bruised but safe Wednesday in Libya's remote southern desert, where his plane vanished in a sandstorm a day earlier, PLO officials said, reports AP.

Palestinians in many parts of the Arab world flooded into the streets to cheer the report that the symbol of their long fight for a homeland was alive.

According to Arafat's office in Tunisia, Tunisia, he sent a terse message Wednesday from the Palestine Liberation Organization's training camp at al Sarra, Libya: 'I'm well, everyone is well, thank all those who were involved.'

It was not immediately clear whether the plane crashed or how Arafat arrived at the PLO base.

Libya's official news agency, JANA, reported that all three of the plane's crew members died when the plane put down.

See Page 12 Col 1



Arafat: Minor bruises



Joyful Palestinians distribute sweets in the main street of Arab East Jerusalem to celebrate the survival of their unique hero PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday.
 — AFP photo

Police open fire to stop hijackers: 3 arrested

Police nabbed three hijackers and recovered a stolen government car from Banani after a two-hour hunt Wednesday morning.

The hijackers in several attempts to escape left three policemen injured and police in turn opened fire injuring two hijackers on being compelled to end their attempts to flee.

The arrested persons reportedly hijacked the car (Chittagong Kha-3453) from a

One killed, two hit by bullets

A school boy was killed and two others sustained bullet injuries in three separate incidents in the city Wednesday.

Babul, a student of class eight of Mirpur Government College Hospital and Pongu

garage at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar at about 3:30 am Wednesday.

The hijackers were first chased near Sayedabad Bus Terminal when they rushed towards Demra. But they turned back exploding crackers leaving one police constable injured.

Later Sabujbag police chased the car on the highway near Maltbag but the hijackers ran down another police constable and escaped exploding several crackers.

While the hijackers were trying to escape through Gushan, police followed the car, opened fire, seized the car and arrested them at Kakohi. The hijackers also exploded several crackers there and left a policeman injured.

Of the injured policemen, two constables Abdul Hakim and Abdur Razzak were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Pongu

Hospital respectively. Another policeman Akramuzzaman was given first aid.

When police opened fire, two hijackers, Selim and Kamal, were injured and later admitted to the Pongu Hospital, police said. Another nabbed hijacker Mujibur Rahman was arrested unhurt.

Police said three of the arrested persons were drivers by profession. Police seized their driving licences.

JCD-BCL clash disrupts normal life in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 8: Activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were locked in gun battles during the last two

See Page 12 Col 5

Press Note Diesel stock sufficient

There is sufficient stock of diesel in the country and its supply arrangement is satisfactory, a Press Note issued by the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources said Wednesday, reports BSS.

It said three marketing companies — Padma, Meghna and Jamuna — in the north-west zone are being supplied with sufficient quantity of petroleum products, including diesel, for their depots at Baghabari, Chilmari, Rangpur and Daulatpur.

The Press Note said the government has taken all steps for sufficient supply of fuel. Irrigation equipment users may buy diesel directly from oil depots in drums. Arrangement has also been made to sell diesel through drums on boats at Baghabari.

The ministry issued the Press Note when its attention was drawn to the news items published in some newspapers on diesel crisis.

The Press Note said See Page 12 Col 2

More judges to be appointed: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia reiterated her government's firm conviction to establish rule of law in society and give democracy an institutional shape, reports BSS.

Addressing the members of Jatiyatabadi Lawyers Forum at her Sugandha office here Wednesday evening, Begum Zia said the establishment of rule of law was a must for giving democracy a permanent shape.

Begum Zia stressed the need for quick dispensation of justice so that people have total faith in the judiciary. In this regard she said that more judges would be appointed to accelerate the dispensation of justice.

The Prime Minister emphatically said that everybody is equal in the eye of law and law will take its own course irrespective of people. 'Nobody will be allowed to take law in their own hands,' she said.

Begum Zia emphasised the need for restoring peace and

discipline in society for taking the country towards its cherished goal of progress and prosperity.

She said the people had reposed their total faith in the nationalist forces and voted BNP to power to safeguard the national independence and sovereignty. 'We have come to power through people's mandate in a free and fair election,' she said, adding 'Inshallah we will remain in power for five years with people's support.' She said there is no alternative to nationalist forces.

Begum Zia was critical of those who were disrupting normal peace and harmony in society in the name of movement. She said people were happy and content during the rule of BNP since there were no looting and terrorism at that time.

She urged the Forum members to remain vigilant against See Page 12 Col 6

20-minute overseas call for Tk 300!

By Staff Correspondent

Make a 20-minute overseas call to any country for only Taka 300!

It is no announcement made by the T & T to its subscribers but it is an offer made by a section of T & T employees during the Eid holidays.

Such telephone employees provide interested callers with illegal overseas lines at the callers' desired numbers. But the charge never shows up in the subscribers' monthly telephone bills because the operators switch over it to other parties' bills.

The operators and others involved in this trade hook their clients by two means. In most cases, somebody refers someone to such operators while the rest are contacted by the operators themselves.

The 300 taka tip is usually collected by the operators from the caller's home, but sometimes an operator may arrange an appointment somewhere to take his money. They See Page 12 Col 7

Curfew on: 30 arrested

Thousands march thru' Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, Apr 8: About 13,000 slogan-shouting people marched through the streets of this city and a suburb Wednesday to protest the deaths of at least seven demonstrators killed in police firing, reports AP.

The protesters set fire to the effigy to Interior Minister Sher Bahadur Deupa an hour before authorities clamped curfew for the third night in Kathmandu and the suburb of Patan, allowing police to shoot violators on sight.

The demonstrations, by supporters of a communist party, were to protest police firing Monday on a leftist rally against alleged government corruption, nepotism and high market prices. At least seven people were killed and 50 injured, according to the government.

'We will make the people's demands successful,' shouted about 6,000 demonstrators in Kathmandu, some of whom carried leftist flags depicting the hammer and sickles. Many hoisted: 'Down with the gov-

ernment's repressive measures.'

Police fired tear gas in several parts of the capital city to deter people who gathered to hold protest meetings in narrow streets.

In Patan, where about 7,000 people staged anti-government rallies, shopkeepers closed their shutters to protest the police firing.

Nirmal Lama, the leader of the radical communists, has denied Monday's strike turned violent and charged that 24 protesters were killed in the police firing. Newspapers reported from eight to 20 deaths.

Deupa was blamed for the deaths because he is the minister in charge of police and internal security. The government has said police opened fire because the protesters threw stones and bricks on policemen and ransacked offices and shops that stayed open in defiance of the strike call.

The strike was called by the See Page 12 Col 7

12 more Rohingyas killed Myanmar troops open fire on processionists

From Our Correspondent

Secretary General Jan Eliasson. But a large number of troops took their previous position following the visit.

Meanwhile, more than 2500 Rohingya Muslims crossed into Bangladesh during the past two days. Refugees said that Myanmar troops stopped uprooting Muslims from different parts of Arakan during the visit of UN Under Secretary General Jan Eliasson but now the troops had been carrying on atrocities again on the Muslims.

Different organisations of Arakan have condemned the killing of Rohingyas Muslims on Eid day calling upon world community to compel Myanmar military government to stop violation of human rights in Myanmar. The NLD, NDF, ACP, BCP, RSO, ARIF and ASU are the organisations which have condemned the killing of Rohingyas Muslims.

Cox's Bazar district official sources said that 261 refugees died so far of various diseases while 436 babies were born in different camps.

Amin who was one of the participants of Eid congregation at Sikderpara Tablighimarkaz Mosque said that the toll of Sunday's massacre was not less than 400.

Widespread protest was continuing in 17 townships of Rakhaine (formerly Arakan) against troops' brutality.

Amin also said that the Myanmar troops were withdrawn from the border areas ahead of the visit of UN Under

Secretary General Jan Eliasson. But a large number of troops took their previous position following the visit.

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Security around Black Sea Fleet property tightened

MOSCOW, Apr 8: CIS Naval infantry units have taken up positions around buildings and weapons stocks in Sevastopol to protect property of the Black Sea Fleet, a CIS naval spokesman said today, reports AFP.

The CIS naval commander, Admiral Vladimir Chernavin and the Fleet's commander, Admiral Igor Kasatonov, were holding talks with Vassili Durdinets, the deputy speaker of the Ukrainian parliament, the spokesman added.

The talks came a day after President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree placing the fleet under Russian jurisdiction.

Reuter adds: President

Yeltsin has raised the temperature of Russia's debate with Ukraine over the fate of former Soviet forces by decreeing the disputed Black Sea Fleet be put under Russian control.

His decree on Tuesday — a response to a Ukrainian decree on Monday which ordered the Fleet under Ukrainian control — diverted attention from conservative criticism of his radical economic reforms at a session of Russia's supreme legislature.

Yeltsin had been forced to defend his unpopular programme in person at the Congress of People's Deputies, which is holding a nine-day session to decide the country's

future political path now the Soviet Union has collapsed.

Yeltsin and a young free marketeer government began to dismantle the Soviet command economy in January, abolishing most price controls and privatising state property and land. The reforms have brought hardship to millions of Russians.

Yeltsin needs Congress's blessing for the next stage of his reforms — freeing energy prices — and for a new constitution marking Russia's emergence as an independent state.

Western military experts said despite the heated war of words Russia and Ukraine were unlikely to come to

blows.

AP adds: The dispute between Russia and Ukraine, the two wealthiest and most populous former Soviet republics, was heightening tensions in the already shaky Commonwealth of Independent States.

Russia and Ukraine both claim the fleet and the Crimea Peninsula, where it is based. The two sides had agreed to leave the largest vessels of the fleet under commonwealth command, but that deal was shaken by conflicting decrees from Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk.

Yeltsin reasserted Russian control over the fleet on Tuesday, and appointed a

commission to oversee creation of a Russian army and navy. On Wednesday, he ordered commonwealth naval commander Adm. Vladimir Chernavin to fly to the Crimea to enforce the decree, ITAR-Tass reported.

The news agency quoted Ukrainian officials as saying Kravchuk might respond later Wednesday. Kravchuk claimed the fleet in a decree issued Monday.

Nezavisimaya Gazeta (the Independent Newspaper) said the escalating battle of decrees 'begins to resemble a time-delayed bomb, with the timing mechanism set in motion.'

The labor newspaper, Trud,

said the dispute was reaching 'a crisis point.'

'Sailors of the Black Sea fleet have found themselves between the devil and the deep blue sea thanks to the actions taken by politicians,' Trud wrote.

The competing Russian and Ukrainian claims to the Black Sea fleet had no immediate military effect, because the fleet remained under the control of Marshal Yevgeny Shaposhnikov, commander of the commonwealth armed forces.

But Shaposhnikov made his loyalties clear on Tuesday, declaring himself to be first and foremost a Russian citizen.

Flood, storm likely this month

By Staff Correspondent

Flash flood, norwester and hail storm may hit the country during this month. Meteorological office sources have forecast on Wednesday.

Flash flood is likely to sweep the Sylhet region at the end of this month while norwester accompanied with hail storm may pound most part of the country, the source said.

During the period Dhaka division would experience 100 to 120 mm of rainfall while 100 to 110 mm rainfall would be recorded in Chittagong division, 45 mm in Rajshahi and 65 mm in Khulna divisions. The expected rainfall is less than normal, weathermen said.

The rainfall was unexpectedly low over the country in the month of March when only 14 mm rain was recorded in Chittagong division.

A moderate heatwave swept over the rest of the country in March which is still persisting. Met office also added.

Mongla Port workers on strike

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 8: Dock workers of Mongla Port have been on strike since April 3 to press home their two-point demand, including payment of Eid bonus and arrears wages.

The strike was called for an indefinite period before Eid. Meanwhile, two groups of labourers belonging to two trade unions locked in a clash Friday when a group of workers convened a rally at Mongla Port in support of the strike.

As a result of the strike, eleven ships are now in the port awaiting loading and unloading.

The chairman of the port met leaders of the striking workers several times in the last four days to resolve the issue.

When contacted, the Member, Operation of the Port, Captain Ramjan Ali, told this correspondent quoting the chairman of the port that the workers might resume work soon.

Captain Ali said that exporters and importers of this region incurred a loss of over seven million US dollars during the last three years due to wildcat strike by the workers of the port.

Nirmul committee rally Apr 12

By Staff Correspondent

The city unit of 'Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee' would hold a rally in front of National Press Club on Friday to mobilise people for the April 12 parliament ghoro programme.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the committee with its convener Sadek Ahmed Khan in the chair on Wednesday.

A procession would follow the rally which would be led by Lt Col (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman. The city committee urged the people to join the mass procession towards the parliament on April 12.

The five party alliance also urged the people to make the April 12 programme a success.

In a press release on Wednesday alliance convener Nayem Jahangir asked the government to execute the verdict of 'Gana Adalat' (People's Court) immediately.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) would accord a reception at Taher Auditorium on Saturday to 24 trial committee members who have been charged with sedition and attempt to murder.

The 24 persons were involved in holding the public trial of Prof Golam Azam on March 26.

Velayeti likely to visit Dhaka

Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Ali Akbar Velayeti is likely to pay an official visit to Bangladesh soon, diplomatic sources said here Wednesday, reports UNB.

The visit, expected at the end of this month or first week of May, will take place at the invitation of Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman.