

## Libya to recruit 1000 Bangladeshis a month

Libya will recruit anew a large number of Bangladeshis for its different development projects, reports UNB.

This was disclosed by Charge d' Affaires of the Libyan People's Bureau here while talking to newsmen at the Chancery Thursday.

The first batch of some 550 leaves for Tripoli within a week. Homad A Abdel Wahed said, adding "besides, Libya plans to recruit on an average 1,000 Bangladeshis a month".

About those already working in the north African country, the envoy said "there are no difficulties or problems for about 20,000 Bangladeshis now working in public and private sectors in Libya".

Of them, he said, 15 per cent were accommodated in the gigantic water supply project — the great man-made

river — commissioned in August last year.

The Bangladeshis working in Tripoli and other cities include doctors, teachers, technicians, drivers and fishermen.

The Bangladeshis living there amidst "harmony and fellow feelings with the Libyans do not want to come back home," Wahed said, dismissing press report that they (Bangladeshis) want to come back home as they are unhappy in his country in the wake of UN sanctions on Libya. This was "baseless and unfounded," he said.

Six Bangladeshi construction companies had been functioning there with reputation, he told newsmen.

"Even all foreigners in Libya are living in peace", without facing any kind of difficulties, he asserted.



Police demolishing slums at Kamalapur Thursday.

—Star photo

## Myanmar FM

From Page 1 Col 7

Welcoming the Myanmar gesture in agreeing to send high-level delegation to talk the crisis, the Foreign Ministry official expressed optimism that the discussions between the two countries would produce positive results.

Last week Myanmar authorities assured the visiting UN emissary that they would take back the refugees 'provided they can produce some evidence of residency' in Myanmar, the spokesman said.

"This is a positive sign and we welcome this decision", said the spokesman.

Asked whether intervention by some influential Asian countries had Myanmar change its mind, the official evaded an answer.

"The whole world is on our side," he said.

Following the December 21 attack, border officials of the two countries held successive meetings but tensions along the 176-mile border did not subside.

Myanmar continued amassing troops along the border and carried on repression on its citizens leading to the increased inflow of refugees into Bangladesh.

Referring to the exodus from Myanmar that dates as far back as to eighteenth century, the spokesman, Additional Foreign Secretary A H Mahmood Ali, said Dhaka would seek a permanent solu-

tion to the influx problem. In 1978, a large number of Arakanese took refuge in Bangladesh's bordering districts.

Since the recent exodus began, according to ever-increasing estimates, some two hundred thousand Rohingyas have crossed into Bangladesh. Till Tuesday night, officials registered 1,93,637 refugees. Of them, according to official figures, a total of 1,09,769 persons are under shelter.

The Myanmar delegation, which is scheduled to leave April 28, includes senior-most civil servants from Foreign, Immigration and Relief and Rehabilitation Ministries.

Apart from holding formal talks with the Bangladesh Foreign Minister, the delegation will also call on the President, the Prime Minister and other officials, Foreign Ministry sources said.

Bangladesh authorities would also like to take the Myanmar delegation to the southern districts where the refugees have taken shelter, Ali said.

Eleven camps have, till date, been set up to house the refugees.

Two more camps — in Gundum and Nayapara — which are under construction will be ready shortly.

The official said the 'overall situation' in the camps was 'quite good'.

## Bus carrying JP leaders to Munshiganj attacked

By Staff Correspondent

A planned meeting of the Munshiganj district unit of Jatiya Party was postponed when two cars carrying the leaders from Dhaka came under attack allegedly by pro-BNP activists near Chanbari crossing Thursday, party sources said.

They alleged that some armed activists of the ruling BNP party attacked two minibuses carrying the Munshiganj district unit leaders of the Jatiya Party and some newsmen and damaged the cars on the highway at Chanbari near Sreenagar Upazila in Dhaka district.

The attackers carrying weapons and sticks completely damaged the cars and beat the riders, the sources confirmed.

The Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Secretary General Shah Moazzem Hossain in a joint statement Thursday evening condemned the assault on his partymen and called upon the people to resist "such fascist activities."

## NICAR reviews progress of core projects

A meeting of the National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reorganisation (NICAR) was held here Thursday night at the International Conference Centre (ICC) with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting considered the recommendations of the commission for delimitation of boundaries of districts and upazilas/thanas and took decisions on implementation.

It also reviewed the progress of the construction work of the core projects of the newly created districts namely offices of the Deputy Commissioners, District Judges, Superintendents of Police, Civil Surgeons and Circuit Houses.

The meeting directed the concerned authorities to complete the work for providing infrastructural facilities for smooth running of the administration within the current fiscal year.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Agriculture Minister Majidul Haq, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, Works Minister

## Apr 12 march

From Page 1 Col 8

Shahjahan and Fayez Ahmed.

The speakers observed that trial of Golam Azam was not enough, all the killers and collaborators of 1971 must be tried through enacting laws in parliament.

They criticised the government for filing cases against 24 sponsors of the Gana Adalat and demanded of the government that the people's court verdict on Golam Azam be executed and the cases be withdrawn immediately.

The speakers thanked 100 Members of Parliament including the Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina who supported the public trial of Azam.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (Khalq) convenor Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan in a statement Thursday said that his party would hold gatherings and wayside rallies today in support of April 12 programme.

Ganatantrik Biplobi Jote also issued similar statement calling for making the April 12 march a success.

A public rally meeting organised by the coordination committee will be held in front of the Press Club today at 4 pm.



Naogaon residents fetching water from a tube-well installed on the dried up river-bed of Chhoto Jamuna as the water level in the area has sharply receded in recent months.

—Star photo by Rathin

## Japanese MPs arrive Apr 12

A two-member delegation of the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary Association led by Shin Sakurai, Chairman of the Cabinet Committee, the House of Representatives and Makoto Taneda, Member of the House of Councilors, is scheduled to pay a five-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh from April 12 to 16, says a Japan Embassy press release.

During their stay in Bangladesh, the members of the delegation will pay courtesy calls on high officials of the Government of Bangladesh to exchange views on matters of mutual benefit, especially on possibilities of expanding bilateral economic relationship further.

They will also visit Myanmar refugee camps in Cox's Bazar to observe influx of refugees from Myanmar to Bangladesh and Cyclone damaged areas in and around Chittagang, where reconstruction is going on.

## Naogaon in grip of water shortage

By Rathin Sanyal

NAOGAON, Apr 9: On acute water shortage has gripped the town as the municipal supply has become grossly inadequate due to the river Choto Jamuna's running completely dry.

The river passes through the town.

The ground water in most places in the town has receded by 7 to 10 feet below the normal level at this time of the year, according to concerned authorities. Towns people have installed several tubewells on the dry riverbed to make up for the shortage of drinking water.

Residents said that the shortage of drinking water has severely affected the households in the eastern part of the town where about 1.5 lakh people live. There is no water supply in the Par-Naogaon, Sultanpur, Bhabanipur, Debipur, Boalia, Pirojpur and Khidirpur areas of the town.

Shortage of water has also severely affected the agricultural sector in the district. Irrigation has been hit hard as farmers cannot even use their pumps to lift ground water because of the scarcity of diesel and also because of the irregular supply of electricity in the area.

Diesel, kerosene and petrol are in short supply and traders are charging exorbitant prices. Kerosene and diesel is being sold in the market at between Taka 24 and Taka 30 per litre instead of the actual regulated price of Taka 14.50.

The shortage has put additional pressure on the already depleted forest resources in the area as people in the area are using wood to cook.

## It happened over a missing hen

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 9: Two neighbours in Kutubpur exchanged hot words over a missing hen and then clashed over it along with their family members and supporters, reports UNB.

The incident took place Wednesday night when owner of the hen Abdul Malek, being unable to trace his domestic fowl, accused his neighbour of killing it.

The indignant neighbour denied all charges of stealing and killing the hen but Malek continued to maintain his accusation which soon developed into a bloody clash.

All did not end there as the news of the incident sparked off another clash between villagers in nearby Chandmar.

The clashes in both places left at least 10 people seriously bruised.

Malek, who has not been in good terms with his neighbour for a long time, filed a case against his neighbour with the local police.

## The Midnight File

### Togo troops take control of radio station

LOME, Apr 9: Soldiers in Togo took control of state radio today to broadcast a series of protests. They complained about a new electoral timetable announced on Wednesday and accused the head of the small west African country's human rights commission of storing weapons, reports Reuter.

### Myanmar troops capture Kachin's stronghold

BANGKOK, Apr 9: Myanmar troops today captured a major stronghold of ethnic Kachin insurgents in northern Myanmar, radio Yangon reported. The Kachin Independent Army (KIA) camp was near the northern Myanmar town of Moemake in Kachin state, some 950 kilometers (560 miles) north of Yangon, the radio, a mouthpiece of Myanmar's military junta, said in a broadcast monitored in Bangkok, reports AFP.

### Sali Berisha Albania's non-communist president

TIRANA, Apr 9: Democratic Party leader Sali Berisha was elected as Albania's first non-communist President by parliament today, Albanian television announced, reports AFP.

## Najib to step down

From Page 1 Col 7

the hub of commercial activity in the city, was packed with traders today unloading dollars as the rate to the green-back plunged from its 1,200 Afghanis rate of two days ago to 800.

"Najib going," said one trader. "I have lost 200,000 dollars in a single day's transaction".

AP says a UN-sponsored peace conference intended to open later this month to try to end the nearly 14-year-old civil war in Afghanistan has been postponed, diplomatic and resistance sources said Thursday.

The delay was designed to give the United Nations more time to organize a temporary council to take power from Afghan President Najibullah and run the government-controlled areas before the peace conference begins.

UN officials had hoped the conference would convene late this month, either in Geneva or Vienna. But diplomatic and guerrilla sources said it would likely be late May or early June.

The UN special envoy on Afghanistan, Benon Sevan, left for Geneva to meet UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and discuss the arrangements.

Reuter says, hardline guerrilla commanders in eastern Afghanistan will block food aid going to Kabul overland from neighbouring Pakistan, a guerrilla news service said today.

### AI urges Yangon to stop atrocities on Rohingyas

Amnesty International has called on Myanmar authorities to halt their campaign of terror and violence against the country's Muslim minority, according to a message received in Dhaka Thursday, reports BSS.

A fact-finding team of Amnesty International which had recently been to Bangladesh, confirmed reports of widespread human rights violations including torture and killings.

"It is clear that the Muslim minority in Myanmar's western Rakhine (Arakan) state is being targeted by the Myanmar army," said the worldwide human rights organisation.

## Jailstaff protest against jailer

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 9: About 200 staff of Sylhet district jail demonstrated today in protest against the alleged corruption and malpractice of the jailer-in-charge.

They also held a meeting at the parade ground of the jail demanding immediate action and transfer of the jailer.

Following their allegation an enquiry committee was formed by the Deputy Commissioner two months ago to enquire into the different corruption charges against the jailer.

Accordingly, the enquiry committee submitted its report to the authority, but no action has yet been taken.

The demonstrating staff sent a memorandum to the jail authority and the DC today.

Lawyers

The lawyers of different courts in the Sylhet district headquarters abstained from attending the courts in protest against the armed attack at the residence of Advocate Abdul Gafur, president, Sylhet District Bar Association, on Saturday.

Zobaida Khanam, the wife of Adv Gafur, sustained bullet injury in the attack and is now under treatment at the Osmany Medical Centre Hospital.

## Debt repayment

From Page 1 Col 7

17.5 million US dollars in 1973-74 as debt repayment and the amount has increased steadily since then.

It shot up to about 70 million US dollars the very next year.

Until 1975, the loans received by the country were considerably low and the repayment was also low. But after 1975, the loan bases expanded in all sectors. The loan repayment rate accelerated after 1985 as the grace period of some loans were over by the time.

## One commits suicide

From our Correspondent

GAZIPUR: Apr 9: One Yakub Ali (35) committed suicide last night in Amtoll, Tong.

Police recovered his body this morning from a mango tree from which he hanged himself.

Police said Yakub had a row last night with his family for not being able to provide his family with gifts in the Eid-ul-Fitr. After the quarrel he went out and hung himself from a mango tree.

## Indemnity bill

From Page 1 Col 5

committee had a total of 11 meetings but failed to reach consensus.

The parliament meanwhile for the third time granted the committee a two-month time on February 18 to come out with a unanimous report on the proposed bill.

The deadline will expire on April 19.

Earlier, the House granted time for the committee twice — 70 days and 15 days consecutively — for making a draft report on the issue but the committee failed to reach a consensus.

According to sources, backstage parleys would be taking place between the ruling BNP and AL to reach a consensus on the ways of removing the constitutional bar to try people involved in the killing of Mujib.

Meanwhile, Colonel (Retd) Farooq, known as the mastermind behind the August putsch, while talking to this correspondent yesterday claimed that passage of the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill would virtually push a section of AL leaders into real trouble.

Replying to a specific question Farooq said: "I personally was not present at the time Mujib was killed by a soldier."

## British polls

From Page 1 Col 5

worldwide pattern of economic gloom.

But many former Conservative voters blame his government for rising unemployment, currently 2.6 million or 9.4 per cent, and say they will vote Labour this time.

High interest rates, currently 10.5 per cent, used by the government to bring down annual inflation from a peak of 10.9 per cent in 1990 to 4.1 per cent now, have caused business failures and layoffs and higher mortgage for home buyers.

Labour has promised increased state spending to bring unemployment down. The Conservatives say Labour's spending plans would lead to more borrowing, higher interest rates and a slump.

Labour plans big tax increases for wealthier people, including a top rate of 59 per cent on earnings exceeding 40,000 pounds (dhs 69,600) a year. The top tax rate now is 40 per cent.

It plans to use this to help fund increased state spending on health, education and welfare and it says eight out of 10 families would be better off under its proposals.

The Conservatives have promised to work toward cutting the basic rate of income tax from its present 25 per cent to 20 per cent, though not necessarily by the end of the next five-year Parliament.

## US relief official arrives today

An official of the US State Department specialising in refugee affairs will arrive in Bangladesh today, says a USIS press release.

Dr Sarah E. Moten is Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for International Assistance in the Bureau for Refugee Programmes. She coordinates US aid for refugees worldwide.

She will be visiting Bangladesh as part of a tour of South and South-East Asian nations. While in Bangladesh, Dr Moten will meet with government officials and representatives of the UNHCR and several non-governmental organisations. On April 11 and 12 she will tour the Rohingya refugee camps.

Editor: S. M. Ali  
 Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam  
 Published by S. M. Ali on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd.,  
 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at  
 Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi  
 Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News &  
 Commercial Offices: 28/1, Toynebee Circular Road,  
 Dhaka-1000. Tel: PABX-246023-4, 245061-2.  
 Advertisement: 245063 & Ext. 20. Fax No. 88-02-  
 863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR,  
 DHAKA.