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Supplement

The Daily Star publishes a one-page supplement on the occasion of Rotary International President's "Conference of cooperation & Goodwill" on page 7 today.

NEWS BRIEFS

Pak army chief arrives today

General Asif Nawaz Janjua, Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan Army, arrives in Dhaka today on a week-long visit to Bangladesh, according to an ISPR press release Thursday, reports BSS.

Chinese CP team meets BNP leaders

The visiting Chinese Communist Party delegation Thursday met the ruling BNP National Standing Committee members at Meghna rest house. The six-member delegation, led by Deputy Head of the Liaison Department of the Central Committee of CPC Zhang Guang Hua, and the BNP leaders discussed matters of mutual interest, reports UNB.

8 more die of diarrhoea

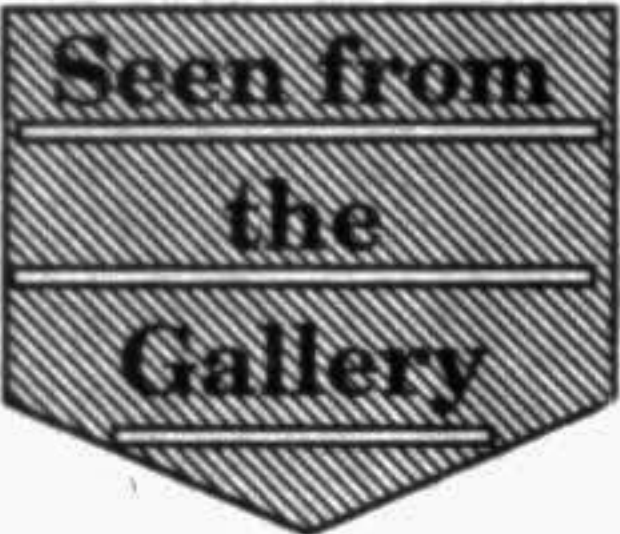
At least 8 people died of diarrhoea on Thursday in five southwestern districts where the disease broke out in an epidemic form. According to the Health Control Room, 1,084 more people were attacked by diarrhoea yesterday in Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Pirojpur and Barguna, reports UNB.

Seven missing as boat capsizes

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 16: Seven people were reported missing after an engine boat capsized today in the river Jamuna near village Tekani in Kazipur upazila of the district. Witnesses said the boat capsized in the midstream of the river facing a sand-storm that struck Charginish, Khasrajbari and Tekani unions of Kazipur upazila and Meara union of Sadar upazila at about 1 pm, reports UNB.

Discussion on Azam ends: Decision tomorrow

AL, allies walk out over Speaker's plea for time



By Mahfuz Ullah
 Thank God, it did not go beyond the throwing of files. In this country expressions of anger on the floor of the House, either legitimate or illegitimate, started with throwing of chairs resulting in a sad incident years back. It was later scaled down to showing of shoes. Yesterday, it was files, not lethal by any standard.

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In the backdrop of controversies on when to take a decision on the Golam Azam issue, Opposition members of the Jatiya Sangsad belonging to the Awami League (AL), Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Workers Party, Ganatantri Party and JSD (Straj) staged an angry walkout yesterday throwing their hard-bound file covers like flying saucers.

However, Jamaat-e-Islami, NDP member Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury and Islami Oikya Jote member Maulana Obaidul Haq did not join the walkout.

The members belonging to the Jatiya Party of former President Ershad followed the AL and its allies after a brief statement by Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury.

Chowdhury said that his

party was staging the walkout in protest against the indecision on the chair on the Golam Azam issue.

The walkout came when the Speaker appealed for time to give his decision on Saturday on the issue and requested the members to continue discussion on the Rohingya issue.

Opposing the request of the Speaker, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad said that in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee held on 11 April it was decided that the House would take up other issues only when the issue of Golam Azam was settled.

Refuting the claims by Samad Azad, the Speaker said that no such decision was taken and in his usual witty way commented 'I am not that sharp to give a decision after

listening to your deliberations for ten hours. I will give decision on Saturday.' The Speaker also urged them to continue with the discussion on the Rohingya issue.

The request by the Speaker did not satisfy the opposition members. Shahjahan Straj of the JSD, Suranjit Sengupta of the Ganatantri Party, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury of the Jatiya Party, Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party, Nurul Islam Moni (Independent) and Tofael Ahmed of AL in similar demands argued for a decision on Golam Azam last evening. BNP members Nazmul Huda and Rafiqul Islam Mia defended the stand of the Speaker.

Earlier, the general debate on Golam Azam's stay in Bangladesh and issues relating

See Page 12 Col 4

Generals seize power

Najibullah arrested

KABUL, Apr 16: President Najibullah, installed by the Soviet's six years ago, surrendered power Thursday to a coalition of generals and a key rebel commander as guerrillas closed in on the capital, government officials said, reports AP.

Reuters from Moscow adds: The Russian ITAR-Tass news agency said Najibullah was arrested today as he tried to flee the country.

The agency, reporting a Kabul news conference by a government minister, said in a one-sentence dispatch that Minister of State Security Ghulam Farook Yaqubi had killed himself.

Najibullah reportedly met with the UN special envoy, Benon Sevan, on the crisis. The area around the UN compound was surrounded by members of the elite presidential guard who would not allow

anyone to enter, according to AP.

The Afghan Embassy in Moscow said that Najibullah was safe in Kabul at his home or office, and had met with Sevan 'on the question on how to resolve the situation in the country.'

Initial reports of Najibullah's resignation came Thursday from the French Foreign Ministry, citing information from its embassy in Kabul. The development came a day after an offensive by seven Muslim rebel groups overran the government's main military and air base 35 miles (56 kms) from the capital.

Rumors had been circulating for days that Najibullah had fled or tried to flee to India. But the Afghan ambassador to New Delhi, Ahmed Sarwar, told CNN TV news that he had

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Many govt offices 'drowned in corruption'

By Staff Correspondent
 The parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Undertakings has observed that a number of government offices are drowned in corruption and nepotism.

Besides, excess employment beyond required strength has already made these organizations sick and bankrupt.

This has been stated in the first report of the committee placed before the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

Mia Mohammad Mansur Ali, chairman of the ten-member committee placed the report. The committee was formed by the Sangsad on 10 July last year under Clause 238 of Rules of Procedure.

The committee, in course of its investigation, inquired into the affairs of Mangla Port Authority, Sadharan Bima Corporation, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha, Zia Fertilizer Factory, Khulna Development Authority, Carew and Company Ltd, Agricultural Development Corporation, Sonali Bank, Bangladesh Television, TSP Fertilizer

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Hasina for tribunal to try Azam

By Staff Correspondent
 Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and chief of Awami League (AL) has asked the government to set up a tribunal under the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973 to try Golam Azam.

Also urged the ministry concerned to take immediate steps to initiate prosecution and arrange trial of Golam Azam.

Govt disturbing political harmony, says Samad Azad

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Abdus Samad Azad, also accused the government of disturbing political harmony under parliamentary democracy by resorting to the use of muscle power.

Briefing newsmen soon after the walk outs staged separately by all but the Jamaat MPs and two independent ones yesterday, Samad Azad

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BNP moves proposal for Azam's trial

By Staff Correspondent
 The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) moved a proposal in the House yesterday demanding trial of Golam Azam for his violation of the Constitution by being elected Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh.

The Senior BNP Leader and Deputy Leader of the House while moving the proposal said, 'BNP has no confusion that Golam Azam is a foreigner and he along with the Rangers was an auxiliary force to the Pakistan Armed Forces indulging in conducting genocide in the country in 1971.'

Professor Chowdhury, however, asserted that the trial must be conducted under the Constitution of the country and law of the land.

On the People's Court Professor Chowdhury said that since the government was pledged bound to uphold Constitution of the country it could not entertain any extra constitutional court.

Referring to the opposition's demand that the charges

The walkout a bad example, says Huda

By Staff Correspondent
 The Information Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday expressed government's determination for resisting move from any quarter to foil hard earned democratic system.

He was talking to the newsmen last night following an angry walkout staged by the opposition excluding Jamaat

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Najibullah: Irony — AFP file photo

HC asks govt not to deport Azam until hearing ends

By Staff Correspondent
 A High Court division bench Thursday passed an ad-interim order asking the government not to deport Golam Azam from Bangladesh until the hearing of the rule in connection with his detention issued on March 30.

The bench comprised Justice Mohammad Ismail Uddin Sarker and Justice Badrul Islam Chowdhury.

The government was given three weeks' time on March 30 to show cause why the detention order against Azam should not be declared illegal.

Earlier, on Wednesday, a petition was filed on behalf of Golam Azam seeking court order barring his deportation.

Attorney General Aminul Huq, appearing on behalf of the state, sought adjournment of the order till next Sunday but the court did not accept the prayer.

He was assisted by Deputy Attorney General A F Hasan Arif and Assistant Attorney General Obaidur Rahman.

Advocate Mujibur Rahman, Barrister Md Korban Ali and Barrister Abdur Razzaq appeared for the petitioner.

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Arms and ammunition recovered by police after raiding the Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University yesterday. Also seen in the photo are the four persons arrested in this connection. —Star photo

Police raid JN hall: 5 held, arms recovered

By Staff Correspondent
 Police raided the Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University Thursday afternoon and arrested five activists of Awami League backed Chhatra League (S-A).

Police also recovered a cut-rifle, a pipe-gun, 10 chargers, 62 rounds of bullets and a 'chapat' from the hall.

The arrested persons are Mostaq Uddin Ahmed Sentu, Khorsheed Alam Kaitkobad, Joadul Hasan Mamun, Syed Abu Khalid Ibne Hakkani and Gautam Kumar Dev. They reportedly belong to the Obhi group.

Mamun and Sentu were accused of possessing illegal arms and stabbing their fellow activists, Shamim, Hafiz and Shahadat, on the previous day. They were also accused in Mirza Galib and Liton murder case, police sources informed.

The detective branch of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police launched a sudden raid at the

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PM opens US trade show Ample incentives for foreign investors

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday expressed her confidence that the pragmatic industrial policy pursued by her government would accelerate the pace of industrialisation in the country, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the first-ever US trade show at Hotel Sheraton here yesterday morning, Begum Zia said "the policy aims at deregulating and liberalising our economy."

The function was also addressed by William B Milam, the United States Ambassador to Bangladesh and SH Kabir, President, American-Bangladesh Economic Forum (ABEF).

The Prime Minister pointed out that the role of the government would be complementary and not regulatory. She said the new industrial policy offered ample incentives to

the foreign investors. "They will be able to plough back their entire capital and profit," she added.

Begum Zia invited the investors from friendly countries including the United States to avail the opportunities of 'our liberal economic policies and structural reforms'.

Describing the United States as 'traditional friend and trusted partner' in the development and progress, the Prime Minister expressed the hope that the show would contribute immensely towards strengthening the economic cooperation between the two countries.

Begum Zia referred to her recent US visit and said she had met some US investors and traders and invited them to visit Bangladesh to see for themselves the efforts of the

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Libya expels diplomats from seven countries

LONDON, Apr 16: A defiant Libya has expelled diplomats from seven countries, signalling a readiness to take on the world after UN sanctions were imposed for its alleged role in airliner bombings, reports Reuters.

In its latest bout with the West over persistent charges that it aids terrorism, Libya said it was expelling diplomats from six European countries and Japan. State radio said there decision was taken within the framework of reciprocity.

The radio said the heads of missions of Japan, Germany,

France, Italy, Sweden, Czechoslovakia and Belgium were summoned to the Foreign Ministry yesterday to be told of Tripoli's decision.

Five of the seven — apart from Germany and Czechoslovakia — have already said they were sending some Libyan diplomats home in compliance with the UN Security Council sanctions.

The radio, in familiar anti-Western rhetoric, said the real objective of the sanctions was to make up for the failure of a US bombing raid on Tripoli six years ago.

AP from Washington says

the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The deputy ambassador, a first secretary and an attache all must depart by April 25, reducing the size of the mission to nine, the official told reporters.

The United States has no relations with Libya and, consequently, there are no other Libyan diplomats in the country.

AFP adds: The air and military embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council on Libya may well hit that country's economy hard in the long run, as it is extremely

dependent on a healthy oil sector and foreign engineers to run it, experts said.

The embargo does not relate directly to land and maritime links and exports of Libyan oil could theoretically continue normally.

However, technical supervision should quickly deteriorate with the anticipated departure of at least part of the 1,000 to 1,500 American and British experts in the country, industrial sources say.

Libya gets more than 95 percent of its foreign exchange receipts from oil exports, with production running on the

order of 1.4 million barrels a day.

But life appeared to go on as normal in Tripoli despite Libya's growing isolation. Traffic was normal. A few cars still displayed black ribbons on radio antennas, left over from a nationwide protest Tuesday over US air raids on Libya six years ago, but the black mourning clothes were gone.

There are 1 million foreigners in the nation of 4.2 million people, but many said they felt no fear over the international confrontation and did not plan to flee.

South Korea has no flights to Tunisia or any other neighbouring country of Libya.

A Biman official says that if the agreement is signed, the Biman flights would be operated from Zerba of Tunisia, the capital of Tunisia, under special arrangements and the passengers would travel by bus from Libya to Tunis.

"It is not finalised, we just received an offer from South Korea," the Biman official told The Daily Star adding "We are watching the situation and will take decision later."

South Korea has a billion-dollar pipeline project in Libya.