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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Nor'wester lashes Brahmanbaria

BRAHMANBARIA, Apr 17: A nor'wester lashed the town and its adjoining areas today, damaging unspecified number of kutchha houses and standing IRR-Boro crops. The nor'wester, accompanied by thundershower and hailstorm, lasted for about 15 minutes beginning from 7-30 pm, reports UNB.

### Opposition MPs meet today

A meeting of all members of parliament belonging to opposition parties will be held today at 2-30 pm at the conference room of the opposition at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban (8th floor). Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting, reports BSS.

### CU reopens today

CHITTAGONG, Apr 17: Chittagong University reopens tomorrow after remaining closed for more than a year due to campus violence. University authorities allowed students to enter the halls only after their identity cards being checked. University authorities has banned meeting, procession and raising slogans on the campus, reports BSS.

### BNP public meet on April 20

Dhaka City unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will hold a public meeting at the Democracy Crossing at Gulistan on April 20 at 3 pm instead of April 18, according to a party press release here today, reports BSS.

### Chinese envoy hosts dinner

Cheng Songlu, Ambassador of China hosted a dinner Friday evening at his residence to meet the Chinese Communist Goodwill Delegation now on a visit to Bangladesh. The dinner was attended by top leaders of various political parties of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

## Herat falls, Mujahideen head for Kabul

# Najibullah's family under Indian protection

NEW DELHI, Apr 17: Afghan envoy Ahmad Sarwar was under Indian protection today because of fears for his life following the ouster of President Najibullah, whose wife and daughters are living here as guests of his family, reports AFP.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the government had helped transfer Sarwar and his family to a safe haven after a security situation developed within the Afghan

embassy, which Friday was sealed by police to outsiders. Najibullah's wife Fatana and three daughters had been staying at the ambassadors' residence, and an embassy spokesman said they had gone underground along with Sarwar and his family.

AP adds: Ahmed Sarwar fled his residence before dawn Friday accompanied by his family and the wife and three daughters of Najibullah, an embassy official said.

Sarwar's wife and Najibullah's wife are sisters.

An Afghan airlines plane landed in the Indian capital Friday from Kabul, and airlines officials said 13 Afghan passengers were offloaded at Kabul before the plane left for New Delhi.

"The Mujahideen are in complete control of Kabul airport and are searching everyone thoroughly," said Ved Prakash, a handling agent for the Ariana Afghan.

Prakash said he was told by the Afghan crew members and passengers on the Ariana flight that no Afghan was allowed to board the flight.

The plane carried only eight passengers, including the wife of an UN official. Indian airport authorities barred reporters from meeting them.

Reuters says Afghan rebels said today they had taken the major western Afghan city of



President Abdur Rahman Biswas receiving Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni during his brief stopover at ZIA yesterday. —PID photo

## Museveni's stopover at ZIA

Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni said here yesterday that his country was keen to promote bilateral relationship with Bangladesh in different fields including trade and commerce, reports BSS.

Talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport after his hour-long talks with President Abdur Rahman Biswas Museveni said, our discussions covered bilateral and international matters of common interest.

Museveni, who was accompanied by his wife Janet Museveni had a stop-over at the Zia International Airport on his way back home from a

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## Met office predicts rain in Dhaka today

By Staff Correspondent

On Thursday and Friday it rained in Satkhira, Barisal, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Majdee Court and Kutubdia, partially ending the heat wave which has been sweeping the country for more than a month.

Satisfied that their forecast proved correct, even though partially, weathermen have now predicted rain in Dhaka district and its neighbouring region today.

According to the Met office in Dhaka, six mm of rain fell in Satkhira, the highest on Thursday, with Kutubdia experiencing three mm rainfall in Barisal, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar was one mm in each. On Friday, there was rain in Satkhira and Majdee Court.

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## Saifur leaves for aid club meet today

# Donors want govt to cut surplus employees

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

A six-member Bangladesh delegation led by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, leaves Dhaka today to attend the Bangladesh Aid Group meet in Paris on April 21 and 23.

The Planning Commission and the Economic Relations Division (ERD), which coordinates Government's external aid mobilisation efforts, jointly drafted the Memorandum for the Bangladesh Aid Group 1992-93 which, after 'necessary changes' at an in-

ter-ministerial meeting on March 29, was okayed by the Cabinet last Monday.

According to the Government's Memorandum, Bangladesh seeks 2.15 billion US dollars in aid for the next fiscal year. Last year, Dhaka won a commitment of 2.3 billion US dollars at Paris.

The World Bank which coordinates and chairs the Aid Consortium has recommended that Bangladesh be given between US\$ 1.9 and \$2.1 billion

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the Rotary International President's conference of cooperation and goodwill at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday. —PID photo

## PM stresses balanced global development

# Poverty, peace can't go together

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka yesterday that the mapping out of a better future for mankind would remain illusory without a balanced global development, reports BSS.

Dearth of adequate capital and appropriate technology in a segment of the world populace, which existed as a perpetual burden, was the main hindrance to development, she said, and advocated transfer and flow of technology and capital.

The Prime Minister was addressing the Rotary International president's conference of cooperation and goodwill at a city hotel.

The Prime Minister said the world of today was burdened with hunger and poverty. She said only the absence of war alone was not peace. So long hunger and poverty prevail, world peace, in true sense of the term would continue to remain beyond the reach of mankind, she said.

Underlining the concerted efforts to alleviate poverty and hunger, she pointed out that Bangladesh had identified poverty alleviation as a priority sector in its national policy.

Begum Zia said functional literacy was no less important than poverty alleviation. She said illiteracy which was a curse, was regarded as a veritable liability of the free world. She termed literacy as an important ingredient of poverty alleviation and said her gov-

See Page 12 Col 3

## Police raid JN Hall again

By Staff Correspondent

Police raided the Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University again on Friday morning for the second time after Thursday's raid.

They searched some selected rooms of the hall, for an hour from 6-30 am but failed to recover any arms or to arrest any.

Meanwhile, three activists of Awami League backed Chhatra League (S-A) who were arrested in Thursday's police raid at the same hall were taken to police remand on Friday. Two others were, however, sent to jail custody.

Of them Joadul Hasan Mamun was taken on remand for three days and Mostaq Uddin Ahmed Sentu and Khorshed Alam Kaikobad, for two days.

Syed Abu Khalid ibne Hakkani Badsha and Gautam Kumar Dev were sent to jail custody.

The Dhaka University unit of Chhatra League (S-A) held a rally Friday at 12 am at the 'Aparajito Bangla' monument compound protesting the police raid.

The rally addressed by Golam Mostafa Suzan and Quamruzzaman Ansari, President and General Secretary respectively of the unit, demanded immediate release of the five activists arrested on the previous day and alleged that the government was harassing their workers indiscriminately in the name of arresting terrorists.

The speakers suggested that the ruling party should arrest the armed hoodlums of its own student wing residing in Mohsin Hall and Suryasen Hall rather than harassing the Chhatra League workers in the name of curbing terrorism from the campus.

## Pak army chief in city

General Asif Nawaz, Chief of Army Staff, Pakistan Army arrived in Dhaka yesterday (Friday) on a week-long goodwill visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

General Asif Nawaz, Begum Asif Nawaz, their grand daughter Khadija and six members of his delegation were received at the Zia International Airport by Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan, Begum Sophia Khan and other senior army officers.

Pakistan High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Kemal was also present at the airport to welcome the Pakistan Army Chief of Staff and his entourage.

During his visit to Bangladesh, General Janjua will call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. He will also call on Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan, See Page 12 Col 5



General Asif Nawaz, Chief of Army Staff, Pakistan Army, being received by the Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan at the Zia International Airport on Friday. —ISPR photo

## Tk 3 cr goods gutted in tannery fire

By Staff Correspondent

A huge quantity of leather goods, leather processing chemicals and machinery were gutted as fire engulfed Karim Leathers Limited at Hajaribag in the city late Thursday night.

The owner of the tannery claimed the damages were to the tune of Tk 3 crore.

Tannery officials said, the fire originated at the ground floor of the two storeyed tannery building at 180 Hajaribag and spread to the first floor where the goods, chemicals

and machinery were preserved.

Fire Service sources said that the fire broke out at about 2 am and was brought under control at about 2.45 am. They however could not ascertain the cause of the fire.

Three Fire Service units, from Mohammadpur and Palashi stations rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire. Firemen confirmed that no one was hurt in the incident. See Page 12 Col 6

## Start crusade against war criminals: Hasina

MUJIBNAGAR, Apr 17:

Awami League President and Opposition Leader in parliament Sheikh Hasina today called on the people to start a crusade against 'war criminal' Golam Azam and his accomplices for protecting country's independence and sovereignty, reports UNB.

"Get prepared for another liberation war, if necessary, to purge the country of Rajakars and their cohorts," she told a massive rally at the lush green mango grove of Mujib Nagar where the first government of independent Bangladesh was formed in 1971.

Thousands of men, women and children from far-flung areas of Meherpur district and the Awami League workers and supporters from Jessore, Magura, Jhenidah and Kushtia districts came on foot and by buses to listen to Hasina at the rally marking the 21st an-

iversary of Mujibnagar Day.

On this day in 1971, the provisional government was formed with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as President. Syed Nazrul Islam as the Acting President and Tajuddin Ahmed the Prime Minister of the first government which led the nine-month War of Independence.

Recalling the eventful days of the Liberation War, Hasina said Jamaat leader Golam Azam and his men had collaborated with the Pakistan army in staging genocide, rape, looting and arson in 1971.

They have again started a conspiracy to foil the country's independence and sovereignty, she said, by resorting to killing the leaders and workers of the progressive and pro-liberation forces.

"Let weapons of the freedom fighters roar again to re-

See Page 12 Col 8

## Sec-144 to avoid Jamaat-FFs clash at Rangpur

RANGPUR, Apr 17: Authorities imposed section 144 on the town today to prevent possible confrontation between two rival groups as tension prevailed over holding of rallies they planned at the same venue, reports UNB.

The restrictions came when activists of MuktiJoddha Sangshad were marching towards the local Public Library maidan where they called a rally after Jumma prayer demanding trial of Golam Azam.

Jamaat workers were preparing a stage for their post-Jumma rally near the library to protest the arrest of Golam Azam. Party's acting Ameer Abbas Ali Khan was scheduled to address the rally.

The MuktiJoddha Sangshad also called for a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the town protesting damage of a sculpture on the liberation struggle at Karmichel College and recent attack on a freedom fighter by Shibir workers at Mithapukur.

Earlier on Thursday night, 20 activists of MuktiJoddha Sangshad were injured when police resorted to lathi charge to disperse them at Public Library maidan. They assembled there at midnight in connection with today's rally.

Two people were arrested from the scene.

Police halted the Sangshad's procession toward the Public Library this morning shortly before the district administration banned meetings and processions until further order.

A tense situation was prevailing in the town.

## 6 more die of diarrhoea in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 17: Diarrhoea claimed six more lives while another person died of chicken pox in the district during the last two days, reports UNB.

With this, the death toll caused by diarrhoea and chicken pox rose to 14 in the district in one week. According to official sources, more than 500 people were attacked by the diseases during the period.

Six of the diarrhoeal deaths were children. They were identified as Shamsu (5) and Shipa (3) of Belgharia in Tarash upazila, Liton (4) and his brother Milton (2) of Shirla in Sadar upzila, Khokan (7) of Kalikapur in Kazipur upzila and Jamal (6) of Bhangara in Belkuchi upzila.

# Shamir accuses US of secret promise to Arabs

JERUSALEM, Apr 17: Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said in an interview published Friday that Israel will boycott the next round of regional peace talks if Palestinians from outside the occupied territories attend, reports AP.

Shamir's statement followed an earlier Israel television report that the Jewish state was considering a boycott.

In an interview with The Jerusalem Post, Shamir also said he was convinced the United States made a promise to the Arabs to refuse Israel's

request for \$10 billion in loan guarantees.

That statement on the guarantees echoed an allegation denied by the United States when it was reported earlier in the Israeli press quoting anonymous sources. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler called the charge 'garbage'.

Shamir told The Post that Israel will refuse to attend talks next month in Ottawa, Canada, on Middle East refugees and in Brussels, Belgium on economic development if so-called diaspora

Palestinians go to the sessions.

He said that without Israeli participation, the talks could go nowhere. "We won't be there, so it won't be anything," he said.

The talks on regional issues are separate from direct negotiations between Israel and Arab enemies conducted in Washington since last fall. The bilateral talks are due to resume April 27.

US officials supported including diaspora Palestinians in the regional talks on refugees and development since these issues affect the

outsiders. Israel refuses to deal with the outside Palestinians since it could raise the issue of their claim to land in Israel.

The diaspora Palestinians are descendants of the hundreds of thousands of Arabs who fled or were driven out of Israeli territory when the Jewish state was founded in 1948.

In the Post interview, Shamir was asked if he believed that the United States promised to turn down the loan guarantees to bring the Arabs into peace talks.

"No doubt about it, no

doubt about it," he replied. "There was some kind of promise."

Israel had requested the guarantees to help settle a wave of Jews from the former Soviet Union. The United States asked that Israel first make a peace gesture by halting its drive to build Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Shamir's government refused to cut back its settlement building in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and President Bush then turned down compromise proposals

to allow Israel to build some new settlements.

Bush has called the settlements obstacles to the land-for-peace agreement that the United States hopes can end the decades-long Arab-Israeli conflict.

Shamir has repeatedly said he opposes ceding any of the land captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

In the interview, Shamir said Bush made a promise to the Arabs to turn down the loan guarantee request because "for him, land for peace is not just a slogan. He believes in it."