

Corruption charge against 19 others

Ershad himself paid Tk 6.5 cr for Janata Tower construction

Former President H M Ershad was indicted Wednesday of possessing Taka 6.5 crore which he paid for the construction of a multi-storied building for Janata Publishing Company Limited on a plot of land earlier allegedly transferred illegally under his directive, reports BSS.

While mentioning about supplementary charge sheet in the case and evidence found to that effect, the Attorney General said prosecution are in possession of documentary evidence that Nirman International received Taka 6.5 crore from Ershad. He said as such the accused is punishable under Section 5(2) of Act 11 of the Anti-Corruption Act of 1947 which is within the cognizance of this court.

nearly two-hour proceeding. Earlier Ershad lent a helping hand to his ailing wife in entering the court. Raushan's attending physician said she has many complications including swollen legs caused by increased acidity (uric acid).



The visiting Chief of Staff of Pakistan Army General Asif Nawaz called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence yesterday evening. —PID photo

Pak army chief calls on Khaleda

Pakistan Army Chief General Asif Nawaz called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence yesterday evening. The Pakistan Army Chief was accompanied by Begum Asif Nawaz, Chief of Bangladesh Army Lt Gen Mohammad Nour Uddin Khan and Begum Khan and Principal Secretary to Prime Minister Syed Hasan Ahmed were present on the occasion, reports BSS.

Masood warns Hekmatyar Avail 'peace train' or get out of the way

CHARIKAR (Afghanistan), Apr 22: The country's most powerful rebel leader sat down for talks with a UN envoy Wednesday and warned his fiercest Muslim extremist rival to get out of the way, reports AP.

hind, Sevan, an Armenian-born Cypriot who has been working for Najibullah's safe passage out of the country as well as an end to the conflict, told reporters he hoped his talks with Masood would provide a break through.

UN supervision

From Page 1 Col 7 lem, a Foreign Ministry official said. Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Wednesday called upon Japan to use its influence with Myanmar to help stem the flow of Muslim refugees from that country to Bangladesh, foreign ministry officials in Tokyo said.

Among the most radical guerrilla leaders is Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who commands a small but tenacious force south of the capital and has threatened to attack the city unless it surrenders by Monday, the 14th anniversary of the Communist coup that installed Najibullah.

Kashmir militants threaten to kill Najibullah

SRINAGAR, India, Apr 22: Muslim militants waging a secessionist campaign in Kashmir threatened today to assassinate deposed Afghan president Najibullah if he came to India, reports Reuters.

Blast

From Page 1 Col 7 Monmohar (45), Poreh (26), Gajeshwar (8) and an unidentified child died on the spot. Khushimoni (6) and Dilip (5) sustained severe injuries and were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Report on Logong incident false: Foreign Office

A Foreign Office spokesman Wednesday described in Dhaka a report published in a section of the foreign press on alleged massacre of tribals and Buddhists recently in Chittagong Hill Tracts, as highly exaggerated, false and mischievous, reports BSS.

Khaleda

From Page 1 Col 5 State for Communications Fazlur Rahman Patal, State Minister for Shipping Harunar Rashid, DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman MP, and General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokan.

Rab acquitted of murder charge

NOAKHALI, Apr 22: JSD leader ASM Abdur Rab was acquitted of the charge of murdering a man during the 1986 parliamentary election in his Ramgati constituency, reports UNB.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 4 The opposition leader protested the government decision to retrench its employees and asked it to abandon the decision until alternative employments for the employees were ensured.

Maynmar FM

From Page 1 Col 8 senior most civil servants of different ministries. Bangladesh delegation at the talks will be led by Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman. The team includes Home Minister Abdul Matir Chowdhury, Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary, Relief Secretary, two Additional Foreign Secretaries, Director General of BDR and other officials.

the coordinator for humanitarian affairs, as his special envoy on a fact-finding mission. The UN official on his return gave Ghal the 'good news' that the Myanmar had agreed to talk bilaterally with Bangladesh.

The country's condition is staggering. There is no work for the people. There is no food for them. The whole of the Northern part of the country is gripped by drought and there is no diesel for the farmers.

Earlier this month, Myanmar authorities told Jan Eliasson, the visiting UN special envoy, that they were ready to take back the refugees provided they could produce some kind evidence of their residency.

Since 1976, China and Bangladesh have been in 'very good terms'. According to Bangladesh diplomats, the months-long crisis has undergone three different phases — (1) quiet diplomacy, (2) internationalisation, (3) confrontation — before averting the fourth one — war.

Azad said that the present government had failed to take any economic programme for the development of the country.

According to diplomats and officials, Bangladesh has had 'enough evidences and documents' to counter any possible contention from the Myanmar side that hundreds of thousands of Rohingya refugees are no citizens of the latter country and that they have not fled persecution in homeland.

Nationwide, ordinary citizens have been conscripted without regard for sex or age and sent to the front lines to carry artillery shells, food and materials without pay, the statement said.

The Awami League Vice President pointed out that for the first time since independence the scope for employment for the rural people had shrunk to an alarming level.

Till date, some 2,20,000 Rohingya Muslims, the inhabitants of bordering Arakan province (Rakhaine), have crossed into Bangladesh.

Party insiders said workers complained to their leader that the ministers were seldom seen in the party office since BNP's assumption of power.

Tofael Ahmed congratulated the organisers of the March 26 public trial of Golam Azam and said "it is not surprising that the leader of the ruling party (Begum Khaleda Zia) will talk in such an undemocratic tone at her April 20 meeting at the Democracy Square."

Rohingyas have been pouring into Bangladesh since March last year. The influx intensified following an unprovoked military assault on a BDR post that left two killed and 22 injured.

They requested Begum Zia to ensure presence of senior leaders and ministers to guide them in reinvigorating party activities across the country.

He said those who organised the public trial had been charged with sedition but the Opposition had proved in the House that the trial was legal.

Successive border talks followed but tensions did not subside along the 176-mile border. Myanmar continued its military build-up and repression on the Rohingyas.

She assured the party workers of looking into the matter and said she herself would be present at the party office at least once a week.

Trial will be organised for those who propagate that act against Golam Azam was an act against Islam.

Sources say besides at least two rounds of formal talks officials of both sides will deliberate informally.

Lakshimpur District and Sessions Judge Abdul Ahad Chowdhury while delivering the judgement in the sensational case said Wednesday that the prosecution had failed to prove the charge of murder against Rab.

Abdur Razzak MP said that the present government which came to power through a democratic election had betrayed the people.

On the UN involvement in the repatriation, sources say Dhaka will emphasise for a UN role in the repatriation process.

When contacted, a senior official of the Myanmar mission in Dhaka expressed his ignorance about the itinerary of the visitors. The official emphasised that the two sides would 'try to solve the issues bilaterally.'

Mohammad Nasim said the House was prorogued before it could discuss the country's law and order situation, price hike, Rohingya refugee issue and other vital issues.

"The UNHCR is the global body that looks after the refugees... they are the spokesmen of all refugees around the world and therefore they must be involved," a senior official told The Daily Star.

There should be some kind of monitoring to ensure this and there lies the necessity of UN involvement," says the official. The visit was planned for last February but did not take place for reasons Myanmar had not explained.

Without naming Begum Khaleda Zia she wondered how the wife of a freedom fighter could desert spirit of independence and support Jannat.

Last November, Bangladesh Foreign Minister visited Myanmar where rulers had been fighting a strong pro-democracy movement since 1988.

On March 21, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia met with UN chief Boutros-Ghali in New York and sought his intervention. Within a week, the UN chief sent Jan Eliasson,

The Midnight File

Three top Sikh leaders arrested in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Apr 22: Police arrested three top Sikh politicians in the Indian capital as they tried today to meet UN Secretary General Boutros-Ghali to urge the United Nations to intervene in Punjab. Police held Gurcharan Singh Tohra, Simranjit Singh Mann and Prakash Singh Badal as they left a temple with a memorandum to ask the visiting UN chief to use his offices in Punjab where Indian troops are battling Sikh militancy, reports AFP.

Security forces kill 11 Muslim militants in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Apr 22: Paramilitary troops shot and killed at least 11 suspected Muslim rebels Wednesday in Kashmir where separatist guerrillas are fighting for independence from India, police said. A senior police official said the 11 men were killed in a gun battle in Chugal in Kupwara district, 70 kilometres (45 miles) northeast of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu-Kashmir state, reports AP.

\$ 2.1b aid pledge

From Page 1 Col 5 Interest groups that benefit from these practices, both employees and customers, to resolve the problem. The Bank suggested setting up of feasible targets and monitorable action plans over the next year to improve operational and financial performance of the corporations.

Women traffickers held: 170 rescued

CHITTAGONG, Apr 22: Police nabbed an organised gang of women traffickers and rescued 170 people, including 15 young women, from a hotel here today, reports UNB.

SSC exams

From Page 1 Col 7 from Kagrachhari and 20 from the Chandpur district. The expulsion was lowest under Jessor Board. Out of total 20 expelled examinees under this board, 11 students were expelled from the Jessore district, six students from Kushtia, and one each from Narail, Magura and Bhola districts.

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Advertisement for Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) demanding withdrawal of cases against 24 sponsors of the 'Gana Adalat' that tried Golam Azam for war crimes. Includes text: 'ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষক-সহ গণআদালতে অর্থে জড়িত সকল ব্যক্তির বিরুদ্ধে দায়ের করা যামনা প্রত্যাহার করতে হবে।' and 'ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শিক্ষক সমিতি'.

Advertisement for the National Election Commission (NEC) of Bangladesh. Text: 'গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড ঢাকা বিজ্ঞপ্তি ভি, আই, পি (আয়কর) ঘোষণা'.

Advertisement for Editor S. M. Ali and Executive Editor Mahfuz Anam. Includes contact information for Mediaworld Ltd., Dhaka-1000.