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VOL. III NO. 48 REGD. NO. DA 781 FALGOON 20, 1399 BS, DHAKA THURSDAY MARCH 4, 1993 RAMADAN 9, 1413 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

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NEWS BRIEFS

PM takes iftar with airmen

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday attended an iftar party hosted by Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chaudhury at 'Senakunja'. Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali, Ministers, Parliament Members, Chiefs of Army and Naval Staff and officers and airmen were among others, who attended the iftar, reports BSS.

Oral polio vaccine developer dies

WASHINGTON, Mar 3: Medical pioneer Albert Sabin, who developed the oral vaccine that helped end the polio epidemic in the United States, died Wednesday. He was 86, reports AP.

Touchstone statue recovered

CID police have recovered a statue made of touchstone of worth Taka 22 lakh from a village of Nandigram thana under Bogra and arrested one person in this connection. According to a police press release here yesterday, acting on secret information CID police Bogra recovered the statue measuring four and a half feet long and two feet wide, reports BSS.

Sehri, Iftar Timings

Ram	Mar	Sehri	Iftar
9	4	—	6.09 pm
10	5	4.57 am	6.10 pm

32 exporting houses get President's Trophy

Raise exports to help institutionalise democracy: PM

The Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, yesterday iterated her call to gear up public and private sectors initiatives to raise the country's export volume through increased production of goods, improvement of their standard, exploration of new markets and their diversification, reports BSS.

She was addressing the President's Export Trophy distribution function, 1993, organised by the Ministry of Commerce and Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) at Osmany Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka.

The Prime Minister said the increase of export could serve as an effective weapon in alleviating poverty and institutionalising democracy.

Begum Zia said economic emancipation of the people is a must to make the country's political independence meaningful and expressed the hope that the nation would gradually be made self-reliant by increasing export earnings through the collective efforts of all.

Commerce Minister MK Anwar, Commerce Secretary Nazim Ahmed Chowdhury and EPB Vice Chairman MSA Gazi spoke on the occasion.

The Prime Minister distributed the President's Export Trophy and certificates among 32 exporting houses for the years 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 for their successes in the country's export trade.

The President's Export Trophy was introduced in 1978 to give recognition to the exporting houses, which will be able to make valuable contribution to the national economy through exporting Bangladesh goods.

The Trophy, aimed at creating enthusiasm and fair competition among the exporters, industrialists and businessmen at national level provides two first class, two second class and four third class awards. The first class Trophy is given one for the export of traditional item and another for non-traditional item.

The recipients of the trophy were: Popular Jute Exchange Limited, Narayanganj; Bangladesh Export Import Co. Limited; Tanscom Limited; Bengal Leather Industries, Dhaka; Friends International, Dhaka; Bangladesh Exports Limited; Exports Trade International; Monno Ceramic Industries; Bangladesh Leaf Tobacco Company; James Finley PLC; Meghna Sea Foods Limited, Chittagong; Apex Tannery Limited; KDS Garments, Chittagong; Dhaka Dyeing and Manu-facturing Company; Liberty Impex; MM Ishpahani Limited, Chittagong; Apex Food Limited, Chittagong; — PID photo



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presenting the President's Export Trophy to Hurun-ur-Rashid Khan Monno, MP, Chairman of Monno Group of Industries at the Osmany Memorial Auditorium in city yesterday.

Azam's conduct has cost his citizenship, says AG

By Staff Correspondent

The conduct of Jamaat leader Golam Azam during and after 1971 is the main contention of the government in disqualifying him to be deemed to be a citizen of Bangladesh, asserted Attorney General Aminul Haque on Wednesday.

He was acting on behalf of the state at the hearing of the writ petition challenging the cancellation of the citizenship of Golam Azam at the single-bench of the High Court Division comprising Justice Anwarul Haq Choudhury.

On the seventh day's hearing, Barrister AR Yusuf, on behalf of the petitioner, completed placing the dissenting judgement of Justice Badrul Islam Choudhury given after the initial hearing of the petition last year.

The counsel for the petitioner quoted Justice BI Choudhury as saying in his judgement that by giving retrospective effect to the Bangladesh Citizenship Temporary Provisions Order (Po-149 of 1972) the legislature has impaired the vested rights of all created by any

Allegation by Hasina sparks heated debate in the House

By Staff Correspondent

Parliament yesterday witnessed hot exchanges between the Treasury bench and the Opposition members following Sheikh Hasina's allegation that late President Ziaur Rahman, instead of trying the killers of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, rewarded them with jobs in the country's foreign missions.

The Leader of the Opposition in parliament also accused the government of patronising only those in the government offices and the army who toed the BNP line.

The unscheduled debate began when Hasina, rising on a personal explanation, told the House that she found no relevance with her being Leader of the Opposition in the last Parliament and the past government's decision to promote Major Dalim and others, allegedly involved in the killing of Sheikh Mujib in 1975, to the rank of joint secretary.

Incidentally, Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman while making a statement in the House the day before refuted

Diarrhoea germ eludes doctors

By Farid Hossain

An unexplained bacteria as deadly as cholera baffles doctors combatting an epidemic of diarrhoea that has killed nearly a thousand people in the past two months.

As an intense search for the elusive germ continues doctors insist it is anything but Vibrio Cholerae non-O1, a bacteria that causes cholera.

This deadly germ is certainly not cholera. But this is causing a severe dehydration as happens in the case of cholera," said Mohammad Abdus Salam, chief physician at Dhaka's most modern diarrhoea hospital.

Salam said pathological tests at his International Center for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research hospital— stool from one out of 25 patients is tested— did not reveal any cholera virus.

We are trying to find out what this new germ is and why it is so deadly," said Dr Salam in an interview Wednesday.

A government doctor agreed with Salam. "This is different from the known bacterias that usually cause diarrhoea," said Ziaul Islam, a doctor at the Health Ministry's Diarrhoea Control Room in Dhaka. The control room has registered 912 diarrhoea deaths out of more than 58,000 cases since beginning of the year, all of them in 10 Southern districts.

This type of deadly virus was responsible for a similar epidemic in Madras and West Bengal in neighbouring India last year.

The death toll may be higher as poor communication makes it difficult to collect information from isolated areas.

Diarrhoea is a major killer in this low-lying delta nation of 11 crore people, many of whom drink unsafe water from open ponds and rivers.

The disease that causes dehydration is caused by nearly 1,000 bacterias, most of them water-borne. And cholera is one of the deadliest of the germs which of untreated, can kill a person in less than five hours, doctors say.

The government said the disease killed more than 5,000 people out of nearly 5,68,000 afflicted patients last year.

But this year the attack has come early and it seems to be worse.

"It is abnormal," said Salam speaking of the epidemic. He was not exaggerating.

DCC admits failure to control mosquito

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is considering abandoning its crore-taka mosquito eradication drive after months of apparently failed efforts to control the menace, the city father said Wednesday.

"We have failed (in controlling the menace) because of the negligence of a section of workers and non-cooperation by the residents," Mayor Mirza Abbas told a group of reporters at his office.

"This is not our duty but we were working with the Mosquito Control Department for the residents' comfort," he said adding that "But some 300 Mosquito Department workers neglect their duties, and the residents ignore our appeal."

He said that unless the Mosquito Control Department was put under direct control of the City Corporation and the residents kept their premises clean, the situation would never improve.

Until 1977 the Mosquito Control Department, which has an office near Dhakeshwari Mandir (temple), had worked

100 houses gutted at Islambagh

By Staff Correspondent

A devastating fire gutted nearly 100 houses and small factories leaving thousands of people homeless at Islambagh on the bank of the river Buriganga in the city Wednesday.

In the one kilometre long affected area at Islambagh under Lalbagh Police Station, most of ruins were thatched houses, plastic and rubber factories, witnesses said.

Scores of people were injured, six of them were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Many were still missing, local people said.

Originating at 5 pm yesterday the fire engulfed the area within a short time and was burning for several hours till filing of this report at 11 last night.

Fire Service and Civil Defence sources said that their people brought the flame under control at around 7 pm but they could not put out the smoldering fire completely. The operation was going on the last night, they added.

Six firemen were also injured while they were battling against the fire, they said.

Renu Begum, Amir Hossain, Rubel, Aminul Islam, Salauddin and Mizanur Rahman were admitted to the Dhaka Medical



Fire at Islambagh yesterday.

US calls for emergency UNSC meet on Bosnia

UNITED NATIONS, March 3: The United States called for an emergency Security Council meeting today on the continuing fighting in Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports Reuter.

A letter signed by Ambassador Madeleine Albright said, in view of reports of continuing fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina, I have been instructed by my government to request urgently an immediate meeting of the Security Council to discuss the situation.

The Council will hold consultations at 3:30 pm (2030 GMT).

A US spokesman said Albright was consulting with the other four permanent members of the Security Council before all 15 Council members are consulted.

Before the US announcement, Bosnia's UN Ambassador Muhamed Sacribey also demanded an emergency council meeting because of the Serb offensive in Eastern Bosnia.

"It seems while the airplanes drop relief supplies, the Serbian forces have explicitly ordered to have the entire population either driven out or wiped out...and in many instances massacred," he said.

He said many women and children were killed in the town of Cerska.

Money-lenders, leaseholders bullying villagers

By Masud Hasan Khan

BAJITPUR (Kishoreganj): Yamini Kanta Das stares blankly at the river Ghora-Ultra in Bajitpur thana of the district whose access to the jalmohals are on the wane.

These people in the remote fishing villages of Dighirpar, Majchar and Ballardi unions are victim to a government policy imposed on them unjust, knowledgeable persons say. This policy leads to conflicts with the fake fishermen trying to take over the waterbodies, loan-sharking, and repression.

The government's water-body management policy which aims at organising the poor fishermen to fish adequately in the locality has ended up threatening their existence.

During a visit to several villages in these unions, this correspondent found that—

"People of the riverside villages were anxious about their safety."

"They have begun to lose



Ghora-Ultra river—off limit to local fisherfolk.

Nirmul Samannay Body announces fresh action programmes

By Staff Correspondent

Muktijuddher Chetona Bastobayan O Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Jatiya Samannay Committee has announced fresh programmes Wednesday to press home its demand of trying Golam Azam and all other war criminals.

The programmes include, holding a rally in the city on March 26, sit-in-demonstration near the Secretariat on April 20 and grand conference at Rajshahi on April 10.

The Samannay Committee has also decided to hold demonstrations raising its demands to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at every place she visits from May 4 if the demands were not fulfilled by the time.

The programmes were announced at a brief rally held yesterday in front of the National Press Club in the afternoon after a silent procession from Bangabandhu Avenue.

Addressing the rally Convener of the Samannay Committee Jahanara Imam said vested quarters were conspiring to give back citizenship to Golam Azam.

"No matter whether he (Golam Azam) is a citizen (of the country) or not. We want

Rajuk Commercial Plot Auction Notice

Commercial Plot No-10A, measuring more or less 101.50 sqr. metre (1 Katha 8 Chattaks 12 sqr. ft.) and Plot No-11A measuring more or less 138.66 sqr. metre (2 Katha 1 Chattak) at Salimullah Road (formerly Henderson Road) Commercial Area (Northern side) Narayanganj will be allotted for 99 years lease, on open auction.

Applications on prescribed form may be obtained from Agrani Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch, Dhaka on payment of Tk. 200/- (Taka two hundred) only in cash (non-refundable) and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estates) from intending bidders up to 1.00 PM on 14-3-93.

The auction will be held on 15-3-93 in the Conference Room of the 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10.00 AM.

Chairman
DFF(G) 3105-1/3 Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha Dhaka