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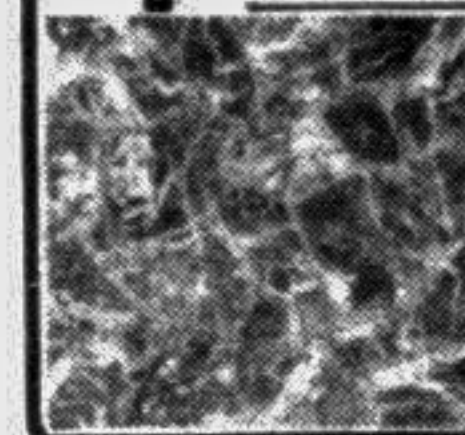
The Daily Star

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Inside Today

Article

The Minimum Wage Issue: Only a Consensus can End the Impasse
 Column: Behind The Headlines
 Page 4

International



Thousands of Bosnian Muslims scramble aboard UN trucks to flee besieged Srebrenica
 Page 5

Business

Import of capital machinery registers a significant drop
 Page 7

Magazine

Satellite Broadcasting over Asia—Impacts are being felt, My World by S. M. Ali, Down the Memory Lane, Personal Values and our society
 Pages 9, 10 & 11

Metropolitan



A man of multi dimensions
 Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Sanskritik Jote rally Apr 6

By Staff Correspondent
 Sammilta Sanskritik Jote will hold a rally on April 6 in front of Central Shaheed Minar at 4 pm protesting the police attack on rallies of Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Jatiya Samannaya Committee. The jote will also hold a meeting today at 5 pm at TSC.

237 gram heroin seized

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Apr 1: BDR personnel seized 237 gram heroin worth about Tk 23.70 lakh from a village in Godagori thana Thursday night, BDR sources said. A squad of BDR raided the house of one Rafiqul Islam in village Laksharhati at about 10:30 pm and recovered the cache of heroin. Islam fled away, reports UNB.

72 more held on various charges

Police rounded up 72 people from different parts of the city yesterday on various charges, a DMP press release said. Of the arrested, eight were wanted criminals, five under the Anti-Terrorism Act, four for robbery, two accused in explosive case and another two for stealing, reports UNB.

Col Anbaree visits army hqs

Visiting Chief of Staff of the National Security Services of the Maldives Col Anbaree Abdul Sattar visited the army headquarters at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday. Col Anbaree also called on Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Muhammad Nooruddin Khan and discussed with him matters of mutual interest, reports UNB.

Security Council authorises use of force

NATO preparing to enforce no-fly zone over Bosnia

BRUSSELS, Apr 1: NATO warplanes from the United States, France and Britain are expected to enforce a UN no-fly zone over Bosnia, as the alliance prepares to take on a military mission beyond its borders for the first time in its history, reports Reuter.

NATO sources said enforcement plans were ready following the UN Security Council resolution on Wednesday which authorised military intervention for the

first time in the former Yugoslavia, approving the use of force to shoot down planes.

But, in contrast to the no-fly operation, a top NATO military official has again warned the alliance that a peace plan for Bosnia needing tens of thousands of troops is risky and unclear. Doubts are growing over whether it can work.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic warned today that a UN decision to enforce a no-fly zone

over Bosnia could harden Serb opposition to an international peace plan.

Karadzic told the Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA, "that the one-sided punishing of the Serbian people can only have negative consequences."

A meeting of the 16 NATO nations in Brussels is expected to give final approval to the no-fly mission on Friday. It will start within the next two weeks. A NATO spokesman said military authorities were

reviewing plans to see if changes were needed.

The operation will be run from a NATO air headquarters at Vicenza, northeastern Italy, under an Italian Air Force general. It will probably include between 50 and 100 fighters from the United States, Britain, France and perhaps the Netherlands, the source said.

"The major nations in enforcement will be the key

Rao arrives Apr 9 to attend 2-day SAARC summit

NEW DELHI, Apr 1: Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao will arrive in Dhaka on April 9, a day before inauguration of seven-nation SAARC summit, reports PTL.

Rao will pay a three-day visit to Thailand from Wednesday on his way to Dhaka summit scheduled to be held on April 10 and 11.

The summit was postponed last January at India's request following the Ayodhya developments.

A Colombo report adds: The

summit of the SAARC leaders will be held in Dhaka on April 10-11, the Presidential Advisor on International Affairs, Bradman Weerakoon said here today.

Replying to questions at the weekly cabinet briefing, Weerakoon denied that the two-day summit had now been converted into one-day.

At the Dhaka Summit, Sri Lanka hands over chairmanship of the seven-nation group for regional cooperation to Bangladesh.

Posters against Pak president seized: 3 held

ISLAMABAD, Apr 1: Police in the eastern city of Lahore detained three officials of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) after seizing hundreds of posters criticising President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, commission sources said today, reports AFP.

The police picked up HRCP Director and former editor of the state owned Pakistan Times, I A Rehman, along with two colleagues after raiding their office Wednesday, the sources said.

They confiscated copies of the posters entitled "undemocratic powers" and other documents "without producing many formal orders from the

See Page 12 Col 1

DPRK special envoy meets President

Vice President and special envoy of President Kim Il Sung of North Korea Li Jong Ok called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

During the meeting, President Biswas appreciated the existing close and friendly relations between Bangladesh and Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

President Biswas mentioned about the assistance to be provided by DPRK for implementation of Mayddapara Hardrock Project in Dinajpur which will be of great help to utilise our natural resources.

Referring to the balance of trade between Bangladesh and DPRK, which is adverse to Bangladesh, he hoped that

See Page 12 Col 7

Ghali concerned at killing of Bangladeshi peacekeeper

United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali has expressed concern over the killing on Saturday of a Bangladeshi serving with the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), reports UNB.

The UNTAC civilian staff member, a Bangladeshi national, was killed "under circumstances that are still being investigated", probably by members of the Cambodian People's armed forces, a UN spokesman said in a message received here yesterday.

The spokesman said the UN Secretary General was extremely concerned about the incident and was "anxious that the parties responsible for it stop this immediately".

3-hour roadblock demanding early repatriation of Rohingyas

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 1: A group of people block the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf road at Bhattali in Ukhiya for about 3 hours today (Thursday) demanding immediate repatriation of the Rohingyas refugees, reports UNB.

The blockade, organised by Rohingya Refugee Repatriation Coordination (RRRCC) Committee of the local people, continued from 9.00am to 12.00 noon.

The protestors stopped the vehicles of NGOs and UNHCR bound for the refugee camps from Cox's Bazar. All other vehicles were however allowed to pass undisturbed.

'Laws not enough to ensure women's rights'

By Staff Correspondent
 The Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf said yesterday that laws were not sufficient to ensure establishment of women's rights in society. Rather, social environment, state principles and basic aspects of society play an important role in this regard, he added.

Justice Rouf was opening the 8th National Conference of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad at the Engineers' Institution in the capital.

Referring to the violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the country's Liberation War and the

See Page 12 Col 3



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Katakhalia thana complex ground, Barisal yesterday. — PID photo

Govt building country as per pre-poll pledges: PM

JHALAKATI, Apr 1: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today urged the people, who had made their contribution in replacing an authoritarian rule by a democratic government, to join the struggle of rebuilding the nation to ensure development and production, reports BSS.

Addressing a huge public gathering at Jhalakati Stadium here this afternoon the Prime Minister said as per her pre-election commitments her government had taken all programmes of rebuilding the country and urged the people to rally round the banner of BNP to help implement the on-going development and production initiatives.

Referring to the joining of the leaders and workers of different political parties to BNP, Begum Zia said there was no

alternative to nationalist forces to ensure progress and safeguard the national independence.

The Prime Minister said democracy has been restored after a nine-year long struggle and now the struggle should be to remove poverty and rejuvenate the ravaged economy. Begum Zia also addressed a big public meeting at Kathalia thana complex field under the district.

The meeting was addressed among others by Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Education Mohammad Yunus Khan, Shahjahan Omar MP, Gazi Aziz Ferdous MP, Selima Rahman MP, Shahidul Huq Jamal MP, Mujibur Rahman Sarwar MP, Musarrat Hossain Mungu MP, Nurul

Islam Moni MP, Raushan Ara Hena MP, Advocate Harunur Rashid, Nasreen Bulu, Abdul Halim Oazi, Chairman Jhalakati Pourashava, Mustafa Kamal, Rostoom Ali Chasht and Ahsan Habib.

The Prime Minister asked the people, particularly the rural masses, to generate self-employment opportunities by setting up small and cottage industries in each village.

She urged the rural women to engage themselves in small scale self-employment projects so that they could stand on their own feet.

The Prime Minister said efforts should be made from all quarters to make each family and each village self-reliant.

She also motivated the rural people to go for poultry and dairy farming, pisciculture.

See Page 12 Col 6

Yeltsin drops plan to hold referendum

MOSCOW, Apr 1: President Boris Yeltsin, plotting the next move in his power game with parliament, has decided against holding his own, separate referendum on April 25, a close aide said today, reports Reuter.

Mikhail Poltoranian told a news conference that Yeltsin had decided to contest the 'official' referendum called by the Congress of People's Deputies, Russia's supreme legislature, even though it was deliberately weighted against him.

The referendum is the next landmark in a power struggle between the reformist Yeltsin and the more conservative parliament which has

See Page 12 Col 7

Take bold steps to realise share of Ganges water; AL asks govt

The Awami League yesterday asked the government to take bold and effective steps to realise the country's legitimate share of the Ganges water, reports UNB.

The party also appealed to the Indian government to come forward in a good neighbourly and friendly approach for solving the problems between the two countries.

A joint statement issued by the party's acting President Abdul Mannan and General Secretary Zillur Rahman expressed deep concern at the failure of the Indo-Bangladesh experts level talks on distribution of the Ganges water.

People had expected a proper solution to this long-standing problem from the talks of the Joint Committee of Experts in the backdrop of

See Page 12 Col 2

Auranga's detention declared illegal

A High Court bench has declared as illegal the detention of AKM Hemayet Ullah alias Auranga, MP under the Special Powers Act of 1974 and directed the government to set him free immediately, reports UNB.

The High Court bench comprising Justice Naim Uddin Ahmed and Justice Golam Rabbani gave the verdict yesterday.

The Awami League MP, elected from Shariatpur-1,

See Page 12 Col 1



State Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Abdul Mannan yesterday inspecting the security arrangements at the Sheraton Hotel where the SAARC guests will stay. — Star photo

Kidnapped boy back after 8 years

Star Report

A 12-year-old boy, Mozammel Islam, who escaped from kidnapers in India recently, looks for the parents he lost nearly eight years ago.

He can remember only his father's name Professor Harunur Rashid but cannot remember his address — even the district.

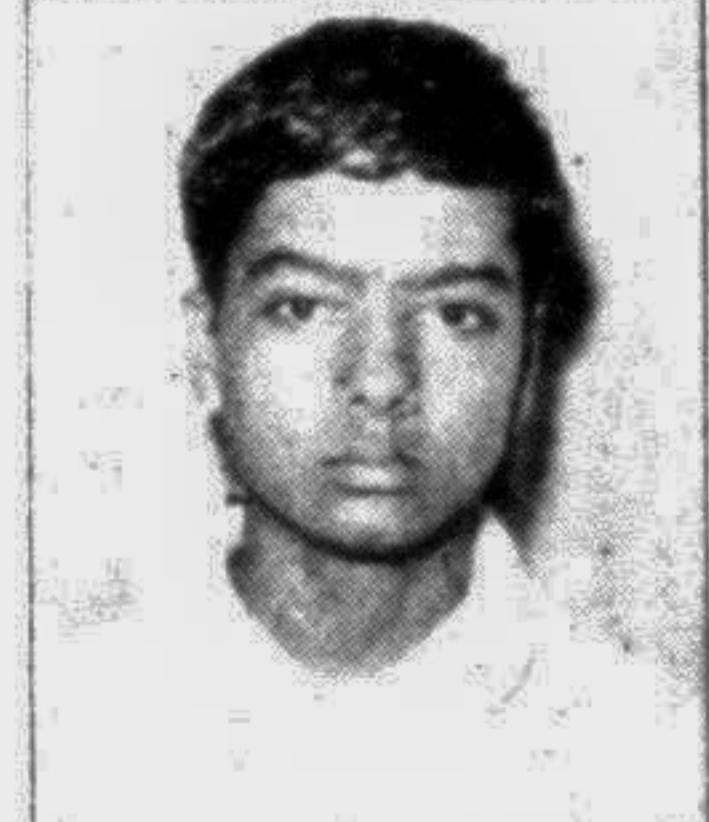
Islam recalled that when he was a four-year-old kid he was kidnapped from the gate of a kindergarten school where he studied eight years ago.

Islam — a bilingual — both Bangla and Hindi said, "I was weeping at the school gate as my mother, who drove me to school in a red car, was late... Some people approached me and said that they would take me home... I agreed... I can remember no more."

"I was in Calcutta for four years and then the people who bought me took me to the frontier areas to help them in smuggling", said the boy.

On March 29 this year, the boy crossed the border through Bidurpur village in Rajshahi and came to Dhaka by bus.

An Additional Deputy Police Commissioner Abdur Razzak told The Daily Star last night that when the boy was crying for his parents near the Zia International Airport Wednesday evening some patrol policemen picked up and brought the boy to him.



Mozammel Islam
 ging behind my other mates... I took the chance and succeeded in escaping", said Islam.
 "Where I was kept hostage, some of the small boys were killed... I heard that the killers took their (the boys) kidneys to sell," said Islam.

Spotlight Rajshahi Water crisis grips city dwellers

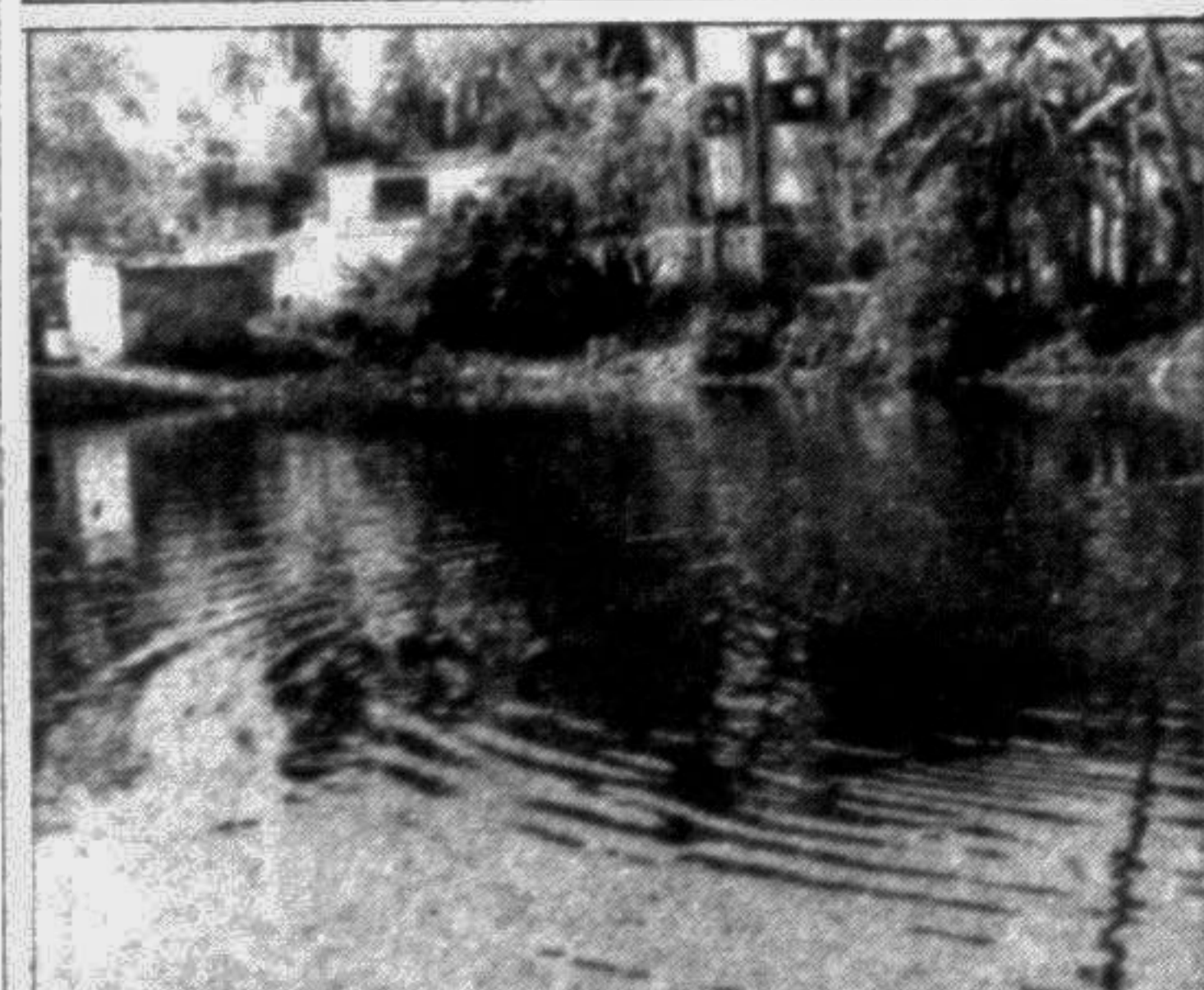
By Asiuzzaman back from Rajshahi

Some five lakh people of the Rajshahi city have been suffering from acute water crisis over the years because of poor supply by the city corporation authorities, residents and officials said.

The corporation can currently supply less than one-fourth of the total two-crore-gallon daily demand, one official said, adding that "we are trying to improve the situation."

The Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) has been managing the supply system for a long time as there is no water and sewerage authority for the century-old city.

See Page 12 Col 8



More than 1000 such ditch-like ponds, once the major source of drinking water in Rajshahi now have turned into outlets for city drains. — Star photo by Suman Shahid