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Leaders set for first post-cold war summit

Clinton to mobilise support for reforms in Russia

VANCOUVER (Canada), Apr 3: US President Bill Clinton arrived here today for a summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin at which he was to announce a new aid plan underpinning the Russian economy, report AFP, AP.

Clinton travelled the short distance from Portland, Oregon arriving two hours after Yeltsin who had a marathon flight from Moscow via the Russian Far East. Both were met by Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

Clinton and Yeltsin were to have a first round of talks Saturday afternoon and a second on Sunday.

Clinton, heading Saturday to his first summit with Yeltsin, vowed to 'mobilise the world' to support reforms in

Russia.

Yeltsin arrived first to a rain-soaked ceremony.

The Russian President stood at attention alone in a downpour, waving off an offer of an umbrella, as a military band played the national anthems of Russia and Canada.

Clinton said an international effort, like the one mounted to confront Iraq in the Gulf War, is needed to help Russia.

"I want America to act but America cannot and should not act alone," Clinton said in his weekly radio address. The address was broadcast Saturday but taped Friday night in Portland, Ore, where Clinton attended a forest conference.

"Just as we mobilized the world on behalf of war in the Gulf, we must now mobilize

the world on behalf of peace and reform in Russia," Clinton said in his radio address.

He noted that 20,000 nuclear warheads remain in Russia.

Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who has offered a \$1.6 billion package of Canadian aid to Russia, greeted Yeltsin at the airport. Neither one had remarks at the arrival ceremony.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who arrived at this western Canadian seaport Friday evening, said, "We want to see the new Russia survive."

A poll of 1,000 Americans interviewed in a March 29-31 telephone survey showed that 80 per cent opposed increasing aid to Russia and 55 per cent don't believe such aid will significantly help the former communist nation move toward a free-market economy and democracy.

pledged post-Cold War summit.

Restoring the Russian economy is a matter of political survival for Yeltsin, while for Clinton it's a political hard-sell. Both men seek to overcome public skepticism at home with this weekend's summit.

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Sick units asked to apply for fresh loans

Government has empowered financial institutions to help sick and problem-ridden industrial units make viable and capable or running at profit, reports UNB.

Sick units have been advised to apply to the financial institutions for their rehabilitation, rescheduling of debt, rebates and fresh loan, said an official source yesterday.

It said financing institutions are at liberty to consider the applications on the basis of commercial consideration and goodwill of the entrepreneurs.

If an application is rejected, the entrepreneurs may re-submit the proposal to a review committee formed by the government for reappraisal. Headed by the Chairman of Board of Investment, the committee consists of senior officials of the relevant ministries, Bangladesh Bank and

financial institutions.

The review committee is to examine the management practice, market for the products, production cost, profitability and risk of the industrial unit, the source said.

Application to the review committee should be submitted within 2 months of refusal by the financial institution, along with the objections of the bank.

The committee in its meeting on March 31 had considered 4 applications and recommended for rehabilitation of 2 units by waiving outstanding interests.

It will now sit twice or thrice every month and consider applications of new entrepreneurs who have earlier failed to obtain loans from banks. They have been advised to submit detailed information to the committee.

Cabinet body takes steps to combat crimes

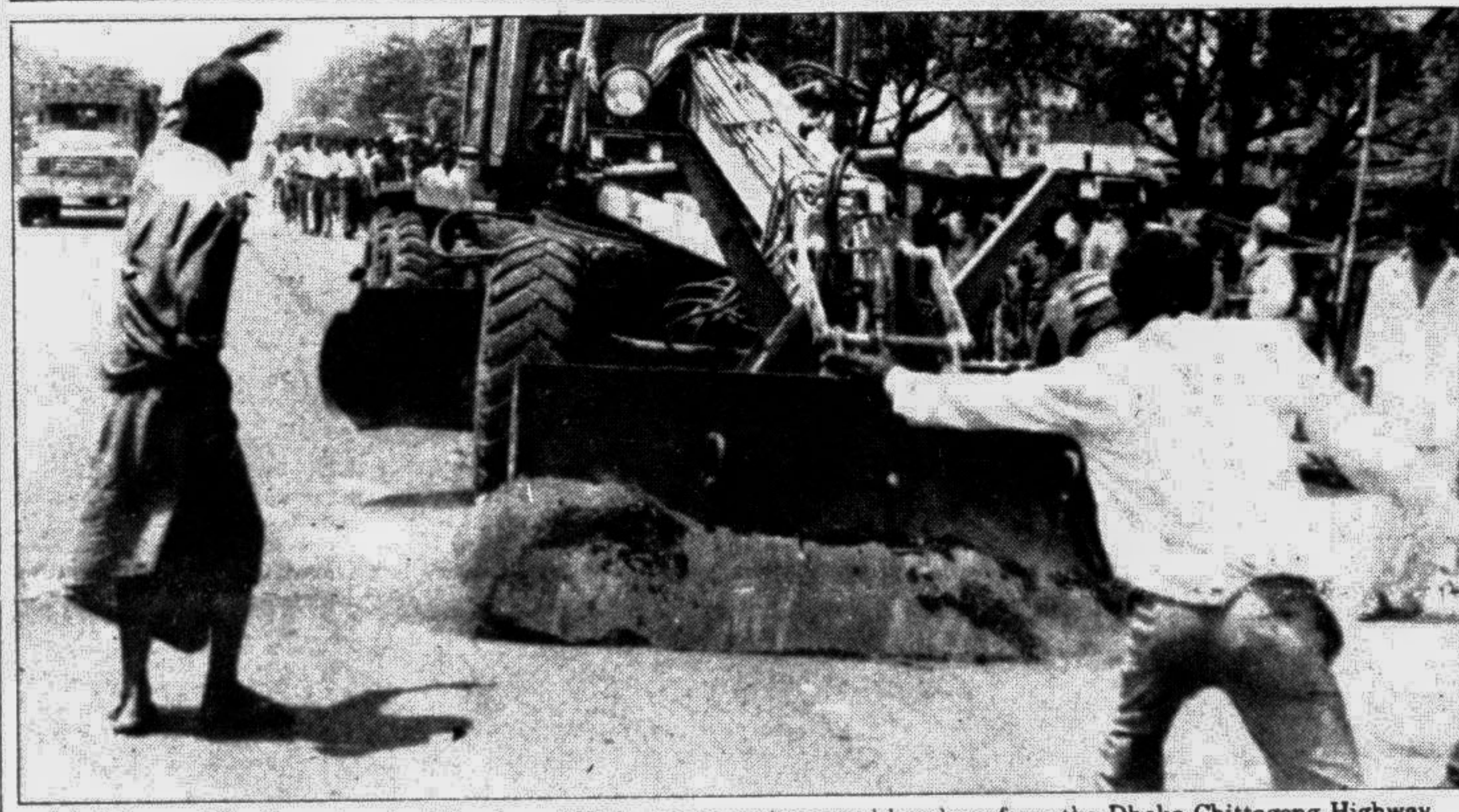
A meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order yesterday reviewed the law and order and crime situation in the country and took some steps for its overall improvement, reports BSS.

Chaired by Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, the meeting was attended by LORD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan, Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam, Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Aminul Haq.

The meeting reiterated government's firm determination to ensure safety and security of life and property of the people for restoring a sense of relief in their minds about their safety and security and keeping it up, an official hand-out said here last night.

It also stressed giving due importance on ensuring security.

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A bulldozer of the Department of Roads and Highways removing speed breakers from the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway yesterday. — Star photo

Maintain peace for development: PM

HARIRAMPUR (Manikganj), Apr 3: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today called upon the people to untidely help maintain a peaceful atmosphere for continuing the on-going village development and people's welfare programmes to bring smiles on the faces of the teeming millions, reports BSS.

Addressing a public meeting at Patgram High School field she said her government, which inherited a ravaged economy due to the nine-year-long autocratic rule, had started all its development programmes from the villages.

The Prime Minister said a wave of development was sweeping across the country due to the initiation of pro-people development programmes and urged both the men and women to equally participate in the on-going development process.

She underlined the necessity of carrying out coordinated efforts to properly utilise the country's vast human resources and natural resources for making the nation self-reliant and building a bright and happy future for our children.

Presided over by Abdur Razzak, President of Harirampur Thana BNP, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yousuf, Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan, Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Haq, Harunur Rashid Khan Monno MP, Farida Hasan MP, Maksudur Rahman, President, Jubo Dal, Manikganj district unit, and local leaders Abdul Baten and Golam Kibria.

The Prime Minister criticised the opposition's agitational action programmes in a

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PM invited to visit DPRK

The visiting special envoy of President Kim Il Sung of Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Li Jong Ok, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office in Dhaka yesterday morning, reports BSS.

During the meeting Li, who is the Vice President of DPRK, conveyed an invitation of President Kim Il Sung to visit their country. He said, the purpose of his visit to Bangladesh is mainly to convey the invitation and greetings from the President.

Li said "We are eagerly looking forward to further strengthening the bilateral relations with Bangladesh." In this context he said, the policy of the DPRK government is to cooperate with the Third World countries.

He recalled the role of late President Ziaur Rahman in promoting the bilateral relations between the two countries. He said DPRK will cooperate with Bangladesh in the

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NEWS BRIEFS

Itihas Parishad executive body

The Executive Committee of Bangladesh Itihas Parishad for the year 1993-94 was announced on the second and last day of its general meeting here yesterday. Prof. K. M. Mohsin, Dr. Sharifuddin Ahmed and Dr. Sharifullah Bhuiyan of Dhaka University History Department are the President, General Secretary and Treasurer of the parishad respectively, reports BSS.

Train derails in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Apr 3: Train communication in the Rajshahi-Abdulpur route was disrupted for about eight hours after two bogies of an intercity train derailed near Rajshahi Station today. Railway control room of the western region said two bogies of the Intercity Jamuna Express derailed while shunting near eastern outpost of the Rajshahi Station at about 5.45 am, reports UNB.

DU bus helper killed in accident

A bus helper was killed on the spot when a truck hit a Dhaka University bus near Paribagh in the city yesterday. The victim, identified as Mohammad Idrisur Rahman (25), a helper of a DU bus, was run over by a speedy truck after it hit the bus Kinchin on Mymensingh road at about 1.30 pm. Police seized the truck and arrested the driver, reports UNB.

Three children hurt in blasts

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 3: Three children were injured when some bombs were exploded at a home-yard in Sayadhangara area of the town at 8 this morning, police and witnesses said. Ashraf (5) and Pannu (4) were admitted to the hospital in a critical condition. Inhabitants of the area suspect three bombs were exploded when those were being made, reports UNB.

Current budget, development plans have no effective linkage: Saifur

Star Report

Reforms in budgeting and expenditure control could help bring in good government through establishing transparency and accountability, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said on Saturday.

Bangladesh could become economically self-reliant, even as early as next year, if excessive wastages in government expenditure were eliminated and a measure of good governance could be introduced, Rahman added.

He was addressing as the chief guest at the inaugural session of the seminar on "Reforms in Budgeting and Expenditure Control" at the Public Administration Training Centre (PATC) at Savar.

Noting that the present budgeting system has "major inadequacies", a draft report identified the problems in budgeting as: complex and confusing budget documents; revenue and development budgets from same resources but no integrated considerations; no budget ceilings provided in advance to departments; manpower planning not integrated but pay-roll is most of budget

cost; 3-year budget only for development and not integrated annual budget and lack of modern technology in preparation.

Saying that the "whole administrative system has to be completely reformed and re-structured", the Finance Minister acknowledged that in the budgetary process there is no effective linkage between current budget with development programmes, manpower planning is never integrated and top level resource allocation meetings are never held.

"Government accounting, at the moment, is no accounting at all as you cannot make any head or tail out of it," he said, adding that accounting and auditing "should be completely isolated and their functions separated."

The Finance Minister went on to note that there are "a lot of grey areas" which can neither be placed in the revenue nor the development budgets.

Retrenchment benefits for excess public sector workers, which would need an allocation of about Tk 500 million in the upcoming budget, he

pointed out is one such area.

Allocations for the Food-for-Work Programmes is placed in the expenditure budget by the government, he added, while the donors place it in the development budget.

"It is very difficult to know from the budgetary process as to how much is actually spent on expenditure and how much on development," the Minister said.

The draft report prepared by the International Management Consultants Limited and SF Ahmed & Co, suggested simplifying budget presentation, better integration in preparation of the revenue and expenditure budgets, making top level resource allocation exercise in ministries with advance ceilings, incorporate manpower planning, integrate 3-year budgets for revenue and development and computerising budget production.

In finance administration, the report concluded, responsibilities and lines of command need to be clearly identified while it is imperative to properly segregate audit and ac-

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Bangla-Japanese trade body meets tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The sixth meeting of the Bangladesh-Japan Joint Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation will be held in Dhaka at the Hotel Sonargon Monday.

A 39-member Japanese delegation comprising businessmen, observers and others led by Kikuo Ikeda, President, Japan-Bangladesh Joint Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation, will arrive here today (Sunday).

According to sources, Bangladeshi entrepreneurs will propose to the Japanese businessmen for investment in power and telecommunication and gas based industrial sectors which were recently opened up for private investment.

However, they said the meeting will be held mainly to create a congenial environment for Japanese investors and traders here.

During its five-day stay in Bangladesh, the Japanese delegation will visit Chittagong Export Processing Zone, Dhaka Export Processing Zone and will also hold meeting with

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Tk 31386 cr investment plan ambitious: WB

By Inam Ahmed

The current three-year rolling investment programme of Tk 31386 crore is very ambitious and it will be difficult to fulfill the target.

This was viewed by the World Bank and other donors in a meeting with the Planning Commission recently.

However, the government did not agree to the observations and said the figures of the programme seem high because of some high block provisions like for Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge and joint sector investment.

Meanwhile, Planning Commission sources said the investment figures had been kept inflated in view of the fact that the country always lags behind the targets.

"If the target is kept high and we keep vigilance for implementation, the end figures after completion of the programme would be much higher than if the target were low," a senior official of the Planning Commission told this correspondent.

The grand total of the

rolling investment programme for 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 has been estimated at Tk 31386 crore.

Of this investment outlay, Tk 15213 crore is in local currency while the rest Tk 16173 crore is under project aid.

In the first year of the programme, it is estimated that the investment would be Tk 8650 crore. The investments in the second and third years have been estimated at Tk 10543 crore and Tk 12193 crore respectively.

The rolling programmes are being taken for the last three years to direct investments and to give priority to specific projects.

Of the programme, power, water resources, transport, education and gas and mineral sectors got the highest amount of the sectoral allocation.

The transport sector got Tk 3420 crore, power sector Tk 3414 crore, water resource sector Tk 2812 crore, education sector Tk 2676 crore and gas and mineral sector got Tk 2152 crore allocation for the three years.

Dissident move to free Muktijoddha Sangsad from govt influence

By Nazmul Ashraf

A dissident move is underway to amend the constitution of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad, the apex body of the country's Freedom Fighters (FFs), in a bid to free it from government influence, competent sources said on Saturday.

The move is being planned by some dissident leaders following apparent failure of the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's attempt to reunite the Sangsad by electing a fresh central body—the Central Command Council, they added.

The planned amendments include exempting the government leaders from the organisation's Council of Patrons and increasing the number of councillors.

The advocates of the change led by Principal Ahad Choudhury is scheduled to address a news conference in Dhaka this afternoon (Sunday) to protest, what they alleged government's attempt to politicise the Sangsad and hold control of it in the name of unity move.

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Rabbani's ally challenges Hekmatyar's cabinet list

KABUL, Apr 3: An ally of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani challenged today Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's new cabinet list, raising fears that intra-party bickering will continue, reports AFP.

Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Ittihad-i-Islami faction and key ally of Rabbani, said at a press conference he had only given a list of names to Hekmatyar, but had not had direct consultations with him as expected.

"Giving a list does not mean a consultation," said Sayyaf. "We should be able to present

our views on every post in the cabinet, not just two."

Hekmatyar, leader of Hezbi-Islami faction, was made Prime Minister under the terms of the March 7 peace accord signed by all Mujahideen faction leaders in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Accordingly, Hekmatyar was to form his cabinet in consultation with the President and the other Mujahideen leaders, who agreed to submit a list of 10 names to Hekmatyar, from which they would be allocated 20 ministries.

But Sayyaf said Hekmatyar

had neither informed the leaders which ministry nor which nominee he had chosen for them.

"If I introduce a doctor and he is selected for the Transport Ministry it is pointless," Sayyaf explained. "Neither me nor my delegation was consulted about which ministry would be given to us."

"It is necessary for Hekmatyar to inform us which ministry he has in mind for each of us, then we can introduce the proper man for that post," Sayyaf said.

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Local Al Baraka Bank to run as usual: BB

Bangladesh Bank has clarified that normal functioning of Al Baraka Bank in the country will not be affected as a result of discontinuing of operations of another bank with similar name in London, reports UNB.

A Bangladesh Bank press release issued yesterday said the Al Baraka Bank in Bangladesh has no connection with Al Baraka International Bank Limited in London which has decided to suspend its operations on June 30, 1993 after full payment to all depositors as it is not possible to continue its operation on Islamic Shariah as an interest-

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Legal notice issued AL challenges Hafiz MP's floor-crossing

The Awami League yesterday issued a legal notice challenging validity of floor-crossing of NAP leader Prof Abdul Hafiz MP who formally joined the ruling BNP, reports UNB.

The party's law secretary and legal adviser Barrister K S Nabi yesterday (Saturday) issued the notice on behalf of Awami League leader and opposition Chief Whip Md Nasim.

Barrister Nabi told UNB over telephone that separate notices addressing the Chief

Election Commissioner and Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat had been sent pointing out the NAP leader's joining the ruling party was contrary to the constitution.

Copies of the notices were also sent to the Speaker of Parliament and Prof Abdul Hafiz MP, Barrister Nabi said.

He said that it was pointed out in the notice that NAP leader Prof Abdul Hafiz had taken part in the February 1991 elections with a ticket from the Awami League-led 15

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Former BDRCS Secy-Gen held for corruption

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption yesterday arrested former Secretary General of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Ali Hasan Qureshi for alleged misuse of power and misappropriation of Taka 57,79,301.15 of the society, reports BSS.

A case has been filed and investigation is going on.

The case in brief is that as Secretary General of the society he purchased commodities worth about Taka ten crore under the rehabilitation programme of the Myanmar refugees. He purchased commodities worth about Taka one

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