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# The Daily Star

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Nor'wester lashes Bandarban**

BANDARBAN, Apr 6: A nor-wester accompanied with heavy rains lashed Bandarban Hill District recently and damaged more than 60 houses. The affected areas are Bandarban Sadar, Thanchi, Royangchhari, Ruma, Lama, Ali Kadam and Naikhyangchhari. Standing crops including wheat, paddy, pulse, onion, water melon, tobacco and green mango were badly damaged due to nor'wester and 24-hour widespread rains, reports BSS.

**Ganja, heroin recovered: 18 held**

A special squad of the Narcotics Control Department has arrested 18 people and recovered 3 kg and 220 gram of ganja, 2 gram heroin and 64 files of phensydil syrup in raids on different areas in the city, reports UNB.

**Slum fire: Hasina condoles deaths**

Awami League president and leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her deep condolence at the tragic death of eight persons and injury of many others in fire at the Pearabagh slum at Moghbazar on Sunday, reports BSS.

**Chemical Society confce tomorrow**

The 16th annual conference of Bangladesh Chemical Society begins tomorrow in the BCIC auditorium. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the two-day conference as chief guest, reports UNB.

## SAARC officials sit today to draft declaration

By Staff Correspondent



Reaz Rahman briefing newsmen yesterday.  
 — PID photo

The run-up to the seventh SAARC summit begins today with the meeting of senior officials of member countries to draft the declaration to be adopted at the conclusion of the two-day meet.

Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, briefing newsmen at the Foreign Office Tuesday, confirmed that the annual summit of the seven-nation regional grouping, after being stalled twice, would start on schedule April 10 and that all preparations for the meet had been completed.

"I think, finally this time the SAARC summit will be held," he said, adding "all six foreign delegations have confirmed their arrival while some senior officials have already arrived" in the capital.

Ranasinghe Premadasa would be the first head of state to arrive Thursday while Bhutan's King Jigme Singhe Wangchuk, the Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Nepalese Prime Minister Girtija Prasad Koirala, Pakistan Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif would arrive Friday. Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao would arrive early Saturday morning.

The 1992 summit of the heads of state and government of SAARC was postponed first in December and again in January 1993 at the request of India.

"In Bangladesh's view, the first and foremost substantive element at the summit will be to revive the confidence in the SAARC process to maintain the momentum and take full ad-

vantage of the regional forum," said Rahman, while providing arrival schedules of the dignitaries and a brief on the official programmes and agenda of the two-day meet.

Acknowledging that the SAARC had been somewhat slowed down by what he termed "lack of political will," he, however, noted that all member nations agreed that bilateral issues should not affect the regional grouping.

Getting all the seven South Asian leaders, in itself, would provide some momentum to the forum, he added.

Foreign Secretary Rahman, the current SAARC Standing Committee Chairman, also answered questions on the security arrangements and ruled out any major changes in the See Page 12 Col 3

## Tk 507 cr cuts in three areas of ADP likely

By Inam Ahmed

The Annual Development Programme (ADP) this year is likely to face a Tk 507.23 crore cut in its sectoral allocation, technical assistance programme and self-financed programme outlays.

The outlay of sectoral allocation, technical assistance programme and self-financed programme in the original ADP was Tk 7724.12 crore. But it is stipulated that the outlay in the revised ADP under these heads will be Tk 7216.89 crore.

In the original ADP, the Taka and project aid outlays for these three heads were Taka 3224.70 crore and Tk 4499.42 crore respectively while the revised ADP showed these amounts as Tk 2994.19 crore and Tk 4219.70 crore.

The revised ADP is likely to be approved by the Prime Minister this month.

Sources said that block allocations, also part of the ADP, were likely to remain unchanged.

Despite the slashes, the total sum of this year's revised sectoral allocation, technical assistance programme and self-financed programme will be higher than last year's Tk 6609.96 crore.

However, the self-financed programme spending this year estimated at Tk 309.13 crore is much lower than last year's real spending of Tk 711.78 crore.

In the sectoral allocation of this year's ADP, agriculture faced a Tk 73 crore slash, ed- See Page 12 Col 8

## Another Pak minister resigns

ISLAMABAD, Apr 6: Another Pakistani minister resigned today over what he said was government failure to combat terrorism, fuelling a crisis that threatens to topple the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, reports Reuter.

"Nothing has been done about the presence of terrorists on Pakistani soil," Sardar Assef Ahmad Ali, Minister of State for Economic Affairs, told a news conference called to announce his resignation.

Ali, the fourth minister to step down in 10 days, cited serious differences with the government over its policy on Afghanistan, on ties with states of the former Soviet Union and on economic policy, particularly fiscal discipline.

The resignation of Ali, flanked at his news conference by 11 members of parliament, would further destabilise Sharif's fragile coalition government, which is locked in a bitter feud with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

## LTTE hit squad to strike Indian targets

NEW DELHI, Apr 6: Shri Lankan Tamil Tiger guerrillas have formed a hit squad to strike Indian targets to avenge the death of a top leader, the Indian Express reported today, says AFP.

Intelligence agencies sounded a security alert at all points to prevent the squad from sneaking into India to carry out the attacks, the newspaper quoted highly-placed intelligence sources in Bombay as saying.

The unnamed sources told the daily that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had planned to strike "at all major airports and offshore establishments and cripple civil aviation operations."

The motive was to avenge the death in January of Sathasivam Krishnakumar, See Page 12 Col 4



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Sreebardi College ground in Sherpur yesterday.  
 — PID photo

## PM's call to resist 'conspiracy' Stability a must to raise investment

SHERPUR, Apr 6: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here today that the present government's development policy aimed at turning 'every hand into the hand of worker' to put the nation on a sound economic base, reports BSS.

Addressing public meetings at Sribardhi and Jhenaidag thanas of the district, the Prime Minister said the people had fought together against autocracy and put BNP in power. She called upon the people to resist together any conspiracy hatched against the development of the country.

Begum Khaleda Zia said the need of the hour was the stability in the society to increase investment, both foreign and local, especially in the industrial sector to attain the desired target of prosperity and development.

The Prime Minister said the party which came to power immediately after independence and did not have any

plan of development and failed to fulfil the expectation of the people was trying to hinder development process by resorting to destruction.

The present government had already fulfilled many of the pledges given to the people including the measures in the agricultural sector for the betterment of the farming community, she said adding the food production in the country had increased manifold because of realistic measures of the government.

The Prime Minister said the employment had increased by 18 per cent during present period and the government was trying to increase the rate of employment by establishing small and medium size industries in the country especially in the rural areas.

The Prime Minister expressed firm determination of her government to attain significant success in all the national fields with the cooperation. See Page 12 Col 7

## PM visits CU today

CHITTAGONG, Apr 6: Chittagong University Teachers' Association president Prof Yusuf Sharif Ahmad Khan and general secretary Dr Abul Kalam Azad today hailed Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's visit to Chittagong University, tomorrow, reports BSS.

In a statement here they said, "We on behalf of the university teachers welcome Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to the university campus as head of an elected government of the country."

They condemned any move from any quarter to raise any controversy over the visit of the Prime Minister saying, a peaceful atmosphere has been prevailing on the university campus for last one year and this peaceful atmosphere should be maintained in the greater interest of the nation.

In a separate statement Chittagong University Branch Zia Parishad president Dr M Inam-ul Huq also welcomed Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's visit to Chittagong University tomorrow (April 7). He said, the campus is calm now, but there are many problems which, if not solved, may disturb the peaceful atmosphere.

## Delhi committed to SAARC momentum, says Dixit

Indian Foreign Secretary J N Dixit said here yesterday that his country was 'fully committed to SAARC momentum and partnership.'

Talking to BSS on his arrival here as a member of the delegation of his country Dixit said that it was a happy thing that the summit was going to give formal shape to some of the ongoing activities like poverty alleviation, South Asian Preferential Trade and SAARC fund.

Asked how his country viewed the summit, which is going to take place after two postponements he said, "First thing is that after the delay it is being held with full participation. This, in our view is a positive development."

## Rallies banned in city from Apr 8-12

Authorities have banned all kinds of rallies, processions and demonstrations in Dhaka metropolitan area from April 8 to 12 to ensure smooth holding of 7th SAARC Summit, reports UNB.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner A N Hussain issued the order which will remain enforced from 9 pm of April 8 to 10 pm of April 12.

Carrying of arms and ammunition, explosive or any harmful materials have also been restricted during the period.

## World Health Day today

World Health Day will be observed throughout the country today (Wednesday) as elsewhere in the world, reports UNB.

This year's theme of the day is "Handle Life with Care — Prevent Violence and Negligence."

Various organisations chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

Health and Family Welfare Ministry will organize an inaugural function at the Osmani Memorial Hall on the day.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas will attend the function as chief guest while Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf will be present as special guest.

The United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) See Page 12 Col 7

## 17 CPB leaders oppose reforms

Several leaders of the Bangladesh Communist Party (CPB) yesterday disapproved the decision taken in the meeting of central committee on October 30 and 31 last year about reformation of the organisation amounted to abolition of the Communist Party.

A meeting of the senior leaders of the party held at the residence of elder leader and former General Secretary of the CPB comrade Barin Dutta opposed the decision and said See Page 12 Col 3

## Cong takes steps to sack 5 dissidents

NEW DELHI, Apr 6: India's ruling Congress (I) Party today took the first step to sacking five dissidents who have led a campaign demanding the resignation of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao as the party chief, reports AFP.

Congress (I) spokesman Vithal Gadgil told reporters here that letters had been served on the party leaders, accusing them of acting "in a way calculated to lower the prestige of the Congress."

Gadgil said the five had a week to reply to the charges.

The five, including former ministers Mahan Lal Fotedar and Natwar Singh, had been most vocal in asking Rao to quit as the Congress (I) President in line with his promise to abide by the "one man, one post" principle.

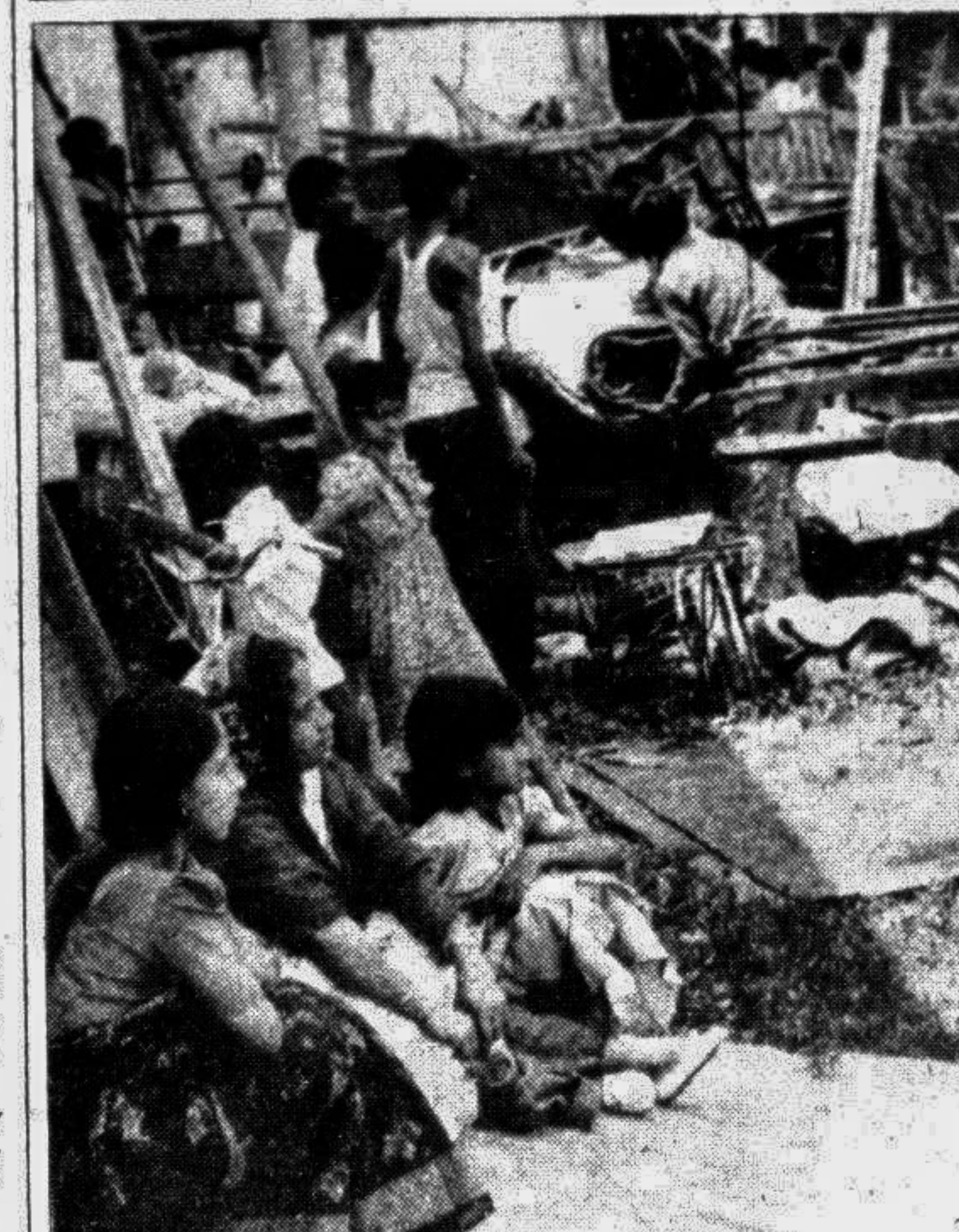
The rebels said Rao, 71, was unable to devote enough time to the party.

The five joined with eight other dissidents to launch a hunger strike at a Congress (I) session near here last month in support of their demand.

But Rao refused to step down, some 800 delegates at the two-day session voted to retain the Prime Minister.

"You have been deliberately engaging in activities and using utterances through media which were patently against the interest of the party," Gadgil, Rao's chief, quoted the letters sent to the rebels as saying.

Congress (I) sources said the five dissidents were expected to be suspended from the party for six years, clearing the way for their expulsion.



Police demolished illegal structures on the site of the proposed Dr Milon Auditorium in Dhaka Medical College compound yesterday.  
 — Star photo

## 12000 to perform Hajj this year

Some 12,000 ballotee and non-ballotee pilgrims of the country will perform hajj this year according to a contract with the Saudi government, reports UNB.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof Abdul Mannan told a news conference at his Secretariat office yesterday (Tuesday) that 8,068 pilgrims had so far applied to the authorities for hajj.

The government, in the meantime, hired houses close to the "Haram Sharif" for 7,000 pilgrims. A five-member high level committee recently visited Saudi Arabia and hired most modern houses to ensure adequate facilities for the pilgrims, the State Minister said.

The news conference was organised to remove confusion from members of the public following press reports on hiring of the houses at a high rate.

The State Minister said the Saudi government promulgated some rules and regulations for smooth holding of the hajj. All the Muslim countries including Bangladesh signed agreement with the Saudi government in this regard.

Saudi hajj authorities also introduced provisions that the pilgrims will stay in Saudi Arabia under the government management of their respective countries.

Mannan said the Saudi authorities have agreed to issue visa for Bangladeshi pilgrims who will produce document of sponsorship for their private accommodation in Saudi Arabia during hajj.

The Saudi government has See Page 12 Col 8

## 'Child labour in garments sector not a must to be competitive'

By Staff Correspondent  
 William B Milam, the US Ambassador to Bangladesh said Tuesday that the country's garments industry did not need to employ child labour to be competitive in the world market.

He made the statement at the regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Sher-e-Banglanagar at a local hotel.

"But the answer is not simply for the industry to throw the children out on the street, See Page 12 Col 6

## Students unrest Sylhet Polytech Instt closed for 10 days

From Our Correspondent  
 SYLHET, Apr 6: The Polytechnic Institute here has been closed Tuesday after a group of unruly students ransacked the office of the Principal, Institute officials said.

The Institute was closed for 10 days after some 15 students who failed to pass in the 2nd and 4th year final examinations, along with some of their friends stormed the room of the Principal demanding promotion, witnesses said.

The Principal was not in his room during the incident. They damaged the window pans, disconnected telephone line and locked the main gate of the Institute, witnesses said adding that police rushed the spot located on the outskirts of the city and took control of the situation.

Some two hundred students left the campus following the order to vacate the hostels.

## Bid to push in 150 more

LALMONIRHAT, Apr 6: BDR has thwarted an attempt by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) to push in 150 Bangla speaking Indian nationals to Bangladesh through the Moghulhat border, reports UNB.

Officials said the attempt was made at Daribash area on Monday.