

# Lucas Batteries

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## PM opens livestock, poultry show in Bogra

### 'Reduce dependence on imported powdered milk'

BOGRA, Apr 15: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday said the government had adopted a policy with incentives to encourage private enterprise in small and medium-scale dairy farms to reduce dependence on imported powdered milk, reports UNB.

"Entrepreneurs will be given financial assistance. Besides, commercial banks have been directed to extend credit facilities in this regard," she said.

"We have to reduce dependence on imported powdered milk as soon as possible," Begum Zia said inaugurating a day-long livestock and poultry exhibition at Bogra Stadium in the morning.

Ninety stalls displaying high-breed livestock and poultry were set up at the "Livestock and Poultry Exhibition '93", jointly organised by the Bogra Dairy Farm Owners Association and the Directorate of Livestock.

Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Maj Gen Majid-ul-Huq (Rtd), Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman, State Minister for Finance Advocate Mojibur Rahman and Livestock Secretary AZM Nasruddin also addressed the function.

The Prime Minister distributed prizes among the winners.

Shohag Dairy Farm received the "Best Dairy Farm" award and the "Best Cattle" prize went to Keya Dairy Home while Sujabad Poultry Complex received the "Best Poultry" award.

Shahanoor Dairy Farm received a cheque for Tk 31,250 as government subsidy as a successful private dairy.

The government has recently adopted a policy to provide 25 per cent investment of projects after successful completion of one year to dairy farms having 5 to 10 cattleheads. Dairy farms with 11 to 20 cattleheads will receive 20 per cent refund of the project cost under the policy aimed at encouraging private initiatives in setting up dairy and poultry farms to increase milk and protein output in the country.

The Prime Minister said a national policy for development of country's livestock resources had been adopted to remove the problems in this

### Gunshots near DU TSC

By DU Correspondent

Several rounds of gunshots rocked the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of the Dhaka University on the first day of the Bengali year 1400 Wednesday.

Witnesses said that some unidentified gunmen fired at least eight rounds of gunshots in front of the TSC building at about 5.15 in the afternoon on that day.

"Several hundreds of students and city dwellers who came to watch different cultural programmes and were gathered around for gossiping in front of the TSC were panicked and ran helter skelter for safety during the firing," witnesses added.

The situation became normal after about half an hour, sources said.

## Azam, Jamaat never acted against Bangladesh: Yusuf

By Staff Correspondent

Neither Golam Azam nor his Jamaat-e-Islami Party members had ever acted against the interest of Bangladesh after the country came into existence, asserted Barrister A R Yusuf Thursday.

However, he acknowledged that Azam believed in the concept of Pakistan with a strong East Pakistan before the period leading up to the December 16, 1971 Victory Day.

Barrister Yusuf was presenting the closing arguments on behalf of the petitioner at the hearing of the writ challenging the cancellation of the citizenship of Golam Azam before a Single-Bench of the High Court Division comprising Justice Anwarul Haq Chowdhury.

Noting that the petitioner strongly advocated for the prime ministership to be given to East Pakistan and for economic parity and parity in the armed forces, Barrister Yusuf said that Azam believed in the concept of Pakistan because of his fears about Indian designs and expansionist attitude.

"He (the petitioner) was more against the Indian expansionist designs than against the independence of Bangladesh," he explained.

Barrister Yusuf submitted that it was "unfortunate" that some people were "unnecessarily" raising the issue of pro and anti-liberation forces even after 22 years. "This is dividing and destabilising the country," he said.

He cited examples of people for or against the Partition of India and never identified as pro or anti-Partition forces later, rather, many of them were politically accommodated: Hussain Shahid Suhrawardy, the Muslim League and others who stayed back in India.

Noting that it was unfortunate that the petitioner was

## Professionals

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als — the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Coordination Council, the Engineers' Institution of Bangladesh (IEB), The Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) and the Krishibid Institution of the Agriculturists.

Talking to The Daily Star over telephone, State Minister for Establishment Muhammad Nurul Huda said that a consensus was reached on demands like re-organising the "Rules of Business" by making the ministers chief executives of the ministries, re-arranging the present "warrant of precedence," transferring the responsibility of development coordination in the districts from the Deputy Commissioners to the elected District Council chairmen, and amending the service anomalies in the "Matin Committee" report.

There are 20,000 engineers in the country of whom 10,000 are registered with the IEB.

The total number of agriculturists is 12,000 of which 8000 belong to the Krishibid Institute.

According to the BMA, there are 20,000 doctors in the country, half of them being BMA members.

A total of 8,300 doctors are employed in the government's cadre service, BMA officials said.

### According to some participants in the meeting, the Prime Minister ordered a committee, led by LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, examine the demands and recommend action.

The Prime Minister reportedly also assured the representatives of the professionals that the government would take steps for prompt implementation of measures recommended by the new committee.

The participants of the dialogue, however, said that the bulk of responsibilities be shifted from the DCs after the district council elections.

It was agreed that the service anomalies would be amended soon and pay or salaries would determine the status in the warrant of precedence, sources said, adding that selection grade would be fixed after four years of service.

On demands like separating the judiciary from executive control, the negotiators agreed that Parliament would take a decision on the issue.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina releasing pigeons during the Pahela Baishakh celebrations by the 1400 Year Celebration Council at the Suhrawardy Uddyan Wednesday. — Star photo

## Police, crowd clash

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restrictions on the venue.

The Celebration Council includes noted intellectuals, academics, poets, artists, writers, journalists, lawyers and professionals.

According to witnesses, people from all walks of life, including political activists, students and youth, marching towards the Suhrawardy Uddyan, were stopped by the police at about 7.50 am. Shortly afterwards, Language Movement leader Advocate Gazul Haque, Justice KM Sobhan, Awami League leaders Abdur Razzak, MP, and Motia Chowdhury, MP appeared on the scene and exchanged words with police officers on duty as to why barricade was put up to restrict the Council's programme.

At this stage, an angry Abdur Razzak blasted the policemen, obstructing his way to the Suhrawardy Uddyan. He asked the police to leave the spot, making way for Council members to hold the function.

In a bid to use force to drive away those who had filtered into the ground through the cordon, police swung into action. At about the same time a big procession reached the spot, and together with the crowd present, attempted to break the police barricade. The slogan-shouting procession, carrying portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, pelted stones at the police who chased them and resorted to baton-charge.

Later, the infuriated crowd broke the Uddyan's iron fencing in at least 10 points to make their entrance into the park and massed there at 9.15 am. During the melee, two crackers went off and the policemen finally were compelled to withdraw from the scene.

Having won their brief "battle" with the armed police, the jubilant youths chanted slogans, danced and sang in chorus in the sprawling grounds of the Suhrawardy Uddyan.

Organisers said Gazul Haque, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqi, poet Shamsur Rahman and Quamruzzaman suffered minor injuries as a result of the police action.

A Workers Party member, Khokon, sustained head injury and was rushed to a city clinic, party sources said.

UNB adds: Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wednesday appealed to the people to uphold Bengali nationalism, preserve Bengali language and culture and foil all designs against national independence.

Hasina voiced her appeal while ceremonially inaugurating 'Pahela Baishakh' celebrations at the Suhrawardy Uddyan where her father, the country's independence leader, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, delivered his historic 7th March speech calling for the struggle for freedom in 1971.

Amid cheers, mirth and enthusiasm from a large crowd, the Awami League chief described Bangabandhu as "the Great Man of 1400 Century" who had led the liberation war and secured a prestigious place for the Bengalees in the comity of nations.

Dressed in a green and light-yellow jamdani sarce, a

beaming Hasina climbed the rostrum built on a truck at 10:40 am and declared the 3-day New Year's programme open by releasing 14 pigeons, marking the beginning of the Bangla year 1400.

The AL chief recalled that Sheikh Mujib gave the call for independence from this 'sacred place' of Suhrawardy Uddyan on March 7 in 1971.

This is the place where the occupation forces of Pakistan surrendered to the freedom fighters on December 16 after a bloody nine-month war, the Awami League President said.

Amid thunderous slogans, Hasina declared there would be no room for the 'killers' of 1971 and their associates in independent Bangladesh.

Earlier, poet Sufia Kamal greeted the new year wishing for a breeze of peace and happiness for the new generation. "Let's build Bangabandhu's Bangladesh as an abode of peace and tranquillity, free from hatred and communalism," she said.

### Press Note

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ing women, children and aged persons, the police on duty were compelled to lathicharge and brought the situation under control.

According to the Press Note, a large number of people gathered at Ramna Park, Engineers' Institute, the Dhaka University, Suhrawardy Uddyan and adjacent areas since morning on Pahela Baishakh (April 14). It should be noted that the concerned authorities continued to impose restriction to discourage holding of meetings and rallies at Suhrawardy Uddyan to preserve its natural beauty.

But in spite of being informed of the restriction by the senior police officer, the leaders of the '1400 Sal Uddyan Parishad' and their supporters tried to forcibly enter the Suhrawardy Uddyan in procession at 9-30 am Wednesday and hold a rally there. At that time the police officer repeatedly requested them over loudspeaker to hold the rally at some other suitable place in the city including the nearby Ramna Park, where there is no restriction for holding rallies.

The Press Note pointed out that in the face of continued pressure and in the interest of maintaining normal situation, the police officer on duty requested the concerned sponsors to hold a brief function in a disciplined way without damaging the overall environment of the Uddyan.

Visibly, a section of people turned unruly at this stage, and went out of the control of the sponsors and indulged in anarchic activities. At that time they started to break the iron fence and the boundary wall of the Uddyan and fell on the police on duty with iron rods, brickbats and stones.

At this stage some people including women, children and aged persons started moving to and fro in panic in search of security.

The police were forced to lathicharge mildly to ensure security of those panic stricken people and bring the situation under control, the note added.

## Health Ministry

From Page 1 Col 4

with the Czech and Slovak republics, as the barter deal had been originally signed with the Czechoslovak Republic.

He also pointed out that as the Slovak firm did not have a local office and an after-sales service centre here, there was a distinct possibility of the governments' losing money in the deal in case the procured equipment did not work.

Thus, the Deputy Minister was of the opinion that the total deal should be re-evaluated by the Health Ministry.

However, the official source noted, the hospital equipment purchase deal was ultimately approved by the ministry during the first week of the current month.

An authoritative source at the ministry told The Daily Star Thursday, over telephone, that the government order for the purchase had already been issued and was awaiting opening of the Letter of Credit (LC).

However, he added that the Health Minister, after considering details of the purchase deal, had ordered the ministry to keep it on hold for the timebeing.

### Huda

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mation Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda at his secretariat office here yesterday.

BSP President Chowdhury Mohammad Faruq, Secretary-General Prof Majidul Islam, Sanaulah Noori, Abul Kashem Majumder and Abdol Hossain Mir were present.

During the meeting, the BSP delegation apprised the minister of the various problems of the newspaper industry. The minister gave the delegation a patient hearing and assured phase wise solution to those problems.

The BSP leaders drew the attention of the Information Minister to the stoppage of issuing government advertisement to "Bhorer Kagaj" and "Daily Janata" and sought his intervention in this regard.

The minister assured the delegation that he would personally look into the matter and give sympathetic consideration to the issue of giving government advertisement to "Bhorer Kagaj."

The Information Minister referred to the increase of the number of insertion of government advertisement and expressed the hope that the newspapers would lay emphasis on objective journalism.

### Nor'wester hits Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 15: Some 24 people were injured, two seriously, when a violent nor'wester lashed three unions in Chowhalli thana Tuesday night, reports UNB.

## The Midnight File

### Release of Suu Kyi demanded

NEW DELHI, Apr 15: More than 100 MPs from across the world demanded Thursday the immediate release of Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and the restoration of democracy in the southeast Asian nation, reports AFP.

### Malaysia asks UN to prepare for war in Cambodia

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 15: Malaysia asked the United Nations Thursday to adequately prepare for a possible war in Cambodia during elections scheduled for next month, a news report said, reports UNB.

### Clashes leave 12 dead in Natal Province

DURBAN, South Africa, Apr 15: At least 12 people were killed in South Africa's eastern Natal Province in bloody clashes that could be a result of gang warfare, police said today, reports AFP.

## Pahela Baishakh

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an envelope of Tk 5 on the occasion. A special cancellor was also used.

A week long 'Baishakhi Mela' or fair organised by the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) at the Dhanmendi Club playground in celebration of the year 1400 was inaugurated by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The 'Mela' was the main attraction of the new year's celebration. Besides, some three-day, week-long and fortnight-long programmes are also being staged by various organisations.

The fair boosts more than 600 stalls displaying varied traditional goods and handicraft and will remain open to the public from 3 pm to 8 pm everyday.

The Bangla Academy Wednesday inaugurated a week-long programme of discussion meetings and a folk festival to welcome the new year. Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed was the chief guest at the inaugural function chaired by Gazi Shamsur Rahman.

The Shishu Academy also organised a week-long programme inaugurated by Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam.

The Shilpakala Academy's fortnight exhibition and folk festival inaugurated by Minister for Irrigation and Water Development and Flood Control M Majidul Huq.

The next of the 3-day programme of the year 1400 Celebration Council will be held in front of the Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhanmendi.

The National Committee for Celebration of the Completion of the Fourteenth Century, or-

ganised a cultural function at the Ramna Batamal in the afternoon while the Uchhi Shilpi Goshti arranged a cultural function at the same venue in the morning.

The Rishji Shilpi Goshti also organised a function in front of the Shishu Park.

Nearly 100 other organisations including the Sammlita Sangskritik Jote, Manik Mia Parisad, Khelaghar Ashor, Dakshin Bangla Jubo Kallyan Samity, Narigrantha Probarana, Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association, Janata Sangskritik Dal, Antaranga Bangladesh, Islamic Mission, Abohaman, Sunrise Pre-Cadet School and Anuprash Socio-Cultural Organisation drew up elaborate programmes to celebrate the day.

A number of organisations staged open air dramas on the occasion.

### Khaleda

From Page 1 Col 5

organised by the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) at the Dhanmendi Club playground in the afternoon. She went around some of the more than 600 stalls displaying mostly handicraft and traditional Bangladeshi wares.

The fair also offers cultural programmes by the Garo, Santal and Chakma tribes. Traditional folk songs like Gambhira, Jari and Hassan Raja ballads will also be arranged in the evenings.

Earlier, the Prime Minister released a commemorative stamp of Tk 2 denomination and First Day Cover of Tk 5 to mark the Bangla year 1400 at a simple ceremony at her residence.

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