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Ishaq sacks Sharif, dissolves NA



Ghulam Ishaq Khan

ISLAMABAD, Apr 18: Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dissolved the National Assembly late today and sacked Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, accusing him of corruption and malpractices, report AFP, AP.

Addressing a late night press conference as troops took up positions at key installations in Islamabad, Ishaq Khan also announced the appointment of Balakh Sher Mazari as the acting Prime Minister.

Troops were deployed outside the national radio and television station an hour before the President announced the dismissal and appointed a caretaker government.

No trouble was immediately reported, as the soldiers blocked the main gate of the state-owned broadcasting studios.

After his announcement, the four senior commanders of the military arrived at the President's office for the swearing in of the caretaker administration, headed by Balakh Sher Mazari.

Chief of Staff Abdul Waheed said the army would follow the President's orders. "The people will decide whether it is constitutional or not. It is not for the army to decide," he told reporters.

The military has a history of involvement in Pakistan politics and has ruled the country outright for 25 years of its 46-year history.

Earlier Sunday, former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto asked the President to dissolve parliament and order fresh elections within three months.

Ms Bhutto's support for dissolution may have been a key factor in Ishaq Khan's decision. One of the four caretaker cabinet ministers he appointed was Ms Bhutto's party.

"This just means he (the President) has met our demands. There will be elections in three months," said Farooq Leghari, the newly appointed minister.

Another appointee was Hamid Chattha, Sharif's Planning Minister who was the first to walk out of the cabinet in the build-up to the crisis. After Chattha quit three weeks ago, seven other ministers followed.

The President, reading a dissolution proclamation, said, "I hereby dissolve the National Assembly with immediate effect and dismiss the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, who shall cease to hold the office forthwith."

Under the Constitution, general elections must be held within 90 days of the dissolution of the national assembly.

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Nawaz Sharif

Akhtaruzzaman barred from leaving country

By Staff Correspondent.

Authorities issued an order restricting Akhtaruzzaman Babu, MP, from leaving the country, according to a source.

The Immigration Department of the Zia International Airport (ZIA) Saturday received the order.

Akhtaruzzaman Babu, an Opposition member in the parliament, was accused in the FIR of the murder of Humayun Zahir, a businessman.

The source said that earlier a similar order was given verbally to the ZIA Immigration Department but this time it was a written official order.

However, a senior official in the ZIA immigration said that they received the order but declined to make any comment.

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Seven lakh sit for SSC exams today

By Staff Correspondent

The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examinations, 1993, begin today (Monday) under all four Secondary Education Boards of the country — Dhaka, Comilla, Rajshahi and Jessore.

A total of 679010 students, of them 434895 male and 244115 female will sit for this year's examinations in 616 centres under the four boards.

This year, five centres have been set up abroad in Jeddah, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, Doha and Tripoli for students living outside the country.

Appropriate measures have been taken by the authorities for holding of fair examinations.

Gathering of more than four persons not connected with the holding of examinations within 200 yards of the centres has been banned.

Special vigilance teams will visit the centres. The team is empowered to cancel examination or even the centre if it detects adoption of unfair means in holding of the examinations.

Examinees and invigilators would also be subjected to punitive actions like expulsion in case of adoption of unfair means.

Members of law enforcing agencies will also be deployed at the centres.

This year, 219582 examinations.

See Page 12 Col 6

8 Rohingyas arrested

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 18: Police arrested eight Rohingya refugees who came out of their camps Saturday night for their alleged involvement in crimes and anti-repatriation activity, reports UNB.

The accused, residents of different refugee camps in Ukha and Teknaf thanas, were picked up from T&T Check Post area on the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf road.

They were named Mohammad Alam (28), Nurul Islam (32), Abdullah (20), Mohammad Zamir (32), Mohammad Hossain (28), Ola Miah (45), Nur Mohammad (18) and Akhtar Kamal (20).

A camera and some secret documents were also recovered from the possession of Mohammad Alam, police said.

OC removed, DB takes up Hannan murder case

Ctg dock workers continue to stay out of duty

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 18: All operations in Chittagong Port including loading and unloading works remained suspended for the second consecutive day today as the dock workers abstained from duty in protest against the murder of their leader Abdul Hannan on Saturday, port sources said.

The Deputy Director (traffic) of Chittagong Port Mohsin Sarker said no loading and unloading works were carried out since the murder in all 16 ships now berthed at the port jetties. Some ships are also waiting at the outer anchorage for entering port, he informed.

Port sources and police said that Chittagong Port today remained tense as a pall of gloom fell there following the assassination of the Dock Sramik Dal convenor Hannan.

Meanwhile, the Officer in Charge (OC) of Port Thana Abul Kasem has been removed from the post and transferred while the investigation of the case of this sensational murder has been handed over to the Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

Talking to this correspondent over telephone the Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police Osman Gani Khan said stringent measures would be taken against some more police personnel shortly for their failure to check such violent incident.

A large number of police personnel have been deployed in port area and security has been tightened there to prevent further outbreak of violence, the Commissioner said.

Besides, efforts are being made to arrest all the accused responsible for the killing, the

See Page 12 Col 7

Final review of Munir's appeal next month

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday fixed mid May (likely to be May 17) as the final time for the hearing of the review petition filed on behalf of Munir Hossain alias Suraj of the sensational Rima Murder Case, reports BSS.

The five member full bench headed by Chief Justice, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, on a request from the petitioner's lawyer, ordered that the hearing of the matter will take on completion of four weeks, the time prayed for.

Munir Hossain, husband of Sharmin Akhtar Rima, was given death sentence by the lower court for murdering his wife.

The court on a prayer from Barrister Rafiqul Haq, former

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Dibya, a cultural group performed dance in the Shishu Academy Auditorium on the concluding day of 1400 BS programmes.

Conscious people won't allow politics of destruction: PM

MOTHSBARIA (Pirojpur), Apr 18: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here today that the conscious people would never allow the politics of hartal and destruction, aimed at pulling back the nation from attaining development, to succeed, reports BSS.

Addressing a huge public meeting in local government college ground the Prime Minister said the party which was now resorting to negative politics did not raise the demands during the regime of the autocrat rather they joined hands with autocracy and caused prolongation of its hold on power. But when the time came to work unitedly for the overall development of the nation under the democratic atmosphere they were resorting to politics of hartal and hindering the on-going process of development, she said.

The Prime Minister said the government believed in the balanced development of the country. "We do not look for our Member of Parliament (belonging to BNP) while taking up development programmes. Our only object is to serve the people and work for their uplift," she said.

Begum Zia said the process of development and prosperity had to be carried forward through ensuring the people's participation in consolidating democracy in the country.

She said, "we must remember that the country would not be able to achieve development without democracy."

Dwelling on the development programmes of the present government the Prime Minister said poverty was one of the major problems facing the nation. Production in the fields and factories had to be increased to eliminate the major problem of the nation. "We believe that persons who have been elected by the people have the sacred duty to work sincerely to attain development, a prosperity for the nation," she said.

The Prime Minister said the problem of unemployment could not be solved by merely providing jobs. We have to create self-employment opportunities.

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BL College closed as Shibir, JCD clash: 10 hurt

From Our Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 18: At least 10 students were injured in a clash between Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir in Govt BL College today morning.

The college was declared closed.

According to eye witness, the clash started when processions of two groups of students came face to face on the college campus. Both the groups used hand bombs, and sticks etc in a 4 hour long clash.

Chase and counter chase, exchanges of brickbats occurred during the clash. A section of students ransacked the office of the Principal.

At one stage Chhatra Dal had to leave the campus.

The teachers' council declared the college closed till April 22 following the incident.

Hasina tells Rajbari public meet

Join movement against politics of bluff

GAZIPUR, Apr 18: Awami League President Sheikh Hasina today (Sunday) urged the people to join her party's movement for economic freedom by ensuring democratic rights against what she called the politics of bluff of the ruling BNP, reports UNB.

Addressing a huge public meeting at Rajbari maidan here this afternoon, Hasina said "our politics is aimed at achieving economic self-reliance to establish a poverty-free Bangladesh."

"After losing confidence in

the people, the BNP is now trying to stay in power by mis-using power against the opposition and ruling the country in Ershad style," she alleged.

She castigated the BNP government for "complete betrayal" with its pre-election pledges and failure to resolve any of the problems facing the commonman.

Corruption, unemployment, price-hike and lawlessness have battered the people and aggravated their miseries in

See Page 12 Col 4

Bangla year 1400 celebration programmes end

By Staff Correspondent

The five-day "Bangla 1400 Saal" celebration programmes of the 1400 Saal Uddjapan Parishad ended yesterday at Bangabandhu Bhaban in the city.

The concluding session was dedicated to the country's children community.

Announcing the conclusion of the five-day programme, the member-secretary of the parishad Obaidul Kader expressed his gratitude to the people imbued with the spirit of Bengalee language, its tradition and culture.

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Hajj goers asked to report to camp

The Ministry of Religious Affairs yesterday directed all the intending Hajjis to report to the Hajj Camp along with 12 copies of passport size photographs as they will have to carry the same to Saudi Arabia, reports BSS.

A press release issued by the Ministry of Religious Affairs yesterday, said all the intending Hajjis will be required to demonstrate their names, passport numbers and nationality on a redin belt to be tied on wrist as the same will be helpful in case of any accident or for other emergency purposes.

See Page 12 Col 1

Jamaat leaders' statement unpardonable: BNP

BNP Joint Secretary General Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mian, MP, yesterday severely criticised the Jamaat leaders for their recent statements in which they sought to be little the independence and sovereignty of the country, reports BSS.

In a statement the BNP leader said that by saying openly at the Battul Mukarram Square public meeting on Friday that independence has not brought anything good to the people, the Jamaat leaders only proved that they had failed to move out of their thinking and role during the War of Independence.

He described the statements of the Jamaat leaders on the country's independence and sovereignty as an "unpardonable offence."

"We say it with all our conviction that independence of the country achieved at the cost of lakhs of lives is dearest to BNP," he said.

The BNP Joint Secretary General said that the Jamaat-Islami was only trying to pass on to the others' shoulders the responsibility of the problems which were their own creation.

Barrister Rafiqul Islam, who is also the Minister for Works, said that in its undesirable bid to shift the public attention

See Page 12 Col 3

10 hurt as JCD rivals clash at MC College

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 18: Ten students were injured in an armed clash between two rival groups of Jatiyatbadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at the MC College today.

Of them Milon and Sazzad were admitted to the Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries. About 30 rounds of shots were fired and 40 crackers were exploded on the campus during the clash.

The warring students also damaged a micro-bus in front of the residence of the Principal of the college and set it on fire.

Grameen Bank gets King Baudouin Prize

By Nurul Kabir

The Bank, was a poverty stricken rural woman abandoned by his judicial clerk (muhuri) husband a few years back, became a borrower of the Grameen Bank in 1989.

The 4 million Belgian franc prize, equivalent to over Tk 48 lakh, was awarded recently to the Grameen Bank by the Board of Directors of the Brussels-based King Baudouin Foundation.

The Baudouin Foundation award is given to persons or organisations, "without regard to national origin," making substantial contributions towards the development of the Third World or towards the cooperation and good relations among industrialised and developing countries and among their people.

The Grameen Bank was considered for the prize by the foundation for its recognition of the role of women in the process of development and the novelty of a financial credit system contributing to the improvement of the social and material conditions of the women and their families in rural areas.

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Serbs reject UN plan

PALE (Bosnia), Apr 18: Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic today rejected the UN peace plan for Bosnia despite the Security Council's decision to tighten economic sanctions against Yugoslavia if Serbs did not sign.

We do not accept it. This is imposition. This is not a peace plan. This is a dictate and an imposition. So we are not going to sign those maps," he told Reuters television.

The peace plan, drawn up by UN and European Community mediators, would create 10 semi-autonomous cantons in Bosnia along ethnic lines. Bosnia's Muslims and Croats have already accepted

See Page 12 Col 7

Seven abducted children brought back from India

Department of Social Services has brought back seven Bangladeshi children from Kishalaya Home for juvenile delinquent at Barasat, North 24 Parganas of India, official sources said in Dhaka Sunday, reports BSS.

They were abducted from play grounds and from their homesteads to India by illegal human traffickers.

These seven children are, Mohon Bepari, s/o Abdur Rashid Bepari; Monrul, s/o

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Manzira, a rural woman among the GB team, to fly for Brussels.