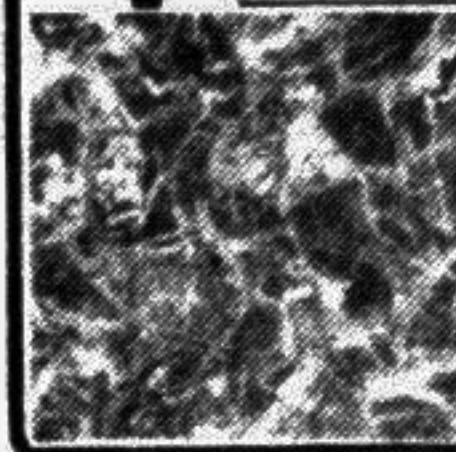


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NEWS BRIEFS

DU Kha unit result published

By Staff Correspondent
The result of first year admission test of Arts, Social Science and Law faculties of Dhaka University under 'Kha' unit was published yesterday. List of all successful candidates has been placed in front of the Dean offices and main gate of the Arts faculty building.

Norwegian aid

Bangladesh will receive 180 million Norwegian kroner as development assistance from Norway during the current year. An agreed minute was signed between the two countries here yesterday at the end of a three-day annual consultation on bilateral development cooperation, reports UNB.

Seminar on Earth Day tomorrow

The United States Information Service (USIS), in collaboration with three Bangladeshi non-government organisations, will organise a seminar tomorrow to celebrate Earth Day. The programme to be held at the American Cultural Centre (ACC) auditorium will begin at 11 am and continue till 6.30 pm, reports UNB.

Trader electrocuted

FAIRDPUR, Apr 20: A rice trader was electrocuted as a live wire snapped on his shop during a storm that lashed the town tonight (Tuesday), reports UNB.

Farooq Leghari made Finance Minister

Pak businessmen prepare for country-wide strike

KARACHI, Apr 20: Pakistani businessmen said today they were preparing for a nationwide strike to protest the sacking of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, fearing that his policies of economic liberalisation would be scuttled, report AFP.

Meanwhile, shopkeepers shut their doors in Pakistan's richest province Tuesday to protest the firing of Sharif.

The shutdown in Punjab, Sharif's home province, was a show of strength for the deposed leader, who has vowed to fight his dismissal late Sunday by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

The government was reportedly trying to persuade the

industrialist to hold off the strike by giving assurances that an interim government appointed by Ishaq Khan until elections in July would not go back on Sharif's reforms.

NEW DELHI, Apr 20: Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao today asked top army commanders to maintain operational preparedness, echoing his government's worries that turmoil in Pakistan could affect Indian security. Addressing a conference of military commanders, Rao also said that India does not expect any friendly gestures from its arch rival Pakistan until the political upheaval in Islamabad subsides, reports AFP.

The businessmen, however, met late Monday at Karachi Chambers of Commerce and Industry and decided to hold a one-day country-wide general strike.

The President of the Karachi Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Tahir Khalid said businessmen in the southern port city, Pakistan's business and finan-

cial centre, were consulting with colleagues in Lahore and Islamabad to prepare for the strike. They had not yet decided on a date, he said.

The stock market here had

a record fall of 36.98 points on Monday as a result of Sharif's sacking.

Businessmen contacted said they did not believe the government's assurances that Sharif's policies would not be changed. They noted that former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who has a close ally in the new interim government, had criticized Sharif's reforms.

Earlier, the new interim premier Balakh Sher Mazari pledged Tuesday to follow the same pro-market and anti-terrorist policies as his ousted predecessor Nawaz Sharif.

Mazari, 64, also appointed Farooq Leghari, who is a PPP deputy leader and close to

3 BCI directors detained

By Staff Correspondent

Three directors of now suspended Bangladesh Commerce and Investment (BCI) were arrested and detained in the Detective Branch Tuesday.

The directors are Kazi Ashrafuddin, Abdul Matin, and Abdul Wadud, according to a police source.

The source who spoke on condition of anonymity said that the directors were accused of fund embezzlement.

Detective Branch of Police arrested the directors from their residences early Tuesday and detained them in the Detective Branch at Minto Road. They are likely to be produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka, today (Wednesday).

Madhyapara Hard Rock project uncertain

Madhyapara Hard Rock Project is facing uncertainty due to difference of opinion between the Ministries of Finance, and Energy and Mineral Resources, reports UNB.

The Cabinet sub-committee for Finance in a meeting yesterday chaired by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman failed to approve the terms and conditions of the loan to be provided by North Korea, officials speaking on condition of anonymity said.

A delegation of the Energy Ministry, which visited North Korea in last December, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Korean government to receive a credit of about 135 million US dollars.

North Korea agreed to provide the loan for a period of 12 years for extraction of hard rock at Madhyapara in Dinajpur district.

In yesterday's meeting, the sub-committee has recommended that the repayment period be extended to 15 years which is a deviation from the original MOU.

Sources at the Energy Ministry said, the delay of the Madhyapara Hard Rock Project will also push Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project into uncertainty.

The hard rock from the Madhyapara Project, expected to produce 1.65 million tons annually, would be cheaper and easily procurable than import for the Jamuna Bridge Project

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Edn projects under revised ADP reviewed

A high level review meeting on Education Ministry was held last night at the International Conference Centre with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting reviewed the progress of implementation of the 1992-93 Annual Development Programme (ADP) undertaken by the ministry. It was informed that 55 projects have been taken up under the revised ADP of the ministry, 28 of which are being implemented with foreign assistance and rest 27 with local resources.

Of the 55 projects, 20 are on higher and secondary education, four on technical education, 13 on university education, four on own programme, 12 on technical assistance. Two projects are self-financed.

The total allocation for project is over Taka 222 crore.

The meeting was told that out of the total allocation for the projects 42 per cent have been spent till March '93. The

See Page 12 Col 3

PM addresses power workers

Bring down system loss to 25 pc

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the people to exert concerted efforts for overall development of the country, saying that in a democracy everyone has the responsibility to build the nation, reports UNB.

"Hartal and strike on trifling issues cannot be the language of democracy," she said adding that peace and stability were the precondition for increased investment and production.

Begum Zia was addressing the first biennial conference of Bangladesh Jatiya Biddyt Sramik Karmachari Union (workers and employees union

of the power sector) at WAPDA Bhaban premises yesterday morning.

The Prime Minister said increase of production brings prosperity but sacrifice is necessary for achieving development. Besides hard labour, there is no short cut way to development, she observed.

"We have laid importance on development in order to consolidate democracy as democracy and development are inter-related."

Terminating electricity as the driving force for development, she said the entire economic activities of the country, in-

See Page 12 Col 4

ICFM conference: Mostafiz leaves tomorrow

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman leaves Dhaka for Karachi tomorrow to attend the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) that begins in the port city of Pakistan April 25, reports UNB.

All the 50 member countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) are expected to participate in the five-day meet.

Officials here said yesterday the Foreign Ministers of the Muslim countries will discuss a 74-point agenda covering political, economic, social and cultural problems facing the ummah and work out measures to combat those.

Judgement in Azam case from today

Allegations of collaboration don't disqualify citizenship: Counsel

By Staff Correspondent

Allegation of being a collaborator does not disqualify a person's becoming a Bangladeshi citizen as per law, asserted Barrister A R Yusuf Tuesday.

"Not a single person had lost his citizenship on charges of collaboration and this equally applies to Professor Golam Azam," he added while placing the concluding argument, on behalf of the petitioner, at the hearing of the Writ challenging the cancellation of the citizenship of Golam Azam.

He also noted that all collaborators ultimately the Collaborators' Act of 1972 was also repealed.

Held at the Single-Bench of the High Court Division comprising Justice Anwarul Haque Choudhury, at the end of the final day's hearing, that continued for 19 days, the Court said that delivery of the judgement would begin from today.

Submitting that by operation of law the petitioner became a citizen of Bangladesh March 26, 1971, Barrister Yusuf said: "and his subsequent conduct may lead to criminal action against him, if proved, and nothing else."

At the start of the day's hearing, the counsel for the petitioner submitted that Article 2(b) of the Bangladesh

Citizenship (Temporary Provisions) Order (PO 149 of 1972), which brings in conduct as a criteria for disqualification to become a citizen, could not be applied in the case of the petitioner.

He said that Act 5 of 1973, through which Article 2 (b) was incorporated, did not contain any validation clause although it was given retrospective effect from March 26, 1971.

"As such closed cases could not be affected by retrospective operation of law," Barrister Yusuf added, while citing a number of precedents.

The Court agreed on the

See Page 12 Col 7

806 more SSC examinees, 11 invigilators expelled

By Staff Correspondent

Over 806 examinees and 11 invigilators were expelled on the second day of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examinations held under four education boards of the country yesterday.

Police arrested an examinee on charge of assaulting an invigilator in Goalunda and temporarily detained five outsiders for creating trouble in the examination centre at Bahakandi.

The highest number of candidates expelled were from the Comilla Board where 370 candidates and two invigilators

were expelled. The number of expulsions under the Comilla Board are as follows: Chittagong district-146 examinees and two invigilators in Mirsharai, Comilla-126 examinees, Cox's Bazar-41, Chandpur 12, Sylhet 10, Feni 13 and 43 examinees in six other districts.

Under Dhaka Board a total of 119 examinees and one invigilator were expelled according to board officials.

Of the total, 25 were expelled from Rajbari, 23 from Mymensingh, 16 from Nars- See Page 12 Col 8

Rohingyas call hartal for quick repatriation

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 20: Activists of Rohingya Refugee Repatriation Action Committee today put barricades on the Arakan highway demanding that the refugees be sent back to their homes in Myanmar at once, reports UNB.

During the six-hour action programme from 6 am, they created barriers at different bus stands on the highway disrupting road communication between Cox's Bazar and Teknaf.

The action committee and the Rohingya Refugee Repatriation Council will jointly

See Page 12 Col 6

Nor'wester lashes 3 dists

Severe nor'wester swept over a member of villages in Magura, Jhenidah and Lalmonirhat Tuesday injuring at least twenty persons and damaging 900 houses in these districts, reports UNB.

A severe nor'wester lashed two thanas of Magura district Tuesday evening, injuring 10 people and damaging at least 2000 houses.

Sources said the 15-minute scourge lashed seven villages of Sadar and Shalikh thanas and battered kutcha and tin-

shed houses. The storm also uprooted a large number of trees which blocked traffic on Magura-Jessore road.

The affected villages are Kechuadubi, Tila, Bhabanhati, Angarda of Mogl union in Sadar thana and Arpara, Sholot, North Sholot of Arpara union in Shalikh thana.

Ten people were injured, six seriously, as a violent nor'wester lashed two thanas of the Jhenidah district Tuesday witnesses said.

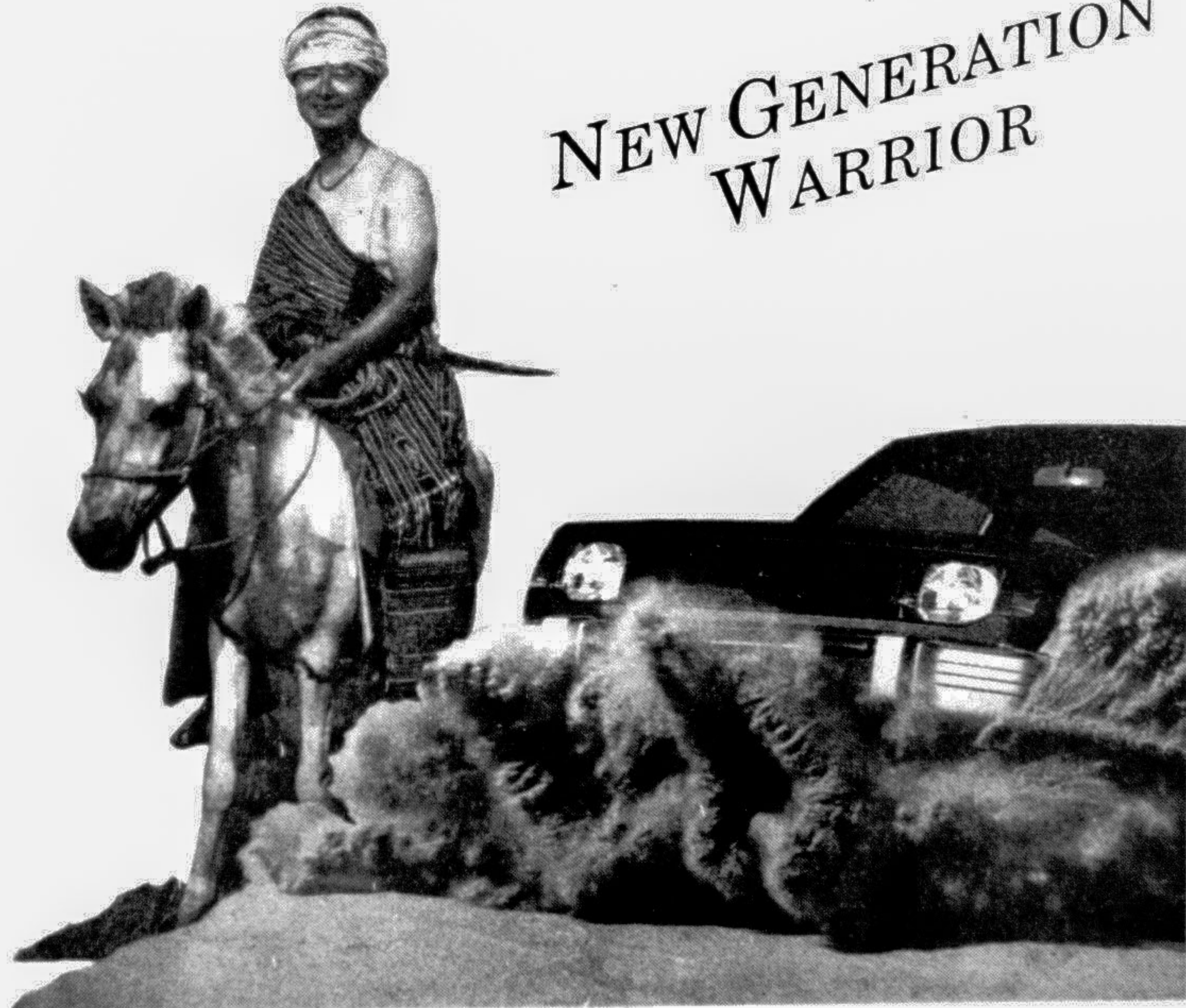
The storm swept over Sadar and Harinakunda thanas damaging more than 500 kutcha houses and uprooting a large number of trees during its hour-long fury.

Seriously injured Abdus Sattar, 40 of village Karatalpara, Turi, 35 of Ohattarghatti, Godat Mondal, 20 of Berbari, Shuvankar Shaha, 20 and his mother Lili Shaha, 35, of Pabahati and Iqbal of Pabalkali in Sadar thana were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

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