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NEWS BRIEFS

Mostafiz leaves for Karachi

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman left last night for Karachi, to attend the foreign ministers' conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) beginning there tomorrow. The Foreign Minister is leading a six-member delegation to the six-day conference, reports BSS.

Special Senegal envoy meets PM

Allowance Sene, special envoy of Senegal President Abdou Diouf, yesterday (Thursday) made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and handed over a letter of President Diouf to her. During the brief meeting, the Prime Minister expressed the hope that the problems facing the Muslims all over the world would be discussed at the OIC foreign ministers' conference beginning from April 25 in Karachi, reports BSS.

13100 to perform Hajj this year

A record number of some 13,100 people from Bangladesh will be performing Hajj this year, official sources said. Of them, 8,100 will be ballottee hajjis while others will be performing the pilgrimage on their own, reports UNB.

Italy gives 3050 tons wheat

More than 3,050 tons of wheat, received from Italy as food assistance, was yesterday handed over to Narayanganj silo management at a function. Joint Secretary of Food Ministry A F M Imam Hossain and Charge de Affaires of Italian Embassy Mrs G D Ignazi Chazhho attended the ceremony, reports UNB.

High Court restores Golam Azam's citizenship

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court Thursday restored the citizenship of Golam Azam and declared that he could not be treated as a foreigner as he was a citizen of Bangladesh by birth.

The landmark judgement was delivered in a packed court-room by a Single-Judge bench comprising Justice Anwarul Haque Choudhury on a writ petition challenging a government notification disqualifying Golam Azam from being deemed to be a citizen of Bangladesh.

The learned Judge set aside both the impugne government notification, issued April 18, 1973, and the show-cause notice issued against the peti-

tioner under the Foreigners' Act last March, which led to his subsequent arrest.

"I found the writ to be maintainable and having found on merit that the petitioner, Golam Azam, is a natural citizen of Bangladesh by birth, he (Azam) cannot be treated as a foreigner and cannot therefore be ordered by a show-cause notice as to whether he should be deported from Bangladesh," Justice Choudhury said.

The Court also held that the matter of collaboration with the occupation army did not fall in the purview of the case, that the principles of natural justice were violated

in issuing the impugne government notification without a show-cause notice and that there were no laches or delay on the part of the petitioner in coming to Court.

Furthermore, the Court observed that election of Golam Azam as the Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami could not be treated to have been in violation of the Constitution.

Giving his instant reaction, immediately after the verdict, the visibly elated counsel for the petitioner, Barrister A R Yusuf, said: "I am very much satisfied that justice has been served and that Professor Golam Azam has been dealt with in accordance with the

law".
Moreover, he added "I am all the more happy that the rule of law prevails in Bangladesh."

Amid tightened security measures around the Supreme Court Building and the court room packed with lawyers and journalists, the concluding session of the delivery of judgement on the second day yesterday began at 10:50 am and ended at around 4:05 pm with a 75-minute break.

The Court found that the petitioner became a citizen of Bangladesh on the commencement date of the Bangladesh Citizenship (Temporary

See Page 12 Col 4

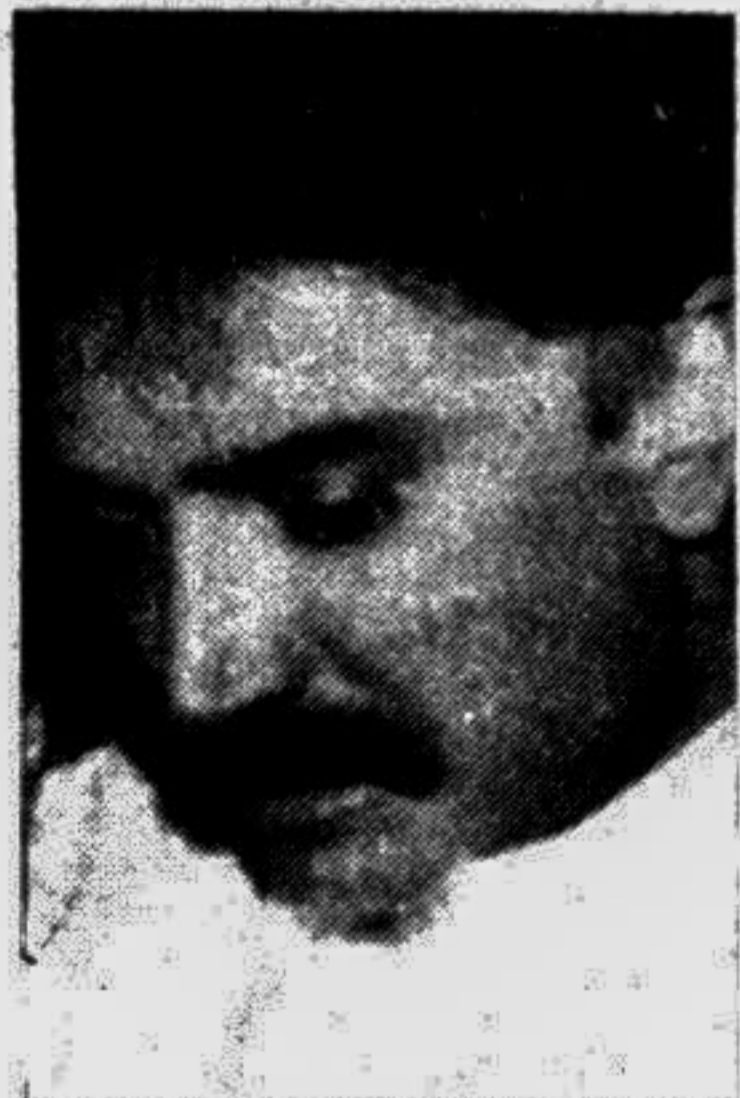
Zardari takes oath as Pak minister

ISLAMABAD, Apr 22: Pakistan's four-day old government was enlarged today as President Ghulam Ishaq Khan swore in 17 cabinet-level officials, including a major surprise in the person of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's husband, reports AFP.

It was not yet known what portfolio would be given to Bhutto's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, who was released on bail in February after more than two years in prison on extortion and kidnapping charges.

Ishaq Khan swore in 15 ministers and two advisors at the Presidential House, officials said.

With the addition of the
See Page 12 Col 7



Asif Ali Zardari

JS session summoned on May 9

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has summoned the session of the Jatiya Sangsad on May 9 at 4 pm, reports BSS.

It will be the ninth session of the fifth parliament.

The notice office of the Sangsad Secretariat will remain open from 9 am to 12 noon today (Friday) for the convenience of the parliament members.

Juba Dal, JCD gherao N'ganj thana to free 2

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 22: Militant activists of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Juba Dal laid siege to Narayanganj thana to force the release of two workers of Juba Dal, the youth front of BNP, this afternoon.

Earlier, police picked up the Juba Dal workers from the Bose Cabin, a hotel, in connection with manhandling of Shambhunath, an Awami League-backed Chhatra League worker, at the Narayanganj College campus.

Shambhu was admitted to the Narayanganj Hospital with
See Page 12 Col 1

No classes held in Dhaka Medical College

By Staff Correspondent

No classes were held in the Dhaka Medical College Thursday following a strike called by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in protest against arrest of one of their workers.

Police raided Dr. Fazle Rabbi Hall of the college early Thursday, recovered ammunition and arrested a BCL worker Basfir Ahmed Badal.

Badal was detained in the
See Page 12 Col 1

Anwar Hossain Manju sent to jail

Former Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju, MP, was sent to Dhaka Central Jail after being produced at the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday, reports UNB.

Anwar Hossain, who is also a Jatiya Party leader and the printer and publisher of Daily Ittefaq, was detained from his Dhanmondi residence Wednesday.

He was held under the Special Powers Act and given 120 days detention.



Supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh coming out of the High Court premises yesterday after the verdict of Golam Azam's citizenship case. -Star photo.

Movement to continue for Azam's trial despite verdict

By Staff Correspondent

Different political forces of the country yesterday reiterated their determination to continue pressing the demand for the trial of Golam Azam while the government was preparing to appeal against the High Court verdict restoring the citizenship of the Jamaat leader.

Meanwhile, the Ghatak Dalai Nirmul Samanaya Committee, which had pioneered the struggle for trying Golam Azam as a 'war criminal' observed that the High Court judgement relating to the citizenship of the Jamaat chief yesterday would not hamper their ongoing movement.

Attorney General of the country Advocate Aminul Haq told The Daily Star last night that the government had already asked him to prepare for making the appeal in the Supreme Court against the High Court Division's judgement.

"I shall appeal as soon as possible," the Attorney General said adding that law permitted to make the appeal within two months from the date of the delivery of judgement by the High Court Division.

Meanwhile, Jahanara Imam,

leader of the Ghatak Dalai Nirmul Samanaya Committee, told newsmen that they had been struggling for the trial of Golam Azam for the offences he committed against humanity during the nation's war of independence in 1971.

Jahanara Imam also said that the movement for trying Golam Azam as a war criminal had nothing to do with either restoration or rejection of his citizenship. "We shall continue pressing our demand for the trial," Jahanara Imam reiterated.

Mohammad Nasim, Awami League (AL) leader and Chief Whip of the opposition in parliament, observed that the High Court order relating to the citizenship of Golam Azam did not come up to the desire of the common people.

People of the country had already delivered their verdict on the issue on March 26, last year by rejecting his citizenship and giving him a death sentence.

"We shall be waiting for the judgement of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on the issue and would be extending support to the popular movement for trying him as a

war criminal as well," Nasim told The Daily Star.

Shamsuddoha, leader of the parliamentary group of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), expressing his reaction over the judgement said, "whatever the Court order may be regarding Golam Azam's citizenship, people of the country would never forgive him for the crime he committed against the nation in 1971."

The Court decision would not hamper the people's movement for trying Golam Azam for the war crime he committed earlier, the CPB leader added.

Meanwhile, the Five Party combine leader Rashed Khan Menon MP, while expressing his reaction over the High Court verdict said, the government made a clear commitment in parliament that it would try Golam Azam as a war criminal under the law of the land.

The Court's verdict on Azam's citizenship controversy did not relate to the political issue of trying him as a war criminal, Menon told The Daily Star last night adding "We shall
See Page 12 Col 2

Govt to appeal against HC verdict

By Staff Correspondent

The government has decided to appeal against the High Court verdict restoring the citizenship of Golam Azam, Deputy Attorney General Hasan Arif said on Thursday.

The government is not satisfied with the verdict, he said, and had asked to file appeal before the Appellate Division.

However, the Court rejected the prayer of the Deputy Attorney General for leave to move the Appellate Division
See Page 12 Col 8

Police teargas protesters at TSC

By DU Correspondent

Police lobbed several rounds of teargas shells near the TSC area of Dhaka University to disperse groups of agitated youth who pelted stones at the police.

Different students and cultural organisations brought out processions and staged demonstration at the TSC at about 6.30 pm demanding the trial of Golam Azam as 'war criminal'. They demanded death penalty of Azam.
See Page 12 Col 4

Bumper tobacco harvest casts growers in despair

By Asiuzzaman, back from Kushtia

A bumper production of tobacco has cast growers in a sea of despair as most of their products have remained unsold mid-season this year, farmers and company sources said.

"Our condition is like that of the aman growers, we are getting a lower price as most of the tobacco companies are still not operating," a tobacco grower told The Daily Star.

A group of reporters from Dhaka this week visited Kushtia region, Jhenidah, Meherpur, Chuadanga districts, the second highest tobacco growing area of the country and saw the deplorable condition of the farmers.

After three years of 'heavy' profit, the number of tobacco farmers increase alarmingly

this year but in contrast the export and also the local consumption fell so drastically that the farmers fell into a bad situation, informed sources said.

"We are selling our tobacco to the boarders at less than half the government fixed minimum price," Abdul Malek, a farmer at the Trimohani Bazar, 3 km from Kushtia town said.

"This is not any food grain that we can consume ourselves over the years instead of selling it at a throw away price," he said adding that he sold his products at a rate of Tk 12 per kg but the government had fixed the lowest minimum price for the year at Tk 20.75 and the highest at Tk 46.25.

He said that only the registered farmers of Bangladesh

Tobacco Company (BTC) were ensured the official rate as well as sale of their products.

A number of farmers at the haat (village market) said that none of the at least 15 other cigarette companies yet started purchasing.

Tobacco cultivation per acre costs them Tk 10,000 but they were getting less than the production cost.

A BTC source said that the company would purchase 910 tons of tobacco from its more than 20,000 registered farmers across the country at a cost of Tk 33 crore.

Official sources said that in 1991, some 186,000 farmers cultivated tobacco in about 90,000 acres of land which rose respectively to 260,000
See Page 12 Col 4

Rules for jobs in foreign bodies simplified

The government has simplified the procedure in its policy on taking employment by Bangladesh nationals in foreign organizations in and outside the country, reports BSS.

This was stated by the State Minister for Establishment Md Nurul Huda at the 10th meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Establishment Ministry held at Sangsad Bhavan yesterday.

Huda was in the chair.
The State Minister said in 1985 he then government formulated a policy on taking foreign employment by Bangladeshi nationals with a view to restraining it strictly. This negative attitude was contrary to economic emancipation, poverty alleviation and employment generation for educated and skilled personnel, he
See Page 12 Col 6

Saifur leaves for Paris today Dhaka to seek \$ 1.8 b aid for '93-94

Star Report

The World Bank, key coordinating donor agency will recommend to the two-day Bangladesh aid group meeting scheduled to begin in Paris April 27 a fresh disbursement of a 1.8 billion US dollar foreign assistance package for the forthcoming fiscal 1993-94, a World Bank official said Thursday.

The level and composition of fresh commitments by donors should be set, so as to support the expected flow of 1.8 billion dollar disbursements during fiscal 1993-94, the World Bank official told this correspondent, adding that Bangladesh successfully stabilized the economy after potential problems of late 1980's and all macro-economic indicators showed a market improvement between fiscal 1991 and 1993.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman leaves here today (Friday) for Paris to lead a nine-member Bangladesh delegation to the aid group meeting and will request to the aid group meeting a fresh commitment of 2,035 billion dollar for the fiscal 1994, says a Finance Ministry official.

The World Bank in its country economic memorandum (CEM) prepared for the meeting commended the macro-economic stabilisation saying "the successful stabilisation in the midst of the political transition of fiscal 1991 and fiscal 1992 and the devastating
See Page 12 Col 7

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See Page 12 Col 7

Third day of SSC exams 1110 more examinees, 19 invigilators expelled

By Staff Correspondent

More than 1110 examinees and 19 invigilators were expelled and three invigilators suspended on the third day of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examination yesterday held under the four education boards of the country.

They were expelled and suspended for adopting unfair means in the English first paper examination.

At an examination sub-centre in Ramdia, under Kashiyari thana of Gopalganj district some unruly examinees have beaten up a magistrate and the invigilators and forced them to leave the examination centre. Examination under this sub-centre has been suspended.

The highest number of candidates expelled were from the Rajshahi Board where 390
See Page 12 Col 6

বাংলাদেশ প্রকৌশল বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা
সমাবর্তন ১৯৯৩

কর্মসূচী
তার ২২-৪-৯৩

বৃহবার ৫ই মে, ১৯৯৩
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স্থান : কাউন্সিল ভবনের নীচতলা
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সমাবর্তন মহড়া প্রদান। মহড়ার জন্য ডিগ্রীধারীগণ সকাল ৮:৩০ মিনিটের মধ্যে বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় অডিটোরিয়ামে তাদের আসন গ্রহণ করবেন।
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মূল সনদপত্র বিতরণ : কাউন্সিল ভবনের নীচতলা।

সকাল ৯:৩০ থেকে ১২:৩০ টা
এবং
বিকাল ২:৩০ থেকে ৫:৩০ টা

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বিঃ দ্রঃ * মূল সনদপত্র নেওয়ার সময় প্রতিশ্রুত সাটিকিট ও গাউন অবশ্যই ফেরত দিতে হবে।

মোঃ আসাদউল্লাহ খান
পরিচালক
৬
সদস্য-সচিব
স্ট্রিয়ারিং কমিটি
সমাবর্তন '৯৩

৬-২৬৫