



Inside Today

Article

Harkin's Bill: LDCs Need International Adjustment Assistance
Column: Along My Way
by SB Chowdhury
Page 4

International

Bosnia negotiating with OIC states for arms



The widow of assassinated opposition leader Latith Athulathudali places flowers over his body watched by his daughter Sarala
Page 5

Business

Gold mine of fishes in deep sea yet to be fully exploited

China expects 13 per cent economic growth
Pages 6, 7

Feature

Development

Credit for Rural Women: Catalyst for Development, Women Summit Tackles Plight of 550m Rural Women, UNICEF Challenges World Bank Role in Africa, Housing Policy Alternatives are Urgent
Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Cold Water on Great Expectations
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

C & F agents call off strike

By Staff Correspondent
Customs Clearing and Forwarding (C & F) agents at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) ended their strike following an agreement with the authorities yesterday. According to the agreement, the Civil Aviation authorities refixed the rent of the new complex for the office of Dhaka Customs Agents Association at Tk 7,500. "It was an agreement for one year", said a source related to the agreement.

Biswas inaugurates Haji camp today

The temporary Haji camp established at Uttara, Sector No 6, Dhaka will be formally inaugurated at 5.30 pm today. President Abdur Rahman Biswas is expected to attend the function as chief guest to inaugurate the camp, reports BSS.

130 teachers to boycott RUTA

RAJSHAHI, Apr 25: Some 130 teachers of Rajshahi University today (Sunday) decided to boycott activities of the Teachers' Association of the University which, they said, were creating obstacles to reopen the campus. UNB

300 hurt in clashes with police Demonstrators stage sit-in defying ban

By Staff Correspondent

About 300 demonstrators were injured in pitched battles with armed police in the capital yesterday as a defiant Ghatk Dalal Nirmul Samannaya Committee with the Awami League-led 11 opposition parties supporting it defied a government order banning public gatherings and staged a sit-in around the Secretariat.

The demonstrators also brought out processions and held rallies in the restricted area in the presence of heavy contingents of armed and riot policemen. Members of the BDR were also deployed at all the seven points leading to the Secretariat.

The government banned rallies, processions and public gatherings of any kind around the Secretariat after the Samannaya Committee had announced a programme to stage a sit-in in front of the Secretariat to press the govern-

ment to implement the four-point demand including the execution of the death sentence, as delivered by a People's Court, on 'war criminal' Golam Azam.

Police fired rubber bullets and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the protestors who hurled crackers and pelted stones at them at five out of seven points to the Secretariat, witnesses said.

See Page 12 Col 3



A police officer in riot-gear kneels before the Nirmul Committee Convener, Jahanara Imam at Fulbaria yesterday afternoon, requesting her not to proceed any further with the procession. In an unusual show of courtesy, the officer was reportedly overheard to have said, 'I will lie down here to prevent you from going ahead. If you still want to go, you will have to walk over me.' —Star photo

Opposition calls half-day hartal May 13

By Staff Correspondent

Eleven opposition parties including the Awami League (AL) will observe a half-day hartal May 13 to protest government repression on opposition activists and press their demand for the trial of Jamaat chief Golam Azam as a war criminal.

The announcement of the hartal came last evening from AL chief Sheikh Hasina following a joint meeting of the leaders of the AL, Five Party Alliance, Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) and Gonotantri Party (GP) at the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

The 11-party-called hartal, See Page 12 Col 1

Nirmul holds another sit-in May 9

By Staff Correspondent

The Ghatk Dalal Nirmul Samannaya Committee will hold another sit-in programme around the Jatiya Sangsad next month.

The programme has been fixed for May 9. However, no time has yet been announced.

The committee will also observe a country-wide demonstration Tuesday in support of all the programmes chalked out by the all opposition parties to force the government execute the death sentence on Golam Azam for his 1971 war crimes and withdrawal of cases filed against the 24 leaders of the March 26, 1992 Peoples

See Page 12 Col 1



Police action during Nirmul Committee's sit-in programme in city yesterday. —Star photo

Roadblock demanding quick repatriation of Rohingyas

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 25: All vehicles bound for the Rohingya refugee camps, mostly for relief supplies, were barricaded on the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway for six hours Sunday by local people demanding immediate repatriation of the Myanmar Muslims, reports UNB.

The All-party Rohingya Repatriation Action Committee organised the road blockade. Supporters of the committee, with banners reading 'Ek Dola Ek Dabi, Rohingya Kabe Jabi', put trees, benches and other blocks at Desuapalong point in Ramu thana at 6 am. Witnesses said at least 12 trucks, loaded with foodstuff,

clothes and other relief materials, 10 UNHCR cars and jeeps and other vehicles of different NGOs working for the refugees were stranded at the point.

Convener of the committee Mahmudul Huq Choudhury, talking to newsmen, called upon the government and other agencies involved in repatriation activity, to send the refugees back to their homeland without delay.

The agitators, however, allowed public transport to pass through the roadimpasse. Our Correspondent adds: A total of 148 Rohingyas refugees of 28 families were sent back to Myanmar Sunday from

Nayapara and Rongkhali transit camps.

With the new batch the total number of returnees stands at 22760.

Sunday's batch was the 40th batch of returnees and they were received by Myanmar authorities at Kaningchang Reception Centre.

The UNHCR and other officials were present on the bank of Naf River during their repatriation.

Meanwhile, the 14th round of talks between Bangladesh and Myanmar officials on the Rohingya refugee supervision issue will be held at Mandow Town in Arakan on April 30.

HC verdict on Azam SC to hear govt application for stay Apr 27

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court will hear on April 27 the application seeking stay of operation of the judgement and order, passed by the High Court Division on the writ petition of Prof Golam Azam's citizenship, reports BSS.

The government yesterday moved the civil miscellaneous petition along with an application for stay of operation of the verdict of the High Court Division before Justice ATM Afzal of the Appellate Division. Justice ATM Afzal fixed the date for hearing of the application on April 27.

See Page 12 Col 2

PPP man takes over as Governor Punjab's pro-Sharif CM unseated

LAHORE, Apr 25: Deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif lost a critical confidence vote on his home turf Sunday, when the Punjab provincial assembly voted to unseat his ally and Chief Minister Ghulam Haider Wane, reports AP.

The Punjab provincial assembly voted 157-20 to oust Wane, Sharif's strongest confederate in his bid to return to power.

The powerful Punjab province is home to 60 per cent of Pakistan's 120 million people and the centre of Sharif's power base.

On Saturday Sharif rallied tens of thousands of supporters in the southern port city of Karachi.

Heavily armed police and army soldiers teargassed mobs of pro-Sharif demonstrators who clogged Karachi streets and showered the ousted premier with rose petals and shouts of 'Long Live Sharif.'

But Sharif's supporters feared that Sunday's no-confidence vote against Wane would deal his comeback campaign a serious blow.

Wane's successor is expected to be... See Page 12 Col 2

Prof Yunus takes King Baudouin Prize

At an impressive ceremony in the Royal Palace of Brussels, King Baudouin International Development Prize 1992 was formally presented to Professor Muhammad Yunus of Grameen Bank on April 22, according to an official message received in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

The ceremony was attended by the King and the Queen of Belgium Boutros-Boutros Ghali, UN Secretary General, Jacques Delors, EC Commission President, Mrs Danielle Mitterrand, wife of the French

Textiles Ministry to waive duties on raw materials, impose VAT

Ministry of Textiles has proposed waiving of duties and taxes on import of all raw materials for the textile sector, saying the measure would relieve the ailing sector and contribute to its growth, reports UNB.

Instead, the Ministry suggested imposition of Value Added Tax (VAT) in the production stage of different sub-sectors of textile and said it would triple the revenue collection from the sector within next three years.

The Ministry projected that if VAT is imposed even at the rate of 3 per cent, revenue collection from the textile

See Page 12 Col 6

Arrest of Anwar Hossain Manju challenged

A High Court Division Bench yesterday issued rule upon the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs and two others to show cause within two weeks as to why the detention order on April 22 against Anwar Hossain Manju should not be declared illegal, reports BSS.

The bench comprised Justice Anwarul Huq Chowdhury and Justice K M Hasan.

Manju was arrested on April 21 under Special Powers Act, 1974.

Tasmina Hossain wife of Anwar Hossain filed a writ petition challenging the detention order against her husband.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed with Advocate Azizul Huq and Advocate Mohammad Afzar Hossain appeared for the petitioner.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a meeting in Raipur L M High School ground, Lakshmipur yesterday. —PID photo

PM calls Opposition 'anti-people'

LAXMIPUR, Apr 25: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today accused the opposition of hindering the government's welfare programmes that are aimed at socio-economic emancipation of the common man, reports UNB.

"The Opposition is not only anti-government, today it is also anti-people" she alleged without naming any party in particular.

The Prime Minister was addressing a public meeting at Raipur Liaquat Memorial Pilot High School ground here this morning.

She said that the opposition were not friends of the people adding, "They do not have any development programme of their own and they are hindering the development process initiated by the present govern-

ment."

"They will call hartal and then demand national development... It's not possible," she said stressing the need for maintaining peace in national life to implement uplift programmes and ensure progress.

Presided over by thana BNP President Monirul Islam Howladar, the meeting was also addressed by Energy Minister Dr Khandokar Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Textile Maj (Retd) Abdul Mannan, Whip Mahbulul Alam Tara, members of parliament including Halima Khatun, Mahmudullah, Ziaul Huq Zia, Barkatullah Bulu, Advocate Khairul Anam and other local leaders.

Begum Zia reminded that the opposition were in power in the past when they did not do any good of the people, but when the people's sufferings only compounded.

See Page 12 Col 5

29 Pabna PDB employees dismissed

PABNA, Apr 25: Twenty-nine employees including 6 officials of the Power Development Board in the district were dismissed from their services Sunday on charges of corruption and other irregularities, reports UNB.

The dismissal notices were served on six officials, two metre inspectors, 11 ledger keepers, three office assistants and seven metre readers of the Commercial section of the board.

The officials are: Assistant Director Mazder Hossain, five Assistant Engineers— Badrul Alam, Mosharraf Hossain, Shahidul Alam, M Hamiduzzaman and Talibuddin Biswas.

They were suspended in September last year.

Meanwhile, the employees said that the dismissal notices served on them were undemocratic and they will appeal against the punishment given by the Board.

Annual border confce with India today

Annual border coordination conference between Bangladesh Rifles and Indian Border Security Force will be held at the BDR headquarters today, reports UNB.

An 11-member Indian delegation led by T Ananthachari IPS, Director General of BSF, arrived here yesterday afternoon to attend the meeting.

Director General of BDR Major General Mohammad Anwar Hossain will lead a 19-member homside in the conference.

ICFM confce opens in Karachi Bosnia's call to lift arms embargo

KARACHI, Apr 25: Bosnia's Foreign Minister launched an emotional appeal for international help here today, saying Muslims in his Balkan nation needed weapons to stop the ongoing genocide of their community, reports AFP.

"We don't want humanitarian aid, we want weapons," Haris Silajdzic told journalists mobbing him at the Karachi hotel where a meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) got under way.

Silajdzic called for the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnian Muslims, saying it was both illegal and immoral. Earlier, the conference was inaugurated this morning by the care-taker Prime Minister of Pakistan Mir Balakh Sher Mazari.

Mazari, in his inaugural address, dwelt at length on various important issues before the conference and referred to important developments in Palestine and Middle East, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan etc. He also offered prayers and fetecha for late President Turgut Ozal of Turkey.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman was called upon to offer the vote of thanks on behalf of the Asian group. In his vote of thanks, he recalled Pakistan's

See Page 12 Col 5

Commandos kill hijacker, free all 140 unhurt

AMRITSAR, Apr 25: Paramilitary commandos stormed a hijacked Indian airliner on Sunday, killing the lone Kashmiri Muslim gunman and freeing all other 140 people aboard unhurt, officials said, reports Reuters.

Senior police officer KPS Gill said the hijacker was shot dead in the cockpit when commandos of the elite National Security Guard stormed the plane at Amritsar's Rajasansi Airport about an hour after midnight.

But several passengers said the man was taken off the plane alive, and that they then heard shots on the tarmac.

The Domestic Indian Airlines Flight was hijacked soon after it took off from Delhi for the northern city of Srinagar, in insurgency-torn Kashmir, on Saturday after-

See Page 12 Col 6

High turnout shows support for Yeltsin

MOSCOW, Apr 25: As tens of millions of Russians voted today in an historic poll on President Boris Yeltsin's leadership and reforms, early signs of a high turnout indicated strong support for the president nationwide, reports AFP.

Although the first official indications on the vote were not expected until early Monday, there were unofficial signs reported by Russian news media of strong support for Yeltsin in many parts of the country.

The Russian electoral commission said more than 83 million people, half the 106 million registered voters, had cast their ballots by 6.00 pm (1400 GMT), guaranteeing the

validity of the plebiscite result.

Radio Russia, citing an informal exit poll of some 3,500 voters conducted by US television network ABC and Russian television in 20 Russian towns, said confidence in Yeltsin was running high.

MOSCOW, Apr 25: A Russian television exit poll forecast an overwhelming victory among city-dwellers for President Yeltsin in today's referendum. The poll of 2,400 people in 16 cities across Russia showed Yeltsin winning 75 per cent support in a vote of confidence. The president's support is known to be weaker in the countryside.

UN sanctions on Yugoslavia from today

UNDATED: The United Nations on April 17 imposed new sanctions, effective Monday, against the remnants of Yugoslavia, now composed of Serbia and Montenegro, in an attempt to pressure Bosnian Serbs to sign a peace plan, reports AP.

An initial UN embargo, imposed May 30, 1992, has already shattered the Yugoslav economy, leaving more than 1 million people out of work and driving monthly inflation to more than 300 per cent. There are serious shortages of gasoline and medicine, but food and most other goods are still available.