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# The Daily Star

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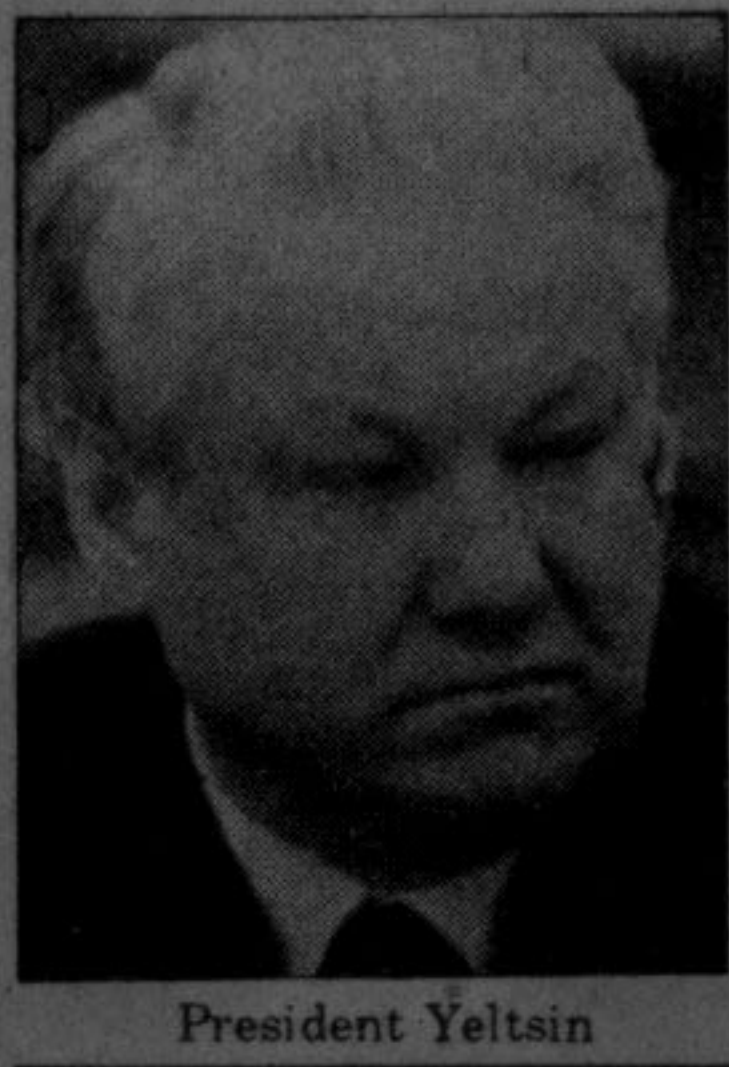
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## Referendum has split society further: Khasbulatov Yeltsin wins mandate



President Yeltsin

MOSCOW, Apr 26: President Boris Yeltsin won around 60 per cent of the ballot in Sunday's vote of confidence, a parliament spokesman said today, quoting preliminary Electoral Commission estimates, reports Reuter.

The spokesman quoted Vasily Kazakov, head of the commission, as also telling parliamentary leaders that referendum support for early parliamentary elections fell short of the 50 per cent of the electorate required to make it legally binding.

But vice-President Alexander Rutskoi said today Yeltsin and his policies had failed to win popular support in Sunday's referendum.

He told Reuters in an interview that some 32 million people had apparently voted for the president while 71-72 million had voted against or stayed away. There can be no talk of overall popular support, he said.

Rutskoi, 45, was elected on a joint ticket with Yeltsin in 1991 but is now one of the president's most determined opponents.

'Let us consider', he said, 'there are 105 million eligible voters.'

'Somewhere around 32 million supported the president and his course. So between 71 and 72 million were either

## 61 killed in IA boeing crash

BOMBAY, Apr 26: At least 61 people died when an Indian Airlines Boeing carrying 112 passengers and six crew members crashed today after taking off from a western Indian city, officials said here, reports AFP.

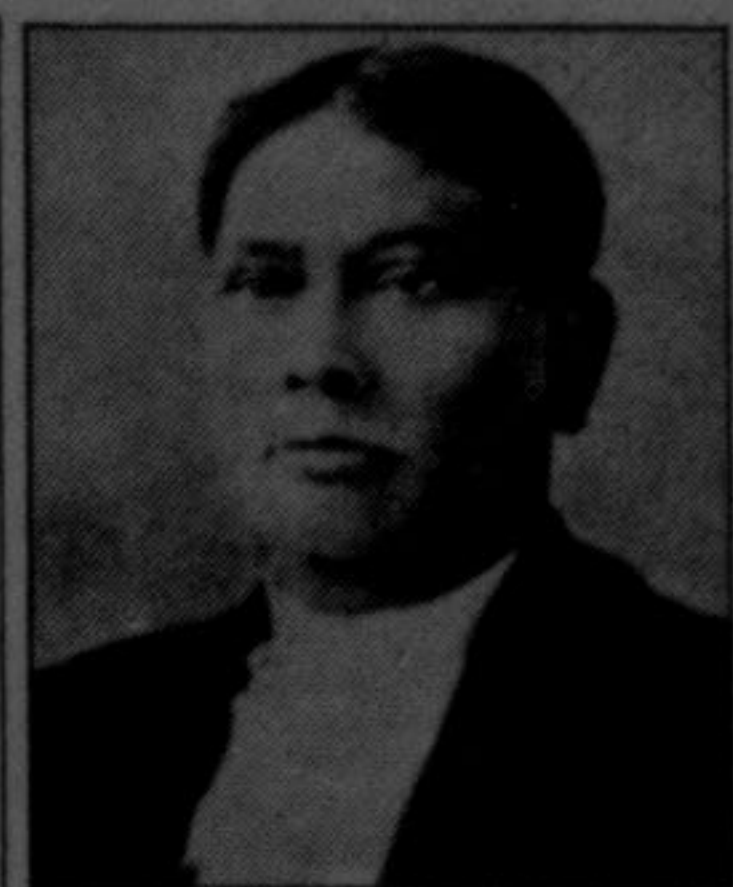
One of the two engines of the Boeing 737 caught fire minutes after the jet left Aurangabad's Chikalthana Airport. It crashed seven kilometres (four miles) from the city.

Initial reports had said up to 94 people died when the plane crashed, split into three and burst into flames. It was not known whether the plane went out of control after its engine caught fire or whether its pilots tried to make an emergency landing and crashed.

Officials said the weather as well as visibility was perfect in Aurangabad.

'Chances are slim that there could be more survivors,' an airline official said in Bombay, as others put the number of deaths at 61. There were several Indian industrialists on board the plane.

Among the survivors was a Japanese tourist, Y Osawa, who boarded the plane with 50 other passengers in Aurangabad. See Page 12 Col 3



## Anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla's death today

By Staff Correspondent  
 The 31st death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haq will be observed today (Tuesday).

Various political, socio-cultural and professional organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to observe the day.

The programmes include, laying wreaths at the mazar of the leader, discussion meeting on his life and contributions, milad mahfil and Quran khwan.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in separate messages yesterday recalled

See Page 12 Col 8



All party meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue (top) and procession in city yesterday protesting police assault on Nirmul Committee activists Sunday. —Star photo

## Joint rally urges people Continue movement for Azam's trial

By Staff Correspondent  
 The leaders of the Awami League (AL)-led Opposition yesterday called on the people to continue the movement to try Golam Azam as a war criminal.

Leaders of the alliances and parties supporting the Nirmul Samannaya Committee movement were addressing a joint rally held yesterday afternoon at Bangabandhu Avenue to protest Sunday's police atrocities on the Nirmul Committee

## Nirmul Body condemns attacks

By Staff Correspondent  
 The Ghatak Dalak Nirmul Samannaya Committee yesterday condemned the attacks by whom it termed 'ruling party-backed armed hoodlums' on the demonstrators during the sit-in programme Sunday.

The Steering Committee of the organisation adopted a resolution saying that neither were the protestors, the innocent passersby, and the poor vendors of Gullistan area spared from the armed attacks by the pro-government BNP and the Chhatra Dal activists.

Chaired by Committee Convener Jahanara Imam, the meeting called the government

See Page 12 Col 8

## Cabinet okays bill to amend electricity act

The cabinet has approved the draft of the bill for amendment of the Electricity Act 1910 to make the law more effective and stringent to remove the scope of malpractices and corruption in the management of electricity, reports BSS.

The approval was given yesterday at the regular weekly meeting of the cabinet held at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

According to the proposed amendment the punitive measures have been made more rigorous. Provisions have also been made in the amendment for punishment for illegal connections and other offences.

The law, from now on, will be applicable to any official, whoever, abets the offences relating to illegal connection and other offences under Section 39 to 44 of this act.

The cabinet has also approved the proposal of the Ministry of Commerce to impose restrictions on the import of sugar.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**PM attends IU convocation today**  
 First convocation of the Islamic University in Kushtia will be held today in the morning. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who is the Chancellor of the University, will preside over the function, reports UNB.

**BB accepts four bids**  
 Four bids with a face value of Tk 30 crores were accepted yesterday at the 29th auction of the 91-day Bangladesh Bank Bill. A total of seven bids of Tk 60 crores were received at the auction. The weighted average price of the accepted bids was Tk 99.09 per Tk 100. The corresponding yield is 3.68 per cent per annum, reports UNB.

**RU degree exams date shifted**  
 From Our Correspondent  
 RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Apr 26: Date of Rajshahi University BA, BSS, BSc, BCom pass examinations of 1992 has been shifted for May 14 to June 10.

## World Bank body reports Govt interference obstacle to private sector growth

By S Y Bakht  
 Government intervention and rent-seeking have eroded the judicial, administrative and commercial machinery of the country, severely restricting the growth of an efficient private sector, according to a recent report published by a World Bank affiliate.

This bleak observation comes at a time when the government, after initiating a series of economic liberalisation steps to create an even playing field for the private sector and to promote industrialisation, is wondering why both local and foreign investors continue to shy away from investing in the country.

'It is clear that until basic legal and administrative reform measures are adopted, little can be expected from the new incentives to encourage domestic and foreign investment in the country,' asserts the report, based on a study conducted last year by the Washington-based Foreign Investment Advisory Service (FIAS).

The study was conducted at the request of the government to identify major constraints to investment in the country, which could serve as a basis for discussions with the World Bank on the second Industrial Sector Adjustment Credit (ISAC-2).

The FIAS reports identifies the primary factors discouraging investment in the country as: outdated laws and a 'highly inefficient' judicial system; a maze of, at times conflicting, government regulations coupled with an administration that is not accountable and transparent; and a complex set of fiscal incentives.

Contrary to government claims that a favourable investment climate prevails in the country, the reports terms the existing business environment 'very unfavourable.'

The FIAS findings also point out to the 'surprising' unanimity of view among lawyers, accountants, businessmen,

See Page 12 Col 3

## Azam's detention: Writ referred back to Chief Justice

By Staff Correspondent  
 The High Court Monday referred the writ petition, challenging the detention order of Golam Azam under the Foreigners Act, back to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

The writ came up for hearing at the Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Ismail Uddin Sarkar and Justice Kazi Ebadul Huq.

The Court referred the writ back to the Chief Justice without passing any order as one of the Judges, on a previous occasion, had felt 'embarrassed' to hear the petition.

'Since one of us had felt embarrassed let this matter be placed before the Chief Justice' See Page 12 Col 2

## Repressive policies in Kashmir OIC Secy Gen suggests sanctions on India

KARACHI, Apr 26: The Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has recommended member nations consider imposing sanctions on India for its rule over Kashmir, report AFP, Reuter.

Top among these was a recommendation that member nations 'impose restrictions on scientific, cultural, manpower and other exchanges with India pending the reversal of India's repression of Kashmir.'

The report of the Secretary General, Hamid Algabidi, obtained here today, also called on members 'to consider reviewing economic and trade relations with India and make these conditional on the reversal of its repressive policies and practices in Kashmir.'

India would be hard hit by the adoption of the recommendations, especially as it sends thousands of workers to the Gulf and throughout the Arab world. But a diplomat said, many of these workers are Indian Muslims.

Pakistan has used its position as host of the OIC meeting to hammer home its opposition to India's rule over two thirds of Kashmir.

Among the report's other recommendations was that OIC member countries urge the UN General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Commission and

See Page 12 Col 2

## Dhaka for united action in face of new changes

KARACHI, Apr 26: Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, who is leading the Bangladesh delegation to the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers here today stressed the need for united and resolute action of Muslim Ummah in the face of new changes and challenges of the post cold war era, reports BSS.

Taking part in the general debate of the conference, the Foreign Minister called upon the OIC nations to reaffirm their total commitment to the immutable objectives of the charter of the organisation to translate them into meaningful reality by closing ranks and pooling the resources of the member nations to build a prosperous and self reliant ummah.

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## Commentary

### Bangladesh should be involved in new environment body

From S. M. Ali  
 KYOTO (Japan), Apr 26: Bangladesh now has an opportunity of developing a comprehensive environment programme of action in co-operation with a new international organisation which is headed by the Russian leader, Mikhail S Gorbachev.

The body which has drawn support from various continents is called the International Green Cross. It is the brainchild of the New York-based Global Forum. Having worked closely with parliamentarians in different countries, several spiritual

leaders, and media practitioners to create an awareness for human survival, the Forum has brought together close to 400 participants to Japan in support of the new movement.

The programme for the launching of the International Green Cross was spread over three days in this ancient Japanese city, with Gorbachev maintaining his high visibility at every session, finally reaching its climax with a stirring call from the former President of the defunct Soviet Union to treat the protection of ecology

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## Provost roughs up JU VC

By JU Correspondent  
 The Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, was roughed up by a hall provost Monday.

JU sources said that Dr Golam Hossain, Provost of the Al-Beruni Hall of the university, beat the Vice Chancellor Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed with a clip file after the VC refused to recommend his promotion to the professorship.

The JU Syndicate at a special meeting was discussing punitive measures against the teacher till writing of this report late Monday night.

The university authorities have filed a case with Savar Police against Dr Golam Hossain, an Associate Professor of the Government and Politics Department, charging him

See Page 12 Col 3

## Ishaq rejects demand for dissolution of PAs

ISLAMABAD, Apr 26: Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishaq Khan today rejected former premier Benazir Bhutto's demand for the dissolution of four provincial assemblies, reports AFP.

The official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) quoted the President as saying the provincial legislatures 'cannot be dissolved so long as they keep functioning in accordance with the Constitution.'

'Dissolution of assemblies is a matter which is governed totally by constitutional requirements and not the one to be decided on the whims and wishes of anyone,' he told a group of provincial deputies in Karachi.

No immediate reaction was available from Bhutto's camp

about the President's statement.

PTI from Washington says the United States would welcome Benazir Bhutto's return to power as a result of elections a US wire service despatch from Islamabad published in Washington Times today said.

'Political analysts and Western diplomats believe the army might step in if a deadlock threatens to paralyse the country,' the despatch said.

AFP adds: Pakistan's political crisis is being handled in accordance with the constitution, army chief General Abdul Waheed said in his first public comment on Pak situation.

'The Constitution of the country has remained intact

See Page 12 Col 1

## 6 RU Shibir leaders held

From Our Correspondent  
 RAJSHAHI, Apr 26: Six top leaders of the Rajshahi University unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir including its president and general secretary were arrested Monday.

They were picked up from Proctor's office where they went to attend a meeting with the university authorities Monday morning.

The arrested are: Mattur Rahman Akand, president of Islami Chhatra Shibir, RU unit, and general secretary Golam Murtaza, and four other leaders Khairul Islam, Nurul Islam, Mohammad Selim and Matinul Islam.

Meanwhile, Police Sunday night recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunitions from the house of one Mojamal Hoque of Budhpara, a village adjacent to University.



Gorbachev, the force behind the International Green Cross