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by Osman Ghani Khan  
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**Tomorrow in The Daily Star**

The Star weekend magazine which is being published tomorrow, instead of today to accommodate a four-page supplement on the Netherlands, will carry the lead piece, titled, "Watching Gorbachev in Action" by the Editor S. M. Ali, just back from Kyoto, and several other features on the launching of the International Green Cross, headed by the Russian leader, in the ancient Japanese city.  
**YOU CANNOT MISS IT.**

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**BDPC Director calls on PM**

Director of Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC) Saifur Rahman accompanied by Director of Pact Bangladesh Richard Holloway called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office here yesterday. Rahman, who is author of "Disaster Management - Handbook for Bangladesh", presented some copies of the book to the Prime Minister, reports BSS.

**Waziullah DCCI president**

ATM Waziullah, Chairman and Managing Director of Kobeda Overseas Limited, took over as President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Thursday) for the term 1993. Syed Jamaluddin Haider, Managing Director of Broadways Chapman Ltd and Khurshed Ali, managing director of Mark Garments Industry Ltd became senior Vice-President and Vice-President respectively, reports UNB.

**Postal holiday**

All post offices in the country will remain closed on May Day (Saturday), a public holiday. However, GEP and EMS services and sale of envelopes and stamps from RMS (mail and sorting) counters will go on as usual, reports UNB.

## All 76 killed as Afghan military plane crashes

KABUL, Apr 29: A military transport aircraft has crashed in northern Afghanistan killing all 76 persons on board, official sources said today, reports AFP.

The Soviet-built Antonov-26 Tubroprop flew into a mountain side about 50 kilometres (35 miles) southeast of the northern provincial capital of Mazar-e-Sharif. The wreckage was later found by passing nomads.

The plane had flown from Kabul to Mazar-e-Sharif late Tuesday, but due to bad weather could not land.

The plane belonged to the former pro-communist Uzbek militia of General Abdur Rashid Dostam, who heads the National Islamic Movement of

Afghanistan, or Jumbish.

After circling Mazar airport the pilot radioed ground control that he was diverting to another airport, Jumbish officials said in Kabul.

Most of the passengers were described as civilians who were travelling to Mazar for celebrations marking the first anniversary of the victory of the Mujahedeen guerrillas. Over the pro-communist Najibullah government of Afghanistan.

Among the passengers was understood to be an Afghan journalist called Masoom, who worked for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), and a 15-man Afghan wrestling team.

This is the second military crash in Afghanistan within two weeks.

Two foreign journalists were among 15 people who died when a helicopter crashed in the Kayan valley of the Hindu Kush massif 13 days ago.

A former general of the Najibullah regime Thursday warned journalists not to fly on military aircraft from Kabul.

"Due to the lack of military discipline these aircrafts are no longer being properly maintained," he said.

Since the Mujahedeen victory, which also saw the founding of Jumbish, feuding among the various Mujahedeen factions has left the country in a state of semi-anarchy.



UCEP brought out a colourful procession in city yesterday on the occasion of its 20th founding anniversary (Story on Page 8). — Star photo

## UNGA expels Y'slavia from economic forum

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 29: The General Assembly on Thursday expelled Yugoslavia from the UN economic and social forum, further increasing its diplomatic isolation and branding it an international outcast, reports AP.

"Belgrade authorities must end their support for Bosnian Serbs, for aggression in Bosnia and Croatia," US Ambassador Madeleine K Albright told the 181-nation assembly. Until Bosnian Serbs sign a peace plan, she said, they and their sponsors in Belgrade will remain "international pariahs."

The assembly, which banished Yugoslavia last year, voted 107-0, with 11 abstentions. — See Page 8 Col 6

## Protest against repatriation of Biharis in Punjab

MULTAN, Apr 29: Pakistani police detained an undisclosed number of people after a procession against the repatriation of Biharis from Bangladesh, a police official said today, reports AFP.

The procession late Wednesday was organized by the Seraiki Qaumi Movement (SQM), an organization claiming to represent people speaking Seraiki and who make up the majority ethnic group in the southern part of Pakistan's Punjab Province.

A SQM statement here said some 700 people were arrested by police and paramilitary troops after they baton-charged the procession near the town of Sadiqabad, about 300 kilometres (187 miles) southwest of here.

A police officer, speaking by telephone from Sadiqabad, said there was no room for paralysis or destruction in democ-

## BOP situation comfortable 20.8 pc surge in export earnings likely

Star Report

Bangladesh has been enjoying a relatively comfortable balance of payments situation in fiscal year 1992-93 (FY 93), a third year in a row, mainly due to an upsurge in exports by 20.8 per cent and a 6.1 per cent rise in remittances from Bangladeshis employed abroad, say Finance Ministry sources.

According to the Bangladesh Planning Commission the country's export earnings are likely to surge 20.8 per cent to 2300 million US dollars while remittances from abroad will increase by another 52 million dollars to 900 million dollars in the current FY 93.

During the current FY 93 the import bill is expected to

recover substantially by 537 million dollars or by 15.5 per cent to 4000 million dollars and the current account deficit is estimated to expand to 735 million dollars from 605 million dollars in the previous fiscal.

Although imports are expected to move rapidly after two consecutive fiscal years of stagnation, an upsurge in exports receipts coupled with an acceleration also in the remittances will bring about an additional 392 million dollars build-up in the country's foreign exchange reserves thereby raising their level to 2000 million, equivalent to six months of imports by the end

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## Partial power suspension underway

Star Report

About half of the total power generation in the country was suspended from 11 pm yesterday due to a temporary halt to power production at the Ashuganj power generating units.

The Power Development Board (PDB) told The Daily Star yesterday that it had taken necessary measures to meet any shortfall in electricity supplies due to the power suspension.

The Ashuganj Power Plant consisting of eight units produces some 724 megawatts (MW) of power out of a total production of 1650 mw in the country.

The Ashuganj plants will be suspended for installation of a See Page 8 Col 3

## Ministers, BNP men making fortune thru corruption: Hasina

GOPALGANJ, Apr 29: Awami League President Sheikh Hasina today said her party would continue its struggle for people's democratic rights and economic emancipation which the ruling BNP failed to ensure, reports UNB.

Addressing a cross section of people at Tungipara Sheikh Mujibur Rahman High School ground, she said the BNP government had failed to bring any welfare for the rural people in last two years.

"Ministers and BNP men are making fortune by resorting to corruption while the masses are deprived of food, work and shelter," she said, adding the government has failed to use the tax paid by the people for their welfare.

The Leader of the Opposition was critical of the government decision to lend See Page 8 Col 3

## Saifur tells donors in Paris

### Challenge is now to sustain macro-economic stability

PARIS, Apr 29: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said that challenges before Bangladesh was now to sustain macro-economic stability and to accelerate the process of structural reforms, reports BSS.

Making his statement at the two-day Bangladesh aid group meeting which ended here yesterday pledging an assistance of US dollars 2.15 billion for the country for the fiscal 1993-94, the Finance Minister reiterated that the government would maintain momentum of tax reforms and expenditure rationalisation.

The focus will be on making VAT (Value Added Tax) more effective, eliminating remain-

ing distortions, improving direct tax administration and containing current expenditure growth below the growth of nominal GDP, he said.

Rahman referred to the World Bank's economic report which focused on Bangladesh's success in addressing her structural and macro-economic problems, government effort to stimulate private sector investment, enhancing external competitiveness, human resources development and poverty alleviation.

He said the perspective for this focus was a generally shared optimism about Bangladesh's growth potential and "this climate of hope is a major achievement of the pre-

sent government."

The Finance Minister said the success in macro-economic management had brought realisation of the government's vision within reach and pointed out that vision was to achieve basic literacy rate of sixty per cent and primary health coverage for two thirds of the population, availability of safe drinking water in urban and rural areas and stable poverty reducing growth.

Rahman informed the donors that the government would need to use its Annual Development Programme (ADP) in the short and medium-term and said the size of the ADP for fiscal year 1993 was expected

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## Environment for competitiveness of industries a must: Chambers

Star Report

Chamber leaders of the country in their reactions over the aid pledges at the Paris Club meeting observed that the environment for competitiveness of industries was essential before implementing trade liberalisation.

The leaders also viewed that the higher aid pledges this year than sought by the government reflected the donors favourable attitude towards the country.

The President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Mahbubur Rahman said that if the socio-

economic factors affecting the local industries were not addressed first, the liberalisation of trade as stated by the Finance Minister Saifur Rahman would hit the country's industries.

"This would be just like putting the cart before the horse" situation, the FBCCI chief commented.

"The loadsheddings, the strikes and the labour militancy, how can we be competitive in this environment?" asked the FBCCI chief.

"Until the free market economy forces are not in full operation, the local industries

should be given some sort of support, or else the country will be a market for foreign goods", Rahman said.

"Conditionalities under our socio-economic scenario may become difficult for us", he added saying that "The Finance Minister has done a good job by obtaining handsome pledges to support our development plans."

The President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Latifur Rahman said that the higher amount in pledges by the donors at the

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## Pirzada made FM, Asghar Khan among 17 new Pak ministers

ISLAMABAD, Apr 29: Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, a former Secretary General of the 51-country Organization of Islamic Conference, today became Foreign Minister in Pakistan's enlarged caretaker government, reports AFP.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan expanded the caretaker government by swearing in 17 new ministers, 10 ministers of state and three advisors, an of-

ficial report said. Pirzada, a legal and constitutional expert, served as Attorney General during late General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq's military rule.

He authored a controversial constitutional provision which Zia introduced in 1985 to confer sweeping powers to the President.

Today's expansion increased the strength of the

cabinet members under caretaker Prime Minister Balkh Sher Mazari to 47, matching the number of ministers in the previous government of ousted premier Nawaz Sharif.

Today's batch included nominees from Bhutto's left-of-centre Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the central Tehrik-Ilisqal of former Air Force chief Asghar Khan, a faction of

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IT HAS BEEN WORTH WAITING FOR MY

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