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**Inside Today**

**Article**

**May Day: The Rhythm and the Reality**  
Page 4

**International**



**Gunmen free all Costa Rica hostages**

**Clinton considering two-track approach to end Bosnian war**  
Page 5

**Business**

**Rich states suggest three-point strategy for growth**  
Page 6

**Weekend Magazine**

**The Russian Leader Emerges as an Exponent of World Environment**  
by S M Ali, Extracts from the Gorbachev Speech on Different Issues, Science, the Environment, and Value Change, Guidelines for Environmental Reporting, Shahnaim—A Voice for Asia and Women in International Green Cross  
Pages 10, 11

**Supplement**

**Special supplement on May Day**  
Pages 8, 9

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**



**Our Friends and their Politics**  
Page 3

**Holiday Notice**

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of the historic May Day. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow.

**Notice**

Due to space constraints we are obliged to publish a 2-page weekend magazine. The Rising Star is also being dropped. Inconvenience caused to our readers is regretted.  
—Editor

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**PM visits Hajj camp**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited the Hajj camp at Uttara yesterday evening and offered munajat along with the Hajj pilgrims praying for their safe return after performing Hajj, the greatest Muslim pilgrimage. The first batch of 301 Hajj pilgrims including 90 women will leave Dhaka today morning, reports BSS.

**Kirit Khan enthralled audience**

Noted star of the sub-continent, Ustad Kirit Khan, enthralled a packed audience at the Jatiya Press Club here by his exquisite recital yesterday evening, reports BSS.

## Historic May Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The historic May Day, which glorifies the dignity of labour, will be observed today (Saturday) throughout Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world as part of the continued movement by the working community to establish their rights.

Today is a public holiday. Different labour and political organisations, and socio-cultural bodies have chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day. Radio Bangladesh and BTV will put up special programmes on the occasion while national dailies will publish articles highlighting the day's significance.

In the evening of May 4, 1886, workers of Chicago sacrificed their lives while demonstrating for an eight-hour working day.

The violent confrontation between the police and the labour protestors in Chicago dramatised the labour movement's struggle for recognition across the world.

Earlier on May 3, 1886, one person was killed and several others were injured as police intervened during a shut down in Chicago.

As a sequel to this violence, a mass meeting to protest police brutality was called to take place the next day in Hay Market Square.

The meeting remained peaceful until a police contingent attempted to break it up.

At this point a bomb was hurled at the police in which several policemen were killed. As a result the police opened fire on the mob.

Amid public hysteria, labour leader August Spies and seven others were arrested and con-

See Page 12 Col 1



## Undertaking at Paris Aid Club meet Dhaka agrees to speed up economic reforms

Star Report

Bangladesh has agreed to sharply accelerate the pace of the ongoing economic reforms and improve the quality of investments at the just concluded Paris Aid Club meet.

In a detailed and wide-ranging written 'Understanding for FY 1994', the government promised to strengthen the environment for the private sector, increase public sector efficiency, and managing human development programmes.

The government undertaking was given at the end of the two-day moot beginning April 27 and attended by 23 member nations and organisations of the Aid Club while four other organisations also attended as observers.

It was agreed at the meeting that, with effective action

on the government's undertaking, it would be 'reasonable' to aim at project aid disbursement of some 1,300 million US dollar in fiscal 1993-94.

Provided the structural reforms required for further support for electricity, gas, jute and railway sectors are also fulfilled in a timely manner, the pledges made by the aid group indicated a fresh commitment of about 2,100 million dollar to Bangladesh in FY 94', says a World Bank press release issued at the end of the meet.

According to a World Bank press release issued on the concluding day, there was a consensus at the meeting that Bangladesh now has an excellent opportunity to accelerate structural reforms to increase public savings and investment, develop the private sector, and to accelerate human development.

See Page 12 Col 4

## Donors want liberalisation of trade, tariff: Saifur

Donors have advised Bangladesh to go for full scale liberalisation of its trade and tariff policies to gain external competitiveness rapidly, reports UNB.

The strongly advocated that the country should implement its programme of trade reform more vigorously keeping pace with the neighbouring countries — Bangladesh's main competitors in the international market.

They (donors) cautioned against any half-hearted measures but suggested to go the whole hog', said Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman while talking to newsmen at the airport about the outcome

of this week's Aid Consortium meeting on his return from Paris yesterday morning.

A comprehensive tariff rationalization would make the Bangladesh economy competitive and create a friendly, enabling environment for the private sector to be activated, he said quoting the sentiment of the Aid Club members.

For achieving external competitiveness, the Aid Club also prescribed urgent improvement in labour-management relations by reforming the labour market. They too stressed the drastic improvement in civil administration and on updating the financial laws.

Saifur Rahman, who led an eleven-member delegation to the two-day moot April 27-28, described the outcome of Paris parley 'successful' as what he said donors demonstrated confidence in Bangladesh's reform programmes and responded generously to its requirement of external assistance.

The Aid Club meeting, attended by representatives of 25 donor countries and agencies, pledged 2150 million US dollar in aid to Bangladesh for 1993-94 fiscal — 150 million dollar more than what Dhaka had asked for. The amount includes: 1655 million as pro-

See Page 12 Col 7

## Benazir unlikely to pull out of caretaker govt now

ISLAMABAD, Apr 30: Caretaker Prime Minister Balakh Sher Mazari has formed a huge 58-member cabinet in an effort to create a broad coalition and maintain support from Benazir Bhutto, reports AFP.

Officials said here today the 58-member government, the largest in Pakistan's history, which was formed to oversee elections in July, was aimed at eliminating the possibility of vote-rigging.

A spokesman said the new government, billed as the All Parties Conference (APC), was designed to evolve national consensus on vital issues.

Bhutto organised a meeting of three major political alliances in Islamabad to discuss the current political crisis.

The day-long meeting began here today as scheduled but observers said Bhutto was unlikely to pull out of the government now as her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Sharif's opponent in the

Pakistan Muslim League (PML) had been given a lion's share of the government posts. Mazari told reporters Bhutto made no threat to walk out of his caretaker government, when in separate meeting with himself and the president.

Defending the size of his cabinet, he said it included almost all major political parties and could truly be described as "a government of national consensus."

Besides the PPP and the pro-government PML, the centrist, Tehreek-i-Insliqal, Jamhoori Mahaz of the fundamentalist Islamic parties and several fringe groups have joined the government.

Sharif's PML faction has emerged as the leading opposition to the new government, fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami, left leaning Awami National Party and the Mohajir Qaumi Movement of urban Sindh have all refused to join the government.

Two important religious groups, the Shi'ite Tehreek Nifaz Fiqh Jaffria and its rival Anjuman Sipah Siba Pakistan (ASSP) have also stayed away.

Mazari's government includes 34 federal ministers, 10 ministers of state, 14 advisors and special assistant with ministerial ranks.

He has accommodated all those who remained loyal to the president in his battle with Sharif. These include non-party individuals such as jurist, Sharifuddin Pirzada who has been given the Foreign Ministry.

Pirzada had been advising the president on legal and constitutional matters during the power struggle.

In the new set up the PPP has secured key portfolios including, finance, commerce, defence, production and agriculture while the lone woman minister Fauzia Habib inducted Thursday also belonged to Bhutto's party.

## 'Ogata to take responsibilities for Rohingya repatriation'

By Staff Correspondent

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is going to take the "overall responsibilities" for the repatriation of the Rohingya refugees to Myanmar, Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman said on Friday.

Mostafiz was briefing newsmen at the airport after his return from the recently concluded Karachi meet of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic States (OIC).

Replying to a question, Mostafiz noted that he had raised the Rohingya refugee issue in his address at the OIC.

However, he added "the UNHCR is taking overall responsibilities" for the repatriation of the Rohingya refugees and that is the reason the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, is coming to Bangladesh.

Earlier, Foreign Office officials said that the High

See Page 12 Col 4

## ICFM resolution on Bosnia FM hopes UN would 'response positively'

By Staff Correspondent

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman Friday hoped that the United Nations would "respond positively" to the call for taking effective measures to end the atrocities against the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina, made at the just concluded meeting of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) in Pakistan.

Briefing newsmen on his return home at the airport, the Foreign Minister said that the meet also adopted a resolution on Jammu and Kashmir expressing concern at the violation of human rights and for denying access to the troubled state of India by the OIC Secretary General.

Replying to a question, he suggested that the dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir should be settled bilaterally through a process of dialogue as per the Simla

Accord and UN resolutions.

Rahman informed that Bangladesh candidate, Ambassador Mohammad Mohsin, was re-elected Assistant Secretary General of the OIC while Salauddin Ahmed, Dhaka's candidate for the post of Director General of the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), was also endorsed at the conference along with the Senegalese candidate for the post, Jacques Diouf. Election for the FAO post is scheduled for November next.

Bangladesh also proposed to set up an Advanced Medical Training Centre in Dhaka to provide higher training to medical personnel from member states, he added.

Expressing his satisfaction at the outcome of the 21st ICFM meet, which was attended by all 51 OIC countries, See Page 12 Col 3

## Deaths in city crime incidents increase in April

By Farid Ahmed

pointed out that they were lesser than that of March. The most sensational murder was committed when a top businessman, Humayun Zahir, 48, was shot dead in the premises of his Dhanmondi residence on April 8 by two youngsters.

Later police arrested Fazlur Rahman Tonmoy and Abdul

in the city. Police also recovered bodies of two teenaged girls from a Gulshan lake and Sayedabad Bus Terminal on April 22. One of them was identified as Sanwara Begum and the other whose body was recovered from a suitcase at the bus terminal could not be identified. But police suspected that both the girls were murdered.

Nine people committed suicide and three others were found mysteriously dead in the capital last month. But no headway was made in police investigation in this regard.

A total of 33 people were killed and hundreds injured in road accidents in the city in April.

Besides, demonstrations in protest against the arrival of Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao at the SAARC summit, Nirmul Samannaya Committee's programmes, See Page 12 Col 2

## Youngman shot dead in city

By DMCH Correspondent

A young man Shafiqul Islam, 22, was shot dead at east Badda, Gulshan, in the capital Thursday night.

Gulshan police, immediately after the murder, arrested three persons and recovered a revolver, said police.

Shah Alam, Zulfikar alias Rana and Mohammad Apu Sultan alias Apu were remanded to the Gulshan Police Station for three days for questioning in connection with the murder.

Police said that Shafiqul was murdered following disagreement over sharing of booty.

When the murderers were escaping by an autorickshaw, Sabujbagh police on an information from Gulshan police chased the vehicle at Rampura and arrested three persons and recovered a revolver from them at around 11:45 pm Thursday, said police.

However, Gulshan police said last night that the arrested persons admitted their involvement in the murder of Shafiqul.

## AL rival factions clash in N'ganj: 10 injured

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 30: Two rival factions of the Awami League unit clashed here today leaving at least 10 persons injured. During an hour-long clash, several crackers were exploded and shots fired.

The injured include Kamaluddin Mridha, Publicity Secretary of the AL town branch and Zakirul Alam Helal, General Secretary of Government Tolaram College Students Union.

According to witnesses, the clash sparked off between two groups at about 8 pm when leaders of town unit including its President Nazma Rahman and General Secretary Shamim Osman arrived at the party office.

The leaders reached the office after addressing a public meeting at Fataullah thana to campaign for the May 2 public meeting in the district headquarters.

AL chief and leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to

address the meeting organised by the local AL branch.

Witnesses said, some outsiders accompanying a section of the party workers were seen in and outside the party office during the arrival of Nazma Rahman and other leaders.

These youngsters started firing shots and brick-battening the office, the witnesses added.

The clash continued until 9:15 terrorising the area with gunshots and bomb blasts.

Police reached the spot during the clash but did not take any action, witnesses said.

None was arrested in this connection. Nazma Rahman and Shamim Osman alleged that the rivals hired the anti-liberation Freedom Party-Jamaat-Shibir Jatiya Party armed activists to launch the attack. They named Shymol of Freedom Party and Sanaullah of Jatiya Party to have led the attack.

## Help complete unfinished tasks of Zia, PM urges ex-soldiers

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the ex-soldiers to involve themselves in ongoing socio-economic development programmes of her government aimed at alleviating poverty and removing economic ills, reports BSS.

Addressing a gathering of about 200 members of the Bangladesh Ex-soldiers Association, who called on her at Sugandha last night, the Prime Minister said her democratic government wanted to utilise the retired members of the armed forces in the country's economic uplift.

She sought their cooperation in the smooth implementation of the current socio-economic programmes to complete the unfinished tasks and dreams of late Ziaur See Page 12 Col 6

## Saifur against restrictions on sugar import

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday strongly reacted against the recently imposed import restrictions on sugar.

"This is not acceptable as this sort of stop-gap arrangement cannot work," commented the Finance Minister while talking to newsmen at the airport on his return from Paris after attending the just concluded Aid Club meeting.

On Monday, the Cabinet approved a Commerce Ministry proposal to impose restrictions on the import of sugar. Last year, the government had lifted the ban on sugar imports.

Finance Minister Rahman, who was not present at the cabinet meeting, noted that such quantitative restrictions on imports is affecting the ongoing negotiations with the World Bank on the second Industrial Sector Adjustment Credit (ISAC)-2.

"No quantitative restrictions (on imports) would be accepted", he added.

## Delhi condemns OIC resolution on Kashmir

NEW DELHI, Apr 30: India today condemned an Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) resolution flaying New Delhi for alleged human rights violations in Kashmir and accused Pakistan of misleading delegates at the meet, reports AFP.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said an OIC proposal recommending trade sanctions against India for reportedly suppressing the Kashmiris' right to self-determination was "totally unacceptable."

He said Pakistan, which hosted the five-day meet, deliberately misled the 50 other OIC members so that it could continue to support the separatist campaign by Muslim guerrillas in the northern Indian state.

Indian MPs earlier criticised the proposed sanctions, while Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khurshed dismissed the charges, saying India was "perfectly capable of looking after its citizens."

Under Kumar Gujral, a former Foreign Minister, regretted that many of the OIC members which backed the resolution calling for economic sanctions had been backed by India in the past.

## Power supply from Ashuganj normal

The generation of electricity at Ashuganj power station was restored yesterday evening, Power Development Board sources said here last night, reports BSS.

The production at the station was temporarily suspended to connect the complex with the new regulating and metering station of Titae Gas.

The supply of power from Ashuganj power station has now become normal, the source added.