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# The Daily Star

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## Inside Today

### Article

#### Politics and Managing the Economy in Bangladesh

by K B Ahmed  
 Page 4

### International

#### Presser threatens to block F-16s delivery to Pakistan

Berlusconi stuns lefts in Italian polls  
 Page 5

### Business

Japan unveils market opening plan  
 World oil prices plunge  
 Pages 6, 7

### Feature

#### Education

Education and commitment; The role of education in sustaining and developing culture; and Nijera Shikhi  
 Page 8

### Metropolitan

#### Dhaka Day by Day



Focusing on the Complexity of Racism  
 Page 3

## NEWS BRIEFS

### PM shocked at loss of lives in US tornado

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today expressed her deep shock at the loss of lives and property in the southern states of the United States due to the recent tornado and storm there. In a message addressed to President Bill Clinton Begum Khaleda Zia said the people and the government of Bangladesh were shocked to learn about the loss of lives and damage to property in the tornado and storm hit states of the US, reports BSS.

### Hasina shocked

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and chief of Bangladesh Awami League Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her deep shock at the loss of lives and damage to property in the Alabama state of the United States due to recent tornado there. In a message sent to the US President Bill Clinton Sheikh Hasina expressed her profound sympathy for the members of the bereaved families and wished early recovery of the injured ones, reports BSS.

### Name change

The government has changed the name of the Ministry of Women's Affairs as Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, said a PIO handout yesterday, reports UNB.

### Fake policeman

By Staff Correspondent

A fake policeman was apprehended from inside the Bangladesh Secretariat and handed over to the Ramna police yesterday morning. Jamal Hossain, 28, posing himself as an officer of the Special Branch (SB), was taking money from one Moshur Rahman for helping him enter the secretariat through its gate No-3 before he was caught by security man at the gate.

### Prokrichi strike

Apr 5

By Staff Correspondent

The Prokrichi-BCS Kendrio Sangram Parishad at a meeting yesterday called upon all doctors, engineers and agriculturists to make the grand rally and strike programme on April 5 a success.

## Notes for Jamuna co-financing exchanged in Tokyo

# Japan assures increased aid

TOKYO, Mar 29: Japan and Bangladesh today exchanged notes for a Japanese ODA loan of 213 million US dollar for the Jamuna bridge and the Bakhrabad gas development projects, reports BSS.

The notes were signed and exchanged by Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata and Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman immediately before the official talks between Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa at the latter's residence. Both prime ministers were present at the signing.

Of the total amount up to 21,562 million yen equivalent

to 200 million dollars will go to cofinancing the construction of the Jamuna bridge while 1,405 million yen equivalent to 13 million dollars will go towards the development of the Bakhrabad gas development project.

Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Hata said "We expect Bangladesh to develop under the leadership of Begum Zia."

He said that the bridge had been a cherished project in Bangladesh ever since Bangladesh came to into being.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said the Jamuna bridge will unite two areas of Bangladesh divided by a mighty river while the Bakhrabad gas project will immensely help

economic development programmes in Bangladesh's western part.

Later, the Prime Ministers of Japan and Bangladesh, during their formal talks, agreed to increase their development cooperation for the letter's socio-economic uplift.

During the summit lasting over an hour, the two sides discussed economic cooperation and Japan was agreeable to increase in substance and size its assistance to Bangladesh's developing economy and increasing its support to the areas of social uplift by way of supporting educational and health programmes.

Under Bangladesh's current development strategy social

uplift and human resources development are now priority areas.

The Japanese Prime Minister responded positively to Bangladesh request to encourage Japanese private investment in Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh delegation at the talks included Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Prime Minister's special envoy M Morshed Khan, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister ANM Eusuf, Secretary Industries, AHM Abdul Hye, Energy Secretary Faizur Razzak, Commerce Secretary AH Mafazzal Karim, Bangladesh

See Page 12 Col 3



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa (2nd R) leading their respective sides at the official talks held at the Japanese PM's residence in Tokyo yesterday. — PID photo

## Exclusive EPZ for Japanese investors planned: PM

TOKYO, Mar 29: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here today that Bangladesh is now planning to set up a special export processing zone for Japanese investments alone, reports BSS.

She was speaking at a dinner, hosted in her honour by Prime Minister of Japan Morihiro Hosokawa and Mrs. Hosokawa at the Prime Minister's official residence.

Begum Zia urged Japan to offer Bangladesh special and differential opportunities for its market access in Japan and secure substantial Japanese investments in her country.

She appreciated the generous cooperation and support of the people and government of Japan in Bangladesh's nation-

building activities including poverty alleviation, building of rural infrastructure and the programmes of family planning, primary education and basic healthcare.

Describing political stability and peace as the two essential requisites for sustained economic development, Begum Zia said her government had established socio-political stability in Bangladesh and opened its economy to the world.

She also referred to Bangladesh's rapid moves towards privatisation, macro-economic management to encourage foreign private investments.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister said Japan's political

reforms had earned high admiration in Bangladesh and hoped the efforts of Prime Minister Hosokawa towards further streamlining the political system would be met with great success.

She said her country would continue to support Japan in its legitimate aspirations in the United Nations and added, "We are totally behind you in your effort to be a permanent member of the Security Council."

Recalling the visit of late President Ziaur Rahman in Japan in 1978, she said it was at that time that the broad vista of Bangladesh-Japan relations unfolded before us.

The Prime Minister said

See Page 12 Col 3

## Nor'westers, showers to continue

By Staff Correspondent

The current spell of nor'westers and thundershowers across the country is likely to continue for another two to three days causing flash floods in the eastern region, Dhaka Meteorological Office sources said yesterday.

"This is very usual in our country for this time of the year" Sajedur Rahman, deputy director, Storm Warning Centre, told The Daily Star.

He said, the Dhaka Met office had correctly forecast the rains and the nor'westers now sweeping the country except Sylhet. Since March 11 Sylhet experienced 509mm of rainfall as against only 82 mm for March forecast by the Met office.

There will be a brief break after three days and then rains and nor'westers would continue till the end of May, he predicted.

He said Sylhet had already been affected by flash floods and some parts of the Chittagong region might also experience flooding shortly.

On the other hand, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions are having less rains than Chittagong and Dhaka divisions, the weatherman said.

But rainfall would increase in Rajshahi within a couple of days.

Analysing the satellite data, the official said a thermal low was now prevailing over the mainland because the sun had

See Page 12 Col 8

## Ham-handed Indian cops raid homes in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, Mar 29: More than 60 Members of Parliament (MPs) Monday denounced an Indian police raid carried out in the Nepalese capital, apparently without the authorities' knowledge and demanded a clarification from India, reports AFP.

The MPs, mostly members of the opposition, also demanded the resignation of Prime Minister G P Koirala.

The MPs said that Indian police raids on two houses in the Nepalese capital, Kathmandu, 260 kilometres south of the Indian border, violated international law.

They said India had one day to explain the incident, and they demanded that action be

taken against the neighbouring country.

Parliamentary sources said that 20 Indian plainclothes police officers, headed by a New Delhi police deputy inspector general and a Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh state, police superintendent, ransacked the houses of two retired Nepalese government officials Sunday morning without a Nepalese search warrant.

The Indian police drove to Baneshwor in two cars registered in India and were armed with revolvers, hockey sticks, long sticks and daggers early Sunday, the sources said.

They entered the house of Shiva Prasad Sharma, retired

See Page 12 Col 1

## AL decides not to press its appeal with EC

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League (AL) yesterday informed the Election Commission (EC) that it was no longer interested to 'press' its appeal for a fresh election in the Magura-2 JS constituency.

The AL had appealed to the EC last Saturday to declare the by-election results null and void on the ground of rigging and demanded a fresh schedule for repolling in the constituency.

The EC had scheduled a hearing of the petition for yesterday morning.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf, following the AL decision not

See Page 12 Col 1

## Tofael's rebuttal to Rafiq's remarks

Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed MP yesterday castigated Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah for calling the current anti-government agitation "unconstitutional", reports UNB.

In a sharp rebuttal to Barrister Rafiq's remarks on Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina's planned demonstration and action programmes against the BNP regime, Tofael quoted Article 36 and 37 of the constitution which, he said, guaranteed the right to peaceful assembly, public meeting, procession, strike, sit-in, walkout or boycott of Parliament.

"It is the constitutional and democratic right of a political party to organise programmes like public meetings, processions, demonstrations, strikes, sieges or sit-ins to register people's anger against corruption and vote dacoity by a government," he said.

"There is also no provision in the constitution for giving

See Page 12 Col 4

WorldCup USA94



The Daily Star

WorldCupUSA94 Quiz Competition



For the valued readers of The Daily Star, here's your chance to WIN a real BUMPER PRIZE: A ticket to a ringside seat at the 1994 World Cup Soccer Final on July 17.



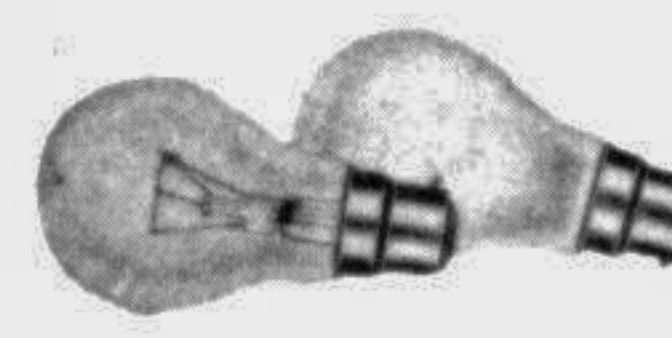
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