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NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina returns to capital

Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina returned to the capital in the evening yesterday ending two days of tour to Bhanga, Gopalganj and Tungipara, reports BSS.

Ctg-Rangamati road link restored

CHITTAGONG, Apr 1: The direct road communication between Chittagong and Rangamati, which was snapped two days back due to collapse of a bridge, was restored today, official source said. The road link was snapped when a Bailey bridge collapsed at Kalabagan, 15 km from Rangamati on Wednesday. The communication was restored after the bridge was reconstructed today, reports BSS.

APSU calls strike at CU today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 1: The All-Party Students' Unity (APSU) has called for a strike tomorrow at the Chittagong University in support of the demand for cancellation of the BBA admission test which was held on February 10.

3 Rohingyas held

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 1: Police today arrested three Rohingyas from Dhao-Palong refugee camp under Ramu thana. The detainees were identified as Abul Kashem, 25, Rashid Ahmed, 28, Sirajul Islam, 31. Ramu police said the Rohingyas confessed their involvement in a dacoity at Paner Chara on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway on March 30 midnight, reports UNB.

Acute water crisis in G-K Project area

Second successive Aus failure feared

By Masud Hasan Khan, back from Kushtia

Some 1.2 lakh farming families living in the G-K Project will not be able to plant Aus rice for the second consecutive season as the project has bogged down due to acute water shortage in the river Padma.

The Ganges-Kobadak (G-K) Irrigation Project authorities have expressed their inability to irrigate an estimated 48,500 hectares of dry crop-land for high yielding Aus crop because of the dehydrational impact of the Farakka Barrage

in India. "We are now more or less certain that no water will be available in the current Kharif-1 (Aus) season as a result of severe water shortage in the Padma," Sofiuddin Ahmed, G-K Project Director told The Daily Star.

The G-K Project also failed to irrigate Aus seedlings last year for want of water. Bangladesh Water Development Board (WDB) officials said, incurring a loss of an estimated Taka 100 crore.

In terms of money, the loss this year will be another Taka 125 crore, the officials informed. The economic losses of the G-K Project farmers was yet to be assessed.

The news of the imminent danger was yet to reach the beneficiaries to the G-K Project, covering 3,50,000 acres of arable land in Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Jheridaha, Magura, Jessore, Narail and part of Rajbari districts.

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on her way to attend a seminar on 'Business Opportunities in Bangladesh' which she inaugurated in Osaka, Japan yesterday.

Dhaka ready for yen investments: PM

OSAKA, Apr 1: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today gave a clarion call to the Japanese investors to reposition some of their capital into Bangladesh for sharing the economic opportunities that a stable and liberal Bangladesh offers now, reports BSS.

"Together with Japanese enterprise and resourcefulness we can move faster and further... I can assure you that we are now genuinely ready for Japanese investments on a large scale," she said.

Begum Zia, who is now at the end of her five-day official visit to Japan, was inaugurating a seminar on 'Business Opportunities in Bangladesh' organised by the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) here this morning at the Hotel New Otani. Almost all the top businessmen, investors and entrepreneurs of this historic industrial city attended the seminar, responding — some of them very positively, at the call of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

On her arrival at the seminar venue, Begum Zia and members of her entourage were received by the OCCI vice-chairman Susumu Matsumoto, OCCI international committee vice-chairman Toshio

Oda and leaders of the OCCI. Begum Zia was given a standing ovation when she entered the seminar venue.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister M Morshed Khan, President of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Mahbubur Rahman, OCCI vice chairman Susumu Matsumoto and OCCI international committee vice-chairman Toshio Oda, leading investors, businessmen and entrepreneurs of Japan also took part in the discussion.

They showed keen interest in the Bangladesh economy and investment opportunities. Almost all the Japanese speakers highly acclaimed the macro-economic successes of Bangladesh and said they would now consider positively Bangladesh as a place of investment of their well earned money.

Referring to Bangladesh's competitive labour market and large number of well-trained professionals including engineers, managers and financial experts Begum Zia said, these infrastructural advantages, combined with Japanese capital and experience, can make significant economic impact

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Jamaat sees BNP hand in Satkhira incidents

By Staff Correspondent

The Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh has accused the ruling BNP of direct involvement in the March 30 'terrorist activities' in Satkhira and has termed the ruling party's role as 'unprecedented' and 'suicidal'.

Addressing a press conference at the party's central office in the capital yesterday afternoon, the Jamaat Secretary General Matur Rahman Nizami, MP further alleged the BNP's hand in the disruption of the Jamaat's conference and the following 'terrorist activities' in Satkhira. He also said the local administration's role was 'pre-planned and conspiratorial'.

"The Satkhira occurrences were planned in a bid to foil the on-going agitation for holding the next general elections under a caretaker government and to divert the people's attention from the issue," Nizami claimed.

He said the BNP's 'irresponsible conduct' had created hatred among the people and had also tarnished the image of the party.

According to the Nizami, about 200 workers of his party were injured and the house of Jamaat MP Kazi Shamsur

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Muggings decline in city

Star Report

Muggings and robberies marked a decline in the month of March following two special police drives — one in the criminal hideouts in the capital and another countryside.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police, after recording a spate of muggings, launched a month-long drive from February 14 in the capital. Police headquarters ordered another nation-wide drive which ended on the last day of March.

In the capital, police arrested over 800 absconders, including some 25 convicts in the DMP special drives which ended on March 14.

However, some 63 people were killed in the city in March in different incidents like murders, suicides, road accidents and explosions.

Thirty-two people were killed in road accidents while seven were murdered, five committed suicide, 10 died in a gas balloon cylinder explosion. Police also recovered nine other bodies which were found in mysterious circumstances in different city areas

during the past month. After a post-polio-carnage which left six people dead in the city's Nawabganj area on January 31, a most gory incident occurred on the morning of March 23 when a gas cylinder used for inflating balloons exploded, claiming ten lives and injuring dozens others at Narinda. Skirmishes in some city educational institutions and other places, including the Sayedabad bus terminal, left

three people, including a police sergeant, murdered.

Sergeant Hasanul Farhad of Kotwali police station was shot dead when two warring students' factions traded gunfire in the Jagannath University College on March 5. Police arrested a suspect, Sagor Ahmed, who was allegedly leading one of the feuding factions, but another suspected ring-leader — Kafil — is still at large.

Rival tradesport workers at Sayedabad bus terminal kept

the area in turmoil during the last week of the month. Their armed rivalry caused two deaths at the terminal on March 28.

Students of Dhaka College and a primary school at Mirpur also clashed with police, leaving scores of people injured.

Four other murders were committed in the city's Goran, K P Ghosh Lane, Mohakhali and the Sangsard Bhaban areas.

Commenting on the situation and the special police drive, Deputy Commissioner of the Detective Branch (DB) Mohammad Abdul Quyyum told The Daily Star, "Street-muggings and robberies in the city are under control now".

"Every year during the month of Ramadan street-muggings increased alarmingly in the city, but this time we have been successful in keeping a check. During the same period in 1993, street-muggings were three-times higher than now", the Deputy Commissioner said.

During March, several dar-

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PM returns

Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia returned home late last night ending her five-day state visit to Japan.

The special Bangladesh Biman aircraft carrying the Prime Minister and her 73-member entourage touched down at Zia International Airport some time after midnight.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Gohar Hafiz received the Prime Minister at the gateway. Members of her cabinet, chiefs of the three Services, senior civil and military officials and diplomats were also present.

The Prime Minister left Dhaka on the night of March 27 and was accompanied by a 30-member delegation of business leaders.

Green Card lottery

WASHINGTON, Apr 1: The United States will soon begin accepting applications for an annual lottery of 55,000 of its coveted Green Card work permits, reports AFP.

Applications can be made throughout June and the results will be given later in the year.

The annual lottery, which began in 1990, will distribute nearly 25,000 Green Cards to immigrants from Europe and the former Soviet Union, 20,200 to Africans, 6,837 to Asians and 817 for nationals of Australia and the South Sea Islands.

Latin America, except for Mexico which has reached its quota, is offered 2,589 of the work visas.

No single country is allowed to win more than 3,850, or seven per cent, of the 55,000 cards.

All candidates must have had at least two years of higher education or two years of work experience.

Output declines at Haripur oilfield

By Special Correspondent

Production at the Haripur oilfield has been declining and the average daily output has dropped to one-third compared with that of fiscal 1989-90.

According to Petrobangla sources, average daily production of crude oil at Haripur was 336 barrels during 1989-90. Presently it stands at a little over 100 barrels a day.

The authorities attribute the decrease in production to the fall of natural pressure which helps the extraction of oil from the underground deposit.

"The production will go down further and might come

down to zero level unless artificial pressure is arranged for oil extraction," cautioned an expert.

Bangladeshi geologists, under the supervision of Petrobangla, discovered the oilfield in December 1986 at Haripur, 12 miles from Sylhet town. Commercial production of crude began there from Well No 7 in January 1987 under the management of Sylhet Gas Field Co Ltd, a Petrobangla subsidiary.

Until December 1993, a total of 5,43,091 barrels of crude were produced from that well. The average daily output during

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JU reopens tomorrow

By JU Correspondent

Classes of the Jahangirnagar University resume tomorrow after a 50-day unscheduled closure.

All the dormitories will be opened today. The dormitories were vacated and the institution was closed since the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) stormed one hall to regain their authority.

Different student bodies, however, feared, that there might be another round of showdown despite the presence of huge contingent of police on the campus.

Campus sources said, the BNP — the parent organisation of the JCD — has already taken

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Four children killed in wall collapse in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 1: Four children returning from school were killed when a wall collapsed on them at Jamal Khan here this noon, reports BSS.

According to police, the incident occurred when the boys took shelter behind the wall due to heavy rain. A portion of the boundary wall of a house collapsed killing three of them on the spot. One critically injured boy was declared dead by the doctors of the Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he was taken for treatment.

The victims were students of the under privileged children education programme. They were identified as Belal Miah, 9, his brother Dudal Miah, 12, Masruddin, 10, and Amir Hossain, 10.

The bodies have been sent for postmortem and a case has been filed with Kotwali police in this connection.



The Daily Star

WorldCupUSA94 Quiz Competition



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HOW TO PARTICIPATE

From APRIL 1, '94, The Daily Star has started a series of Quiz Competitions (6 in all) on World Cup Soccer. In every round, a set of questions will be published for 10 consecutive days in the Sports Page of The Daily Star (except for the final BUMPER ROUND which will last a month). Write down the correct answers to ALL the questions clearly and hand-deliver or mail the ORIGINAL paper clipping to: THE DAILY STAR, HOUSE NO: 11, ROAD NO: 3, DHANMANDI R/A, DHAKA: 1205, as per the following fixture:

FIXTURE OF THE ROUNDS	STARTS	ENDS	ANSWERS MUST REACH BY	LUCKY DRAW FOR PRIZES
Quiz 1	1 April '94	10 April '94	14 April '94	17 April '94
Quiz 2	11 April '94	20 April '94	23 April '94	24 April '94
Quiz 3	21 April '94	30 April '94	3 May '94	4 May '94
Quiz 4	1 May '94	10 May '94	13 May '94	14 May '94
Quiz 5	11 May '94	20 May '94	23 May '94	24 May '94
Quiz 6	21 May '94	20 June '94	23 June '94	24 June '94

YOU MAY SEND AS MANY ENTRIES AS YOU LIKE.

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