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by Abdul Bayes

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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 their 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 Rohingya dacoits from Dhaul-Palong refugee camp under Ramu thana. The dacoits were identified as Abdul 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, Sofiuddin Ahmed, G-K Project Director told The Daily Star.

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

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.

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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.

PM returns

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

The special Bangladeshi 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 Golam Hafiz received the Prime Minister at the gangway. 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.

The production will go down further and might come

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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.

Star Report

Advance tax-payments, high taxes on capital machinery, absence of cash compensation in the form of export promotion bonus (XPE) and abolition of interest rate subsidy are having a negative impact on the state of exporters' liquidity in the country, according to a recent USAID report.

The above policies also contrast with the incentive packages provided in some of the neighbouring countries, placing Bangladeshi exporters at a disadvantage, observed the report based on a study on "Export Incentives in Bangladesh: Evolution and Comparative Position vis-a-vis Neighbouring Countries" by Mustafizur Rahman.

All export income in both India and Pakistan is fully exempted from income taxes.

The Indian exporter also earns more in Rupee terms because of the policy of full convertibility.

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 Dulal Miah, 12, Masiuddin, 10, and Amir Hossain, 10.

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

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.

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.

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Export incentives better in neighbouring states

Star Report

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The Daily Star

WorldCupUSA94 Quiz Competition



JOIN THE CONTEST

Hurry up and grab your chance to watch the World Cup '94 final by winning our BUMPER PRIZE of an all-paid trip to Los Angeles and a super ticket worth \$1200 to the July 17 final.

Plus scores of other fabulous prizes *

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.

Remember, envelopes must be marked "STAR QUIZ" ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TICK OFF THE CORRECT ANSWERS AND MAIL US THE COUPON AS FAST AS YOU CAN.

SO, MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR COPY OF The Daily Star EVERYDAY!

* All prizes courtesy of Transcom Electronics Ltd

The Daily Star... we choose to lead