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The second part of Mahfuz Anam's news analysis on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's visit to Japan, which was scheduled to appear in today's issue, will instead be published tomorrow.

NEWS BRIEFS

New Biman MD takes charge

By Staff Correspondent
Ahab Ahmed, a former DG of NGO Affairs in the Prime Minister's Office, yesterday took charge as the Managing Director of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Holiday in CHT

The government has announced Chaitra 30 (April 13) as a local holiday in the Chittagong Hill Tracts on account of 'Biju', the main social festival of the tribals. Chaitra 30 will be a holiday in the CHT every year, only for the tribals, reports UNB.

Flash floods ruin crop in several districts

By Staff Correspondent

Incessant rain and onrush of water from the hilly areas across the border have inundated vast regions of Feni, Comilla, Kishoreganj and greater Sylhet.

Irrigation crop in about 10,000 acres in Feni and Comilla districts were damaged by flash floods while crops in Kishoreganj and Sylhet have gone under water.

Our Sylhet correspondent says that the flood situation, which deteriorated in the last ten days, has damaged stand-

ing paddy on over 80 thousand hectares. The extent of loss caused by the incessant rains and onrush of water from the hilly areas across the border with India has preliminarily been estimated at about Taka 13 crore, said an official source.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad, Suranjit Sen Gupta MP, Nazir Hussain, MP and Abdul Majid, MP today visited some of the affected areas in the district.

Our Kishoreganj correspondent informs that paddy, which was due for harvest in the next two or three weeks have gone under three to five feet water. There has been a continuous rolling of water from the hills in Meghalaya for the past several days.

According to unofficial estimate, standing crops have been damaged in about 70 thousand acres in six thanas of this district.

Akhtaruzzaman, MP and See Page 12 Col 6



A ceremonial guard comes to attention as United Nations special peace envoy to Afghanistan Mahmud Al-Mestiri (R) exits the Presidential Palace in Kabul with President Burhanuddin Rabbani (C) after discussions Saturday. Rabbani declared his commitment to a permanent ceasefire in Kabul. — AFP photo

UN peace efforts in Afghanistan fail

CHARASIAB, Apr 3: United Nations special peace envoy to Afghanistan Mahmud Mestiri failed today in his bid to achieve a concrete declaration of a permanent ceasefire from Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, reports AFP.

"From our side we have already accepted a ceasefire but the problem is that the other side is not respecting it," Hekmatyar replied ambiguously when asked about his position on a permanent ceasefire.

A temporary ceasefire had been agreed by the main factions in the latest round of fighting in Kabul, going on since January 1, to enable Mestiri's UN mission to visit the capital.

But Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani Saturday stated clearly his commitment to a "permanent and unconditional ceasefire."

Hekmatyar for his part is still demanding the resignation of Rabbani as a precondition to permanent peace in the war-torn capital.

"The resignation of Rabbani is a must for peace and reconciliation," Hekmatyar told assembled journalists at a press conference in his Charasiab

headquarters 25 kilometers (15 miles) south of Kabul, following his meeting with Mestiri.

Hekmatyar replied negatively in answer to a question concerning the United Nations role in the collection of heavy weapons in the capital.

"We are not accepting the delivery of weapons to any foreigners. We prefer that Afghans handle the matter themselves," Mestiri is expected to meet with Rabbani's strongman, former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood on Monday.

CU VC's office attacked

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 3: The office of the Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University today was attacked and damaged by agitating students, police and campus sources said.

The attack was made while several thousands of students of the CU, led by the All Party Student's Union (APSU), this noon gheraoed the Vice Chancellor's office in support of their demand for cancellation of the BBA admission test held of February 10.

Mirpur ward commissioner arrested

By Staff Correspondent

A ward commissioner of Mirpur, Monwar Hossain Dipu, also known as Dwipjol, was arrested yesterday, reportedly for abducting a youngman just two days before his wedding.

Police picked up Dwipjol from his Mirpur residence around 3:30 in the afternoon and later sent him to the city's Detective Branch (DB).

The victim, Anwar Hossain, 26, was missing since March 23 when he went for shopping for his wedding. Later, he was found admitted to the Sylhet Medical College Hospital with severe cuts, bruises and burn injuries, police said.

Anwar's wedding with Shahreen was scheduled to be held on March 25.

Both the families of Anwar and Shahreen accused Dwipjol of kidnapping Anwar.

Quoting family members police said Dwipjol also threatened them over telephone several times, asking them, to cancel the marriage.

Anwar was brought to Dhaka from Sylhet and admitted to the Monwar Private Hospital. His condition was stated to be critical.

See Page 12 Col 6

Rule on govt, Comptroller of Insurance

A High Court Division bench of the Supreme Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government and the Comptroller of Insurance to show cause why a notification prohibiting purchase of shares worth more than Tk 60 lakh by independent members of a family should not be declared ultra vires of the Constitution, reports UNB.

The bench comprising Justice Ismail Uddin Sarker and Justice Hamidul Haq issued the rule, answerable within four weeks.

The court also stayed the operation of the notification on the application of Nasiruddin Ahmed, a shareholder of the Karnaphuli Insurance Company, who challenged the aforesaid notification on the ground that his fundamental right to carry on with his own business had been violated by it.

The petitioner purchased 55,000 shares from two sponsor-directors of the company, one of whom is his mother. The Comptroller of Insurance, having found that the family, See Page 12 Col 7

JCD-Shibir clash at Khulna BL College: 10 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 3: At least ten persons were injured, one of them seriously, when the Chhatra Dal of the BNP and the pro-Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir clashed for nearly four hours at the Govt BL College and in surrounding areas this afternoon. The BL College and its hosted were scheduled to open on the 9th of April after seven months of closure.

According to police and eye-witnesses, the activists of the two student groups, were locked in a clash inside the college campus when a meet- See Page 12 Col 6

BNP leaders discuss AL's Apr 7 siege

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister and chief of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Begum Khaleda Zia had a long discussion on the current political situation of the country with her party's senior leaders yesterday.

The meeting, beginning at 7:00 pm at the Prime Minister's Secretariat, lasted more than three hours.

Some cabinet ministers who attended the meeting, when contacted last night, declined to disclose the topics of discussions. More than two ministers told this correspondent that the Prime Minister

had asked them not to speak to newsmen about the discussions.

Meanwhile, sources close to the BNP high command told The Daily Star late last night that the leaders had discussed different implications of the Awami League (AL)'s proposed April 7 siege of the Secretariat.

The prospects and efficacy of opening a dialogue with the AL before the siege were discussed at length, sources said.

Some leaders spoke in favour of a dialogue for long-term benefits while others op- See Page 12 Col 8

12 killed, 40 hurt as Pak train derails

ISLAMABAD, Apr 3: A dozen people were killed and 40 injured when a passenger train derailed some 80 kilometres (50 miles) east of here late today, officials said, reports AFP.

The engine and a coach of the small passenger train, which was on its way from the eastern city of Lahore to nearby Rawalpindi, went off the rail near Tarraki.

Tornado hits Barisal

BARISAL, Apr 3: A tornado lashed Barisal town and its adjoining areas last night at a speed of about 100 km per hour leaving at least 30 people injured, one of them seriously, reports BSS.

About 150 houses were destroyed while a number of trees were uprooted.

Two Barisal-bound launches, Sagar-7 and Dipraj-1, ran aground due to the tornado.

The passengers of the launches were rescued later by two other launches.

Day-long sit-in for Sylhet division today

By Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 3: A day-long 'sit-in' will be held by the Greater Sylhet Ganadabi Parishad at the approach road of the Sylhet Osmany Airport tomorrow.

Different political parties and organisations have extended their support to make their programme a success. They have taken the programme to press the government to declare a new division in Sylhet immediately.

The sit-in, called as part of the 'Biman boycott' programme of the organisation, would be from 8 am to 5 pm, said a spokesman today.

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Participate in The Daily Star WorldCupUSA94 Quiz Competition

Beginning 1 April '94, The Daily Star will run a series of Quiz Competition (6 in all) on World Cup Football. In addition to the Bumper Prize winners in each series be awarded Prizes of Philips Products. 1st prize— Philips Powervision 21" Colour TV, 2nd prize— Philips B/W 17" TV, 3rd Prize— Philips Turbo Stereo Recorder and 5 consolation prizes of set of Philips Lamps.

Each quiz will be published for 10 consecutive days, except the Bumper Round which will run for one month in the Sports Page. Just tick the correct answers to all the questions and hand-deliver or mail the original paper clippings in an envelope marked "Star Quiz" to: The Daily Star, House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmondi R.A. Dhaka - 1205, as per the following fixture:

Round	Starts from	Ends On	Answer 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	03 May '94	04 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

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- ৪টি অরিজিনাল কিস্তির টাকা এককালীন জমা করে কিস্তি পুনর্নির্ধারণের সুযোগ এখনও অব্যাহত রয়েছে।
- যে সকল গ্রহীতা ৪টি অরিজিনাল কিস্তির টাকা এককালীন জমা করে সম্মতিপত্র দাখিল করেছেন অথচ পুনর্নির্ধারিত কিস্তির উপদেশপত্র এখনও পাননি তাদেরকে অবিলম্বে কর্পোরেশনের সংশ্লিষ্ট কার্যালয়ে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।
- মামলাধীন গ্রহীতাদের যারা শুধুমাত্র ৪ কিস্তির টাকা জমা দিয়েছেন তাদেরকে অভিসম্বুর মামলা খরচ জমাসহ সোলেনামা সম্পাদনের পরামর্শ দেয়া হলো অন্যথায় তাদের রিসিডিউলের দরখাস্ত বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- ঋণ পরিশোধের দেয়া এই বিশেষ সুযোগ যেসব খেলাপী ঋণ গ্রহীতা গ্রহণ করেননি অথবা বকেয়া পরিশোধ করে হিসাব নিয়মিত করেননি তাদের বিরুদ্ধে কঠোর ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

ঋণের কিস্তি সময়মত পরিশোধ করুন এবং অপরকে ঋণ গ্রহণের সুযোগ দিন।