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The Daily Star

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VOL. III NO. 79 REGD. NO. DA 781

CHAITRA 26, 1400 BS,

DHAKA SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1994

SHAWAL 27, 1414 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

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Hosokawa resigns over financial scandal



Japanese workers watching a giant television screen showing Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa at a press conference in Tokyo yesterday announcing his resignation.— AFP photo

TOKYO, Apr 8: Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa announced his resignation at a news conference today after calling an emergency cabinet meeting to endorse the decision following persistent charges of impropriety, reports AFP.

"I have just met with the leaders of the coalition parties and also have convened a cabinet meeting," Hosokawa said. "I have expressed my intention to leave the post of Prime Minister and it was approved."

Hosokawa said he was resigning because of a "certain legal problem" not linked to charges of receiving a dubious loan and making questionable stock market transactions.

AP adds: Hosokawa's sudden resignation threw the country's already volatile political world into even deeper confusion, and sent stock prices plummeting. The market later bounced back.

He would be the fourth of Japan's last five prime ministers to step down because of scandal. Ironically, he came to office only eight months ago
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Foundation laying of JMB tomorrow

After years of clamour over its economic and technological feasibility, Bangladesh is close to materialising a long-cherished dream of bridging the mighty Jamuna, one of Asia's broadest rivers, reports UNB.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is scheduled to lay the foundation stone of the US dollar 700 million Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB).

Engineers at the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA) said all preparations were complete to embark on the construction of the massive 4.8 kilometer (2.9 mile) bridge that will link the country's eastern and western regions.

Three co-financiers — the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) — will provide US dollar 200 million each for the project. All the credits will be interest-free and repayable in 40 years with a 10-year grace period.

The donors have already confirmed their funding for the project for which the Bangladesh government will put in about US dollar 100 million.

With a completion target of

November 1997, the bridge is expected to give a much-needed economic boost to the country's isolated northwestern districts by opening direct motorable road access with the rest of Bangladesh.

Besides integrating the country, the bridge will bring about immense benefits to the people, promoting better inter-regional trade, and economic and social development.

It will enable quick movement of goods and passenger traffic by road and, in future, by rail over the Jamuna, splitting the country down the middle as it flows to the Bay of Bengal.

The 18.5 meter wide four-lane bridge, including one breakdown lane and two-way footpaths, has also been designed to facilitate transmission of electricity and natural gas as well as to help telecommunication links.

The 4.8 kilometer long main bridge will have a provision of extension of 128 metre road approach viaduct at each end. It will have 47 concrete spans, each 99.375 metres.

Elaborating on the design, engineers said that in future the bridge will carry a single track metre gauge railway line.
See Page 12 Col 4

Govt college teachers' ultimatum

By Staff Correspondent

The government college teachers will go on an action programme from April 25 unless their demands were met by April 24.

The programme includes rallies and demonstrations on April 25 and on May 3, and to-ken strikes on June 6, 7 and 8.

President of the teachers' association Dr Q A T M Habibur Rahman and secretary general Md Abu Yusuf in a joint statement yesterday alleged that the standard of the educational management of the country had deteriorated due to their appointment and transfer on personal choice during the last three years.

The association urged the government to materialise its 16-point charter of demands which includes removing of anomalies in respect of senior-
See Page 12 Col 5

Saifur criticises opposition for calling hartal

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman was highly critical of the opposition yesterday for calling hartal tomorrow, the day fixed for laying the foundation stone of the long-cherished multipurpose bridge over Jamuna, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will open the nearly 700 million US dollar bridge over the river Jamuna connecting the eastern and western regions of the country.

"Mere hartal or damaging public property in a bid to capture power will not bring development to the country. We shall simply be bogged down... no foreign investors will come here. We must not commit suicide in such a manner," Saifur Rahman said.

Addressing a prize giving ceremony of the Livestock Exhibition '94 at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city, the Finance Minister emphasized on maintaining peace and order for overall economic development of the country.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman was the special guest at the function.

Nothing can be developed without discipline, not even the livestock sector, the Finance Minister said and urged the people to unitedly resist such "disturbing" activities.

BNP has forced us to go for agitation: Hasina

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the people to observe a dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal tomorrow to express no-confidence in the 'corrupt, vote-dacoit and terrorist' BNP regime, reports UNB.

"Our agitation is aimed at protecting the people from terrorism and vote-dacoits as well as ensuring economic emancipation of the masses," she told an extended meeting of Dhaka city unit of the Awami League at 29, Minto Road, her official residence.

Criticising the 'autocratic' behaviour of the government, Hasina said, "the BNP government has forced us to launch agitation without which people's right to vote, work and food cannot be realised."

The Awami League chief said, "Despite a lot of criticism we tried to help the BNP and

showed tolerance for the last three years in the interest of democracy."

But, she said, under this government, a maximum number of political leaders and workers were arrested in 'false' cases and after this the BNP has no right to claim itself a democratic government. "The people have identified them as tyrants, killers, corrupt, vote-dacoits and terrorists."

Hasina said the people have started losing confidence in democracy because of the BNP's failure, inefficiency, nepotism and whims. The Awami League cannot remain silent in this crisis, she said.

"The BNP has defeated Ershad in terrorism, corruption and vote-dacoity. The style of the BNP's democracy is characterised by ballot robbery, dead body, corruption and politicisation."

She alleged that Ziaur Rahman had introduced the politics of killing and terrorism in the country. "Zia captured power by using the armed forces and later killed some of them to stay in power... During his rule, many army officers and jawans were killed."

Hasina said the BNP has again started the politics of killing. "Not a single day passes
See Page 12 Col 4

AL brings out mourning procession

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League leaders and hundreds of party workers yesterday marched through the city streets to protest the killings during Thursday's siege of the central Secretariat.

The AL staged the programme to press home its demand for immediate resignation of the government, holding the next general elections under a caretaker government and cancellation of
See Page 12 Col 7

Paran Organising Secy of Lalbagh ward, claims BCL

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL-M-I) claimed yesterday that Aminur Rasul Paran belonged to their organisation, reports UNB.

Paran, a second year student of the New Model Degree College was shot dead during the Awami League's siege programme Thursday. Another victim Milon, an SSC examinee, was also gunned down at Kaptan Bazar on the same day.

Rejecting the claim that the dead were the JCD activists, BCL President Matnuddin Hasan Chowdhury said that Paran was a bonafide leader of
See Page 12 Col 6

BNP holds janaza of Paran

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling BNP held a namaz-e-janaza of Aminur Rashid Paran, reportedly a leader of the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, in front of the party's Naya Paltan central office in the capital yesterday noon.

Paran was one of the two killed during the Awami League-called Secretariat siege programme Thursday.

According to JCD leaders, Paran was the Publicity
See Page 12 Col 8

Paran was jt convener of Lalbagh Thana unit: JCD

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday accused the Awami League (AL) of killing two youths during the siege of the secretariat on Thursday.

At a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday evening JCD president Fazlul Haq Milon criticised the AL for claiming that Md Aminur Rasul Paran, killed during the siege on Thursday was an Awami League activist.

He said Paran was the publicity
See Page 12 Col 7

AL hartal to serve its petty interests: Salam

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder strongly criticised the Awami League's dawn-to-dusk hartal call on April 10 and said it was designed to serve its mean political purpose.

The Awami League's deliberate hartal call on April 10 — the proposed day for laying of the foundation stone of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB) — has proved that the party does not want the implementation of the long-standing demand of the people of the northern parts, he said in an interview with Bangladesh Sangbad Sangtha (BSS).

"They (Awami League) have chosen April 10 for observing a dawn-to-dusk hartal so that the foundation stone of the JMB cannot be laid," the BNP Secretary General said.

Salam, also the LGRD and Cooperatives Minister, said the fixing of April 10 for the observance of hartal was intended to serve their petty party interests and such planned programme did not substantiate their claim that the objective of their party politics was the welfare of the people.

The BNP secretary said the laying of the foundation stone of the JMB on April 10 would play a supportive role in fulfilling the demand and aspirations of the people of the northern parts. Salam said the representatives of the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, the Japanese government and other agencies financing the JMB and diplomats of various countries living in Bangladesh are supposed to attend the foundation-laying function. But, he said, the Awami League wanted to obstruct their participation in the foundation-laying function of the JMB, the completion of which will yield immense economic benefits to the people of the country. Salam said though the Awami League claims to be a pro-people political party yet it was opposed to maintaining a healthy investment climate in the country.
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CHEHLUM



Chehlum of late Mr Abdul Baten, Ex-State Minister for Education, will be held today (Saturday), April 9, 1994 at House No 13(old) 10(new), Road No 5, Dhanmondi R/A, after Asr prayers. Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to kindly attend the milad to pray for the departed soul.

Family Members of late Mr Abdul Baten

Nasim's rejoinder

Following is the full text of the rejoinder sent by Mohammad Nasim, an Awami League MP and Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament, issued to The Daily Star last night regarding the report published yesterday concerning the injury of Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition—

My attention was drawn to the report of The Daily Star of April 8, 1994 in which it was reported that Mr Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, was hit by a stone thrown by an Awami League supporter. I am astonished to read this story because I was standing next to Mr Abdus Samad Azad when he was hit by the baton of a member of the security forces. It is beyond my comprehension how The Daily Star could write such a patently false story calculated to create a wrong impression about the incident.

I have noted that most of the newspapers except The Daily Star and a couple of
See Page 12 Col 4



THE PICTURE THAT SAYS IT ALL: Yesterday we published a cropped version of the above photograph. Today we publish the full frame of the photograph, taken by our Staff Photographer on the spot, which deals with the incident refuted by Md Nasim in his rejoinder. We believe the picture is self-explanatory.
— Editor

IBM Information

Technology Seminar '94

This is to inform all the invited guests to the IBM Information Technology Seminar '94 that due to unavoidable circumstances, the Opening Ceremony & Cocktail Reception are being shifted to April 11, 1994.

Similarly, instead of April 10-12, the new seminar schedule is April 11-13.

The venue and daily seminar agenda remains unchanged.

We are extremely sorry for the inconvenience caused to you.

Quiz 1 Ends April 10, 1994

Hurry up and join The Daily Star World Cup Quiz Competition and WIN a 21" Powervision colour television, a 17" black & white television, stereo cassette-recorder and 4 dozen Philips lamps.

Send as many entries as you like.

See Page 11 for details.



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