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# The Daily Star

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## PM exhorts Christians to participate in development

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday sought everyone's cooperation to help implement development programmes of the country to change the lot of the people, reports BSS.

"We have been relentlessly implementing various development programmes to change the lot of the people. We seek cooperation of all quarters in this endeavour. Let us all work collectively for the development of our motherland," she said.

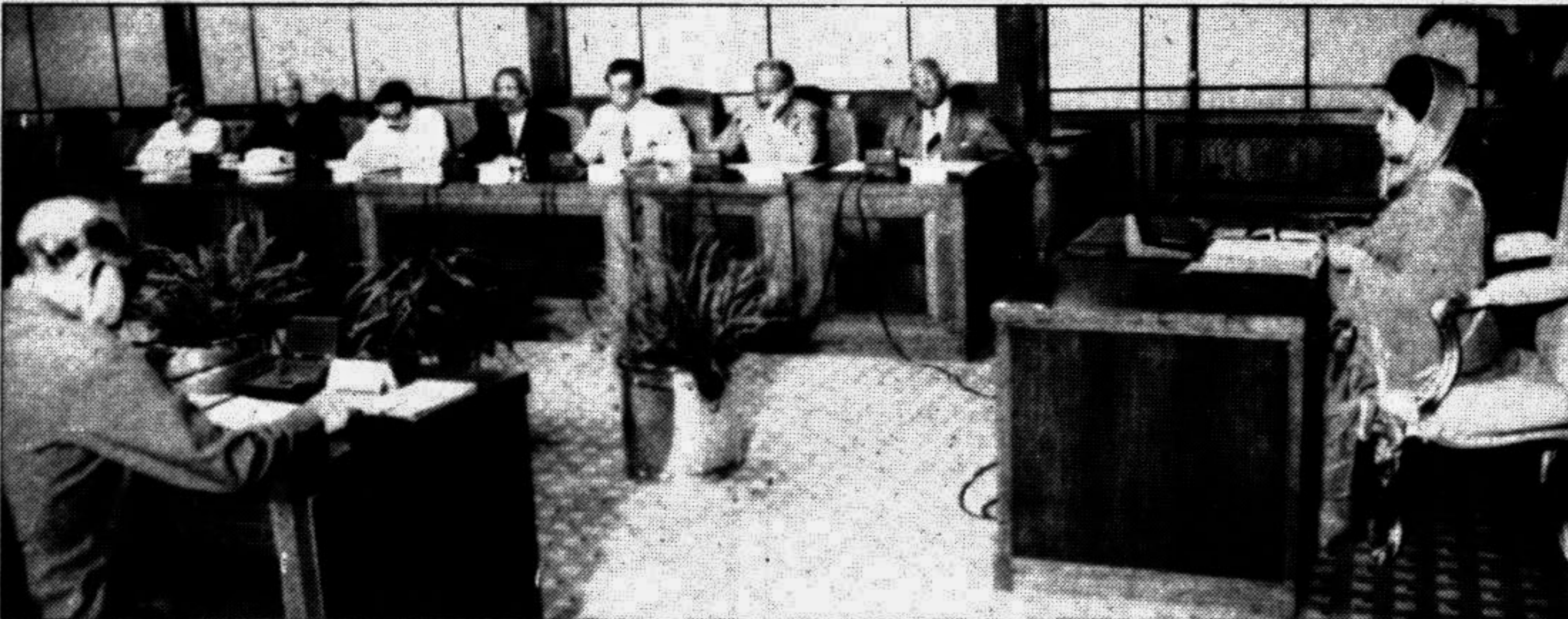
Begum Zia was addressing the Easter Reunion - '94 organised by the Bangladesh Christian Association at the Bottomley Homes School in the city in the afternoon. Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, the Holy See ambassador to Bangladesh Archbishop Adrian Bernardini, Christian Association leaders Luis A Costa, Susanta Adhikari, Albert P Costa, Archbishop of Dhaka Michael Rosario and Church of Bangladesh Bishop BD Mondal also spoke at the grand reunion.

Begum Zia greeted the members of the Christian community and said her government's cooperation and assistance would continue for the overall welfare of the country's Christians.

"We are all citizens of Bangladesh. Bangladeshi nationalism is our ideal. This ideal has united all our communities and taught us to love the country. This ideal has also united us to attain our independence and development of the country," she said.

Recalling the contribution of the Christian community in the country's war of independence as well as social development, she said the role of the Christians in nation-building pursuits was significant despite the fact that the community here was rather small in size.

The Prime Minister laid importance on the collective efforts to build our motherland. See Page 12 Col 3



SAARC Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over the second meeting of the cabinet sub-committee on SAARC at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the city yesterday.

## Hanif launches anti-mosquito drive

Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Mohammad Hanif Saturday said the corporation was not being able to solve many problems of the city dwellers as there are separate autonomous departments to deal with them.

Alleging that the citizens of the city were being neglected and public money wasted, the mayor said he would soon organise a procession of the city dwellers as a mark of protest against negligence to them and wastage of public money.

Hanif was inaugurating as chief guest the fortnight-long mosquito control and cleaning drive at a community centre in the city yesterday.

## Hasina offers to trade hartals for adequate state-media coverage

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has said if the Opposition is allowed to express its opinions through state-owned Radio and Television, it would not give any calls for strikes.

In an interview with the News and Feature Service (NFS) on Friday, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament said, "If the result of the Magura by-election is revoked and a fresh date for repolling announced, the planned hartal on April 26 will be withdrawn."

And if the ruling party places a Bill in Parliament proposing to hold the next elections under a caretaker government then the Opposition would consider attending the coming Parliament session.

She said the Bill should be tabled by the ruling party because most of the Bills placed by the Opposition were rejected.

The interview was recorded at her official Minto Road residence on Friday, the NFS said.

Sheikh Hasina said that the propaganda against hartals was nothing new. Similar propaganda was launched during the anti-Ershad campaign. There was no record of continued hartals in the long history of AL politics, she said.

See Page 12 Col 3



## Richard Nixon dead

NEW YORK, Apr 23: Richard Milhous Nixon died Friday, four days after suffering a stroke that had left him in a deep coma. He was 81, reports AP.

The former president died at 9:08 pm at New York Hospital, said spokeswoman Myrna Manners. "His family was with him," she said.

Reporters gathered outside the Manhattan Hospital learned the news about 1 1/2 hours after his death in a two-sentence news release. Soon after the news was announced, the flag was lowered to half-staff over the White House.

The body had been removed from the hospital and taken to an area funeral home by the time the death was made public. Nixon's body won't lie in state in the Capitol rotunda, according to the family's wishes. The former president was involved in planning the funeral arrangements, family spokeswoman Liz Johnston said.

See Page 12 Col 7

## Foreign trade institute to be set up soon

The government has decided to set up a Bangladesh Foreign Trade Institute for promoting business under the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA) and helping export-led growth in the country, reports UNB.

The decision was taken yesterday in the second meeting of the Cabinet sub-committee on South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation at the International Conference Centre with SAARC chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

It also decided to form a national committee for implementation of the SAPTA agreement, ahead of the SAARC finance and planning ministers' conference scheduled for July 10-11 in Dhaka.

The meeting further decided to take up specific plans for poverty alleviation in the country in keeping with the thrust of the last SAARC summit.

The meeting reviewed the progress in implementation of the decisions on poverty alleviation taken during the seventh SAARC summit.

In the seventh SAARC summit, held in Dhaka last year, poverty was identified as a major concern.

See Page 12 Col 6

## Dhaka can be a new centre of int'l business like Singapore: British MP

Termed the Bangladesh capital as "dynamic Dhaka", Keith said although Dhaka is an old city, it has all the makings and trappings of being converted into a fine cosmopolitan international commercial centre. He expressed his desire to invite leading leaders of Bangladesh connected with urban planning, including Dhaka's mayor, to London to discuss urban development plans.

Keith Vaz, born in Aden of Goanese Indian parents, is the first Asian to be elected to the House of Commons after the Second World War. He migrated to England when he was nine years old and was elected at age 30 from Leicester East on a Conservative Party ticket in 1987. In 1992, he was re-elected from the same constituency, but as a Labour candidate. There are now two other MPs of Asian origin other than Vaz — one from Sri Lanka and another from the Indian Punjab.

The British parliamentarian described Bangladesh's achievements on the economic front as "significant".

He said the London Festival of Bangladesh, to be held from July 1 to 3, will provide a tremendous opportunity for the country to showcase its achievements.

See Page 12 Col 4

## Ctg WASA puts three more under suspension

CHITTAGONG, Apr 23: The Chittagong WASA today suspended three more employees in connection with the water tank accident that left at least five persons killed and 20 injured on April 20 at the ADC hill here.

According to an official source, those suspended today are Niazur Rahman, divisional engineer of CD-2, Kuddus Rahman, pump operator and Jahangir Alam, assistant pump operator.

Their suspensions came on the basis of a report submitted by a probe body constituted immediately after the incident.

Earlier, two other engineers of Chittagong WASA were suspended.

## Minister may invite striking teachers to dialogue

The sixth day of the indefinite strike by the country's non-government school and college teachers passed yesterday with no effective move by the authorities to break the impasse.

However, sources said, the Education Minister may invite the leaders of the striking teachers within a couple of days for a negotiation on their demand including implementation of the national pay-scale for the private-sector educational institutions.

Until yesterday, no formal offer for the planned dialogue was conveyed to the liaison committee of the agitating teachers although there were indications from the government side in this regard.

See Page 12 Col 4

## Road, rail blockade in Sylhet today

SYLHET, Apr 23: The Action Council for Establishing Sylhet Division has called for a road and rail blockade tomorrow to press its demands for announcing Sylhet as an administrative division and the development of the greater Sylhet districts.

The road barricade would be enforced in Madhabpur, the gateway of Sylhet, and the rail blockade at the Shayestaganj railway station, the organisers said.

There would also be road and rail barricades near two major points in Sylhet town.

The council sources said all preparations have been completed to make the protest successful.

See Page 12 Col 3

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Lucky Draw for Quiz 2 Today**  
At Jatiya Press Club (At 5 PM)

Names and addresses of the LUCKY WINNERS will be published tomorrow

**LOOK OUT FOR YOUR NAME**  
IN The Daily Star of 25th April, 1994

Prizes will be handed over to WINNERS of Lucky Draw For Quiz 1

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**PM's public meeting in Barisal today**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting today at 11:10 am at the BN Khan College ground in Uzipur thana of Barisal district. She will also distribute cattle and poultry birds among the poor at the meeting venue, reports UNB.

**মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষা-১৯৯৪**

ঢাকা, কুমিল্লা, রাজশাহী, যশোর শিখা বোর্ড

বিষয় : এসএসসি পরীক্ষা ১৯৯৪-এর সূচ্য পরিচালনার জন্য ছাত্র, শিক্ষক, অভিভাবক তথা সর্বস্তরের জনগণের সর্বাঙ্গিক সহযোগিতা কামনা

১৯৯৪ সালের মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষা সারসংক্ষেপ আলোচনা ২-৫-৯৪ ইং তারিখ হতে ৯-৫-৯৪ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

এ বছর হতে এসএসসি পরীক্ষার উত্তরপত্র কোডিং এবং ফলাফল প্রক্রিয়াকরণ কম্পিউটারের মাধ্যমে করা হবে। ইতিমধ্যে পরীক্ষার্থীদের মধ্যে বিতরণের জন্য ক্রমান্বয়ে এক মেগাবাইট পরীক্ষার কলমীর সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত নির্দেশাবলী জ্ঞাপনের হতে সর্বজন শিখা বোর্ড এর মাধ্যমে বিতরণের প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে। কোন পরীক্ষার্থী উক্ত দু'টি নির্দেশাবলী না পেয়ে থাকলে ৯-৫ বিতরণের প্রধান শিক্ষকের সাথে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য পরামর্শ দেয়া হচ্ছে। ২৫শে এপ্রিলের মধ্যে উক্ত নির্দেশাবলী না পেলে নিম্নোক্ত টেলিফোন নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য পরামর্শ দেয়া হচ্ছে।

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, ঢাকা।     | ফোন নং (০২) ৪০৮৬৯৬ |
| মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, কুমিল্লা। | ফোন নং (০৩১) ৬১৭২  |
| মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, যশোর।     | ফোন নং (০৪২১) ৬২১১ |
| মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড রাজশাহী।   | ফোন নং (০৭২১) ৬২০১ |
| শিখা জ্ঞাপন।                                     | ফোন নং (০২) ৯১১১০  |

কক পরীক্ষার্থী, হল সুপার এবং কেন্দ্র সচিবদের কলমীর সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত নির্দেশনা প্রধান শিক্ষক-এর নিকট প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে।

আইন-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষা এবং শান্তিপূর্ণ পরিবেশে পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠানের জন্য পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রের ২০০ গজের মধ্যে ১৪৪ ঘণ্টা কলক রাখবে। পরীক্ষার সাথে সর্টিফিকেট নব্বই এমন কলক পরীক্ষা কলকালীন সময়ে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রের ২০০ গজের মধ্যে প্রবেশ করলে আইনভাঙ্গা দণ্ডীয় হবে।

পরীক্ষা সূচ্য, শৃঙ্খলা ও দায়িত্বভূক্তদের পরিচালনার লক্ষ্যে সরকার ও শিখা বোর্ড কর্তৃক প্রতিষ্ঠা দিগন্তে টাই প্রতিটি কেন্দ্রে সার্বজনিকভাবে সন্নিবিষ্ট রাখবে।

পরীক্ষার দায়িত্ব নিয়োজিত শিক্ষক/শিক্ষিকা, কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীদের কর্তব্যে অবহেলায় জন আইনানুগী ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হবে।

কেন্দ্র পরীক্ষার হলে/কেন্দ্রে যে ছাত্র/ছাত্রী পরীক্ষা দিবে, সে ছাত্রের কোন শিক্ষক/শিক্ষিকা যে ছাত্র/ছাত্রীকে পরীক্ষার দায়িত্বভুক্ত করে তার নাম কলক রাখতে পারবেন না।

পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে আইন-শৃঙ্খলা ভঙ্গারী যে কোন ব্যক্তি বা ব্যক্তিবর্গকে পাবলিক পরীক্ষা অপরাধ আইন বলে তৎক্ষণিকভাবে বিচার করে কারাদণ্ড অথবা অর্থদণ্ড অথবা উভয় প্রকার দণ্ড প্রদান করা হবে।

নবল করার অপরাধে সেন্সি ছাত্র/ছাত্রীকে ৪ (চার) বছর পর্যন্ত বন্দি রাখার করা যেতে পারে।

এসএসসি পরীক্ষা ছাত্র/ছাত্রীদের জীবনের প্রথম পাবলিক পরীক্ষা। জাতীয় জীবনের এই গুরুত্বপূর্ণ পরীক্ষা কার্যকরভাবে সূচ্য, শান্তিপূর্ণ, সুস্থিত ও সুকলমে পরিচালনার লক্ষ্যে যুগ্ম প্রচেষ্টা, রাজনৈতিক নেতৃবৃন্দ, আইন-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষাকারী সৈন্য, শিক্ষক/শিক্ষিকা, অভিভাবক/অভিভাবিকা, ছাত্র/ছাত্রী এবং সর্বস্তরের জনসাধারণের সর্বাঙ্গিক সহযোগিতা একান্তভাবে কামনা।

শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়

**News Analysis**

**A Window of Opportunity for Bangladesh**

By A Special Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has termed the recently concluded Bangladesh Aid Group meeting as very successful. He also told newsmen upon his return that the international community now holds greater respect for Bangladesh than before.

Press reports on the outcome of the Paris meeting indicate that this year the aid group forum was more consultative than prescriptive. There was no discussion about management of the economy. It was not even in the agenda for discussion. The donor community, including the World Bank and the IMF, which were critical of the way the economy was being managed only three years ago, is no longer concerned about macro-economic management.

In fact, there seems to be greater international appreciation of the way the economy is being managed. There is a consensus that Bangladesh now faces a window of opportunity. Accordingly, the donor community is urging the government to take a longer term view of things and to address non-economic factors which are preventing Bangladesh from taking full benefit of the opportunity.

The window of opportunity is not going to remain open for ever. With the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of trade talks countries across the globe have started readjusting and restructuring toward a new world trade regime. Fortunately for Bangladesh, a lot of progress in building up the framework that will encourage labour-intensive export-oriented activities has given her a headstart in this shift.

But, unfortunately, much of this progress is on paper. The good policies are not implemented. This implementation gap has emerged because the administrative system and culture in Bangladesh has remained 'control' oriented while the economy has been gradually decontrolled. If the administrative system and culture is not reoriented to close the implementation gap then a great opportunity to move towards self reliance will be wasted.

Donor representatives agree that if Bangladesh could bridge the implementation gap then the improvement in the country's economic condition will be very quick indeed. Bangladesh has made a lot of progress in the field of economic management and adopting the right policies. The international business community has only just begun to learn about this progress. If their suspicions about the bureaucracy and administration in Bangladesh can be removed and their apprehension about political patronage to labour militancy eliminated, the country will get a lot of foreign investment.

Whether the next Aid Group meeting will have a similar consultative approach as the one that has just concluded, or revert to being prescriptive, will depend on how Bangladesh addresses the non-economic factors that are inhibiting faster growth of the economy. What needs to be done in this regard are well known. What needs to be seen is the political will on the part of the government as well as the opposition to tackle the problems that are keeping half of the population below the poverty line.

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