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# The Daily Star

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Hasina goes to Tungipara today**

Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will leave the city this morning for Tungipara. She will return to the capital on Sunday, reports UNB.

**Ctg Mayor leaves for London today**

CHITTAGONG, Apr 28: Chittagong city Mayor Alhaj ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury will leave for London tomorrow morning on a week-long visit there, reports BSS.

## Govt concedes four demands of teachers

By Staff Correspondent

The government yesterday took some decisions regarding the demands of the teachers and employees of the non-government educational institutions.

The decisions were taken late night Thursday following a series of meetings of the government with different associations of the teachers and employees of the private schools, colleges and madrasahs.

The decisions, which had not been announced till 11 last night, were: that one-time

scale, effective from 1 July this year, would be provided; the medical allowance would be increased to Taka 150 from Tk 100, also with effect from 1 July; the current 70 per cent government grant towards salaries and allowances would be converted into the government's share of the salary and allowances bill; and that the welfare trust of the teachers and employees would be reorganised.

However, the liaison committee of six organisations of non-government school and

college teachers which met with the government for the first time yesterday since it began an indefinite strike April 18 to press its four-point demands, was undecided until last night about their next course of action. The committee will meet this morning to review the government decisions and also whether to continue its current strike.

The Bangladesh Teachers' Association (Ashraf-Nazrul), which also went on an indefinite strike since April 16, also

## Decisions taken after final talks : Govt

The government last night announced its decision to allow time scale to teachers and employees of non-government educational institutions in the existing pay scales from July 1, 1994 and certain other benefits to them, reports BSS.

They would be given the time scale during their service tenure and on completion of specific length of service.

A Press Note issued by the Ministry of Education in Dhaka last night said the government took the decision yesterday through final discussion over the last few days with various associations representing the non-government teachers and

## AL to unveil plan for caretaker govt May 4

The Opposition Awami League is expected to announce on May 4 the framework of a caretaker government it has been demanding for holding early parliamentary elections.

Party senior joint-secretary Abdul Jalil told UNB last night that the modality of the proposed caretaker government was likely to be presented before the nation from its public meeting in the capital on May 4.

Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina is likely to deliver a policy speech at the planned rally.

Hasina would touch upon the latest political and economic

situation in the country as the outcome of the three-year rule of the BNP, explain her party programmes and announce future course of action to implement the package of demands, including immediate general elections under a caretaker government.

She is expected to present the constitutional modality of a caretaker government to ensure free and fair polls.

Other demands of the Awami League include separation of the judiciary, repeal of all black laws including the Indemnity Ordinance and the Anti-terrorism Act, demands relating to peasants and workers. See Page 12 Col 6

## Dhaka protests violation of airspace

Bangladesh yesterday lodged a protest with India against its airspace violation by Indian air force fighter planes over Patgram and Burimari border areas on Wednesday, Home Ministry sources said in Dhaka last night, reports BSS.

Bangladesh lodged the protest at a battalion level meeting between the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) held yesterday at Burimari in Lalmonirhat.

Bangladesh is keeping constant vigilance against recurrence of any such incident, the Home Ministry said.

Normal situation is now. See Page 12 Col 4



The leaders of different non-government teachers' associations met Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar at the conference room of the Education Ministry in the city yesterday. Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam and State Minister for Education Principal Md Eunus Khan are seen flanking the Education Minister. — PID photo

## Administrative reforms soon, says Saifur

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said the government would soon implement the administrative reform programme to facilitate its partnership with the private sector in achieving a self-reliant economy.

"We have now three studies on the reform programme, which are being examined to formulate an appropriate one for the country's administration", the Finance Minister said, while addressing the 15th meeting of the Consultative Committee of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) at the conference hall of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) yesterday.

Saifur Rahman said the administrative machinery of the government has appeared to be the major obstruction towards achieving the national goals because of its regulatory character. It has also acted as a hindrance towards the growth of the private sector and the inflow of foreign investment by delaying the decision making. See Page 12 Col 1

## PM urges Opposition to shun path of hartals

Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the Opposition to shun the path of hartals and strikes and extend cooperation to the government in strengthening the democratic system in the country, reports UNB.

"No more disruption in production. We have to increase production to lead the country towards self-reliance", she said at the 4th biennial council of the BNP's labour front the Jatityatabadi Sramik Dal - at the Diploma Engineers' Institute in the city in the afternoon.

Begum Zia urged upon all, particularly the workers, irrespective of party affiliation, to supplement the government's development efforts. The country will attain self-sufficiency if the government gets cooperation from the workers, she added.

Referring to the frequent hartal calls by the Opposition, she said, "We cannot let the country be pushed towards destruction in the interest of any person or party. We have to think for the welfare of the people and the future of the country." See Page 12 Col 3

Begum Zia called for united efforts to sustain and strengthen the democratic system in the country and maintain peace and discipline in all institutions.

She said the aim of her government is to change the lot of the commonman and to look after the interest of the people of all strata. It is trying to ensure equal distribution of limited resources and it is aware of the condition of all sections of the society, she said.

She called the workers for sending their children to schools, saying, "We don't want them to be workers by heritage. One day they may become doctors, engineers, MPs and even the head of the government."

The Prime Minister said her government does not want to retrench workers, but in some cases retrenchment may be necessary. "We will take measures for their self-employment. We will provide loans to the retrenched workers so that they can set up small industries."

She said her government had already accepted a number

## Hata names minority cabinet

TOKYO, Apr 28: Prime

Minister Tsutomu Hata named a minority cabinet Thursday, a step that may number his days in office and prolong Japan's trade and economic stalemates, reports AP.

Earlier, Hata was sworn in by Emperor Akihito today at the Imperial Palace.

Hata failed in a final attempt to lure the Socialists - the largest bloc - back into the ruling coalition, forcing him to form the country's first minority government in 39 years.

With less than a majority in the powerful lower house of Parliament, Hata's government could face legislative gridlock.

"I expect we will face a very difficult situation, since the government is based on a minority coalition because of the Socialists' withdrawal," Hata told a news conference.

Delays in naming a Cabinet have already seriously delayed action on several key issues.

Some analysts predicted Hata would soon be forced to dissolve the lower house and call new elections.

## BNP for bringing back Opposition to JS

By Staff Correspondent

The Standing Committee of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday decided to continue its efforts to make the opposition parties in Parliament return to the House during the next session of Parliament, insiders said.

The committee, the ruling party's highest policy-making body, met last night to discuss the present political situation and adopt strategies to face any crisis arising out of the Opposition threat of boycotting the next Jatiya Sangsad (JS) session.

The meeting, chaired by Begum Khaleda Zia, also decided that the party should come out with a public statement very soon explaining its positions on different political issues, including the holding of free and fair elections, ways of making the parliamentary democracy more effective, and so on.

Prime Minister and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia herself might issue a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee tomorrow, meeting See Page 12 Col 3

## 11 killed in Sunamganj road accident

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 28: Eleven farm labourers were killed and 25 others injured in a tragic road accident at Akhrapara on the Pagla-Jagannathpur road, 16 kilometres from Sunamganj town Wednesday evening.

The accident occurred when a speeding truck carrying 36 labourers and 73 bags of paddy over turned around 7 in the evening, both witnesses and police said.

Ten people died on the spot while another victim succumbed to his injuries at the Sunamganj Sadar Hospital after admission.

Other 16 victims of the accident were admitted to the Sunamganj Sadar Hospital. Condition of two persons is said to be critical.

The eleven who died are Abdul Quddus, 55, Khayer Mia, 35, Habib Mia, 35, Pakki Mia, 25, Zahurul Islam, 20, Jahangir Alam, 20, Kiron Mia, 20, Shahjahan Mia, 35, Khokon Mia, 25, Rabiul, 30, and Anu Mia, 45.

All the labourers were going back home to Homna, Comilla, from Sunamganj where they worked for the last seven days.

## Regional confce of media experts hails Daily Star initiative

COLOMBO, Apr 28: Media specialists from South Asia said in a consensual draft statement that Bangladesh is the only country in the region which has done some active work in the media advocacy of the Report of the Independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation.

The SAARC Summit in Dhaka in April 1993 had unanimously endorsed the premise of the Report that the poor in their intrinsic abilities can be part of the solution to the problem of poverty and resolved to work for the eradication of the worst forms of poverty in a ten-year period.

Taking special note of The Daily Star's Round Table entitled "Give the Downtrodden a Chance" (held in April, 1994), the media analysts have de-

From Shah Husain Imam cided unanimously that the newspapers in the South Asian countries should do likewise, with indigenous variations where necessary, by June 1994, keeping in view the proposed meeting of the SAARC Finance and Planning Ministers in July.

In bigger countries, round tables can be held in at least two to three provinces or states modelled on The Daily Star style.

The Daily Star Round Table was designed to generate a national debate based on a free interaction among the government leaders, poverty commissioners, policy planners, NGO representatives, UN Development Agency heads and resident country representatives.

The inter-face was to get

into the process of pro-poor planning which Bangladesh, like other countries in the region, are committed to completing before the next SAARC Summit in New Delhi.

The consultants on the "Role of the Media in Poverty Eradication in South Asia" were organised by the United Nations University (UNU/SAPP) in collaboration with the South Asian Regional Office of the International Development Resource Centre of Canada. Dr P Wignaraja, Adviser, UNU and Vice Chairman, Independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation took the initiative for them.

Participants included seven from India, three from Pakistan, eight from Sri Lanka and

## Radio programme for NGOs during disasters sought

By Staff Correspondent

CARE, an American relief agency, has approached the Radio Bangladesh authorities to allow the country's private voluntary development organisations to use a radio frequency during natural disaster emergencies.

Nancy Blum, a CARE official, yesterday told a seminar held in the capital on cyclone preparedness that her organisation has suggested to the government the launching of an "NGO Hour" - a programme through which the voluntary organisations could disseminate information to the people and exchange messages during natural calamities.

The suggestion was pending a government decision, she said.

The day-long seminar on

**WIN** See Page 11 for details

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