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# The Daily Star

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## Section of teachers for continuing strike

By Staff Correspondent

The Central Teachers' Action Liaison Committee, a platform of six organisations of non-government school and college teachers yesterday decided to continue their strike although the government on Thursday had accepted some of their demands.

An emergency meeting of the liaison committee further resolved that the striking teachers would stick to their previous decision of boycotting the SSC examinations due to begin country-wide May 2.

However, another organisation of private school teachers — the Bangladesh Teachers' Association (Ashraf - Nazrul) — has called off its strike follow-

ing the government decisions regarding the teachers' demands.

The government Thursday night had decided to allow from July 1 this year one time-scale to the teachers and employees of non-government educational institutions in the existing pay-scale and some other benefits. This will involve an additional expenditure of over a hundred crore Taka annually.

Meanwhile, the government was finalising the measures to hold the SSC examinations of the four education boards under special arrangements, Education Ministry officials said, adding that the teachers

of government schools and colleges and officials of the Education Department would be engaged in the conduct of the examinations. Besides, the teachers of non-government schools who called off their strike would also help in conducting the exams.

A control room has been opened at the Education Ministry to monitor the preparations for holding the SSC examinations in the districts. A spokesman of the control room told The Daily Star that arrangements had been finalised in 17 districts until Thursday.

The liaison committee  
See Page 12 Col 4

## Opposition parties meet today

Leaders of opposition parties and groups in Parliament will meet today at 11:30 am at the Sangsad Bhavan chamber of Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad.

The meeting will continue its deliberations on finalising the constitutional modality of a caretaker government for holding free and impartial elections for certain terms.

"We are now trying to reach a consensus on the details of the modality of a caretaker government," Salahuddin Yusuf, an Awami League MP, told UNB last night.

He said that a constitutional provision for a caretaker government could be made either by amending the relevant provisions or adding a new temporary provision to the consti-  
See Page 12 Col 4

## Litmus test for EC steps today

By Nurul Kabir

The much-vaunted model elections to the Dapunia Union Parishad in Mymensingh district will be held today.

The polls are aimed at putting to the test some measures taken by the Election Commission to ensure an entirely free and fair electoral process. If things work to plan, the local people will exercise their franchise even without the presence of any members of the law enforcing agencies.

The EC has issued identity cards, carrying a 10-digit geo-code with a super-imposed photograph, the place of birth and other information of each of the 19,920 voters of the constituency to check false voting.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf told this correspondent Tuesday that ID cards for the voters could stop false voting while at

the same time ensure active participation of the electorate in the polling process. The identity cards will also help maintain peace and order, he said.

The CEC also felt that the larger number of polling centres opened here would increase the voter turnout.

According to EC sources, 27 voters' clubs, each comprising 15 members — 10 male and five female — are scheduled to conduct the elections.

The chief of each voter club would act as the presiding officer and his deputy as the assistant presiding officer at each centre.

Twenty-seven polling centres have also been set up in the 27 villages which comprise Dapunia union. Of these, one centre has been opened for only 184 voters.

All the 405 voters' club

members have been given training by EC officials on how to conduct the elections.

The EC had involved the club members in preparing the voter lists, collecting information for the ID cards and setting up the polling centres. "These have been done with a view to ensuring the people's participation in the electoral process," said EC Joint Secretary S M Zakaria.

Eleven candidates are contesting for the post of chairman while 40 are in the race for nine posts of UP members.

The EC has also distributed a brochure containing a 14-point code of conduct for the candidates.

The District Agriculture Officer of Mymensingh has been appointed to act as the Returning Officer.

It is learnt that in response  
See Page 12 Col 1



Israeli and Palestinian women demonstrate for peace and the end of the closure of the occupied territories for Palestinians at the northern entrance of Jerusalem yesterday. Israel and the PLO have set next Wednesday as their target for signing an overall agreement to launch Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza and Jericho. — AFP photo

## Upendra Lal tells newsmen CHT peace precondition for Chakmas' return

From Staff Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, Apr 29: The return of the Chakma refugees from camps in India cannot be guaranteed until a peaceful settlement of the CHT issue could be reached through the ongoing peace talks between the government and the Parbatyia Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS).

This was said here today by Upendra Lal Chakma, chairman of the Chakma Refugees' Welfare Association, who headed a 14-member refugee delegation which has been visiting the CHT for the past five days to see the rehabilitation measures taken by the government.

Talking to pressmen at Khagrachhari here prior to his departure for Tripura in India this afternoon, Upendra Chakma said some major problems still remain in the CHT despite the rehabilitation measures taken by the government.

He pointed out that the landed property of many returnees and other tribals, in the possession of non-tribals, were yet to be returned.

"Besides, some of the re-

turnees and other tribals expressed to me their sense of insecurity and fear," Upendra Chakma said.

"Moreover, we should not only consider the cases of 50,000 refugees, the plight of the six lakh tribals staying here should also be taken into consideration. Most of them are yet to regain their lost property," Upendra Chakma added.

"If the problems of the Chittagong Hill Tracts were not solved politically, a permanent peace could not be established here and life and property of the tribal people could not be guaranteed," Upendra Chakma added.

He, however, did not elaborate on what he described as cases of insecurity felt by the returnees.

When asked about the possible time for starting the next phase of repatriation he said "I can't say with any degree of exactitude at this moment because the decision lies with our association. After my return I will submit a report on my own observations during  
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## Khaleda likely to perform Hajj

By A Special Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will leave for Jeddah next month to perform Hajj, according to official sources.

The Foreign Office has already been instructed to make preparations for the visit, which is likely to start in mid May. She is expected to spend about 10 days in Saudi Arabia.

It's not clear whether she will have any substantive contacts with Saudi leaders during the visit and use the occasion to transact any bilateral business.  
See Page 12 Col 3

## Hasina goes to Japan May 8

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will pay a five-day visit to Japan beginning May 8.

AL sources said that the itinerary of the visit was still to be fixed but it would mainly include attending the two-day meeting of the Socialist International Council.

Sheikh Hasina will address the meeting which will be held  
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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Joshi leaves Dhaka

The Indian Chief of Army Staff, General Bipin Chandra Joshi left Dhaka yesterday after a six-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh. General Joshi, Mrs Joshi and other members of his delegation were seen-off at the Zia International Airport by the Chief of Army Staff, Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan, Begum Sophia Khan and other senior army officials, reports UNB.

### Hasina greets

#### Queen Beatrix

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has congratulated Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands on her birthday. In a message on the occasion, Hasina warmly greeted the Queen of the Netherlands and wished her good health, happiness and long life. She also wished the people of the Netherlands continued peace, progress and prosperity, reports UNB.

### Kenyan defence team in city

A 24-member team from the Kenyan Defence Staff College (KDSC) arrived in Dhaka yesterday on an eight-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh. During the visit, the KDSC team, led by its Deputy Commandant Brigadier BM Nganda will call on high civil and military officials, reports UNB.

## Thai FM due in city June 15

## Joint ventures on agenda

By M Anwarul Haq

Thailand will explore possibilities of setting up joint venture industries in the Chittagong and Dhaka Export Processing Zones during the forthcoming visit of the Thai Foreign Minister.

Squadron Leader Prasong Soonsiri, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on a five-day visit on June 15, according to sources.

The Thai Foreign Minister is expected to be accompanied by a team of businessmen.

During the visit of the Thai Foreign Minister, the fifth

meeting of the Joint Economic Commission would also be held.

Sources indicated that the friendly relations between Thailand and Bangladesh are likely to be further strengthened at the economic, political and technical levels during the talks between Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri and his Bangladesh counterpart Mostafizur Rahman. The Thai Minister is also expected to meet the Prime Minister and a number of other ministers.

The Bangladesh side would emphasise reducing the trade

imbalance which is now in Thailand's favour. It will also underline the need for stronger commercial ties.

Bangladesh exports to Thailand increased from 1.22 million US dollars in 1989-90 to 8.90 million dollars in 1991-92. However, imports from Thailand stood at 23.13 million dollars in 1991-92.

Thailand, which has suspended issuing visas to Bangladeshi nationals upon arrival at Bangkok, may also be taken up for discussion by the Home Ministry. However, a  
See Page 12 Col 8

## Sylheties lay siege to Osmany Airport today

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 29: The Division Implementation and Greater Sylhet Development Action Council will lay a siege to the Sylhet Osmany Airport tomorrow (Saturday) to press home their demand.

A rally will also be held as part of the day-long programme.

Meanwhile, the action council has declared a fresh programme of agitation starting July 1.

The programme was char-  
See Page 12 Col 6

## 2.5 lakh Rwandans flee country in a day

NAIROBI, Apr 29: A quarter of a million Rwandans fleeing the terror of ethnic massacres streamed into neighboring Tanzania today in what the United Nations called the biggest and fastest exodus it had ever seen, reports AP.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva also said it had reports that police and militiamen fired machine guns Friday on about 5,000 people who tried to force their way out of a stadium in the southwestern town of Cyangugu.

Relief workers were barred from the stadium and there

was no way of trying to help the injured or count the dead, the UNHCR said.

The huge exodus to Tanzania took place in the past 24 hours, the UNHCR said.

It quoted one of its emergency officers as saying queues of refugees on the Tanzanian border were eight kilometers long.

"All we could see were rows and rows of people," emergency officer Maureen Connolly was quoted as saying. "It's a massive crossing and its continuing. Thousands and thousands of people."

Ms Connolly said she saw about 50,000 people waiting at a bridge on the Rwandan side of the Tanzanian border.

Sylvana Foa, UNHCR spokeswoman, said earlier that the refugees had apparently been barred from entering Burundi, already flooded with people fleeing the violence, and so had headed toward Tanzania.

UNHCR has supplies in the area for about 50,000 people. It plans an emergency airlift and overland convoys to try to send in extra help.

In the capital, Kigali, gov-

ernment troops and rebels of the Rwandan Patriotic Front duelled sporadically with mortars and artillery throughout the day, temporarily closing the capital's airport.

More than 100,000 people have been killed and at least 1.3 million others forced from their homes, mostly by marauding gangs of youths armed with guns, clubs, machetes and knives. The numbers of dead and displaced are a conservative estimate and the true dimensions of the horror may never be known.

Related Story on Page 5

## Depression in south Bay

By Staff Correspondent

A depression has formed over the south east Bay of Bengal and adjoining Andaman Sea.

It was lying some 1350 kilometres south-west of the Chittagong Port at 9 am yesterday.

According to the Met office, the depression remains practically stationary but it might move initially in a north-westerly direction with greater intensity.

At 6pm yesterday, the Met office said, the maximum sustained wind within 48 kilometres of the depression centre was about 50kmph  
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## Iranian pilgrims to hold rallies during Hajj

NICOSIA, Apr 29: Iranian pilgrims during the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca next month despite a Saudi ban, Tehran Radio quoted Iran's top hajj official as saying today, reports Reuter.

Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri advised Saudi Arabian leaders not to prevent Muslims from carrying out their duty to hold deliverance from infidels rituals, the radio said.

"We do not want to create disturbance for the Saudi gov-  
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