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Rao asks Joshi to

deal cautiously

with migrant issue

Minister P V Narasimha Rao

today advised Maharashtra

Chief Minister Manohar Joshi

to proceed cautiously while

dealing with the issue of illegal

migrants in the state, reports

on the issue; the state admin-

istration should ensure that no

particular individual should

feel apprehensive of the mea-

sure, the Prime Minister ad-

vised Joshi when the latter

called on him, official sources

should be fairness and trans-

parency considering the cos-

mopolitan nature of Bombay

which is also the commercial

capital of the country, the

Prime Minister told the chief

See Page 12 Col 8

The approach on the issue

here said.

While proceeding cautiously

NEW DELHI, Apr 7: Prime

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Dhaka Day by Day



And then there were none . . . . Page 3

### **NEWS BRIEFS**

### Wagons derail in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET. Apr 7: Train communication between Sylhet and Akhaura remained suspended for six hours today, following the derailment of two wagons of a goods train. The accident took place at noon between Satgaon and Rashidpur railway stations. A number of trains including the intercity Dhaka-Sylhet and Sylhet-Chittagong remained stranded at different stations. Train communication resumed at 6

#### Contractors clash in Barguna

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL. Apr 7: Rival groups of contractors clashed in Barguna Thana Council area over the incident of manhandling of Thana Nirbahi Officer Md. Zaglul Amin in connection with retund of security deposit

#### JU female students sit-in today

By JU Correspondent

Female students of the Jahangirnagar University will stage a sit-in in front of the Vice Chancellor's office this morning demanding their se curity on the campus. They also demanded arrest of a stu dent leader who reportedly managed his engagement with a second year student of the university. Meanwhile, the disciplinary committee of the university will also discuss the matter at a meeting today Earlier, on Thursday, the fe male students gave an ultima tum to the authorities for taking action against the student leader concerned.

### Polls in Malaysia April 24, 25

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 7: Parliamentary elections and balloting for 11 of the 13 state legislatures will be held on April 24 and 25, it was announced today, reports AP.

The National Front coalition of 14 Malay. Chinese, Indian and other ethnic parties that has ruled since independence from Britain in 1957, is overwhelmingly favoured to be returned to power.

### Dhaka, Kathmandu stress at official talks

# SAARC should be strengthened to solve common problems

From Staff Correspondent

KATHMANDU, Apr 7: Bangladesh and Nepal today underscored the need for strengthening SAARC and hoped that At the formal talks the the member states would continue to work in the true spirit

At the official talks here today the two countries also showed keen interest to make the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) operational soon for tangible benefit of the millions of people in the region. .

Airport in Kathmandu yesterday.

KATHMANDU. Apr 7: Nepa-

lese Deputy Prime Minister

said today that Kathmandu

believes in mutual sharing of

region's water resources for

overall benefit of the countries

water in the region in the lean

season and this can be used

through mutual cooperation,

he said in an exclusive inter-

is very influential in the Cabi-

net of Prime Minister Man

Mohan Adhikari, also holds the

important position of Minister.

for Defence and Foreign Af-

tual understanding and coop-

eration among the three

SAARC countries - India.

Bangladesh and Nepal — to

utilise the vast water resources

moderate but as for those in

the other countries, there

needs a better understanding."

What's in a

name?

not easy to confuse the leaders

of Pakistan and India. But sen-

ate Foreign Relations Commit-

tee Chairman Jesse Helms did

long closed-door meeting with

Pakistani Prime Minister Be-

Emerging from an hour-

just that, reports Reuter.

WASHINGTON, Apr 7: It's

Nepal and Bangladesh are

of the Ganges basin," he said.

There is need for mu-

Madhay Kumar Nepal, who

view with The Daily Star

Nepal holds 70 per cent of

concerned.

of the organisation to solve

their common problems.

Both sides believed that SAPTA would enable trade liberalisation in South Asia.

Bangladesh side was led by the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and included Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, A N M Eusuf, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Faroog Sobhan, Foreign Secretary. Mozammel Haq, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr Ashfagur Rahman, Director General of SAARC.

The Nepalese side led by

SAARC Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia being received by Prime

Minister of Nepal Man Mohan Adhikari (2nd left) on her arrival at Tribhuvan International

Nepalese DPM tellsThe Daily Star

regional water resources

From M Anwarul Haq

said he meaning India, but de-

clining to mention the name of

courtesy call on Bangladesh

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda

Zia at the Soaltee Holiday Inn

on the same wavelength in

most matters of bilateral coop-

eration in the South Asian re-

chological closeness and affin-

ity between the two countries

and the existing bonds can be

Turning to the transit is-

strengthened further," he said.

sue, the Deputy Prime Minis-

ter said, his government was

very grateful to Bangladesh for

agreeing to allow transit facili-

ties, "which is very essential

venting Kathmandu from tak-

ing transit facility offered by

Dhaka, he replied, "As we have

to go through Indian territory,

there is need for permission

When asked what was pre-

and beneficial to Nepal."

Nepal and Bangladesh are

There is tremendous psy-

Earlier, Madhav paid a

the country.

gion, he said.

Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari included Deputy Prime Minster Madhav Kumar Nepal. State Minister for Commerce Bhim Bahadur Rawal, Chief Secretary Dr Ishwar Prasad Upadhya and Nepal's ambassador to Bangladesh.

With the gradual strengthening of SAARC, it was felt during the talks that the SAARC Secretariat would be expanded.

Both sides observed that SAARC would be able to open

- PID photo

from their side. Talks are go-

ing on in a positive way and we

hope India will respond in a

Talking about the crucial

friendly and positive manner.

issue of the 'Peace and Friend-

ship Treaty of 1950 between

India and Nepal, Madhav, who

was the former leader of the

Opposition in the Parliament

and General Secretary of the

Communist Party of Nepal

(United Marxist-Leninist) in-

formed that talks are on to re-

possibility of any major

amendments, Madhav Kumar

Nepal said he saw no such

scope, but hoped that desired

cently visited New Delhi and

discussed the issue. The

Nepalese Prime Minister is

due to visit India from April 10

to 14. The Indian and Nepa-

lese prime ministers are

expected to discuss the future

of the treaty, which has been a

See Page 12 Col 8

Madhav Kumar Nepal re-

changes will be made.

Replying to a question on

view and update the treaty.

up newer areas of cooperation and felt that the SAARC should concentrate its linkages with the European Union and other regional forums like ASEAN.

They reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations and agreed to further consolidate and deepen the existing friendly ties.

The Nepalese Prime Minister referred to the recent single country fair of Bangladesh held in Kathmandu and said Dhaka has been able to display See Page 12 Col 1

### Kathmandu's role in region

Minister Begum Khaleda Zia tonight stressed the need for a regional approach for the optimal and multiple uses of the regional water resources, reports BSS.

gional strategy for utilisation of our water resources. This will prove beneficial to all people of this region," said Begum Zia while speaking at a banquet given in her honour by Nepalese Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari at the state hall of his office Singha Durbar.

ernment's sincere efforts to forge greater regional cooperation with the neighbouring countries. Begum Zia said Bangladesh would like to work together with Nepal for exploitation of the regional water resources through multiple

See Page 12 Col 3

# Khaleda lauds

KATHMANDU. Apr 7: Prime

"We have to evolve a re-Lauding the Nepalese gov-

elerring to Nepal's diffi-

culties for being a landlocked

### Visit adds another landmark in ties: Adhikari

Kathmandu for sharing of KATHMANDU, Apr 7: The Prime Minister of Nepal, Man Mohan Adhikari, tonight expressed the hope that the visit of Begum Khaleda Zia here would further strengthen the commitments of the two countries towards SAARC as well as enhance the existing friendly relations, reports BSS.

> Speaking at a banquet hosted by him in honour of Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at state hall of Singha Darbar Adhikari said the visit of Begum Zia would add another landmark to the friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries

> He said SAPTA was an important instrument which directly addresses the need to make SAARC programme-oriented in a coordinated man-

> He expressed the hope that the leaders of SAARC countries would be able to launch a more concrete programme in the forthcoming SAARC summit to be held in New Delhi.

The New Delhi summit, Adhikari said, would provide an opportunity to better set the seven-nation regional forum to keep in track in a See Page 12 Col 2

### 15 killed, 50 hurt in Ctg road accident

From Staff Correspondent

Labour organisations fear

Opposition hartal may

affect SKOP shutdown

By Nazmul Ashraf

CHITTAGONG, Apr 7: At least 15 persons were killed and around 50 injured in a road accident this morning at Fakirhat under Sitakundu thana, 20 miles off the city.

Police and hospital sources said 13 persons died on the spot when an overloaded passenger bus bound for Sonapur from Chittagong collided headon with an empty truck coming to Chittagong. The driver of the bus was killed on the spot while the truck driver fled, police said.

Both the vehicles were badly damaged. Two fatally injured passen-

gers Moinul Karim (22), who was general secretary of BCL, MES College unit. succumbed

The agitating labour organi-

sations fear that the major op-

position parties' April 9-10

hartal would harm their 48-

hour shutdown programme

scheduled for April 11-12, in-

affect the success of the trade

unions' work stoppage planned

to be enforced by workers and

employees of different sectors,

the insiders said. Explaining

this, they said that they appre-

hended antagonism to their

shutdown programme since it

will prolong a disruption in

public life by two more con-

Oikva Parishad (SKOP), an um-

brella body of 18 labour organi-

sations in different sectors,

and the alliance of five trade

unions in the jute-textile sec-

tors, had earlier separately

The Sramik Karmachari

The Opposition's hartal may

siders said.

secutive days.

to his injuries at a private clinic here and Sidu Meah (50) at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), raising the death toll to 15.

The others killed in the accident were identified as Ruhul Amin (30), Md. Siraj (30), Wajiullah (40), Samarendra Nath (45), Habib Ullah (35), Sirajul Islam (40), Khairullah (35), Bazlul Hoque (30), Mostafa Sardar (35), Abdul Mannan (50) and Mujibul Hoque (35). Two others were vet to be identified.

Of the injured, 15 were admitted to the CMCH and the rest were admitted to Sitakundu health complex and private clinics in the city.

called a country-wide 48-hour

strike on April 4-5 but later

shifted the programme to

April 11-12 since the Urs of

Maizbhandari coincided with

ties - the Awami League.

Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Is-

lami - had announced their

identical programmes of hartal

at five divisional headquarters

on April 9 and across the

country on April 10 a day after

shutdown for strengthening

the current anti-government,

agitation. But the labour lead

ers said they were not con-

See Page 12 Col 7

Editorial on Page 4

The major opposition par

the programme.

Fertiliser crisis

### MP, 5 others chargesheeted in Jhalakati

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Apr 7: Jhalakati police yesterday submitted chargesheet against six

persons including a ruling

party MP. in connection with

hoarding and black marketing urea fertiliser. Gazi Aziz Ferdous MP of the BNP and five others were charged under Section 25 of

the market during acute fertiliser crisis in the country. Earlier, police seized in all 3455 bags of urea from a push cart, a trawler and the godown

the Special Powers Act, also

with creating artificial crisis in

the labour bodies deferred of Gazi Enterprise owned by their programme on March 27. the MP on March 24. Opposition sources said Police later sealed the their hartals were scheduled godown. No arrest has yet been keeping in view the workers'

11 injured during

### hartal in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Apr 7: At least people were injured and some shops and rickshaws damaged in the town during a hartal today, called by an anti-Jamaat alliance to protest Jamaat leader Golam Azam's public meeting, reports UNB.

The All Party Action Committee (APAC) comprising BNP. Awami League, CPB and NAP enforced a three-day hartal in the district from

Defying section 144 imposed in the town, APAC activists took to the street and clashed with police and sup-

porters of Jamaat-e-Islami. However, Golam Azam's public meeting at Chandida-

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Apr 7: The

bandh here today. Thousands of devotees from

across the country as well as India and Nepal have started gathering for the two-day bathing which, for hundreds of vears, has been believed to cure all kinds of maladies.

### Exchange of views with editors

#### Govt has failed in every sphere, says Hasina litical and socio-economic fro-Opposition leader

Sheikh Hasina yesterday exchanged views with the editors of newspapers and news agencies and intellectuals on the country's overall situation, reports UNB. Ahmedul Kabir, Anwar Hos-

sain Manju, Mahfuz Anam, Kazi Shahed Ahmad, Mizanur Rahman Mizan, Alamgir Mahiuddin, Moazzem Hossain, Alhaj Makbul Hossain, A S M Bahauddin. Mir Nurul Islam and Golam Tahabur were, among others, present in the meeting at Hasina's Dhanmondi residence.

Among intellectuals Shamsur Rahman, Syed Shamsul Hug, Rafiq Azad, M R Akhter Mukul, Mohadeb Shaha, Ali Aksad, Dr Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman. Dr S A Malek, Panna Kaiser. Syed Hasan Imam. Shirin Akhter and Lutfur Rah-

man Liton were present. nazir Bhutto, Helms took to Expressing concern-over See Page 12 Col 2 the situation prevailing in ponts. Hasina said "We are waging the current agitation to save the country from crisis." She said the people hoped

that Prime Minister Begum Zia would run the country democratically and take pragmatic steps to resolve the problems of the common man We assisted the government

for first three years since this parliament was formed, the opposition leader said adding "but the government totally failed in every sphere due to its inefficiency and partisan outlook." "While in parliament, we

raised various people-oriented proposals but those were not accepted by the ruling party." she told the meeting. A committee was formed to

eliminate violence from campuses but that committee could not work. Hasina said the administration has virtually See Page 12 Col 8



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina seeking votes for party candidates in Tongi Pourashava - Star photo elections.

## Tongi paura model polls Monday

By Krishna P Roy

The Election Commission (EC) is going to hold model elections in Tongi Paurasabhaon Monday despite some minor irregularities in preparation of the identity (ID) cards and allegations of violation of the code of conduct.

held such model polls in Dapunia union in Mymensingh district on April 30 last year. Four candidates, three of them supported separately by

CEC's appeal to voters

### By Staff Correspondent

Chief Election Commis sioner Justice Abdur Rauf yesterday called upon the voters in Tongi Pourasava to exercise their rights in the model elections maintaining peace and discipline. "You should hold the candi-

dates responsible if they violate the code of conduct ... you are also responsible for a free and fair election." Justice Rauf told a voters' meeting at Tongi The Study and Research

See Page 12 Col 6

# BNP. Awami League and Jatiya Party, are vying for the post

chairman of Tongi Paurashabha while 87 candidates are in the race for 21 seven wards.

ers is over 72,000. there that ID cards were not

voters and in some cases photograph of a person is printed on some one else's ID card. Mohammad Shahjahan of Tongibharan under Ward-3 alleged that photograph of an unknown person was printed

on his card. He also showed

yet handed over to all 65,000

his card to this correspondent. During a visit yesterday, this correspondent found some people filing their complaints with the temporary office of the EC in Tongi that they were yet to get their ID cards.

The office of the District Election Commission of Gazipur has been temporarily shifted to Tongi to conduct See Page 12 Col 4

See Page 12 Col 8

#### Clarification Following is the summary of

the letter issued by the law of-

fice of Moudud Ahmed and Associates, on behalf of their client Dr M Rafiguzzaman, after the report headlined Defaulting loanee Dr Rafiquzzaman now in the city" was published in The Daily Star on April 2; Written on April 3, the letter contended that the head-

line of the report was not correct as "... BSB has not granted any loan to our client." The law office described him as an internationally renowned computer scientist based in the United States. Referring to Rafi Systems Ltd., of which Rafiguzzaman is the chairman and against which the Tk 10.85 crore bank loan was granted, the letter noted that It was set up as a public limited company with BSB subscribing 75 per cent of the shares and sanctioned a loan. It added that Rafiguzzaman also invested around one million US dollars in the project to produce high-tech intra-ocular lens and not contact lens." Claiming that the company has See Page 12 Col 3

Wednesday. posts of commissioner of According to official sources The EC had successfully ID cards were distributed among 65,000 voters, while the number of registered vot-Besides, allegations are

See Page 12 Col 8

Astami snan

# begins

traditional Astami snan, the holy bath of the Hindu community, has begun at Langal-

Hindu devotees, for thou-