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# The Daily Star

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Biman's first Hajj flight Apr 13**  
 Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday re-confirmed that the first Hajj flight for ballotee Hajj pilgrims would operate as scheduled, on April 13. All Hajj pilgrims scheduled for the first Hajj flight to Jeddah have been advised to complete all remaining formalities and report to the Hajj camp in time as advised by the Ministry of Religious Affairs, a Biman press release said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

**Young man killed in road accident**  
 A young man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus near Shaanrakha in Demra thana early yesterday. Police said Akram Hossain, 20, met the tragic end of his life as he tried to cross the road at about 6 am, reports UNB.

**IC Calcutta flights rescheduled**  
 Indian Airlines flights IC-723 and IC-724 Calcutta-Dhaka-Calcutta have been rescheduled for today, an Indian Airlines press release said yesterday. It said the Indian Airlines flight IC-723 from Calcutta will arrive in the city at 7-45 pm today and IC-724 from Dhaka to Calcutta will depart at 8-45 pm. Flights IC-723 and IC-724 for tomorrow stand cancelled, the press release said, reports BSS.

**DMP request**  
 The Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday asked people not to keep construction materials and repair vehicles on roads and footpaths. Legal action will be taken against those who were keeping construction materials and other things and doing motor repairing works on road side and footpaths, reports UNB.

**Two Sarbaharamen held in Barisal**  
 BARISAL, Apr 9: Police arrested two members of the outlawed Sarbahara Party from Gutia village in Uzirpur thana today, reports UNB.

## Hundreds hurt in Munshiganj: One killed in Barisal Tornado claims 29 lives



A tornado Saturday evening left hundreds of homes flattened in Louhajang thana of Munshiganj district. — Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

At least 29 people were killed and more than 500 injured as tornado and hailstorm swept different parts of the country Saturday night, according to reports reaching Dhaka.

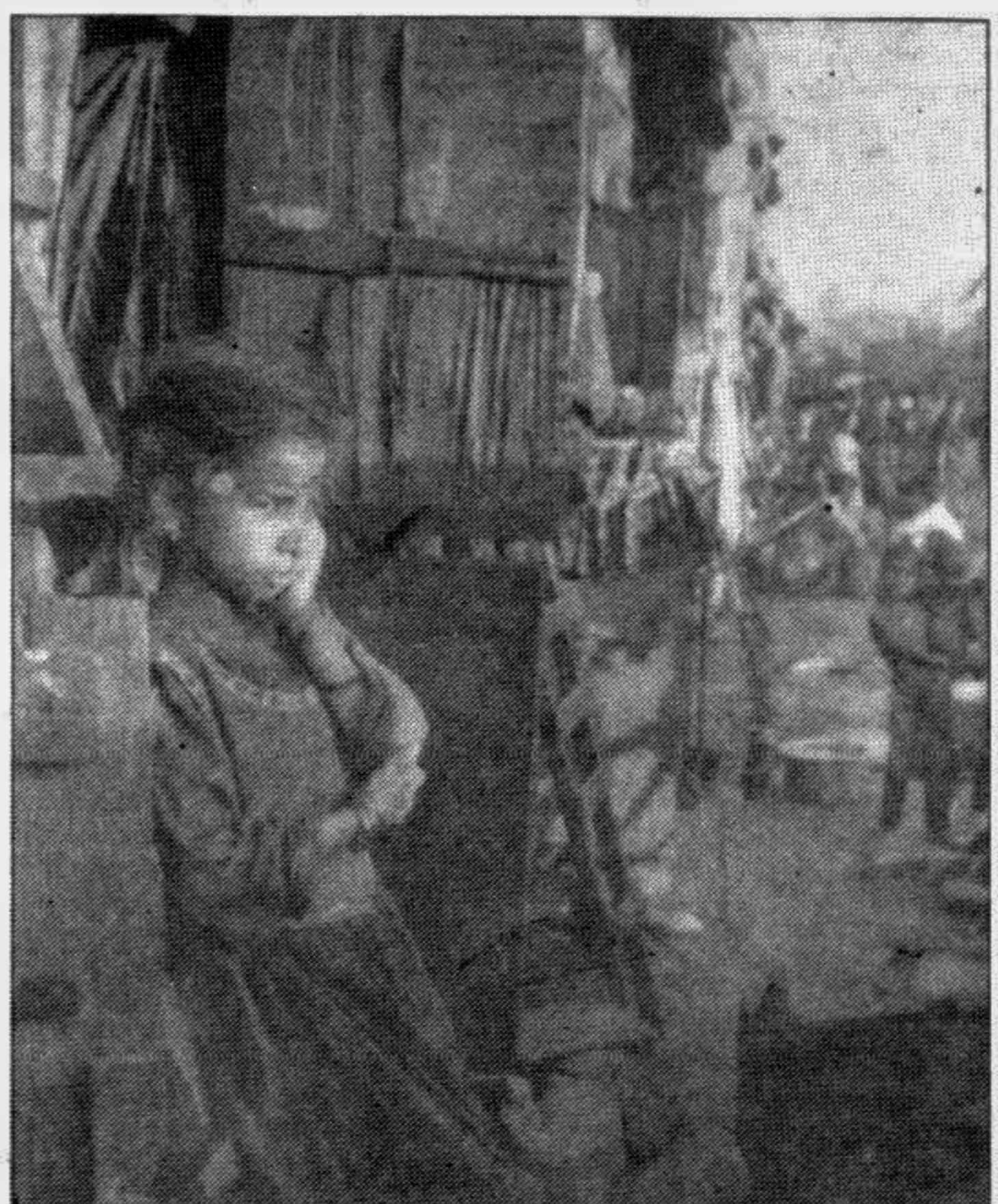
Reports from Barisal and Munshiganj say that several thousand houses and standing crops were damaged in the tornado that lasted barely a few minutes. Crops worth about Tk one crore were damaged in parts of Barisal, an estimate said.

The worst affected areas are Louhajang and Sirajdikhan thanas of Munshiganj district where at least 26 people were reportedly killed in the storm.

Of the victims, 18 were killed in Louhajang, seven in Sirajdikhan and one in Srinagar.

The tornado destroyed or damaged more than 3000 houses in the areas. Of those, about 2000 were razed to the ground, according to reports.

Our Dhaka Medical College correspondent adds: Two of See Page 12 Col 4



Seven-year-old Zaida stands alone at a Bombay shanty Saturday afternoon when police made a pre-dawn swoop and picked up several hundred alleged-Bangladeshi Muslims, including her mother and brother. — AFP photo

### Hartal in five div HQs passes off peacefully

By Staff Correspondent

A dawn-to-dusk hartal called by major opposition political parties in five divisional headquarters passed off peacefully yesterday.

These opposition parties will enforce another dawn-to-dusk hartal throughout the country today.

All modes of transport, except rickshaws, rickshaw vans and some autorickshaws, remained off the roads in the capital as well as in Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal and Rajshahi yesterday.

Most private offices, shops and markets were closed during the hartal hours. Banking activities were poor and attendance in government offices

### Countrywide hartal today

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition political parties have called a dawn-to-dusk hartal throughout the country today, while a 48-hour shutdown called by the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) begins tomorrow.

The opposition parties' hartal will be followed by another two-day strike programme of the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) beginning tomorrow. The SKOP is demanding implementation of its agreements with the government.

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) has also called a countrywide hartal tomorrow coinciding with the first day strike programme of the SKOP. See Page 12 Col 2

### Khaleda visits tornado-hit areas

MUNSHIGANJ, Apr 9: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia rushed to the tornado-hit areas of the district this afternoon to see for herself the condition of the people, reports UNB.

She visited Monirank Bazar, Palsa, Gaodia, Sangrambar, Kolkata Bhogdia and Gholali Bazar and distributed relief materials among the victims.

While walking about the tornado-battered areas, the Prime Minister talked to the affected people and consoled them. She distributed huge relief materials, including saree, lungi, shirt and babywear among the victims.

Local people, particularly See Page 12 Col 3

### Tk 1889 cr sanctioned in 7 months Tk 1044 cr industrial loans disbursed

Star Report

Industrial credits worth Tk 1888.83 crore have been sanctioned by the banks and financial institutions during the first seven months of the current fiscal year.

According to Bangladesh Bank figures, Tk 1043.77 crore has already been disbursed against 5,157 project loans during the July-January period.

A recent Finance Ministry review noted that a number of commercial banks managed to exceed their annualised target of sanctioning industrial loans but the specialised banks fell far short of it. The review termed the performance of the specialised banks as "frustrating".

The sanctioned loans during the period made up over 60 per cent of the target of industrial credit of Tk 3,110 crore set for 1994-95, up more than 73 per cent from last fiscal's target of Tk 1,795 crore.

The review noted that during the first six months of 1993-94, Tk 369 crore was disbursed in industrial loans as against sanctioning of Tk 500 See Page 12 Col 1

### Tongi goes to model polls today

By Staff Correspondent

The Tongi Paurasabha goes to a model election today.

The voters would have to carry identity (ID) cards for casting votes which will begin at 7 in the morning and continue till 2 pm without any break.

The Election Commission (EC), however, could prepare ID cards for about 66 thousand voters out of the over 72 thousand.

Alternative arrangements would be made for those who were registered but were yet to get ID cards, EC sources said.

The EC had held such model polls in Dapunia union under Mymensingh district on April 30 last year.

Four candidates, three of them supported by the BNP, Awami League and Jatiya Party respectively, are vying for the post of chairman, and 87 candidates are in the race for 21 posts of commissioner in seven wards.

Some 72 polling centres would be set up for the elections, while 72 presiding officers. See Page 12 Col 1

### Hillary's visit to have 'positive' impact on ties

The recent visit to Bangladesh by the United States First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton went off "very well" and this will have a "positive" impact on the bilateral ties, a Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday, reports BSS.

Asked at a briefing at the Foreign Ministry, the spokesman said President Bill Clinton attaches a lot of importance to South Asia and the visit by the First Lady to this region reflected this attitude. He said Bangladesh and the "Grameen Bank" occupied a high priority in the South Asian visit, and it is a well-known fact that the success story of the "Grameen Bank" and the relentless efforts by the people of this country in See Page 12 Col 6



Police maintain vigil in the city's Purana Paltan area during yesterday's hartal hours. — Star photo

## 17888 Gulf war returnees to get compensation

By Reaz Ahmad

The United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) has so far approved cases of some 17,888 Bangladeshi citizens repatriated from Iraq and Kuwait during the Gulf War in 1991, official sources said yesterday.

The UNCC was established by the Security Council's Resolution No. 692 in 1991 to review the compensation claims resulting from Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait. Given the status of a subsidiary organ of the UN Security Council, the UNCC in December 1993 began work on resolving the claims under various categories.

Worldwide the Commission has so far approved 2,20,000 claims for the victims of Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. Talking on condition of anonymity, a high ranking official in the Ministry of Labour and Manpower said that many victims were yet to be compensated because the money was not disbursed due to an acute fund crisis in the UNCC. He, however, expressed the hope that at the first opportunity during the next disbursement, 68 Bangladeshis under Category B would get their compensations within two or three months from now.

As many as 62,352 Bangladeshi returnees from Kuwait and Iraq sought compensation at a rate of 4,000 US dollars per head through the Bangladesh government during April 22 to May 7 in 1992 under Category A, while 96 more sought 8,000 US dollars each under Category B during the period. Another 8,765 Bangladeshis sought compensation ranging from 8,001 to one lakh US dollars under Category C.

The UNCC in its October 20, 1994 meeting approved See Page 12 Col 7

### No Govt-SKOP dialogue yet to avert strike

By Staff Correspondent

There is little possibility of any dialogue between the government and the labour organisations to avert the 48-hour shutdown programme of the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) scheduled to begin at 6 am tomorrow.

Unlike previous occasions, the government did not contact the labour leaders for talks on their demands for which several accords were signed by the two sides, the first in June, 1992.

Organisers of the shutdown say they have not received any government response to their call for resolving their problems through discussion.

### Fall of BNP govt. only a matter of time: AL

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League leaders at a post-hartal rally in the city yesterday said that the fall of the BNP government was now only a matter of time.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was now doing what dictator Ershad had done when his days in power were numbered, the AL leaders told the rally held in front of the party central office of Bangabandhu Avenue.

AL central leader Moazzfar Hossain Paltu said that the ministers were resigning one after another and this would lead to the fall of the BNP government. The people would See Page 12 Col 3

### Prices rise on first day of hartal

By Staff Correspondent

City markets experienced a rise in fish, meat and vegetable prices yesterday, the first day of the major Opposition parties' two-day hartal to be followed by another two-day strike programme of the SKOP.

Retailers in New Market, Kawan Bazar and other city markets said the four-day programme may further push up the prices of essentials.

The prices of most rice of the categories of rice, however, remained unchanged in the city markets. The price of IRR1 rice came down from Tk. 15 to 14.50.

## Congress may split over Rao's budget

NEW DELHI, Apr 9: India's fractious Congress Party faced further trouble today after dissident leaders threatened to challenge Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's budget in parliament, reports Reuters.

The rebels said that if their move to make nine changes in the budget was blocked by Rao, they would step up a challenge to Rao's leadership by pushing ahead with plans to form a separate party.

But a cabinet minister close to Rao said there was no chance of a split in India's oldest political machine, adding that the Prime Minister's position had become invincible within the Congress after a recent meeting of its senior leaders.

Rangarajan Kumaramangalam, a former junior parliamentary affairs minister, said on Saturday he would move this month to "cut motions" on nine points in the budget that Finance Minister Manmohan Singh presented on March 15. Arjun Singh, the party's senior rebel leader and a former cabinet minister, told Reuters he supported Kumaramangalam's move but declined to say whether it was discussed at a meeting of the Congress dissidents on Friday.

**ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা**

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন  
 আপনার শিককে টিকা দিন

**বিশেষ জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের অবগতির জন্য জানান যাইতেছে যে, সিটি করপোরেশন কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক বার বার অনুরোধ জানান সত্ত্বেও প্রচুর সংখ্যক করদাতা বকেয়াসহ হালনাগাদ পাওনা কর এখনও পরিশোধ করেন নাই। ফলে করপোরেশন কর্তৃক খেলাপী করদাতাগণের বিরুদ্ধে ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন অধ্যাদেশ ১৯৮৩ (সংশোধিত ১৯৯০) এর বিধান মতে আদালতে ইতিমধ্যে ৬০০টি মামলা দায়ের করা হইয়াছে এবং আরও মামলা দায়েরের প্রস্তুতি চলিতেছে। আদালত কর্তৃক সংশ্লিষ্ট করদাতাগণের বিরুদ্ধে সমন/ওয়ারেন্ট জারী করা হইতেছে এবং বিচার কার্য শুরু হইয়াছে।

২) অতএব, এখন পর্যন্ত যে সকল সম্মানিত করদাতা তাহাদের নিকট পাওনা কর পরিশোধ করেন নাই তাহাদিগকে আদালতের মামলায় জড়ানোর মতো হয়রানিমূলক ব্যবস্থা এড়ানোর জন্য অবিলম্বে সংশ্লিষ্ট কর অঞ্চলের কার্যালয়ে, ওয়ার্ডে নিযুক্ত রাজস্ব সুপারভাইজারের নিকট অথবা ঢাকা মহানগরীতে অবস্থিত জনতা ব্যাংক এর যে কোন শাখায় পাওনা কর পরিশোধ করার জন্য পুনরায় বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

ডিসি/পিআরডি/৪৯১/৯৪-৯৫  
 ডি-৩৫৮

**প্রধান রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা**  
 ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা