

Bosnian govt refuses to extend truce

SARAJEVO, Apr 20: The Bosnian government on Thursday refused to renew a four-month truce that expires at the end of the month and accused the international community of indifference towards Bosnia's suffering, reports AP.

The UN special envoy for former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, came to Sarajevo to try to convince the Muslim-led government and its Serb foes to extend the cease-fire beyond May 1 to give diplomats more time to find a negotiated settlement.

France is threatening to withdraw its 4,500 peacekeepers unless better protection is assured and the cease-fire is extended. Two French peacekeepers were shot and killed by snipers last week. A mortar shell slammed into a French UN compound in Sarajevo Wednesday evening. None was hurt, but about 15 UN vehicles were damaged, UN spokeswoman Capt. Myrian Sochacki said.

After meeting with the UN envoy for two hours, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic made clear the government was fed up with two world's inability to find a diplomatic solution to three years of war that has left at least 200,000 people dead or missing. He repeated a demand that an arms embargo be lifted.

It seems that the international community is ready to prolong the status quo and negotiate in this ineffective way until the last Bosnians," Silajdzic said. "We are not ready to accept that."

"I think that simply there is no political will within the international community that we here are protected," Silajdzic said.

The truce, which took effect Jan. 1, has disintegrated in the political vacuum. The warring sides have taken their differences back to the battlefield.

But Akashi still voiced hope. "I think there is an honest difference of views which we can still try to bridge," he said. He later left to meet Bosnian Serb leaders in their headquarters in nearby Pale. They too say they will not extend the truce.

Rally protesting Ganges water withdrawal today

The Farakka National Committee will hold a public rally in front of the National Press Club today at 10am to protest the continued unilateral withdrawal of waters from the international river Ganges from the upstream, reports BSS.

The committee, in a press release, said its representatives will later hand over memoranda to the Indian High Commission and the United Nations Information Centre in Dhaka containing the serious inconvenience being caused to over 40 million people in Bangladesh because of the dry season withdrawal of the Ganges waters by the upper riparian neighbour.

Sugar mills workers call off strike

Workers and employees of the Kallachapra Sugar Mills in Kishoreganj district and the local sugarcane farmers yesterday called off their hunger strike programme following the assurance given by Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali, reports UNB.

They were on hunger strike in front of the Jatiya Press Club demanding re-opening of the mill which has been closed since July last year.

The minister visited them yesterday afternoon and assured them of either taking steps to reopen the mill or finding out alternative rehabilitation programmes for their employment.

Workers angry employees.

Both the MD and the GM were compelled to stand on the footpath with a garland of shoes around the neck of the MD. A rally was also held there.

Police later rescued both of them and reportedly picked up three of the workers from the scene.

When contacted, Motijheel police denied the arrest of any worker but said Atiqullah, Managing Director of the factory, had filed a case alleging that his workers entered his office room illegally, demanded more money, ransacked the office and looted cash.

The workers also forcibly dragged him and his manager Nurul Islam to the Press Club. Atiqullah stated in the FIR.

The workers of Flint Garments will stage a demonstration in front of the Press Club tomorrow and in front of the Labour Directorate and Factory Inspector's office Saturday to press their demand for clearing up arrears salaries and other dues.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Garments Workers and Employees Federation, in a statement, extended its support to the action of workers of the Flint Garments and demanded payment of dues and release of those arrested.

The Jatiya Sramik Federation, in a similar statement, condemned the non-payment of salary and allowances of the workers and called upon the concerned authorities to take steps to realise the dues from the management.

20 hurt as gunmen attack house in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 20: At least 20 persons were injured when a group of armed terrorists attacked a house at Siddhirganj today.

Six of them received bullet injuries. They are Mukles, 18, Sohel, 25, Mosharraf, 22, Arman, 18, Imran, 20, and Iqbal, 32. They were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Shahnur Begum, 60, who was stabbed during the violence was admitted to the Narayanganj Sadar Hospital.

The armed group attacked the house at Alipara in Gudanail village because of enmity.

The police arrested three persons and recovered a number of cocktails from their possession.

A case has been filed with the Siddhirganj thana.

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ADB

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and donor agencies to show interest in financing or extending loan in the sector, an official handout said.

Development partners and donor agencies during the last six years did not extend any assistance to the power sector. ADB, being attracted by free market economic policy pursued by Bangladesh in the power sector, has agreed to finance the handout said.

In the light of this development, a discussion on loan agreement for "rural electrification project" concluded Wednesday between ADB and Bangladesh at the Bank's headquarters in Manila, the Philippines.

Under this project a 60 megawatt (2x30 megawatt) open cycle gas turbine will be set up at Mymensingh to maintain steady and increased supply of electricity to five rural electric cooperative societies (Palli Bidyut Samities).

Besides, this project will also help intensification and expansion of the distribution network in another seven Bidyut Samities.

The project would also initiate commercialisation and privatisation of the power sector in Bangladesh.

S Arabia

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In 1988, The UN has authorised Libyan pilgrims to fly to Saudi Arabia on Egyptian planes.

The Saudi authorities have been specially sensitive to unrest during the Hajj since 1987, when some 400 people, mainly Iranian pilgrims, were killed in clashes in Makkah between security forces and Iranians holding a political rally.

Hasina

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democracy may take roots in this country. "It was my decision to co-sponsor the 12th amendment of the Constitution which put power in Begum Zia's hand."

But, alleged Hasina, the ruling party has ignored all commitments made to the nation through abusing power, misusing the administration and state-owned media for last four years.

She said parliament was not allowed by the governing party to function. The agreement signed by the Deputy Leader of the House and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was not implemented, nor the parliamentary committee was allowed to work for probing allegations of a minister's corruption.

Parliament was reduced to be a "rubber stamp" where the opposition cannot be sitting as "decoration pieces." It is BNP which forced the opposition MPs to resign from parliament, she said.

In her statement, Hasina explained her party's policy and programmes and said Awami League is committed to pursuing free market economy.

There will be no new nationalisation and the privatisation process will continue, the chief of the country's largest opposition party reassured referring to the revised economic policy of the Awami League.

Party leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, S A M S Kibria and Abul Hasan Chowdhury were present.



The visiting Nobel laureate Mother Teresa called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

Mother Teresa

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floating hospital on the river Sitakohya.

Sponsored by Rotary International District 3280, the hospital on a French-made barge will extend medical facilities to the remote riverine areas where traditional medicare are not easily available.

Rotary District Governor M Mosharraf Hossain, members of the club and sisters of Missionaries of Charity, were among others present during the inauguration of the "Friendship Hospital".

The 38.5-metre-long and 5.05-metre-broad barge, donated by French Rotary International, reached Mongla Port from the French township of Messey after a three-and-a-half-month journey.

The hospital boat is equipped with 12 beds, X-ray facility and a pathological laboratory. Three full-time hospital personnel — one physician, a nurse and an administrator — will stay in the boat.

FBCCI confce in Rajshahi tomorrow

In a move to give a thrust to the demand for a congenial business climate in the country, industrialists and traders will hold a conference at the Rajshahi stadium tomorrow, reports UNB.

The business conference is follow-up of a gathering held in the capital in January where chamber leaders from all over the country raised the demand for relieving economic activities of uncertainties and interruptions.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), the apex trade body, has initiated the conference in Rajshahi to renew the demand.

Salman F Rahman, FBCCI President, will be key speaker at the conference in Rajshahi. Business leaders from Dhaka and other cities will also attend.

Chinese company to rehabilitate 7 grid sub-stations

Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) yesterday signed an agreement with a Chinese company for the rehabilitation of seven grid sub-stations of the country, a PDB press release said, reports BSS.

Under the turn-key contact amounting to taka 46.43 crore, MS China National Electric Wire and Cable Import and Export will undertake the rehabilitation works of Saidpur, Rangpur, Barisal, Noapara, Batail, Chhatok and Chandpur grid sub-stations.

Bangladesh government will bear the entire cost from its own resources and the work will be completed in two years, the press release said.

On completion of the work, the capacity of the grid sub-stations will be augmented and reliability of power supply position in the concerned areas will be more stable, the press release added.

British peacekeepers land in Angola

LUANDA (Angola), Apr 20: British troops landed in Angola Thursday to prepare for a massive UN peacekeeping operation due to begin next month to halt Africa's longest civil war, reports AP.

The 650 British military engineers will string telephone lines, build military hospitals and set up supply routes for the nearly 80,000 international troops scheduled to arrive under the blue United Nations flag on May 9.

A squad of 70 Welsh Guardsmen were deployed to protect the logistics team, which will be working along the southern coast where there are dangers from land mines and bandits.

In three weeks, Brazilian, Uruguayan, Indian and Bangla-

PM at army 'Darbar'

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capita income and purchasing capacity of common man have increased as a result of establishment of democracy and proper economic system.

"Common man and people of all professions of the country have started getting the benefit of the measures taken by the government," she said, adding "We have to continue this trend at any cost."

Begum Zia lauded the role of the Army Medical Corps for their service to the distressed humanity during natural disasters and as UN peacekeepers.

She said the medical corps has set up an example through their service and sacrifice in the War of Liberation. A total of 18 officers and 119 sepoy of the corps sacrificed their lives in the liberation war.

The Prime Minister mentioned that there were only 11 army medical units in the country after the liberation. At present the unit number rose to 39 and military hospitals have been modernised, and equipped with developed technology, she added.

Begum Zia urged the members of the three corps to improve their skills through training and practice.

The function was attended by State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Huq, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, local MPs, senior civil and military officials, local elite, senior serving and retired officers.

Later, the Prime Minister addressed the commanding officers and other senior officers of these corps at their annual conference.

Begum Zia also planted a sapling at the training ground of the AMC centre.

Earlier on her arrival, the Prime Minister was received by Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, new Colonel Commandant of the AMC, ADC and AFNS Major General M S A Bhuiyan, DG of Medical Services Major General Mokhlesur Rahman, local Area Commander Major General Ghulam H Lal Murshed Khan and the AMC Centre Commandant Brigadier Ahmed Ali.

AL enforces hartal at Natore

From Our Correspondent

NATORE Apr 20: A day-long hartal called by the Awami League here today was marked by acts of violence. All vehicles were off the roads.

The kancha bazars in the town were closed. No classes were held at the colleges and many government offices could not function.

Cane growers could not supply their cane to the mills. However SSC examinations were excluded from the hartal.

The Awami League called the hartal to protest the killing of Faroque Hossain, an Awami League activist, Faroque Hossain (16) was killed and 20 persons were injured during a gun fight between the workers of the BNP and the AL on Wednesday night. About 20 shops were ransacked and some of the shops were set on fire.

During the hartal hours today some unruly people set a motor cycle of a BNP activist on fire.

DU student bodies to exempt exams from strikes

By Staff Correspondent

The leaders of different student organisations at the Dhaka University yesterday said the examinations would be exempted from strikes in future.

At a meeting with the Vice Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, the student leaders gave the assurance that they would cooperate with the authorities in removing the session jam from the university.

The meeting also discussed the present situation on the campus.

The pro-Vice Chancellor and the Proctor, the leaders of the Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal, pro-Awami League Chhatra League (S-P), the Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and the Bangladesh Chhatra Union attended the meeting.

Alleged killer of TV artiste Noni Gopal held

By Staff Correspondent

The detective police arrested Delwar Hossain, accused of killing TV artiste Noni Gopal, from Nawabganj, Lalbagh in the city yesterday afternoon.

Delwar alias Kala Babu, 28, along with his accomplices, allegedly kidnapped Gopal from the east block of the New Super Market at around 3 pm on November 10 last year.

They buried Gopal after killing him, according to police.

Earlier, police arrested two other accused in the murder case.

Kala Babu is also wanted in a number of murder cases, police said.

Hasina to visit Ctg, Cox's Bazar

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will visit different parts of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts from April 26 to May 1, reports UNB.

During her six-day tour, she will address a number of public meetings to be organised by the local units of the Awami League protesting the price-hike of essentials, killings of farmers and workers, and demanding national elections under a caretaker government.

Her tour schedule includes Chittagong (North) - April 26-27, Chittagong (South) - April 28 and Cox's Bazar April 29-30.

The Awami League President will also address a workers' rally in the port city on May 1. District unit of the Jatiya Sramik League will organise the rally on the occasion of May Day.

Party central leaders will accompany Sheikh Hasina during her tour.

Malaria claims 16 in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 20: Malaria has claimed sixteen lives during the last week in Gowainghat thana.

Some one thousand others are now suffering from the disease in different villages of Pashchim, Jafflong and Rustampur unions, sources said.

Health officials say, four medical teams are working in the affected villages.

SSC exams

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The Thana Nirbahi Officer of Barura rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. The Headmaster or any other teacher of Barabatoa School were not available at the centre.

According to another report, 152 students appeared at the examination from the Cheora centre of Comilla district without admit cards. The admit cards were not issued because of alleged irregularities in registration.

Under Rajshahi Board, 218 students were expelled. Of them, 2 are from Chapainawabganj, 7 from Naogaon, 2 from Pabna, 19 from Sirajganj, 5 from Bogra, 24 each from Rangpur and Gaibandha, 4 from Nilfamar, 15 from Kurigram, 149 from Dinajpur and 7 from Panchagar.

Our Jessore correspondent says, 255 students were expelled in Kushtia district, 13 in Jessore, 2 in Barguna, one in Jhalakathi, 4 in Barisal and 2 in Patuakhali.

Our Barisal correspondent says, 255 examinees in Jhalakathi and 611 examinees in Patuakhali appeared in the examinations with a court order though they did not have admit cards. Another 249 candidates, however, appeared without any court order or admit cards in Patuakhali.

3 die in separate incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

At least two persons were killed and a minor girl reportedly committed suicide in the city yesterday and Wednesday night.

A pedestrian died when a speeding minibus ran over him at Motijheel yesterday afternoon.

Jaidev Barman, 35, breathed his last while being taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

In another incident, a minor boy, Liton, 7, was electrocuted at East Jurain.

Meanwhile, Yasmin, 11, daughter of one Zakaria, committed suicide at her residence at Vart Mosque Quarters under Lalbagh police station Wednesday night.

WE MOURN



WE DEEPLY MOURN THE SAD DEMISE OF MRS. ANWARA BEGUM, BELOVED MOTHER OF MR. A K M AZIZUR RAHMAN, A DIRECTOR OF THE COMPANY, WHO BREATHED HER LAST AT BARISAL ON 18TH APRIL, 1995 (INNALLAHE RAJEUN).

WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ALL THE EMPLOYEES OF THE COMPANY ARE EXTREMELY SHOCKED AND GRIEVED AT HER DEATH. WE PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY ALLAH FOR THE SALVATION AND ETERNAL PEACE OF THE DEPARTED SOUL.

AND EXPRESS OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCE & SYMPATHY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BEREAVED FAMILY.

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Progress & Protection

The Midnight File

US resume N-talks with DPRK

BERLIN, Apr 20: The United States resumed its nuclear talks with North Korea in Berlin today in a bid to save a crucial agreement. The head of the US delegation to the talks, Gary Samore, went to the North Korean mission this afternoon and met with the North Korean side, headed by Kim Jong-U, reports AFP.

Libyan Hajj flight lands in Jeddah

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia, Apr 20: Pilgrimage authorities confirmed here today that a Libyan plane landed in the Saudi city of Jeddah, in violation of a three-year-old UN air embargo on Libya, reports AFP.

The plane landed late Wednesday with around 150 Muslim pilgrims on board, said the pilgrimage office at the airport in the Red Sea city of Jeddah, near the Islamic holy city of Makkah.

An official at the office told AFP that the plane was directed toward an area reserved for pilgrims and the Libyans sent to the camp for the two million pilgrims expected over the next two weeks in Mecca.

Saudi officials kept silent on the arrival of the plane.

Oklahoma blast

From Page 1

scene, said some of the dead children, ranging in age from one to seven, were burned beyond recognition.

The city's fire chief Gary Amrns said some 200 people had been injured in the blast, 58 of whom were in critical condition.

CBS television reported that federal experts from around the country meeting in Oklahoma city late Wednesday said the death toll could reach over 200.

Assistant fire chief Jon Hansen said two people were pulled from the rubble late Wednesday but died a short time later.

BCL leader arrested

Police yesterday arrested Chhatra League (S-P) leader Debashish Biswas from Jagannath University College campus in the city, reports UNB.

Debashish, a central committee member of the Chhatra League and student of the Jagannath University College, was arrested on charges of possessing arms, murder and rioting, Kotwail police said.

He was produced before the CMM court in the afternoon and sent to jail.

In protest against the arrest, supporters of the Chhatra League brought out a procession and held a rally in front of the Press Club last night.

Polls in winter

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tutional interim government.

The opposition parties declared that they would not take part in any election under BNP rule as they apprehended it would not be free and fair. But they suggested that a person of their choice would head the caretaker government during the next general elections.

"How could a person nominated by the minority parties conduct a free and fair election," Talukdar asked. The opposition parties had even alleged "subtle rigging" in the 1991 election accepted by all as the fairest ever election in the country, he noted.

It is the Election Commission which conducts the election, not the government, he pointed out.

Talukdar criticised the AL citing some of its activities when it was in power just after independence. "This party can never ensure the people's right to vote," he asserted.

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