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The Daily Star

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Trial of Yasmin murder case resumes today

From Our Correspondent
RANGPUR, Apr 11: The trial of the sensational Yasmin rape and murder case will be resumed tomorrow in the district and sessions judge court, Rangpur.

All nine accused in the case have been facing trial under Section 201(34) of Penal Code.

The accused are: Former police super Abdul Mutaleb, former Kotwali Thana S I Swapan Kumar Chakrabarty, former Kotwali Thana officer-in-charge Mahtab, former Kotwali Thana A S I Jahangir Alam and Moinul Haque, former Office-in-charge DSB Matur Rahman, former police line constable Abdus Sattar, former driver Amrita Lal Barman and Dr Mohsin, Medical Officer of General Hospital, Dinajpur.

Party, govt should act as separate entities, PM told

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanged views on issues of national importance with intellectuals, writers and cultural activists at her official residence Ganobhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

During the meeting, she gave a brief resume of her government's programmes and policies aimed at people's welfare.

She said her government has inherited a system developed in last 21 years that ruined the country's prospect in different sectors, including economy.

The government is trying to see Page 12 Col 5

BNP asks dist units Make tomorrow's programmes a success

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has asked all district unit leaders and workers to make the tomorrow's district-level demonstrations a complete success, reports UNB.

All district units of the main opposition will hold rallies and submit memoranda to the respective Deputy Commissioners in support of their demands.

Bhuiyan in a statement yesterday requested all leaders and workers of the BNP and its see Page 12 Col 5

ADB to provide \$100m loan for pry edn project

Loan negotiation for a 100 million US dollar second primary education project between government of Bangladesh and the Asian Development Bank was successfully completed yesterday in Manila, reports BSS.

This is the first international agreement to support government's primary education development programme (PEDP) which envisages an all-round development of primary education in the country.

During the negotiations, the Bank appreciated the high priority government attached to primary education, particularly for the education of girl child and the steps taken for the successful implementation of the bank-financed first primary education project.

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Deve Gowda govt falls



HD Deve Gowda arrives at parliament in New Delhi yesterday prior to the vote of confidence. —AFP/UNB photo

NEW DELHI, Apr 11: Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda's 10-month-old government lost a confidence vote in parliament today, requiring its resignation, reports AP.

Gowda challenged his opponents to face him in new general elections.

The vote was 292-158 with 8 abstentions, the speaker of the house, PA Sangma, announced after an electronic vote. He said

NEW DELHI, Apr 11: India's Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda resigned here tonight after his minority coalition government lost a parliamentary vote of confidence, reports AFP.

The vote could be corrected after paper ballots are counted.

The vote came at the end of a 12-hour debate, in which Gowda accused his former ally, the Congress Party, of "dirty politics" after it withdrew its support from his minority government.

Gowda left the parliament building after midnight to submit his resignation to President Shankar Dayal Sharma.

Within the next few days, the president must choose another leader to try and form a government, or decide another election is necessary.

In his speech, Gowda clearly favoured elections. But he refrained from announcing a formal recommendation to the president for a fresh vote.

"If I have done a mistake, let the people punish me," he said moments before the confidence vote.

"I can understand the financial burden of conducting elections so frequently. But you have forced the issue, to go to an election," he said, pointing at Congress lawmakers.

The last elections were in April and May, 1996.

Even while the debate continued, back-room deal makers were huddled over new political configurations to try and avoid another election.

The confidence vote became necessary after the Congress Party, which had dropped out of the government by guaranteeing its backing in Parliament, suddenly withdrew its support two weeks ago.

See Page 12 Col 4

No int'l flights as Indian ATC goes on strike

Hundreds stranded at ZIA



Some of the stranded passengers at the Zia International Airport yesterday. —Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

Hundreds of air passengers were stranded at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) till midnight last night as no international flight took off because of a wildcat strike by the Indian Air Traffic Control (ATC) staff.

Due to the strike, authorities in India could not give clearances to international flights overlying that country, sources at the ZIA said. All westward flights from Dhaka have to overfly India.

However, three Hajj flights of Bangladesh Biman were rescheduled to depart Dhaka late last night, airport sources said.

Some 350 intending Hajj pilgrims were seen waiting for several hours at the ZIA as Biman cancelled its Hajj flights in the afternoon. State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Nurul Islam told The Daily Star that another special Biman flight for VIP pilgrims, scheduled for 4 pm, could not operate. The VIP pilgrims include Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, two ministers and three MPs.

The Indian ATC staff went on strike protesting authorities' actions against an Air Traffic Controller earlier this month, the sources said.

See Page 12 Col 1

Condition of AL leader Mohiuddin Ahmed critical

Awami League presidium member Mohiuddin Ahmed, undergoing treatment at the Institute of Cardiovascular Disease, was yesterday stated to be in critical condition, reports UNB.

Ahmed, hospitalised on April 4, was being treated at the Coronary Care Unit of the hospital under a board headed by its director Prof Akhteruzzaman. His condition turned worse yesterday evening, family sources said.

The septuagenarian leader was operated upon several times and a temporary pacemaker installed in his heart, an attending doctor told UNB over telephone last night. His condition remained "unchanged" at 0030 hrs.

Health and Family Welfare see Page 12 Col 8

No fresh tenders yet Gas supply to Chhatak delayed for over a yr

By Sharier Khan

A gas pipeline project to augment gas supply to the Chhatak area in Sylhet is being delayed for more than a year due to complications in tender bidding, sources concerned said.

The rigidity of the donor in selecting the contractor for the 400-meter gas pipeline project is causing the delay, they pointed out.

Although the project was initiated in 1994 by the Jalalabad Gas Company as part of the Third Natural Gas Project, the procedures for inviting tenders could not be completed as yet.

Under this project, technical expertise is required for horizontal drilling under the river bed to connect the Chhatak region with the Jalalabad gas system.

Sources said, if the tender procedures were completed, it would have taken only one month to complete the project.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), which will finance the project, has put forward 'rigid conditions' in the selection of the contractor for the million-dollar project.

Tenders for this project were first floated in 1995. Six companies had participated in the tender bidding. Of these, five were pre-qualified by the ADB.

"Interestingly, the only see Page 12 Col 6

JCD leader stabbed to death in Patiya

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 11: One leader of the Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was stabbed to death allegedly by his rivals at Patiya today, police said.

Mozammel Hogue, 22, president of JCD, Patiya Boralia union unit, was attacked when he went to the SSC examination centre at Patiya, police said.

Three other activists of JCD, the student wing of BNP, were injured during the attack.

JCD and BNP leaders have blamed the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League for the attack.

The BCL has denied the allegation.

UNB adds: BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has strongly condemned the killing of Mozammel Haq.

In a statement today, Bhuiyan blamed the terrorists of ruling Awami League for the killing and demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers.

Permanent drafting wing Law ministry's proposal awaits PM's approval

By Nurul Kabir

A law ministry proposal seeking to set up a permanent drafting wing in the ministry is awaiting Prime Minister's approval, sources in the ministry told The Daily Star.

Under the proposal, the drafting wing will consist of 28 officials including an additional secretary, three joint secretaries, eight deputy secretaries, eight senior assistant secretaries and eight assistant secretaries.

The responsibilities of the drafting wing will include vetting proposed legislation, scrutinising various rules, regulations and statutory notifications of the government and examining international treaties and agreements.

There is no permanent drafting wing for doing such important work. A ten-member team including two deputy secretaries on contract basis, is now doing the job.

Usually, people from the judiciary come to work in the drafting wing of the ministry on deputation and return to their original jobs after a few days. Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khairu told The Daily Star.

The minister observed that the expertise they earn while working in the drafting wing, or the training they receive on the subject, cannot be utilised properly as they, after a certain period, go back to their original jobs. The only answer to the problem is to set up a permanent drafting wing.

The Cabinet Division, at a meeting on January 6 this year accepted, in principle, a proposal for setting up of a drafting wing. Presided by the Cabinet secretary, the meeting was attended by, among others, Law Secretary, Finance Secretary and the Establishment Secretary.

The Establishment Ministry and the Finance Ministry separately approved the proposal on March 10 and 31 respectively.

The Law Ministry then requested the Establishment Ministry on April 2 last to send the proposal to the Prime Minister's office for approval.

A top level official of the Law Ministry said that the rules regulating the permanent drafting wing would be made after the proposal got approval of the Prime Minister.

Bangladesh to take on Kenya Battle for ICC Trophy today

Bangladesh will take on Kenya in the final of the sixth International Cricket Council (ICC) Trophy in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur today.

The grand finale of the two worthy opponents, if the weather favours, will start at 7:30 am (BST) at the Kilat Kelab

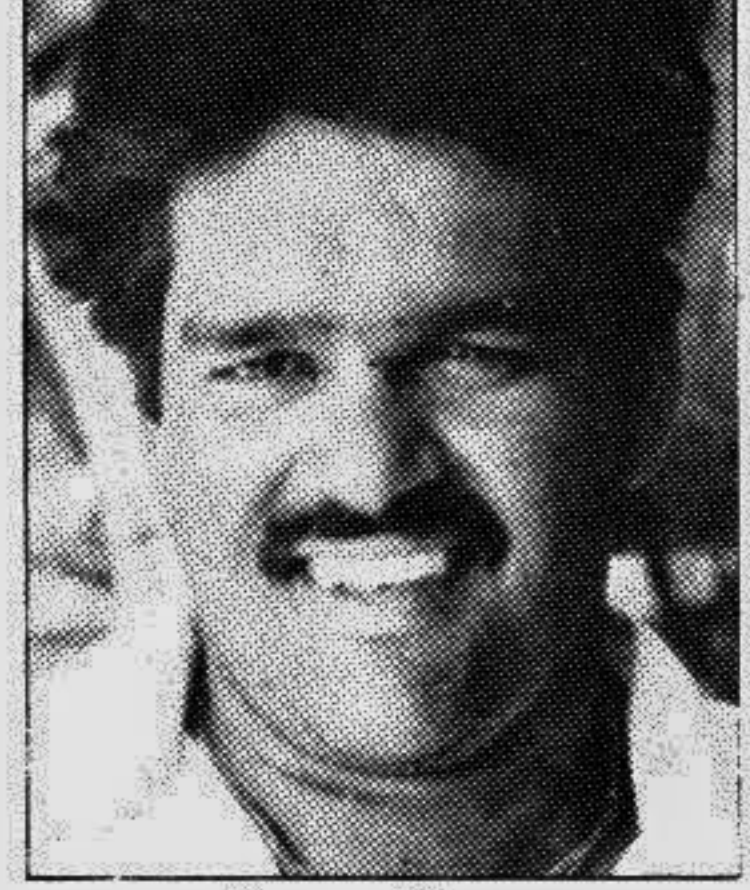
Sports Reporter

ground, the venue where Bangladesh's dream for the World Cup berth came true with a historic win against Scotland in the second semifinal on Wednesday.

Bangladesh Betar will provide ball-by-ball commentary of the proceedings. The two unbeaten finalists along with Scotland, who finished third defeating Ireland in the position-deciding match yesterday,

have ensured the three slots for the associate member nations in the 12-team 1999 World Cup.

The 120 million people of the country exploded in jubilation when Bangladesh booked their maiden berth in the England carnival, defeating the see Page 12 Col 4



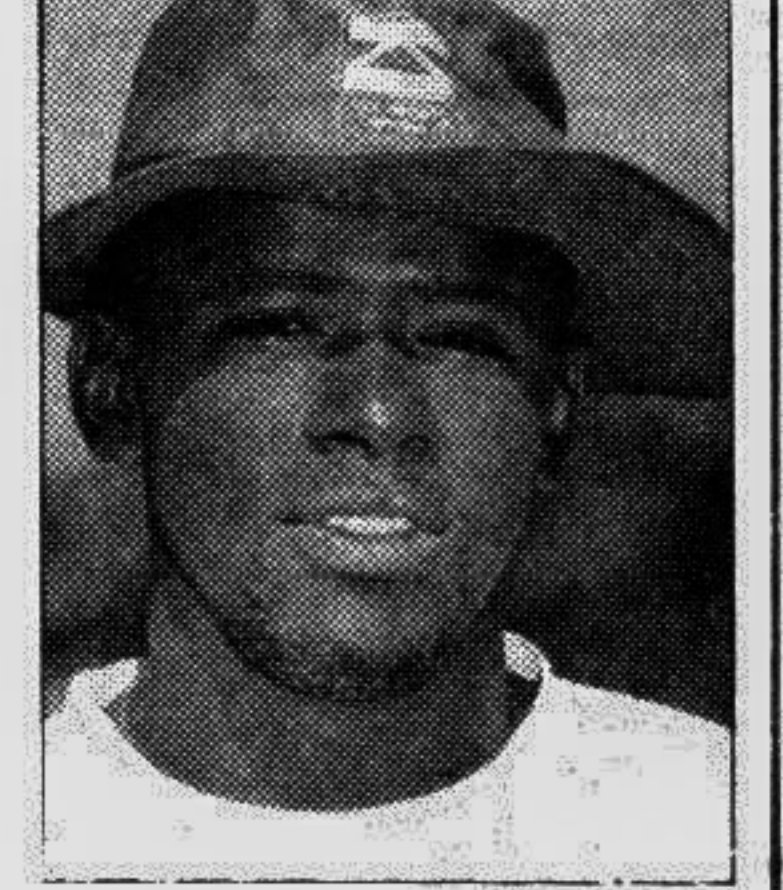
Akram Khan: Bangladesh captain

Scotland qualify for World Cup

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 11: Scotland beat Ireland by 46 runs today in the third-place playoff of the International Cricket Council Trophy in a match reduced to 45 overs because of rain, reports Reuter.

Scores: Scotland 187-8 in 45 overs (Mike Smith 49), Ireland 141 all out in 39 overs (Keith Sheridan 4-34)

Scotland qualify for the World Cup Finals to be held in England in 1999.



Manrice Odumbe: Kenyan captain

Fresh polarisation under AL, BNP 'to safeguard' sovereignty

By Nazmul Ashraf and Reaz Ahmad

A fresh polarisation is taking place in the country's political arena under the stewardship of the ruling Awami League (AL) and the main opposition, BNP, for safeguarding the national sovereignty.

The two parties have revived contacts with their old allies are consolidating their positions against the backdrop of their differing views on the spirit of the Liberation War and Indo-Bangla relationship.

As part of their respective moves, the BNP recently sponsored a Conference on National Solidarity (CNS) while the AL exchanged views with some Left parties, its old allies.

The third largest party — the Jatiya Party (JP) — is yet to lean towards either of the two since the party is currently experiencing its worst internal conflict over the leadership of its president, HM Ershad.

Zinat 'relieved' of Jatiya Party membership

By Staff Correspondent

Zinat Hossain MP was "relieved" of her membership of the Jatiya Party Presidium, a press statement issued by party chairman H M Ershad said yesterday.

But the three "rebel" leaders of the party — Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Shah Moazzam Hossain termed Ershad's move a hoax and reiterated their demand see Page 12 Col 4

DMP's request to city dwellers

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has requested the city dwellers not to go wild in jubilation today when Bangladesh take on Kenya in the ICC Trophy final, reports UNB.

Preventive measures will be taken and none will be allowed to go for any indecent and untoward incidents, warned the DMP which has imposed a ban on exploding crackers, sprinkling of colours in the city.

The ban came under Section 58, 76 and 77 of the DMP Act following some indecent and unwanted incidents that took place in the city amidst Wednesday's cricket jubilation.

Two young men lost lives, some 50 were injured, several dozen women assaulted and traffic was disrupted on the day as some miscreants taking op- see Page 12 Col 5

One shot dead at jewellery shop in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 11: A young man was shot dead by an unidentified assailant at a jewellery shop in the city today, police said, reports UNB.

The victim Liton, 18, was shot by an unidentified gunman while he was working at the shop at Korbaniganj in Kotoali thana at around 1:30 pm.

The reason behind the killing could not be known. The body was sent to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

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