

SW HONEY

100% Pure &
Natural Honey

Straight from USA

Purified & Packed in USA



VOL. VII NO. 90 REGD. NO. DA 781

BAISHAKH 10 1404 BS.

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 1997

ZILHAJJ 15 1417 HIJRI

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

IK Gujral wins vote of confidence

NEW DELHI, Apr 22: India's newly-elected United Front minority coalition government won a vote of confidence here today bringing an end to weeks of political chaos in the country, reports AFP.

Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's government, sworn-in on Monday, won the motion on a voice vote after a 10-hour debate.

But, with the result seen as a foregone conclusion, many speakers focused instead on pleading with the country's reformist former finance minister to join the new government and forge ahead with its economic reforms.

Even Gujral, whose multi-party United Front government is a virtual replica of the previous coalition headed by H D Deve Gowda, made a personal appeal to Palanippan Chidambaram.

See Page 12 Col 4

Strong JEC to benefit Dhaka, Bangkok: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for strengthening the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) of Bangladesh and Thailand for the common benefit of the two countries, report agencies.

She was talking to the Deputy Foreign Minister of Thailand, Pitak Intrawithayanan, now on a four-day visit to Bangladesh, when he called on her at Ganobhaban yesterday evening.

The Prime Minister said the two countries have ample scope for cooperation in different fields to develop both the economies.

We have many things common, that could help cooperate

See Page 12 Col 6

Action against 5 BG Press employees for SSC question paper leakage

The government has taken punitive measures against five more officers and employees of the Bangladesh Government (BG) Press for their alleged involvement in leakage of question papers of the recently concluded BSC examination, an official handout said yesterday.

According to the handout, the government on the basis of primary enquiry report has temporarily suspended three binders of confidential cell of the BG Press.

A showcase notice has been served to the Deputy Controller of the Press for his negligence to duties.

The controller of BG Press has been asked to submit his written statement on the basis of the allegation, the handout added.

Inside Today

Article

Gujral: Working for a Change of Mindset'

by Sanjoy Hazarika
Page 4

Focus

Making computers
productive; All eyes on
the guns with political
power
Page 5

International

Zairean rebels close off
refugee camps: 60 dying
a day
Page 8

Business

Bangladesh on Thai
priority list of potential
trade partners, Thai
minister tells meeting
with DCCI

Clinton okays economic
ban on Myanmar
Page 6

Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily
Star contains a one-page
special supplement on Thailand Trade
Fair 1997
Page 9

The Daily Star

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE

WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLA TO SICILIA,
BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
OF DIFFERENT TYPES.

NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
199, TEJGAON 1A, DHAKA.
TEL : 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM : 86195

Notices served on 26 defaulting directors Bank MDs to be held liable for loans in fake names: BB

Star Report

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has warned the chief executives of all commercial banks that they would be held personally liable for failure to report loans taken by the directors under fictitious names.

The warning was issued last week in the wake of the central bank's move against loan defaulters.

However, bankers say this notice will be ineffective as it will be virtually impossible to prove the identity of the loan recipients. They fear that the new order may lead to hasty identification of offenders by banks, which could create legal tangles.

See Page 12 Col 4

Letters to PM, foreign missions Arrest warrant against Peregrine chief protested

Star Report

Peregrine Investment Holdings Ltd., a Hong Kong based company, has written letters to the Prime Minister and foreign missions in Dhaka, protesting the arrest warrants against its Chief Executive in Bangladesh, who has been indicted in the share market scam case.

"I am writing to protest in the most vigorous terms about the arrest warrants issued against our employee, Mr Runa Alam, the managing director and founder of Peregrine's investment banking business in Bangladesh and Mr. Sabith Siddique. It is quite clear to me that their inclusion among an arrest list of 36 Bangladeshi's from financial institutions is an act of gross injustice," Philip Tose, Chairman of Peregrine, said in the letter.

His letter came in the wake of filing of cases against 15 companies, brokerage firms and dealers on April 2, after

See Page 12 Col 7

BB Governor for using criminal laws against loan defaulters

Bangladesh Bank Governor Lutfur Rahman Sarkar said criminal laws should be applied in dealing with the loan defaulters to salvage the crumbling banking system, reports UNB.

He observed existing banking system was about to collapse due to legal complexities in loan-realisation process caused by weak legal framework.

"Loan defaulters are taking the advantage of this weakness... we have to think how to formulate more effective and tough laws for loan recovery," he told a meeting of legal advisers of scheduled banks in Dhaka yesterday.

The BB Governor stressed the need for application of criminal laws in realisation of outstanding loans as civil cases proved ineffective against defaulters.

"Action should be taken against the loan defaulters un-

See Page 12 Col 7

News Analysis

Of opposing ideologies, conflicting strategies

By Nurul Kabir

Amari League political forces, even with diametrically opposing ideologies have been advocating conflicting strategies to the party chief to build up a mass movement against the Awami League-led government, sources in the party caucus said.

Leaders with left political background, who currently enjoy an upper hand in the party hierarchy, want to see the BNP as a political platform of the secular nationalist forces and prefer to go slow in taking to the streets against the government.

The BNP leaders with rightist political forces are for an extensive unity with all the anti-Awami League forces in the society, irrespective of their political past. They also hold the view that the party should immediately go for an all-out movement against the AL-led government.

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia is yet to make up her mind as to which course of action her party should adopt, sources close to her said.

Since its birth in the late Seventies, the BNP provided a platform for various anti-

ural that groups with opposing ideologies would be pursuing conflicting political lines inside the BNP," a political observer said.

However, the present conflicting lines of action pursued by the left and right camps of the BNP began following the 'solidarity conference' organised by the party in the city in the first week of this month.

The conference was also addressed by, among others, leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and different factions of the Muslim League.

The original idea behind the conference was to bring together, and activate as well, various pro-BNP intellectuals and professionals. The BNP is convinced that the intellectuals sympathetic to the BNP are not that organised, while the AL has an organised set of intellectuals who react publicly to different socio-political events on the party line.

A top ranking BNP leader told this correspondent that the initiative for mobilising the pro-BNP intellectuals was all

See Page 12 Col 1

Maniknagar fire 2 more arrested for arson

Police yesterday arrested two more people in connection with the Sunday's arson in a city slum in Maniknagar area, raising the number of arrests to ten, reports UNB.

The latest to be arrested are: Munir and Shafiqul.

Two people, including a baby, died in the blaze which also gutted more than 200 kutch houses in the slum, known as Maniknagar City Pally.

See Page 12 Col 1

SAARC summit from May 12

The forthcoming SAARC summit is expected to work out a strategy for establishing broad-based links with other regional bodies like ASEAN, EU and APEC, reports UNB.

The 9th conference of the heads of state or government of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) will be held from May 12 to 14 in Male, capital of the Maldives.

SAARC, formally launched in Dhaka in 1985, has so far identified 13 areas of cooperation.

See Page 12 Col 3

SAARC countries should extend preferential tariff concessions

Delhi meet ends

ments (SAPTA).

The Bangladesh delegation to the meeting was led by its Commerce Secretary Syed Alamgir Farrukh Chowdhury.

The Indian commerce secretary said the meeting reiterated that the countries of the region should continue to extend preferential treatment to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

He said it was agreed at the meeting that the second SAARC Trade Fair may be held in Pakistan the date of which to be finalised shortly.

Prabhu said it was agreed that India would host the meeting on promotion and protection of investment in New Delhi in September-October while Pakistan would host the meeting on avoidance of double taxation.

He said it was agreed at the

meeting that certain categories of people would be included in the SAARC visa exemption scheme. Those are, he said, vice-presidents and executive committee members of SAARC Chambers of Commerce and Industry, executive committee members of the apex chambers of commerce and industry as nominated by the governments of the member countries, members of SAPTA committee of participants (COP), commerce ministers, permanent secretaries in trade ministries and up to three other officials from each member state as nominated by them.

Prabhu said the meeting decided to set up nodal points for collecting and disseminating information on monthly basis concerning important economic matters amongst the SAARC countries.

He said the committee agreed

See Page 12 Col 8

that all non-tariff barriers and quantitative restrictions should be removed as early as possible on all products covered under the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement.

He said it was agreed at the

See Page 12 Col 8

All 36 Manipuris on remand: Camera, leaflets recovered

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 22: All the 36 Indian nationals from Manipur and two Bangladeshis, who were apprehended by the BDR from Ballaghat border Sunday night, were placed on police remand for 5 days yesterday afternoon.

Gowainghat Thana Magistrate granted the remand when the police sought 7 days remand.

However, police took only four of the arrested on remand due to space shortage in the thana hajat, on the first day.

The others would be taken later, an official source said. Obesen and Ratan Singh, both Bangladeshis, and Inava and Mosen, both Indian nationals were taken on remand today. The 34 others have been kept in the jail hajat.

BRD caught the 36 Indian nationals from Ballaghat border Sunday night on charge of unauthorised entry into the Bangladesh territory. Bangla-

See Page 12 Col 8

Cricketers allowed to practise at Dhaka Stadium

England in 1999.

Bangladesh qualified for the World Cup as unbeaten champions in the ICC Trophy in Malaysia this month. Kenya and Scotland are the other two teams which qualified for the 12-team World Cup.

Bangladesh has been placed in group 'B' with Pakistan, Australia, the West Indies, New Zealand and Scotland.

Reigning world champions Sri Lanka and India, South Africa, England, Zimbabwe and Kenya have been placed in Group 'A'.

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), the highest body of the country's cricket, has applied to the International Cricket Conference in December last year seeking full membership of ICC that will automatically give test status to Bangladesh.

Bangladesh, now an associate

See Page 12 Col 8

PCJSS for deferring peace talks

Star Report

The Parbatty Chatagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS), the political wing of the Shanti Bahini insurgents has suggested deferring the on-going peace talks on Chittagong Hill Tracts to May 11, according to official sources here.

The talks were scheduled to resume on April 30.

The PCJSS high command, in a group 'B' with Pakistan, Australia, the West Indies, New Zealand and Scotland.

Reigning world champions Sri Lanka and India, South Africa, England, Zimbabwe and Kenya have been placed in Group 'A'.

The PCJSS has also suggested that the talks take place in Dhaka.

Earlier, peace talks between the two sides for ending the two decades-old bush-war in the CHT ended inconclusively on March 13 in the city. Both sides had agreed to meet again on April 30 and extended the ceasefire until June 30. But they had

See Page 12 Col 2

Revised job quota system takes effect

The government has revised the quota system relating to direct appointment in the government offices, semi-government organisations and autonomous bodies and corporations, reports BSS.

In the revised quota system the sons and daughters of the martyrs in the War of Liberation as well as freedom fighters will be appointed in the existing 30 per cent quota for freedom fighters if they were not available.

A circular has already been issued by the Ministry of Establishment in this regard.

See Page 12 Col 1

Car passenger guns down bus helper

NARSINGDI, Apr 22: A bus helper was shot dead by a passenger of a private car on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Chhompura in Araihazar thana of Narayanganj district today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Fayez Khan, reportedly the nephew of a minister of Katabaria in Monohardi thana of Narsingdi district fired four shots from a revolver on bus helper Ukil Mia, 38, following an altercation when the bus at about 5:30 pm.

The bus helper fell down the speeding bus and was rushed to the police custody till this report at night. Police of Madhabdi outpost seized the bus and the private car.

Ex-NDP activist shot dead in Ctg From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 22: unidentified assailants gunned down a former NDP activist at Ghatbarihaedab area under Kotwali thana this morning, police said.