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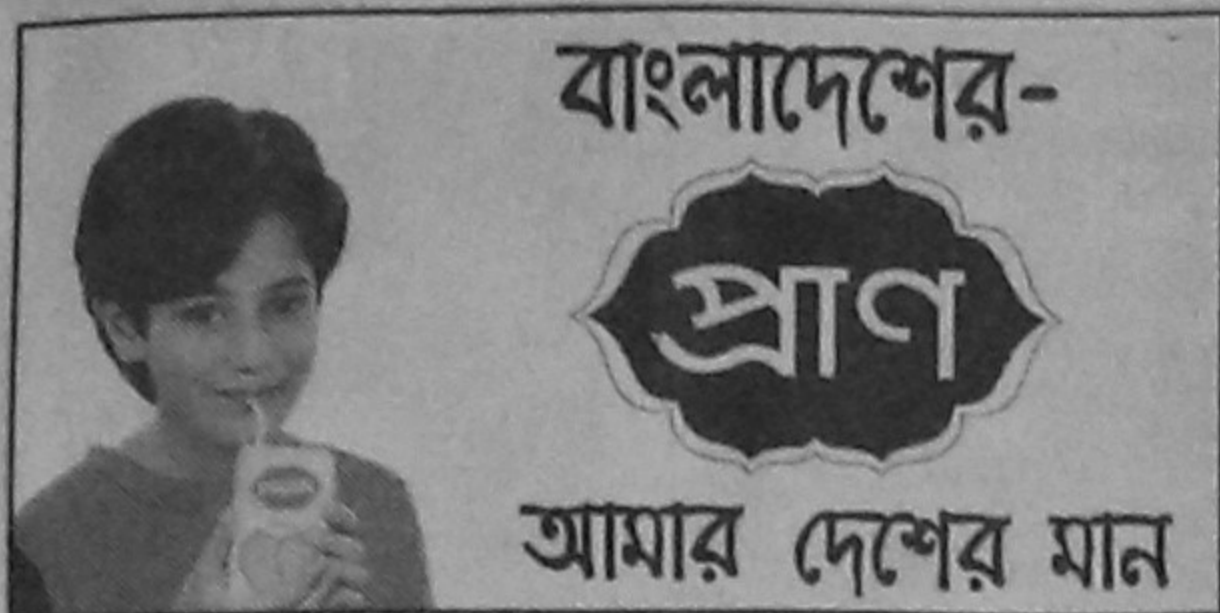
DHAKA THURSDAY APRIL 27, 2000

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Bangladeshi held on charge of hijacking Indian plane

CALCUTTA, Apr 26: Indian police have arrested a Bangladeshi for 'direct' involvement in the December hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane, intelligence sources said here today, reports AFP.

A police official said Laloo Mian, alias Belal, was arrested late Tuesday in Shakchuda in the eastern border region of Basirhat near the Indo-Bangladesh frontier following a tip-off.

An intelligence source said Mian, who was initially described by police as the mastermind in the December 24-31 hijack, "played a direct role" in the operation but was not the main planner.

He said Mian was an agent of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency.

The Rathmandu-Delhi Indian Airlines flight was hijacked in Indian airspace.

After refuelling in Pakistan and stopping in Dubai — where

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Court asks Edn Board to allow 132 to sit for exams



Students of Motijheel Model High School and College show V-sign at the High Court building yesterday. The court ordered the Dhaka Education Board to allow the 132 students of the institution to sit for H.S.C examinations beginning today. — Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court yesterday directed the Chairman of the Dhaka Education Board to allow 132 students of Motijheel Model School and College to sit for the HSC examinations beginning today.

The court order came upon a writ petition filed on Tuesday by Marufa Akhter Jharna, one of the 132 students, challenging the Board's action debarbing them from appearing at the examinations.

The court, however, asked the Chairman of the Board not to publish the results of their examinations until disposal of the rule.

According to the court order, the 132 candidates will be allowed to appear at the examinations for the subjects they mentioned in the registration forms.

Secretary of the Education Ministry, Chairman of the Dhaka Education Board, Chairman of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board and principal of the college were made respondents.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Mainur Reza

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6 cops suspended for crimes in last 15 days

By Shaikh Nazrul Islam

Criminal activities allegedly by law enforcing agency personnel have markedly increased in the city.

Within a span of only 15 days, at least six police officials were suspended for alleged involvement in various crimes. Three of them were arrested.

A probationer sub-inspector (SI) — Fakrudin Azad — was arrested on April 11 as he along with two accomplices went to a garments factory at Shahjahanpur and demanded Tk 50 thousand from its owner.

His accomplices — Sakil and Borhanuddin — were also arrested.

Azad had collected money from the factory earlier also and demanded more. The owner informed Detective Branch of Police and the three were arrested. They were handed over to Motijheel police.

Two sub-inspectors — Saidur Rahman and Mahbubur Rahman — were suspended on April 21 for alleged involvement in taking money from a gang of muggers and allowing them to

continue mugging in Motijheel area.

SI Kamrun Nahar Rani of Mirpur thana was suspended for torturing a woman who had come to file a rape case. Rani along with her colleague SI Mostafa not only refused to accept the case but also tortured her, it was alleged.

Rani was suspended on April 21. No action was taken as yet against Mostafa.

Assistant Sub-Inspector Firoz was suspended for negligence of duty. He was suspended on April 24 for sleeping while on duty in a police patrol car at Malibagh.

SI of City Special Branch M A Fatah and suspended Naik of police Tota Mian were beaten by a mob in the city on Tuesday after they were caught allegedly for taking away 2400 US dollars from a young man on April 20.

Motijheel police arrested them and filed a case under the Public Safety Act.

Besides, an Additional

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Death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla today

By Staff Correspondent

The 38th death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haque will be observed across the country today.

Different organisations have taken up programmes to observe the day.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said the outstanding contribution of renowned political personality of the Subcontinent, Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haque, for improving the socio-economic condition of the farmers and day labourers are still remembered with respect by all.

Paying rich tributes to the political leader on the eve of his

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Our new numbers

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Inside Today

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Judicial Accountability of Judges

by Justice Latifur Rahman
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Focus

Empty promise lands politician in the drink

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Supplement

Today's 20-page issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page in-house supplement on 'Private Colleges and Universities' on Pages 17-20

April	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
27	-	6:26 pm
28	5:26 am	-

Prayer Timings

April 27		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:45	5:15
Zohr	1:00	1:30
Asr	5:00	5:15
Maghrib	6:25	6:30
Esha	8:00	8:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Announcement

The Daily Star in cooperation with the Bangladesh Scouts will hold a

WORKSHOP ON

"Traffic Problems in Dhaka City"

Date : Saturday, 29 March 2000

Time : 10 AM to 4 PM.

Venue : Scouts Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka

Purpose : To examine how to make Dhaka a better metropolis.

Participants : DC (Traffic), BRTA, DCC, RAJUK, WASA, DESA, BUET, vehicle drivers and representatives from other relevant bodies.

Interested citizens are invited to attend.

Another luckless 300

From Abdul Wadood RAJSHAHI, Apr 26: More than 300 HSC examinees under Rajshahi Education Board (REB) will not be able to sit for examinations, beginning tomorrow, as they did not get their admit cards.

REB sources said, their names were dropped by computer while scrutinising subject-code cards, registration forms and other documents.

The college authorities are virtually responsible for those faults as they were supposed to supervise and scrutinise the

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HSC exams begin today 400 out of 900 centres 'risky': BDR deployed

By Staff Correspondent

The Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations under the country's five education boards begin today amid tight security.

As many as five lakh students are appearing at the examinations this year. They will sit for test on English first paper on the first day.

Some 400 centres out of 900 across the country have been identified as 'sensitive' and 'risky'. Para-military BDR will be deployed in addition to police at these centres.

Close vigilance would be

maintained against unfair means by the examinees in the centres and adequate security guards have been deployed around the centres to ward off untoward incidents. Education Ministry officials told The Daily Star yesterday.

Some 1,52,000 candidates are appearing at 262 examination centres under the Dhaka Board, 1,45,000 at 257 centres under the Rajshahi Board, 93,360 at 200 centres under the Jessore Board, 84,788 at 154 centres under the Comilla

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Aid: Tokyo to watch military spending of recipients

By Staff Correspondent

Japan will watch the recipient country's military expenditure while giving aid since spending overseas development assistance for military purposes goes against its foreign policy.

Yutaka Yokoi, director, Loan Aid Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan said this at a press conference in the city yesterday.

Yokoi is leading a nine-member Overseas Development Assistance mission to discuss the future economic assistance to Bangladesh.

The financial assistance to

Bangladesh, however, will continue as Japan considers it a very important partner of economic cooperation," said Yokoi.

Referring to the Japan's ODA principles, he said that it gives emphasis on observance of the trends in military expenditures and development and production of mass destruction weapons and missiles of the recipient country.

The developing countries should place appropriate priorities in the allocation of resources in their own economic and social development, said the mission chief said, quoting the ODA charters.

Although the size of Japan's overseas development assistance declined recently due to its domestic economic situation, the Japanese assistance to Bangladesh will remain almost same, he said. However, he did not indicate what the aid amount will be.

"It is very unlikely that our ODA budget will increase very soon but still we promise to continue our support to many least developed countries.

Japan is the biggest donor of Bangladesh which also topped the country aid plan (CAP) among nine other recipients of

Japanese aid.

Yokoi said poverty alleviation will top priorities in getting Japanese aid. "It (Japan) will also extend cooperation so that Bangladesh does not depend on foreign aid." He added that financial need, ability to absorb aid, and service debt would also be taken into consideration.

The Japanese delegation held first round of discussion with the Economic Relation Division on Tuesday. Additional secretary Faisal Ahmed Chowdhury led the Bangladesh delegation.

The Japanese mission chief said Bangladesh explained the macro-economic situation and micro-policy. They were satisfied at the progress Bangladesh made during last 10 years in developing its economy.

"We think that the future of Bangladesh is very promising and it will come out of (shed) the LDC status very soon," Yokoi said.

According to government figures, Bangladesh received \$ 3.01 billion US in aid and \$ 2.80 billion in grants from Japan during 1994-1998 period.

APAC to lay siege to Ctg port office today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 26: Supporters of All-Party Action Council of opposition political parties will lay a siege to Chittagong port office tomorrow protesting government's decision to take Tk 150 crore from port's fund, party sources said.

They will also hold a protest rally on port connecting road at 2-30 pm.

The action council held a preparatory meeting at Enesel building today to make tomorrow's protest programme a success.

The council has taken up such programme in support of the port workers and employees agitating to force the government to withdraw the decision, sources added.

Corruption in Mig purchase Produce evidence, PM challenges Khaleda

GOPALGANJ, Apr 26: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today asked opposition leader Khaleda Zia to produce evidence of corruption in the purchase of Mig-29 fighter planes, reports BS.

"You (Khaleda Zia) will have to apologise to the people if you fail to provide evidence of corruption in the purchase of Mig-29 fighter planes which you have claimed to possess," Sheikh Hasina said while addressing a big public meeting at the Haridaspur Saptia Palli High School ground here.

Hasina vehemently denied any wrong dealing regarding

the purchase saying "we have brought down the price from 279 million dollars to 124 million dollars through negotiations." She said Russia being a good friend of Bangladesh agreed to its proposal and finalised the deal.

She said her government procured the fighter planes to modernise the country's air force. But, she said late president Ziaur Rahman wanted to cripple the air force by killing over 500 officers and airmen.

The Prime Minister said Khaleda has been regretting that she could not get the com-

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News Analysis

Infighting over movement strategy pushes BNP towards 'dead end'

By Rezaul Karim

BNP is now convinced that "imprudent decisions and an untimely and unplanned" oust-government movement launched under the influence of hardliners made the party sustain "serious damages" over the last few years.

Sources in the party said, since Awami League assumed power, it made a series of "experiments" to decide its strategy, but all its moves towards strengthening the organisation and anti-government agitation failed because of the "raging tug of war" between the hardliners and liberals in the party.

The infighting between hardliners and liberals over movement strategy pushed BNP towards a "dead end" after it lost the 1996 parliamentary polls, they observed.

Although there was factionalism between hardliners and liberals since the party's birth, it took a serious turn in recent times as the "extremists" moved towards putting the hardline leaders at the helm under the "erroneous promise" of launching a vigorous anti-government movement.

The hardliners comprise the collaborators and anti-liberation elements, religious fundamentalists, some former ministers in the Ershad regime, those came from other parties and leaders having no footing in their respective areas.

A top BNP leader said hardline leaders insisted on an early "confrontation" with the government while the liberals differed with them and preferred strengthening the party first and then launching issue-based movement.

Sometimes hardliners came to the limelight while on other occasions, liberals influenced policy-making. Thus, the party was carrying out experiments to fix its strategy.

Though the party chief accepted the liberals' approach and strategy for anti-government agitation, the policy-makers, field-level leaders and workers and certain government tactics helped the hardliners establish their supremacy.

Government policies like filing of cases against Khaleda Zia, her family members, BNP

leaders and activists, tactfully curbing party programmes, non-implementation of the 4-point agreement between the government and the opposition in parliament etc. brought the hardliners to the limelight.

According to BNP policy-makers, the party had decided to strengthen the party by forming fresh committees at all levels and launch issue-based movement.

It had also decided to call hartal occasionally and go for other moderate programmes during the first three years of AL rule. The idea was to go for a vigorous anti-government movement at an appropriate time, not before. But the hardliners advised the leadership to start oust-government agitation right at the beginning of the AL rule.

The liberals wanted to participate in all local body polls so that grassroots level leaders and workers could consolidate their power base in their areas. The hardliners, with the help of ultra-rightists "forced" the party to boycott the polls.

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Chief Whip's son allegedly occupies part of a bldg

By Staff Correspondent

A son of the Chief Whip has allegedly occupied part of a seven-storey building at Kalabagan in the city, according to a General Diary filed with Dhanmondi thana Tuesday night.

Sadiq Abdullah, son of Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah, who has been residing at a third floor flat in the building since February, 1998, recently occupied a flat on the sixth floor.

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some shops on the ground floor relatives of the landlord alleged.

A sister of the landlord filed the GD.

Police earlier admitted that a case was filed in this regard but said later a GD was filed.

When contacted, the duty officer at Dhanmondi thana said three persons were arrested yesterday in connection with the incident. The arrested were identified as Pintu, Mahmud and Babu.

Of them, Babu is an accused in three cases including one for murder. Local people said the three were arrested from the building at around 1 pm yesterday.

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Fasting SUST students ignore chancellor's request

By DU Correspondent

The students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) decided yesterday to continue their fast-until-death despite a request by the Chancellor of the University, President Shahabuddin Ahmed.

The students under the banner of 'General Students of SUST', began the fasting at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday demanding immediate reopening of the university.

According to sources, the delegation comprising military attaché to the president Maj Gen Jalaluddin Ahmed and private secretary to the president Ismail Hossain went to the Shaheed Minar at around 5 pm and requested the students on

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Hardly 5pc of agri products processed and preserved

By Reaz Ahmad

Despite good prospects, hardly five percent of agricultural products are processed and preserved in the country due to lack of government policy support and assistance.

This preventing value addition to agri-products and commercialisation of agriculture while 'concessional' import of fruits and vegetables cause sharp decline in prices, depriving farmers, sources in the agriculture ministry said.

There are good prospects for fast growth of agri-business if incentives are given, they said. Policies relating to investment, tariff, taxation, import and export should be 'rationalized', they said.

"For example, price of one kilogram of maize is about Tk. 8, whereas, when converted into corn flakes, it can be sold at Tk 240", one source said.

The government should re-examine 'concessional' import of processed fruits and vegetables and facilitate more investment for export of agri-products, fresh or processed, an official at the Agro-based Industries and Technology Development Project (ATDP) under the ministry said.

Whenever there is slight over-production, there is a glut in the local market, creating a backlash on farmers, they said. The emerging agribusiness enterprises should be given all support, added.

They suggested creation of an Agribusiness Credit Fund (ACF), which would help fast growth of the highly prospective agribusiness.

Agriculture Minister Motta Chowdhury told The Daily Star that government would give price incentives in terms of

lower airfreight tariff to encourage vegetable export.

Meanwhile, leaders of Agribusiness Development Organization of Bangladesh (ADOB), a newly floated body to promote agribusiness, had a meeting with Finance Minister SAMS Kibria seeking policy support, sources said.

They submitted some proposals seeking rationalization of tariff, tax and VAT rates on a large number of agro-based products. The minister assured them 'favourable consideration', sources added.

They welcomed waiving of Advance Income Tax (AIT) on poultry feed, machinery, and vaccines. The results are evident. The industry is growing fast, they observed.

They listed the priority areas for investment as market-

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