



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIV No. 46

DHAKA THURSDAY MARCH 4, 2004

People's Right to Know

FALGUN 21, 1419 BS

MUHARRAM 12, 1425 HJRI

16 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: Tk 10.00

www.thedailystar.net

JCD men, cops charge Azad attack protestors

100 demonstrators wounded at DU, JCD workers capture protest daises



A woman student falls on the ground as police swoop on Dhaka University students yesterday. The students, who were marching towards the secretariat to lay siege to the home ministry demanding the home minister's resignation, came under the attack of police and Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal activists.

DU students, JCD men set for face-off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agitating students of Dhaka University and ruling BNP's student wing Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) appear set for a showdown on the campus today over yesterday's police excesses on the students and last week's attack on writer Humayun Azad.

Backed by leading cultural organisations, the students under the banner, "Humayun Azad Mancha to Protect Free-thinking and Resist Undemocratic Forces", are scheduled to hold a 'solidarity rally' at the foot of Aparajeo Bangla at 10:00am today to protest yesterday's police attacks. The JCD has also announced a rally there at the same time to keep the campus 'chaos-free' in an apparent bid to foil the programme.

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The JCD has also threatened to resist demonstrations protesting the attack on the eminent writer. It has asked the residential students not to join any demonstration to protest the attack. Leaders and activists of the JCD yesterday looked for students who joined demonstrations in the last few days on the campus.

BNP's cultural front the Jatityabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha was holding a cultural programme near the Teacher-Student Centre late last night after racing onto the podium the students had erected.

The Sammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) and four other cultural organisations namely Group Theatre Federation, Aabritee Samannya Parishad, Jatitya Kabita Parishad and

Schools put off classes

Another strike today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Educational institutions, including English medium schools, suspended classes in a spontaneous response to a strike by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday to protest an attack on leading writer Humayun Azad.

Unaware of the strike by the student chapter of main opposition Awami League, many parents brought their children to schools in the morning but returned home as the institutions - governmental and non-governmental - were closed.

A professor of Bangla at Dhaka University (DU), Azad, now under treatment at the Combined Military Hospital, suffered severe head and jaw injuries in the machete attack by unidentified assailants on Friday night.

The Progressive Students'

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Rising inflation, low reforms irk IMF

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over rising inflation and low reforms progress in nationalised commercial banks (NCBs).

It said Bangladesh cannot get benefit from macroeconomic stability unless inflation is controlled.

IMF asked the central bank to take special measures to recover defaulted loans from top 20 defaulters of NCBs.

The visiting IMF mission detailed the measures at separate meetings with Bangladesh Bank (BB) and Finance Division.

The review commission arrived in the capital on February 21 to assess the implementation progress of IMF conditions for the second phase of Poverty Reduction Growth Facilities (PRGF) loan.

Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan chaired the meeting at the ministry and BB Governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed at the central bank.

Although the government target was to keep the inflation rate below 4.5 percent in this financial year, it crossed 6.5 percent already.

The BB officials apprised the team that the central bank has already reduced money supply to bring down the rate, and IMF endorsed the measure.

The commission was critical of the slow progress in appointing private management team for Agrani Bank. As per the government commitment to IMF, the management team was to take over the mantle of Agrani Bank by March 1.

The commission also asked BB to extend the memorandum of

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President, PM visit Prof Azad at CMH

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday visited Prof Humayun Azad at Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Dhaka.

Prof Azad was severely injured by unidentified miscreants near Bangla Academy on the night of February 27.

As the president enquired about his health condition, Azad tried to respond, muttering a few words.

The physicians and surgeons informed the president that Azad's condition was improving.

Prof Azad's son, sister and brother were present.

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Writer talks, tears roll down cheeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Humayun Azad, now undergoing treatment at the Combined Military Hospital following last Friday's deadly attack, is showing marked signs of improvement, hospital and family sources said yesterday.

"He can now talk, at least tries to. His health has improved from yesterday (Tuesday), although he still falls unconscious at times," Azad's wife Latifa Kohinor said yesterday.

"Tears rolled down his cheeks as he was able to recognise me when I was at the intensive care unit," Latifa, visiting her husband at 10:30am, said, adding Azad tried to

say something but she could not understand.

About the talk that Azad might be sent to Singapore for treatment, she said, "We don't know anything about that. Neither the doctors nor anyone from the government talked to us about sending him abroad."

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a medical bulletin released at 11:00am yesterday said Azad's overall condition was slowly improving, but more intensive care is required for recovery.

Quoting Azad's health review by senior specialists of the armed forces, the ISPR bulletin said his condition remained stable with normal pulse, temperature,

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Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visits prominent writer Humayun Azad, now being treated for head and jaw wounds, at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka yesterday.

Death rumours for suspicious govt handling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government kept blocked all ways excepting through an irregular Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) bulletin to learn the condition of Humayun Azad, giving repeated rise to rumours that the eminent writer was dead.

While the anxious countrymen expected the media to carry Azad's latest health-condition and having been making incessant

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Megaplan to build 'scholar civil servants'

PM talks about spending Tk 1,426 cr for PhD, MS education for officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken up a Tk 1,426 crore plan to build 'scholar civil servants' by enrolling 3,000 public servants in PhD, MS and various short and long training courses.

Announcing this in the Jatitya Sangsad yesterday, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia also said a high-level

committee has been formed to prepare a career planning structure for the civil servants.

The prime minister was responding to a question on making the civil administration more effective and dynamic.

She replied to a volley of questions ranging from judiciary to civil administration and local government

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3-decade-old bombs dug out at ZIA ground

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Developers at Zia International Airport on Tuesday found four bombs, two of them live and each weighing hundred pounds, near the runway, which officials believe were dropped by aircraft during the 1965 Indo-Pak war or the 1971 Liberation War.

The incident sent a wave of chill but did not hamper flight schedule, airport officials said adding Home Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin rushed to the airport on hearing the incident.

Bulldozers of the Army Engineering Corps -- at work on extending the runway -- dug the bombs out in the area between the hangar and the runway on the northwestern side of the airport.

"The driver of a bulldozer found a one-metre long iron object under the wheels at about 11:00am," a police official said.

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MBA for Executives' (IIUC Dhaka Campus)



A few MBA graduates of IIUC Dhaka Campus

IIUC Dhaka Campus offers 2-year duration (63 Credit Hours) MBA program for Executives' (Evening shift) for the coming semester.

Graduates with two years of working experience or holding Master's degree are eligible for applying into the program. Total cost for the program is Tk. 90,000/- only.

BBA graduates can complete MBA program within 1 year (39 Credit Hours) and for them the cost is Tk. 60,000/- only. Last date for applying is 1 April 2004 and the viva-voce will be held on 2 April 2004 at 5:00 p.m.

Admission form may be collected up to 8:00 p.m. everyday.

IIUC Dhaka Campus maintains international standard of education, textbooks are provided to all the students.

Separate and secure arrangements are also available for female students.

To improve the efficiency of English language of the MBA students "English for Professionals" course has been introduced.

IIUC has arrangements (MOU) for credit transfer to some foreign Universities.

Admission forms are also available for BBA and CSE programs.

Admission forms can be downloaded from the website (www.iiucd.net).

For details, please contact the Dhaka Campus of IIUC, House-23, Road-3, Dhanmondi, Dhaka call-9670220, 8629947, 9670193 Ext. 211, 228, or Chittagong City Campus 031-610085, 610308, 638657

Ashura turns bloody for Shia Muslims

271 dead in Iraq blasts, 50 in Pakistan, al-Qaeda letter denies role in explosions

STAR DESK

At least 235 were killed in the bloodiest sectarian attacks in Iraq and Pakistan Tuesday, the holiest day on the Shia calendar.

Suicide bombers set off simultaneous attacks on Shia Muslim shrines crowded with pilgrims in Kerbala and Baghdad Tuesday.

Chanting "God is Greatest," huge crowds gathered yesterday to

mourn at least 271 people killed in a wave of bombings in two Iraqi cities, bearing flower-laden coffins aloft through the bustling streets.

A Shia procession in Pakistan's Quetta was attacked by gunmen and a suicide bomber, triggering chaotic shootouts and mob rampages that claimed 50 lives.

"Two gunmen on top of a building opened indiscriminate fire at the same time as a suicide bomber

walked into the crowd and blew himself up. Another two gunmen accompanying the bomber on the ground then sprayed bullets into the crowd," a Quetta-based intelligence official, who could not be named, told AFP.

"Police then joined in the firing, not knowing where the shots came from they started firing in all directions, up and down.

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TOSHIN

PURE FLAT COLOUR TV. IRANGS GROUP

PLATE FINAL TODAY Hosts face Aussies

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh will desperately try to wind up their ICC U-19 World Cup campaign with something to savour when they take on Australia in the Plate final at the Fatullah Stadium today.

The battle of the unlikely finalists will commence at 9:00am in front of

a capacity crowd.

While Bangladesh will use the opportunity to celebrate a rare international title, Australia will be playing for pride after being knocked out of the Cup competition.

But if Richard McInnes' boys are to upset the formbook then they will

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Uzbekistan Airways advertisement with flight routes: Athens, Birmingham, Frankfurt, Kiev, London, Moscow, New York, Rome, Istanbul. Includes text: 'Fly high with us!', 'Twice a week on Tuesday & Wednesday to TASHKENT with convenient connections and fabulous fares to', 'Free Baggage allowance of 40 kg for economy class in European destinations', 'Enjoy Traditional Uzbek Hospitality', 'MARS Aviation Limited', 'Dhaka Office: Tel: 8813059, 8818795, 9893168, 8824348, 9862138-9', 'Syhat Office: Tel: 717161', 'Chittagong Office: Tel: 713311-8, Ext.-4154'

Advertisement for MBA for Executives' (IIUC Dhaka Campus) with contact information and details about the program.