



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

TODAY'S ISSUE 24 PAGES

COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XV NO. 77

DHAKA MONDAY APRIL 4, 2005

CHAITRA 21, 1411 BS

SAFAR 24, 1426 HJRI

24 PAGES PRICE: TK 7.00

www.thedailystar.net



World grieves for Pope

REUTERS, Vatican City

Pope John Paul II, whose 26-year papacy helped defeat Communism in Europe but left a Roman Catholic Church divided over his uncompromising orthodox, died on Saturday after a prolonged struggle with ill health.

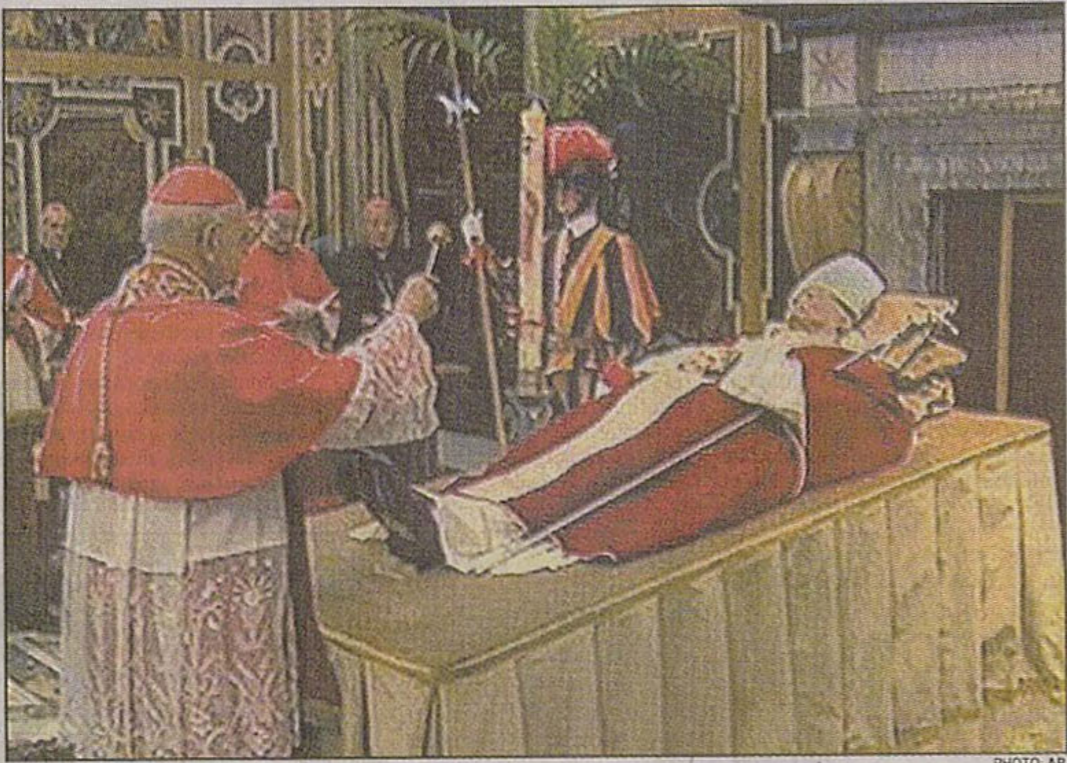
"Our beloved Holy Father John Paul has returned to the house of the Father," said Archbishop Leonardo Sandri, announcing the death to a huge crowd that had massed under the Pontiff's windows to pray for a miraculous recovery that never came.

A wave of applause rippled through St Peter's Square, in an Italian sign of respect for the dead, and then hush descended. Many of the faithful wept uncontrollably.

The Pope died in his bed at 9:37 p.m. (1937 GMT), surrounded by the only family he had -- his closest Polish aides. Newspapers reported that his dying word was "Amen."

As the news spread through Rome, thousands of faithful streamed to the Vatican to join those already there, paying homage to a man who revolutionised his office and took his rigorous message far beyond the confines of the Vatican.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Pope John Paul II's body is displayed in the Clementine Hall at the Vatican's Apostolic Palace yesterday as Cardinal Eduardo Martinez Somalo, left, sprays holy water on the body.

COP ASSAULT CASE MP's son gets 2-week bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kamrul Kadar Noman, son of BNP lawmaker Ali Kadar, yesterday obtained a two-week anticipatory bail from the High Court in a police assault case.

He appeared before the High Court to seek bail when the police were in a massive hunt to arrest him for beating up a traffic constable on Manik Mia Avenue in the capital on Wednesday.

After hearing a bail petition filed by Noman, a division bench of the High Court comprising Justice AK Badrul Huq and Justice Fazlur Rahman directed him to surrender before the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, after two weeks.

Granting the anticipatory bail, the court also issued a rule upon the government to show cause as to why the petitioner should not be granted bail in this case.

Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokan and advocate Habibur Islam Bhuiyan moved for the petitioner while Assistant Attorney General Abdul Basit for the government.

Meanwhile, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday granted a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

PDB penny wise, pound foolish

Opts to rehabilitate Haripur power plant at a cost which can almost see a new plant

SHARIEF KHAN

The Power Development Board (PDB) floats a tender Wednesday to rehabilitate the 17-year old 100mw Haripur power project costing Tk 110 crore when it can set up a new plant by adding just around Tk 20 to Tk 40 crore.

A PDB official said a lobby led by an Awami League lawmaker with good influence on the government has pushed the PDB for the deal.

The entire financing of the project will come from a Japanese debt-relief fund.

"This business lobby wants the PDB to award the deal to a Japanese company that he (the MP) represents," said the official who wished anonymity.

Under the scheme, the contractor will refurbish three 33.5mw old generators of the Haripur plant at a

cost of Tk 100 crore. The contractor will also install a 10 megawatt initial power generator involving Tk 10 crore, which will be used only to start up the main plant.

"The PDB built the Baghabari 100mw power plant in 2001 at a cost of Tk 128 crore," pointed out the PDB official.

Power industry sources said given the present cost scenario, a brand new 100mw plant will cost around Tk 150 crore to set up. "But as the Haripur plant site has already been developed along with necessary infrastructures, it may cost a bit lower than that," said an executive of a power company.

This plant is earmarked to retire completely in 2008 in line with the government's Power System Master Plan (PSMP).

Rehabilitating the project will

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Next polls will be in time

Says Khaleda

BSS, Charfashion, Bhoila

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday made it clear that the next general elections will be held in time and under the caretaker administration as per the constitutional provision.

She pointed out that a number of general elections had been successfully held under caretaker government.

Khaleda said the main opposition is not ready now to participate in the polls under the caretaker government apprehending that it will not be able to win the race. That is why, she said, the main opposition is trying to foil the elections.

Addressing a public meeting at Charfashion TB Secondary School ground, Khaleda said the opposition has been looking for a pretext to keep away from the next elections.

She said the opposition was despaired of its prospects in the next general elections seeing that the people are reaping the benefits of the massive development activities and the booming national economy under the rule of the BNP-led alliance government.

Khaleda urged the main opposition to participate in the next

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Workers Party leader dies in hospital after 'Rab torture'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

General Secretary of Bangladesh Workers Party Chuadanga unit Shyamal Sarker died at the Jessore General Hospital Saturday night allegedly in torture in Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) custody.

Sarker's family members said Rab men arrested him from his village home at Ibrahimpur under Damurhuda upazila of the district on December 9 last year. The family members alleged that the Rab tortured him severely in their custody and then kept Sarker in the district jail untreated.

Earlier, the Rab sources had said they nabbed Sarker from the residence of an outlawed outfit member Siddiq along with the outlaw operative, and recovered firearms and ammunition.

Sarker's family, however,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Cop caught in 'kidnap' bid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Sergeant Mahfuzur (in yellow T-shirt) and his brother (in white T-shirt) are being taken away by police after they were caught making a kidnap attempt yesterday.

Lawyers and onlookers caught a plainclothes police sergeant and his brother trying to kidnap a man at gunpoint on the Supreme Court premises yesterday.

The police sergeant's brother, however, denied having made the kidnap attempt and claimed that they tried to catch the man who owed him Tk 50,000, as he was fleeing at the sight of the sergeant.

Both were turned over to Ramna police who seized the firearm of Traffic Sergeant Mahfuzur Rahman and showed him and his brother Mahbubur Rahman arrested for the abduction attempt.

Mahfuzur, his brother Mahbubur, a cousin of them and the driver of their car intercepted Ahsanullah Chowdhury, a resident of Dholaikhal, near Bangladesh Bar Council building at around 2:00pm.

"The police sergeant caught me

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Teletalk to resume form distribution soon

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTB) officials yesterday said Teletalk will resume distribution of its mobile phone forms once it opens more bank booths soon.

They denied reports of damaging 20,000 SIM cards of Teletalk mobile phones and said 2,000 SIM cards have so far been distributed against 10,000 forms.

The sudden suspension of distribution of forms was the outcome of a hasty launch of the mobile phone in time with insufficient manpower, particularly in sales and marketing, they said.

The project is suffering from a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Black money refuses to get white

Only Tk 1,800cr enters formal economy in last 3 years

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Of the thousands of crores of black money flooding the economy, the government in the three years to January last could whiten only about Tk 1,800 crore.

The figure is too insignificant compared even to the most conservative estimate that puts the current total of black money at Tk 50,000 to 60,000 crore, which Bangladesh Economic Association figures is no less than Tk 175,000 crore.

The trend, according to bankers

and revenue officials, indicates a stubborn reluctance on the part of black money makers and owners to go legal.

This is most evident, they say, from the fact that in 30 months to June last, the total amount of fixed deposits -- a common destination of black money -- grew by Tk 14,735 crore to Tk 43,612 crore from Tk 28,877 crore in December 2001, according to Bangladesh Bank (BB) statistics.

The National Board of Revenue

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

KIBRIA KILLING 'Govt committed to probe attack'

BSS, Dhaka

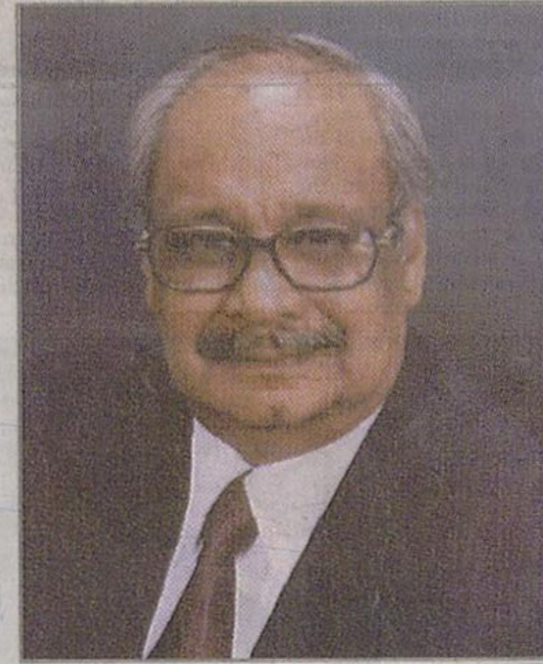
The Bangladesh government is fully committed to and engaged in carrying out an in-depth investigation into the Habiganj bomb attack and all other incidents of violence, as well, a foreign ministry spokesman said yesterday.

The spokesman made the comment in reply to a question about comments made by three leading US lawmakers regarding the Habiganj grenade attack on January 27.

The spokesman said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has already condemned the barbaric act and assured the nation that no effort would be spared to bring the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ



(1936 - 2005)

QULKHANI of A M Zahiruddin Khan

will be held on April 4th 2005 after Asr prayer at his residence "Armana House" Road 62, House 5, Gulshan 2

Insurgents attack Abu Ghraib prison

44 US soldiers injured, 6 Iraqis killed in violence

AP, AFP, Baghdad

Insurgents attacked the Abu Ghraib prison west of Baghdad, injuring 44 US forces and 12 prisoners, the US military said yesterday, while six people were killed elsewhere in Iraq following a period of declining attacks that had raised hopes the insurgency might be weakening.

Iraq's new parliament finally elected a speaker yesterday ending fierce sectarian wrangling two months after historic elections.

MPs elected Sunni Arab MP Hajem al-Hassani as speaker and Shia Hussein al-Sharastani and Kurd Aref Tayfur as his two deputies after the assembly's second session

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

PYH PIYAVATE HOSPITAL

Piyavate is Thailand's premier boutique hospital. Take advantage of a full range of state of the art treatment offered in genuine Oriental hospitality at competitive cost.

- Heart Center
- Bone & joint treatment and surgery
- Laparoscopic Bariatric (Gastric Bypass) Surgery
- Cosmetic Surgery
- Oncology and Gene Therapy
- Dental Care
- Elder Care
- Gynecology & Obstetrics
- Hemodialysis

Piyavate's American and Thai Board Certified specialists provide international standard medical services in:

- Internal Medicine
- Allergy
- Cardiology
- Pediatrics
- Gastroenterology
- Neurology
- General Surgery
- Acupuncture

The local offices of PIYAVATE HOSPITAL will assess treatment needs, advice and assist in travel/visa arrangements.

NEW LOCAL OFFICES

Dhaka Office Address
House # 30, Road # 10
Block # G, Banani
Dhaka - 1213
Tel : 8855270

Chittagong Office Address
"ARANIKA"
20 Zakir Hossain Road
Chittagong-402
Mobile : 0172 252 153

Piyavate Hospital
Center of Excellence
We Really Care