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The Daily Star

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NEWS BRIEFS

Serbs kill two Croatians

BELGRADE, July 16: Serbian nationalists shot dead one Croatian policeman and one member of the breakaway republic's National Guard in fighting in Yugoslavia today, reports Reuter.

Pak jet goes off tarmac

KARACHI, July 16: A Pakistan International Airlines jet bound for Dhaka with 203 passengers went off the tarmac here today as it was taxiing for take-off, the Associated Press of Pakistan reported. No one was injured, but the Airbus suffered damage to its left landing gear and engine, reports AFP.

Iraq won't bow to US threat

BAGHDAD, July 16: Iraq will not bow to US and Western threats of new military attack to force Baghdad to respect the terms of UN ceasefire resolutions, the official press said today, reports AFP.

Narsinghdi press club attacked

NARSINGHDI, July 16: Miscreants today attacked the local Press Club, apparently incensed by the publication of news items on local crimes in different national dailies. Press Club sources said furniture and fixture worth about one lakh taka were damaged, reports UNB.

Hartal call in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, July 16: Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal today called for strike in educational institutions here tomorrow protesting assault on a female leader by rivals. Anwara Shikha, a JCD leader and Vice-President of the Manikganj Government Women's College, allegedly came under the attack today when she had gone to nearby village Dasura, reports UNB.

Fairfax probe hits snags

By Moinuddin Naser

The Fairfax detective team investigating the illegal transfer of money by deposed President Ershad and his associates has found evidence that money was transferred by them.

The team, on the probe job for the last six months, has however failed to establish any case as the investigation effort was being hampered because of some other factors, according to highly placed sources.

The Fairfax team was hired by the government last January to investigate the alleged

plundering of money by the Ershad regime. Fairfax, which has earned worldwide fame for unearthing clues related to monetary scandals including the "Bofors" scandal in India, sent a team to Bangladesh last February to initiate the investigations against Ershad and his associates.

After the visit by the team, Director General (Legal Affairs) of the Foreign Ministry Shamsul Morshed went to the United States to sign a contract with Fairfax.

The government agreed to

pay Fairfax a percentage of the wealth if and when it was recovered.

But the government did not enter any contract regarding commission and payment for the investigation, sources said. Insiders said that the total amount of money transferred by Ershad, Raushan Ershad and their associates was well over several thousand crores.

But the investigation by Fairfax has been impeded as the organisation has failed to go for any 'confrontational in-

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Gorai bridge opened

Communication gets top priority: Khaleda

KAMARKHALI (Faridpur), July 16: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Tuesday inaugurated the Gorai bridge, reiterating the present democratic government's plans to attach top priority to expansion and development of communication network in keeping with need of the time, reports BSS.

Begum Zia said "our development is for the masses and we want to achieve it with people's participation".

The inaugural function was also addressed by Irrigation

Minister Majidul Huq, Communication Minister Oli Ahmed, Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf, Acting British High Commissioner in Bangladesh George Finlason and Secretary of Roads and Highways Division Nazim Ahmed.

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman, State Minister for Social Welfare Tariqul Islam, all local Members of Parliament, high civil and military officials and representa-

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Decision to permit encashment of BCCI bonds

Star Economic Report

The government has decided to allow encashment of various savings bonds and certificates purchased from different branches of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) in the country, a Bangladesh Bank press release said in Dhaka on Tuesday.

The holders of savings instruments like Wage Earners' Development Bonds, bonus Sanchayapatras, 5-year Bangladesh Sanchayapatras, Pratikranya Sanchayapatras and 3-year sanchayapatras pur-

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Diarrhoeal diseases in Bogra reported

More areas go under waters

Triple murder

Manhunt to nab killer

By Staff Correspondent
None was arrested till last night in connection with the triple murder committed Monday noon at a house in Mohakhali.

Police raided a house in Mirpur Tuesday where the suspected killer Rafiqul Islam would live, but he was not found.

With the assistance of the Detective Branch, police were

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The flood situation deteriorated in Pabna, Bogra, Faridpur, Mymensingh, Tangail, and Sherpur Tuesday while one more death raised the death toll to ten.

Outbreak of diarrhoea and water-borne diseases was reported from Bogra where one hundred people were attacked.

In some districts road communication between the far-flung areas and the district headquarters were snapped, according to reports from our correspondents.

Body of a boy, drowned in flood water was recovered from Mymensingh Tuesday. Earlier deaths were: five in Kurigram, three in Bogra one

in Sirajganj. The flood situation however, remained static in Sirajganj, Manikgonj and Kurigram following slight fall of waters of Padma, Brahmaputra and Dhabala at certain points.

Meanwhile, experts at the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre Tuesday cautioned that another spell of downpour was likely next week.

In Mymensingh district, the flood situation aggravated following burst of the Brahmaputra flood control embankment.

A total of 75 thousand people of eight union have been affected. Related story on Page 9

Walkout over introduction of bill on referendum

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition members of parliament, except those belonging to Jatiya Party and Jamaat, staged a walkout over the introduction of a bill to enact a law for holding referendums.

The opposition MPs contended that a law relating to referendum was unnecessary as they stood for omitting the constitutional provision for holding of referendums.

Article 142 of the Constitution makes the holding of a referendum compulsory to confirm the amendment to certain protected provisions of the Constitution. These are the Preamble, Article 8 relating to the basic state principles and Articles 48, 56, 80, 92A and 142 relating to the structure of the Constitution.

The provision for holding of a referendum, to confirm any amendment of these provi-

sions of the Constitution passed by a two-third majority of Parliament, was inserted through the Fifth Amendment in 1979. No referendum under this provision has, however, been required so far.

As Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the House, rose to seek permission to introduce the Referendum Bill, 1991, several opposition members stood up to record their protest against it. Salahuddin Yusuf of Awami League who was given the floor by Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas said Parliament which represented the whole people was competent to amend the Constitution and that the provision for holding a referendum should be omitted. He said this provision was inserted not by any elected parliament but by former

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Ministers' absence puts Speaker in trouble

By Staff Correspondent

In the absence of all cabinet ministers and most of the state ministers, Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas found it tough to keep Parliament in order for about an hour when the House resumed its session at 4.15 p.m. on Tuesday.

The sitting began with Awami League MP Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim asking why the question hour was dropped from the orders of the day.

The Speaker said that he had dropped the item from the agenda as the ministry of industries which was to reply to questions had some difficulties.

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G-7 call for Saddam's ouster

LONDON, July 16: Leaders of the seven richest democracies on Tuesday pledged support to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and US President Bush said the Soviet leader wouldn't leave empty handed, reports agencies.

The leaders, meeting for the second day of their session as Gorbachev left Moscow to join them, continued a united stand against Saddam Hussein and endorsed the US peace initiative for the Middle East.

On the Middle East, they made clear that sanctions against Iraq will remain until it scraps ambitions to have nuclear arms, and made a veiled call for Saddam Hussein's over-

throw. Israel was urged to freeze a Jewish settlement drive in occupied territories and Arab states to suspend their economic boycott against Israel.

Affirming that support for Gorbachev's bid to dismantle old-style Soviet communism "remains as strong as ever," the G7 then broke new ground by calling for an enhanced United Nations role in post-Cold War world affairs.

"We believe that new thinking in Soviet foreign policy... should be applied on a global basis," the leaders said. They have agreed to hold annual meetings between their rotating chairman and the

leader of the Soviet Union, a German government spokesman said today.

With its eye on the Middle East, it said the G7 would work for early adoption of a UN register of arms sales to reduce the risk of conflicts like the Gulf war and it backed a ban on chemical and biological weapons.

The leaders of the US, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada and Britain said the UN should do more to snuff out tensions and manage disaster relief worldwide.

The end of the Cold War gave the United Nations a unique chance to "fulfil the vision of its founders" it said.



Top: One of the hostel rooms ransacked and damaged during the six-hour armed clash between two rival groups of students of Sir Salimullah Medical College Tuesday. Bottom: Police, who arrived late, guarding the campus to check further violence. —Star photo

CU reopens amid tight security: Presence thin

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 16: The trouble-torn Chittagong University, after a long vacation of 23 days, reopened today amidst tight security measures.

The authorities declared the vacation on account Eid-ul-Azha and rainy season June 22 when student unrest coupled with the abstention pro-

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Shahabuddin asks CU teachers to end row in 15 days

A 19-member delegation of Chittagong University Syndicate Tuesday met Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, who is also the Chancellor of the Universities, at the President's Secretariat, reports BSS.

The Acting President, who invited the delegation, said the criticism of the report of the commission of enquiry was not based on proper understanding of the purpose and scope of such an enquiry report.

The report is not a judgement of a court and the

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30 injured in JCD, BCL clash at N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, July 16: At least 30 students were injured when the activities of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League BCL (S-A) clashed here today (Tuesday) over the results of Narayanganj Women's College students union election.

Of the injured, seven including Badal, former Vice-President of Tolaram Government College Students

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20 hurt, 70 hostel rooms ransacked

Gunbattle forces closure of SSMC

By Staff Correspondent

Sir Salimullah Medical College was closed since die on Tuesday following six hours of gunbattle between rival students groups in which at least 20 students were injured, one with bullet in the forehead.

Three rooms were set on fire and at least 70 others ransacked and looted at the Main Hostel of the college at Nolgola while activists of Chhatra League (S-A) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal clashed with fire arms, hockey sticks, knives and

other lethal weapons over occupation of hall rooms.

Following the clashes, the men's hostels were vacated by 4 pm Tuesday on orders from the College Academic Council and the women's hostels were asked to be vacated by 10 am today (Wednesday).

Heavy police contingents have been posted around the campus to check further clashes.

Our SSMCH correspondent

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Geneva meet pledges \$530 m

GENEVA, July 16: Donors pledged 530 million dollars at a UN sponsored meeting today to help the reconstruction of Bangladesh, hit by a devastating cyclone in April, reports Reuter.

French Secretary of State for Humanitarian Affairs Bernard Kouchner, who chaired the one-day meeting, told a news conference major contributors were the United States, the European Community, Japan, Norway and Sweden.

The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank were among financial institutions which announced contributions to a rehabilitation programme prepared jointly by Bangladesh and the United States, he said.

US urged to raise Dhaka's garments export quota

Star Economic Report
The representatives of trade and industry on Tuesday made strong pleas with the visiting director of US Commerce Department for enhancing Bangladesh's garments export quotas to the USA.

They pointed out that the US government had already increased export quotas for Turkey for offsetting the adverse impact of Gulf crisis on it. They requested for similar moves by the US government in favour of Bangladesh, because of lost remittances, high

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Shafiullah made OSD

Bangladesh High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Major General (Retd) KM Shafiullah has been made Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Ministry of Establishment, an official handout said in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS.

MM Rezaul Karim has taken over charge as new High Commissioner of Bangladesh to the United Kingdom. Foreign Office sources said Tuesday, reports UNB.

He replaced Maj. General (ret'd) KM Shafiullah who is back home after passing 16 years as head of country's different missions abroad. Karim was head of the

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