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For development to succeed it must make natural resource use sustainable, says Vitas Fernando
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DCC income from various sources has been estimated at Tk 141.37 crore during the current fiscal year. ADB, World Bank and the government will fund implementation of DCC projects.
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NEWS BRIEFS

Shahabuddin assents to two bills

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Saturday assented to the Finance Bill, 1991 and the President Election Bill, 1991, reports BSS.

Benazir's motorcade fired upon

KARACHI, Aug 17: Political opponents of Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto fired guns and hurled stones at her motorcade in the port city of Karachi today, injuring one of her followers, police said. The former Prime Minister's car was hit by a stone but she was not hurt in the attack by Urdu-speaking Mohajir immigrants from India, reports Reuters.

Albanians sent back

ROME, Aug 17: Hundreds of Albanian asylum-seekers were rounded up before dawn Saturday by police and were being flown back to their impoverished homeland. The roundup came about 10 days after many of them had sailed illegally to Italy, reports AP.

Call to give verdict in favour of 12th Amendment Bill

Conspiracy against democracy won't be tolerated: Khaleda

SAVAR, Aug 17: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said the people of Bangladesh would never allow any conspiracy to foil national progress and development, reports BSS.

Addressing a huge public meeting at Savar College ground here this afternoon, Begum Zia said, "The people of this country do not believe in conspiracy."

She said the autocratic government of Ershad had come to power through conspiracy but the people ousted him.

The Prime Minister said a section of people had been hatching conspiracy to foil democracy. So their talk about democracy become mere lip service, she added.

She said the present government would not tolerate any law and order situation created by any quarter to disrupt normal civil life. Violence would be resisted, she said.

Presided over by Deen Islam, Vice-Chairman of BNP Savar upazila, the meeting was addressed by Sadek Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports, Abdullah Al-Noman, State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock, M A Mannan, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism, Nazmul Huda, State Minister for Food, Neyamatullah Sabu, MP, Amanullah Aman, MP, Harun

Mollah, MP, Saad Jagul, Principal, Savar College and Moniruzzaman Monir, Vice President of JUCSU.

She said some parties wanted to hamper production through violence. "We have to launch a movement against this through mobilising public opinion," she added.

Begum Zia said, "We have struggled for a long time to achieve democracy and now we have to fight to preserve it."

Referring to the passage of the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill, the Prime Minister said BNP had always said the form of the government would be decided by the Jatiya Sangsad. Since the members of the Jatiya Sangsad had given their verdict in favour of parliamentary system of government we accepted their decision, she added.

She called upon the people to give their verdict in favour of the 12th Amendment Bill in the September 15 referendum. "We believe that the people are the source of all power, so we have decided to go to them for their verdict," Begum Zia said.

Referring to the election pledges of her party, Begum Zia said, "We are fulfilling our commitments to the people one by one." She said a government could not solve all the problems overnight without people's cooperations.

She called for building up national economy by mobilising the human force. She said the huge population has to be transformed into human resources. She also stressed the need for eradication of bribery and corruption from society.

Regarding smuggling along the border, the Prime Minister said if this menace was not checked, the country's economy would be crippled, production in the mills and factories would suffer and the number of unemployed would continue to increase.

Begum Khaleda Zia said the BNP government believes in the welfare of the people and it would take all possible steps to change their lot.

In this connection, she urged the people to cooperate with the government in building up a self-reliant Bangladesh through increasing production in the fields and factories.

She said, "If you cooperate with us, Inshaallah we will make Bangladesh a happy and prosperous country."

She said discipline has to be restored in every quarter, including the educational institutions so that our children can pursue their study without any problem.

Begum Zia said the BNP government would re-start the canal digging programme of

See Page 12 Col. 2



FOLLOWING THE FOOTSTEPS OF THEIR ELDERS: Schoolboys went violent in the city (top) damaging vehicles and (bottom) clashing with police who, in turn, nabbed 24 of them yesterday.

BNP, AL yet to finalise candidates for by-elections

By Staff Correspondent
 Al-haj Moqbul Hossain of the Awami League and Barrister Zamiruddin Sirer of the BNP are the likely candidates in the bye-election in Dhanmadi-Mohammadpur constituency.
 Jatiya Party has nominated Bahauddin Ahmed Babul for the seat, it is reliably learnt.
 In the Cantonment-Gulshan constituency Major (retired) Qamrul Islam is the likely BNP candidate. AL has decided to nominate Advocate Shahara Khatun for the seat. The JP candidate in the constituency is Shaful Islam Sentu.
 See Page 12 Col. 7

US House Foreign Affairs body team calls on Hasina

The visiting United States staff delegation of the House Foreign Affairs Committee led by Eric P Schwartz on Saturday called on Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) Sheikh Hasina at her parliamentary office, reports BSS.
 They discussed various matters relating to the Constitution Amendment Bills recently passed in the Jatiya Sangsad, and overall economic, social, political and education situation of the country, according to a press release.
 Sheikh Hasina said switching over from the presidential to the parliamentary form of government was her party's commitment to the people. She said, for fulfilling their pledge they passed the Constitution Amendment Bills
 See Page 12 Col. 8

Yugoslav jets bomb Croats

BELGRADE, Aug 17: Two Yugoslav army jets attacked Croatian forces today near an area where fighting had erupted earlier between the Croatian militia and Serbian guerrillas, media reports said, report agencies.

Croatian radio said the jets attacked the police station and Croatian positions in the town of Stara Gradiska, some 120 km (75 miles) east of Zagreb on Croatia's border with Bosnia.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said the jets "bombed" the Croatian positions at around 1500 GMT after they were fired at from

the town.
 Neither Tanjug nor the radio reported any casualties.

Fighting between Croatian police and National Guards and Serbian guerrillas flared today in the Okucani area, 15 km (nine miles) north of Stara Gradiska, which local Serbs declared autonomous earlier this week.

Tanjug said the jets probably attacked a former jail in Stara Gradiska, where Croatian forces are stationed on the Croatian side of the River Sava that marks its border with neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Belgrade radio said Croatian forces had taken control of a bridge in the town across the Sava and closed it to traffic.

"As we report this, firing from infantry weapons can be heard down river of the bridges from both sides of the river," Tanjug said.

Yugoslavia's eight-man collective presidency, headed by Croatia's Stipe Mesic, was to meet in emergency session in Belgrade on Saturday evening to discuss the latest violations of a tattered ceasefire it called for 10 days ago.

Croatian officials said at
 See Page 12 Col. 8

No fresh taxes imposed: Mirza Abbas City Corporation budget announced

A balanced budget of Taka 174,61,64,300 for fiscal 1991-92 and a revised budget of Taka 126,65,25,000 for fiscal 1990-91 of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) were announced Saturday.

The DCC Mayor Mirza Abbas while announcing the budgets at a press conference at the Gulshan Mayor Bhaban' in the city said that the budget of the current fiscal has been designed in consistency with reality and the earnings of the DCC.

"One of the main features of the new budget is the continuation of civic amenities without imposing fresh taxes on the city dwellers," he said.

The mayor said that reduction of expenses of the DCC had been proposed in the current budget.

Taka 105.45 crore has been sanctioned for development of Dhaka City in the new budget, approved by the Finance Ministry, the Mayor said

adding that of the amount Taka 65 crore is expected to be realised from land and holding taxes.

The Mayor said that the DCC now inherits a total debt of Taka 138 crores of the past nine-year autocratic rule.

During the period, taxes realised from the city dwellers were spent in unnecessary and unproductive sectors for vested political interests and this turned the DCC into a hollow corporation, the Mayor commented.

The city Mayor sought patronisation by the government and the aloof cooperation of the city residents in resolving various problems and making the city a beautiful, clean and developed one by increasing civic amenities.

Despite fund constraints, the present democratic government is determined to expand overall amenities of the city dwellers, the Mayor men-
 See Page 12 Col. 1

No births, no deaths in city during 1990-91!

By Nazmul Ashraf
 Wasn't anyone born, didn't anyone die or didn't anyone marry again in Dhaka city during fiscal 1990-91?

The answer is 'no' as the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) did not earn any tax under these heads during the period.

As per the rules of the DCC, a city dweller needs to pay Taka 43 as tax to register each case of birth or death of each of his or her dependants.

Taka 25 is charged as tax for the taking of a second wife.

But the DCC has not received any taxes from these heads as the revised budget for fiscal 1990-91 of the Corporation, announced by the Mayor Mirza Abbas MP shows.

There is no provision for taxation in the case of first marriage, the Mayor said.

The DCC estimated Taka 300 as its earning under these heads in the 1990-91. It also estimated the same amount for the fiscal 1991-92.

Shambhuganj bridge opens today: Chinese team arrives

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia expressed the hope that the existing cooperation between Bangladesh and China would further increase in all sectors, including social and economic fields, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister was talking to Madame Chen Muhua, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China, who called on Begum
 See Page 12 Col. 3

48-hour strike at Shibir's call begins in CU

From Our Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Aug 17: A 48-hour strike, that began this morning at the call of Islami Chhatra Shibir, paralysed the activities of Chittagong University.

The strike has been called in protest against Wednesday's violence that left about 100 students injured, 10 of them seriously. Of them, Belayet Hossain, a Shibir activist, who
 See Page 12 Col. 5

DU students march towards closed halls, agitate for reopening

By DU Correspondent
 A large number of general students of Dhaka University held a "march towards halls" on Saturday demanding reopening of the university and the residential halls.

The march was organised by the Dhaka University
 See Page 12 Col. 6

Strike in Kashmir to protest deaths

SRINAGAR, Aug 17: Workers in the embattled Kashmir valley stayed home for the second day Saturday in response to a three-day strike call by Muslim militants to protest the killing of at least 38 civilians by paramilitary troops, report agencies.

The strike crippled normal life in the northern region where Muslim militants have been fighting for independence from predominantly Hindu India.

Shops, government offices and educational institutions were closed throughout the

valley, according to residents contacted by telephone. Buses, trucks and other public transport remained off the road.

Authorities imposed a curfew in the town of Sopore where at least 38 including 17 civilians were killed last Thursday in cross-fire between rebels and paramilitary troops who afterwards forced their way into homes.

On Friday, soldiers and paramilitary troops patrolled the deserted streets while residents — many of them waiting and beating their chests — buried the dead.

Authorities limited the mourners to about 50 people, apparently fearing further violence.

Abdul Majid Dar, General Secretary of the Hizb-ul-Mujahadeen, told AFP somewhere in the valley that nine militants and eight soldiers of the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) were also killed.

He alleged that the BSF and the Central Reserve Police force had fired indiscriminately with mortar guns in and around the town, 60 kilometres (36 miles) from Srinagar

in northern Kashmir.

Dar said the battle was provoked by the unfurling of Indian flags on government buildings used as barracks for federal troopers which "our armed forces simply resisted and protested."

His version contradicted previous reports that the fire-light occurred after militants raised Pakistani flags in the apple-growing town in defiance of a curfew.

Dar said about 7,000 people had fled Sopore in fear of an imminent crackdown by government forces.

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