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NEWS BRIEFS

BNPPP meets Saturday

By Staff Correspondent
 The adjourned meeting of the Parliamentary Party of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will be held on Saturday, at 8 pm, according to a party press release. The meeting will be presided over by the leader of the House Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. The agenda includes the ongoing budget session of Parliament and the prevailing political situation.

ALCWC meets today

The Awami League Central Working Committee will hold an emergency meeting in Dhaka today at 11 am. Party President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting at her Minto Road residence. said a press release Wednesday, reports UNB.

2.65 lakh

Rohingya refugees

From Our Correspondent
 COX'S BAZAR, July 8: The number of registered refugees displayed at the control room for Myanmar refugees has declined during the past week. The control room, located at the Zila Parishad Bhaban Board showed the total number of registered refugees to be 2,70,767 on June 28 last while yesterday (Tuesday) the figure stood at 2,64,856.

7 kg explosives recovered

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, July 8: Police recovered 7 kilograms of explosives from the Rangamati-Naniarchar Upazila highway today. Security forces in the region are suspecting that the explosives were planted by the outlawed Shanti Bahini men as an attempt of sabotage.

G-7 summit concludes

Yeltsin offers West to swap resources for debt writeoff

MUNICH, July 8: President Boris Yeltsin proposed to Western leaders Wednesday that he would be willing to swap Russian building, minerals and other properties for a debt writeoff, according to US and Italian officials, reports AP.

Yeltsin personally pitched Western fellow world leaders for additional aid for the Russian economy and said afterward he was hopeful of winning a moratorium on his country's huge foreign debt.

Italian Premier Giuliano Amato told reporters that Yeltsin proposed swapping Russian minerals, land, industries and energy as repayment for the debt.

A US official who sat in on the meeting said the Russian leader suggested selling investments in Russian oil exploration and selling rights to develop other mineral resources.

"It's not like selling the family silverware," said the official, who sat in on the meeting but asked not to be named. Yeltsin suggested things like selling investments in oil exploration in exchange for debt help, the official said.

Yeltsin, who met with President Bush, German Chancellor

Helmut Kohl and several other world leaders for more than two hours, did not mention the debt writeoff in a news conference, but he said the group reacted to his overall requests with a "benevolent attitude."

President Bush today embraced a decision by Western leaders to assure delivery of relief supplies to Yugoslavia, but added he has no intention of sending American troops whenever there is a "hiccup here or there."

At a news conference marking three days of international summitry, Bush also warmly praised Russian President Boris Yeltsin as a "very courageous leader" willing to make unpopular decisions at home to promote economic reform.

And he said all even leaders at the Group of Seven summit agree that world trade talks can be concluded by the end of the year.

Yeltsin was invited to make a personal appeal for economic assistance after close of the 18th annual economic summit Wednesday.

Bush sidestepped when asked if he thought the Russian leader should be invited to

become a full participant at future summits saying he was keeping an "open mind."

Bush opened the news conference by hailing the work of the 18th economic summit of the leaders of the United States, Britain, Germany, France, Japan, Canada and Italy. He noted agreements on the need for economic growth, the opening of a land corridor to assure relief in Yugoslavia, and steps to upgrade safety of Soviet-designed nuclear power plants.

He said the leaders had a "frank exchange of views" on sticky world trade problems, a diplomatic way of saying that there was no agreement. Disputes over agricultural subsidies have stalemated the trade negotiations.

Bush said political considerations at home did not affect his stance on the trade talks.

"We didn't come here thinking that this would be the forum in which the GATT problems would be solved," Bush said. "But I think there are some political realities out there that make it more difficult for some countries to make an agreement. But this will not be affected by the US election."

Vested quarters behind Press Club incident : PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Wednesday blamed certain vested quarters for the "unfortunate" incident at the Jatiya Press Club on June 21, reports UNB.

"Those quarters were out to undermine the image of the democratic government", she told the leaders of the newspaper industry, who met her at the PM's office yesterday evening.

More than 100 journalists were injured in the June 21 police atrocities in and around the Jatiya Press Club, accord-

ing to the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ).

Begum Zia said an inquiry commission was formed immediately after the incident and mentioned other measures taken by the government, including arrangement for proper treatment of the injured journalists.

She said appropriate steps will be taken to stop recurrence of such incidents and sought cooperation of the journalists in this regard.

Begum Zia recalled the role

PM's attendance in JS on Saturdays may be made mandatory

By Staff Correspondent

A resolution seeking attendance of the Prime Minister in the House every Saturday to answer questions on policies of the government was accepted for consideration by Parliament yesterday.

The resolution, providing for amendments to four clauses of the Rules of Procedure, was tabled by Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers Party.

The proposed amendment



Low lying areas of Sylhet town under flood water.

— Star photo

ADB on global warming Frequent floods may hit Bangladesh

MANILA, July 8: South Asia and the areas around the Philippines and southern China will experience more and fiercer storms if predictions about global warming trends prove correct, the Asian Development Bank reported Wednesday, reports AP.

Bank Vice President Yong Chung told a three-day workshop on environmental issues that the forecast was based on predictions that temperatures will rise by three degrees centigrade by the end of the century.

If that happens, Chung said

more flooding in the delta areas of Bangladesh, the east coast of India, the Maldives and Pacific islands will occur.

Scientists believe the increases in air and ocean temperatures will create stronger typhoons and tropical storms in the western Pacific area, including southern China and the Philippines.

The Philippines is already hit by an average of 20 typhoons and tropical storms annually. Last November, a relatively weak storm triggered flash floods on the central

Low lying areas in Sylhet still under water

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, July 8: Flood situation in the district has improved during the last 24 hours. Rain has stopped today and water from all the areas started receding very slowly. But the low-lying areas of the town is still under water.

Water-level in all the rivers has also fallen at different points. The road communications of the district headquarters with Gowainghat thana has been resumed.

When contacted, an official source confirmed that, 11,900 acres of Aush, 11,000 acres of Broadcast Aman, and 390 acres of Transplanted Aman seedbed in Gowainghat, 3000



Some of the mechanised rivercraft under the open-sky at the Postogola Ghat.

— Star photo by Mohsin

Sharif, Khaleda to talk asset sharing

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

The issue of sharing assets and liabilities is expected to be again on the agenda of official talks when Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visits Pakistan next month.

According to the Bangladesh Planning Commission estimates prepared in 1974, Islamabad owed a sum of about Taka 2,446 crore to Dhaka as the latter's contribution to the development efforts and investments when they were one

country from 1947 to '71.

Following the establishment of diplomatic links after the 1975 changes, the matter was first discussed between the foreign secretaries when General Ziaur Rahman made a trip to Pakistan in 1977.

In October 1980, the foreign secretaries reached agreement in Dhaka that a working group composed of interministerial representa-

High-powered body to review utilisation of relief boats

By Staff Correspondent

A high powered review committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary has been set up recently to review the allotment and maintenance procedure of the 275 mechanised rivercraft donated by the Government of Japan, according to a Relief Ministry source.

The review committee was set up after the procedure of allotment and the effective use of the rescue boats were

Colombo meet Dhaka proposes preferential trade in South Asia

COLOMBO, July 8: Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman today underlined the need for establishment of a South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA), reports BSS.

Making a statement at the two-day 11th session of the SAARC council of minister that began here today, the Bangladesh Foreign Minister said, "at a time when developing as well as developed countries are consolidating inward looking trading blocs, our region may be by-passed unless

See Page 12 Col 2

Tariff commission bill introduced

A bill seeking to make Tariff Commission a statutory body was introduced in parliament yesterday (Wednesday), reports UNB.

The Bangladesh Tariff Commission Bill, 1992 piloted by Commerce Minister M K Anwar aims at replacing the existing tariff commission, which was set up under a resolution of the ministry in September 1973, with one having statutory powers to make the organisation effective.

The proposed Tariff Commission will suggest measures to protect interest of consumers as well as domestic manufacturers. The commission is to recommend to the government on:

— 1) protection to domes-

See Page 12 Col 4

Hasina leaves for US tonight

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina today leaves Dhaka for the United States to attend the 'Democratic National Convention of 1992' beginning in New York on July 11.

National Democratic Institute has arranged the convention to be concluded on July 16.

Hasina's flight will depart from the Zia International Airport at 8 pm.

The AL leader will participate in a seminar titled

See Page 12 Col 3

Stock market perks up

By Inam Ahmed

Certain fiscal measures of the government and entry of some foreign investors in to the capital market have recently boosted the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) activities.

With the market going bullish, a new chemical company, National Polymer whose shares will be traded on the floor from next month has been given listing permission.

On the other hand, Padma Textiles, Wata Chemical and New Dhaka Refractories have released new shares in the market. Padma has issued 700 lakh, Wata Chemical 56700 and New Dhaka Refractories 40810 shares.

In the changed fiscal policy, the government has given incentive by exempting the dividend on share from Jamuna levy and development surcharge.

Earlier, there had been a four per cent Jamuna levy and a six per cent development

surcharge on dividend in addition to deduction of 10 per cent as income tax at source level.

On the other hand, reduction of bank interest rate has switched the interest of the depositors to the stock market, DSE sources said.

The investors have been encouraged by the measure that has made the dividend on shares of the foreigners income tax-free. Sources said that the foreign investors have become active following recent relaxation of exchange control regulations that provide for foreign enterprises investing in shares and securities through the DSE without prior approval of the Bangladesh Bank (BB).

The foreign firms operating in Bangladesh also do not require prior approval of the BB for remittance of profits and dividends to their head offices.

Figures show that immedi-

See Page 12 Col 6

RU Shibir activist killed in bomb blast

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 8: A powerful bomb exploded last night killing a student of Rajshahi University, and injuring another two critically at a house of Bhudpara area adjacent to the RU campus.

According to witnesses and police, the tinroof of the house belonging to an Islami Chhatra Shibir leader was blown away in the bomb explosion. Sources believe the bomb detonated during its manufacture at around 8 pm.

However, Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, claimed the bomb was hurled at the house of Mojam-mel Haque by the Ganatantrik

Chhatra Oikya activists.

Azibar Rahman, a first year student of Political Science Department, RU, expired when taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH). Khorshed, a student of class eight at the Rajshahi Laboratory School, is undergoing treatment at the RMCH. His condition has been stated to be critical.

The third victim whose identity could not be ascertained is still missing. Locals suspect he is dead and his body has been hidden by the Chhatra Shibir Workers. Police too did not dismiss the apprehension.

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Special Notice by Titas Gas Company
 Extension of the special opportunity to pay gas bills without interest/surcharge

At the request of its respectable customers the Company has decided to extend the special opportunity to pay gas bills without interest/surcharge up to 15th July, '92. Therefore, no interest or surcharge will have to be paid if all the bills up to May, 1992 (including arrears) are paid by 15th July, '92. This opportunity is applicable to industrial, commercial and domestic customers whether operative, disconnected or litigated.

It may be mentioned that bills have, as usual, been sent to the customers concerned. Those who might not have received the bills, may arrange to pay after collecting duplicate bills from the concerned office of the Company.

It has also been decided that residents of Government/Semi-Government Colonies/Quarters who at present do not possess the required bill books may obtain the same from our concerned Zone/Regional office on production of allotment/possession letters and avail themselves of this last opportunity by paying gas bills from the date of their possession of the quarters.

The banks engaged in collecting gas bills of the Company are also hereby requested to make necessary arrangement according to this notice.

We hope, our respectable customers will make best use of this opportunity offered by the Company as the last chance.

It may please be noted that the special programme of DISCONNECTING gas lines with a view to realising the arrears of defaulting customers is CONTINUING.

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