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NEWS BRIEFS

Clash at refugee camp: 20 hurt

COX'S BAZAR, July 14: At least 20 people including seven Rohingya refugees and eight policemen were injured in a clash at Naikongchhari refugee camp in Bandarban district today. The condition of Officer in Charge of Naikongchhari thana Moslehuddin, admitted in Dulahazari hospital with severe injuries, was stated to be serious. The clash took place at around 1.30 pm when camp officials went there to make head-counts. Local administration started the census to find out the accurate figure of the refugees. The census revealed that 840 refugees were missing in the camp from the 15,000 Rohingya Muslims, registered at the camp earlier, reports UNB.

One killed in road mishap

MANIKGANJ, July 14: An old man was hit and killed by a truck at the local bus stand on Dhaka-Archa Highway today, reports UNB. Witnesses said the Dhaka-bound truck ran over Amzad Hossain (50) of village Garpara when he was passing by the road at about 3.30 pm. His body was brought to the Sadar Hospital for autopsy. Police seized the truck and registered a case. The driver fled the scene.

Govt likely to recast body on Chittagong Hill Tracts

By Mahfuz Ullah

The government is contemplating restructuring the 9-member committee, formed recently, to solve the prevailing problems in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. A leading opposition MP told this correspondent that the government had already conveyed its intention but details were yet to be worked out. The committee, formed July 9, came under attack in

the House July 13. The Opposition announced its disassociation from the Committee on the plea that it was not a parliamentary one and did not include the three members elected on the AL ticket from the Hill Tracts. The Opposition further argued that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia during her first-ever visit to Khagrachari declared that the government was interested in a political

solution to the problem and therefore the formation of such a committee would negate the move for a political solution. The Opposition, moving further, demanded that a parliamentary committee be formed in line with the declaration. The demand of the Opposition, according to observers, was similar to that of the Janasanghati Samity, the civilian cover of the Shant-

ibahini. The Janasanghati Samity had been demanding the formation of a Parliamentary Committee on the Chittagong Hill Tracts since the general election last year. A senior leader of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), preferring anonymity, said that the decision to form a government committee had complicated the on-going dialogue with leaders represent-

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About 100 thatched houses were gutted in a slum area at Rahmatganj in the city in the early hours Tuesday. — Star photo.

Myanmar postpones talks on Rohingya repatriation

By Farid Hossain

Bangladesh efforts to repatriate the Rohingya refugees suffered another setback as Myanmar has deferred this week's official-level talks to discuss ways to start the process, official sources said on Tuesday.

Myanmar postponed the meeting, saying its senior officials would not be available for the talks. It did not set any new date. The meeting, the seventh since Bangladesh and Myanmar signed the April 28 repatriation pact, was scheduled for Thursday at Myanmar's frontier town of Maung-daw.

"We had hoped that this

week's meeting would break the deadlock over repatriation of more than 264,000 refugees," said a senior government official in Cox's Bazar. "We have kept our doors open ... we want to keep the dialogue going," he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Myanmar Embassy in Dhaka said that it had no knowledge about the postponement. "We have no idea about postponement of the meeting. But there is no preparation on our side," said a diplomat, who requested that he not be named.

Meanwhile, the refugees remained as determined as be-

fore to stay in Bangladesh until the human rights situation improves in Myanmar. They were paying no heed to Bangladesh assurances that they would be safe back home.

"The officials come and tell us we should return home ... the Burmese soldiers will no more persecute us. But we don't trust them," said Badiazamal, a 60-year-old refugee woman sitting in front of her mud-and-straw hut at Dechua-palong camp in Ramu.

She said that her husband, Abul Hossain, was still languishing in a military camp in Maungdaw from where she

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Drug smuggling case: Five chargesheeted

By Staff Correspondent

Detective Branch (DB) police Tuesday submitted the chargesheet against five people which included four foreign nationals and one Bangladeshi in the sensational drug-trafficking case to the chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court.

The accused persons were, Eliada McCord, a teenaged American girl, Robert Blanks, a Nigerian citizen, Goddy Ochundo, a South African national, Abdul Kayum, a Bangladeshi and Okay Godwin, a South African national.

Meanwhile, DB police arrested Eliada McCord, Blanks and Goddy while the two others, Abdul Kayum and Okay Godwin were still at large.

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Star Special

Benazir for 'Muslim ummah' solution to stranded Pakistanis

By Mahfuz Anam from Karachi

Pakistan's opposition leader Benazir Bhutto lashed out against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif accusing his government of handing over one-fourth of the country, namely the Sindh province, to the military. Speaking to The Daily Star during an exclusive interview with this correspondent at her Karachi residence last week, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan accused President Ghulam Ishaq Khan of 'duplicitly' for not taking any action against the present government, though what she said one of its coalition partners — the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) — had now been involved in murder, terrorism, arson and kidnapping. She cited press reports to substantiate the allegations.

The hard-hitting critique of the Nawaz Sharif government was in sharp contrast to the recent press speculations about a possible dialogue between the two leaders. The fury of her attack on the Prime Minister made the possibility of a quick rapprochement between them quite unlikely. She, however, did not rule out the possibility saying "one has to face reality."

Bhutto accused the government of leading the country towards total political chaos and outlined three possible options to come out of the crisis.

The first, she said, was the formation of a national government composed of all political parties, with an agreement to hold elections within the next few months. The second option was for the President to

dissolve the Assembly and form a national government himself. This she said was not very democratic, but permitted by the Constitution. Failing these two options, the country is in a slide towards military intervention, she cautioned. According to Bhutto, Pakistan's international standing was at a low ebb — the relations with the United States being the worst in decades. "There is a possibility that the US may declare Pakistan to be a terrorist state."

"On the question of relations with Bangladesh, the former Prime Minister expressed her keen interest in improving the economic ties and said she was all for enhancing trade and commerce between the two countries. She would also encourage Pakistani entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh.

On the stranded Pakistanis, whom she repeatedly called "Biharis", she categorically stated Pakistan's inability to take back all of them.

She spoke of a "Muslim Ummah" solution to the problem, suggesting that she would appeal to other Muslim countries to take a portion of the "Bihari" population now stranded in Bangladesh.

Bhutto denied that they were Pakistan citizens and said they belonged to Bangladesh, as "these people had opted for the eastern wing of Pakistan in 1947."

Castigating the rise of fundamentalism in Pakistan she said that the mullahs wanted

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Modern telecom system a must for uplift: PM

NARAYANGANJ, July 14: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here today that the government had attached priority to establishment of modern, developed and reliable communications network in the country to induce momentum in the nation building activities, reports BSS.

Inaugurating a 700-line telephone exchange here Begum Zia said her government considered telecommunication as one of the major aspects of the desired communications network.

Detailing the government's programme for the improvement and advancement of the telecommunication sector of the country, the Prime Minister said the main features of the government's programme in telecommunication sector were meeting the increasing demand for telephone lines, giving additional telephone connections expansion of local trunk and international services and improvement of customers' services.

Begum Zia said under the programme the government would install 65,000 more digital telephones in Dhaka metropolis, Narayanganj, Savar and Jinzira. One lakh thirty thousand digital and 28,800 analog telephones would be given by the Telephone Shilpa Sangstha through self-financed programme, she said.

The Prime Minister said the government would install one lakh more digital telephones in different parts of

the country. The Prime Minister said the government would install one lakh more digital telephones in different parts of

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PM goes to Bahrain Aug 8

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will pay a two-day official visit to Bahrain before flying to Islamabad on August 9. Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman told reporters yesterday.

Begum Zia goes to the tiny Gulf Emirate on August 8 at the invitation of Amcer Issa Bin Salman al Khalifa. Bilateral issues relating to trade, export of manpower, joint venture projects and the Islamic Ummah will figure in her talks with the Bahrain

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BNPPP meeting adjourned till Friday

By Staff Correspondent

The parliamentary party meeting of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) that began last night was adjourned till 5-30 pm next Friday.

Presided over by the Prime Minister and BNP Chief Begum Khaleda Zia, the meeting began immediately after the parliament session was adjourned at 9-15 last night. The parliamentary party continued until its adjournment at 9-45 pm.

According to sources close to BNP parliamentary party, the half-an-hour meeting was addressed by the Finance Minister Saifur Rahman.

The Finance Minister pointed out some particular aspects of the proposed budget to be highlighted by the party MPs in the BNP parliamentary party meeting.

The Finance Minister, according to sources, asked the party MPs to particularly highlight the scope for "creation of jobs" offered by the proposed budget and its effort to accumulate 25 per cent of development budget from the internal resources of the country.

Five injured in bomb blasts

By DMCH Correspondent

At least five people including two minor boys were injured in two separate blasts at Jurain and Gulistan in the city Tuesday.

Four persons including two minors boys of a family were injured when a cracker exploded at a slum at Jurain at around 10:00 am yesterday.

Witnesses said, two brothers — Milon, 7, and Al-Amin, 6, found a metal-pot in the garbage. When the boys tried to open the pot in their house at the slum area, it exploded leaving them and their parents injured.

The parents, Salam, 30, and Anwara, 25, were admitted to the Sir Salmullah Medical College Hospital while the two brothers were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

In another incident, Ripon, a first year student of Suhrawardy College was injured as some miscreants threw a cracker at him in Gulistan area last evening. Ripon was admitted to the DMCH.

Armed men attack Jubo Dal leader's house, 5 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

A group of armed men attacked the residence of a leader of Jatyatabadi Jubo Dal (JJD) at Taherbag Lane at Sutrapur in the city Tuesday evening injuring at least five people on the spot.

The group comprising around 30 armed men, fired several rounds of bullets and exploded several crackers during the attack on the residence of Nasruddin Patwary, President, Sutrapur unit of Jatyatabadi Jubo Dal (JJD).

Those who were injured during the incident could not be identified immediately. Sutrapur police said a police team, including the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of the Sutrapur Police Station, rushed to the spot.

However, further information on the attack could not be known as the police force sent to the spot did not return to the police station till the filing of this report at around 11:30 pm last night.

Atiqul Huq Chowdhury's manuscripts stolen

By Staff Correspondent

Three-sackful of manuscripts of the noted TV playwright Atiqul Huq Chowdhury were stolen Monday night from his Lalmatia residence in the capital.

Chowdhury said that the thieves decamped with the three gunny bags Monday night which were kept in the balcony of his second-story apartment at the New Colony in Lalmatia. He moved to his new flat a week back from Elephant Road.

The sacks contained 60

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Tk 259.50 crore DCC budget announced

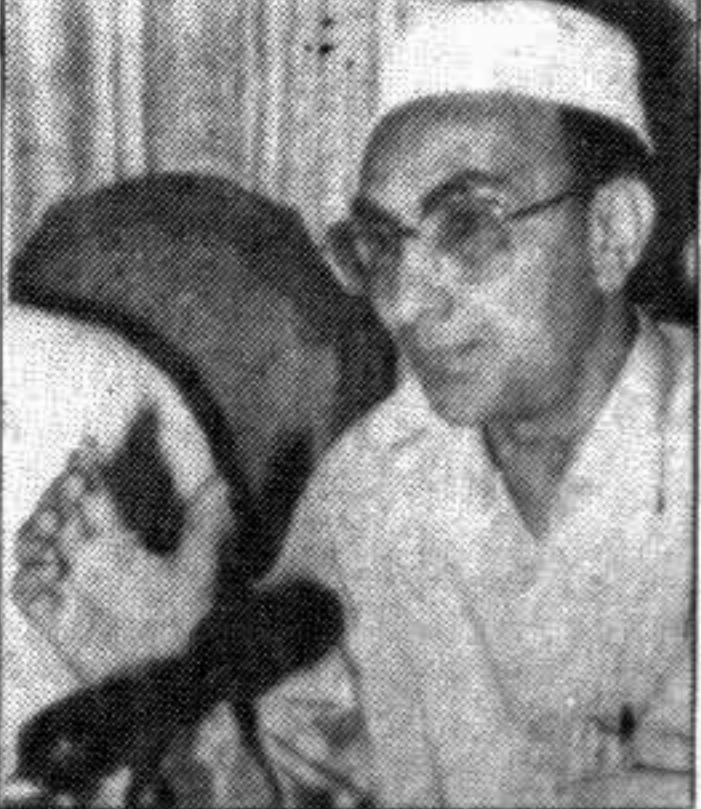
By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has announced a Taka 259.50,28,000 budget on Tuesday for the fiscal 1992-93, which is about Taka 100 crore higher than the previous year's.

DCC Mayor Mirza Abbas also presented the revised budget of Taka 163,60,92,800 for the year 1991-92 at a press conference at the Mayor's official residence at Gulshan.

In the proposed budget (1992-93), Taka 165,76,51,000 has been projected as revenue earnings and the rest as loans

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Mirza Abbas

OIC blasts temple construction at Babri Mosque complex

NICOSIA, July 14: The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) denounced the construction of a Hindu temple near a 16th century mosque in northern India.

The dispute over the temple at the ancient city of Ayodhya has cost 2,000 lives in the last three years. Last week the Hindu fundamentalists began building the temple.

In a statement made available to Reuters today, the 45-member OIC said it was preoccupied with threats

posed by the World Hindu Council of demolishing Ayodhya mosque.

"The OIC expresses its profound concern over the information coming from various sources. That the graveyard adjoining the mosque was dug up by Hindu extremists to a depth of 12 feet under the very eyes of the authorities of the province," the statement said.

"These threats and acts constitute a serious violation of the religious rights of Indian

Muslims as well as their Islamic heritage," it added.

The Jeddah-based organisation urged the Indian government to end "these threats and acts" against the Muslim minority.

PTI adds: The Bihar Assembly adopted a resolution by voice vote Tuesday urging the centre to immediately stop the "illegal" construction by VVIP at the disputed site at Ayodhya even as the BJP members raised an uproar in the house and later staged a noisy

walkout. Shortly after zero hour, members from almost all non-BJP parties trooped into the House to register their protest against the construction work at Ayodhya.

The BJP members also rushed into the House at around the same time and drowned the protests of their political opponents by shouting "Jai Shree Ram."

As Pandemonium prevailed for over ten minutes, the Speaker Gulam Saravar, urged

them to return to their seats. But peace eluded the House even after they went back.

While moving the resolution, the Chief Minister, Laloo Prasad, said the Union Home Minister had observed that the construction was being done in violation of the court order and demanded for the work to be stopped immediately.

Amidst a fresh wave of protests by the BJP members, who again stormed into the House, Prasad urged the chair

to put the resolution to vote. As the resolution was passed by voice vote, BJP walked out of the House.

The Chief Minister then urged the chair that a copy of the resolution adopted by the House be faxed to Delhi today.

Later, talking to newsmen, the BJP Legislator Party leader, Lalumuri Choubey, said that the walkout had been staged in protest against the "pressure tactics" being exerted on the judiciary.