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Inside Today

Article

Foreign Capital Skirts India
 Column: Between the Lines by Kuldip Nayar Page 4

International

VP suggests Rao quit Page 5

Feature

Development
 Administrative system of Manama society Page 8

National

Erosion devours 10 educational institutions in Manikganj Page 9

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

The Welding Hazards Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

City AL meeting today
 The city Awami League will hold a meeting today at 4 pm at the Bangabandhu avenue protesting the 'Anti-people budget, the City Corporation's budget and demanding the withdrawal of the Bill for Prime Minister's Security', a party press release said. The meeting will also be in protest of the 'deteriorating law and order situation and conspiracies against the independence and sovereignty' as well as demanding repeal of the Indemnity Act, the press release added, reports BSS.

Bus passengers robbed
 CHITTAGONG, July 21: Passengers of a Chittagong bound bus were robbed of their cash, gold ornaments, wrist watches and other valuables worth Tk one lakh by a group of dacoits travelling by the same bus at Suaganj near Chaudagram of Comilla district on Monday night, reports BSS.

Body on Indemnity Bill meets
 A meeting of the Special Parliamentary Committee on the Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill was held at the Committee Room No. 1 with the convenor of the committee Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz in the chair. The meeting, 13th in series, held detailed discussion on the Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill, 1991, a press release of the Parliament Secretariat said, reports UNB.

Terror of Mirpur arrested
 Mizanur Rahman, an accomplice of Salam Sikdar, 'the terror of Mirpur', was arrested Tuesday morning. Dhanmondi police, acting on a tip, raided Mizan's residence at Mirpur and picked him up. He has been sent to jail custody, reports UNB.

More troops rushed to Ayodhya

VHP to resist takeover of temple construction site

AYODHYA, July 21: Top Hindu religious leaders today said construction work at the Shilanyas site near the Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid complex would continue at any cost even as the Vishwa Hindu Parishad were preparing a contingency plan to foil any central attempt to takeover the site, reports PTI.

A VHP spokesman said top saints and mahants were engaged in closed door parleys to chalkout the future course of action in the event of any use of force by centre to takeover the Shilanyas site.

The federal government earlier threatened to use force to evict Hindu fundamentalists. We will clear the area of devotees now engaged in building the temple if the state government refuses to honour its constitutional obligations, Home (interior) Minister SB Chavan told Parliament.

The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, Kalyan Singh today took exception to the deployment of additional central para military forces in the state without consulting the state government.

In a telephonic conversation with the Union Home Minister, SB Chavan, on the Ayodhya developments, Singh said the state government had been holding talks with the saints and VHP leaders to persuade them to help implement the High Court order of July 15 staying construction work near the Shilanyas site around the dispute complex at Ayodhya. —PID photo



Leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

Attack on house of Mirza Azam MP

AL, allies stage walkout

Awami League and its allies yesterday walked out of the Jatiya Sangsad in the midst of budget discussion protesting the reported attack on the house of the opposition MP Mirza Azam (AL) in Jamalpur who has submitted a no-confidence notice to the Parliament Secretariat against LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, reports BSS.

The Jatiya Party and the Jamaat, second and third largest opposition parties in the House, did not join the walk-out.

Awami League and others, however, returned to the House after 20 minutes to join the proceedings.

After an hour of general discussion on the budget, Awami League member Mirza Azam wanted to speak on a point of order to say that his house in Jamalpur was ransacked by BNP supporters Monday. But, the member was not allowed the floor despite his repeated insistence. —See Page 12 Col 1

7th SAARC summit in Dhaka from Dec 12

The seventh summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) will be held in Dhaka on December 12-14, it was officially announced Tuesday, reports UNB.

A Foreign Ministry press release said that heads of state and government of member countries Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will take part in the moot.

The sixth summit was held in Colombo in December last year. —See Page 12 Col 5

Unite against terrorism, PM asks student leaders

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon all student organisations to get united in stopping terrorism, reports BSS.

She said proper academic atmosphere, peace and discipline had to be maintained in the educational institutions and for this the terrorism had to be eliminated first.

The Prime Minister was exchanging views with the leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and democratic student unity, an alliance of eight student organisations, who called on her at her office.

The student leaders freely discussed the present student politics, terrorism and academic atmosphere in different universities of the country with Begum Zia.

The democratic student unity apprised the Prime Minister about the case filed against the 60 Rajshahi University student leaders by the Chhatra Shibir. Begum Zia gave them a patient hearing and called upon them to show respect to the rule of law. Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar and DUCSU VP —See Page 12 Col 7

PM's Manama visit: Two accords likely

Two agreements between Bangladesh and Bahrain are likely to be signed during Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's forthcoming state visit to Manama, reports UNB.

Diplomatic sources said one agreement would be on setting up a Joint Economic Commission and another on establishing bilateral cultural cooperation.

Begum Zia, in the first phase of her four-day state visit to Pakistan and Bahrain, is scheduled to fly to Manama on —See Page 12 Col 3

Commentary

AL should not dictate Nirmul Committee agenda

By Mahfuz Anam

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, General Secretary of the Awami League in a meeting last Sunday, advised the Ghatik Nirmul Samannay Committee, (Nirmul Committee in short), to include the demand for the trial of Bangabandhu's killers along with that of Golam Azam, if the Nirmul Committee expects to succeed in its mission. Begum Sajeda Chowdhury's advice is ill-conceived, self-defeating and plays right into the hands of the opponents of the Committee who have been trying their best to prove that the Committee is nothing but a front body of the Awami League.

The suggestion is ill-conceived because every organisation has its separate agenda, and its survival depends on making that agenda as distinct from others as possible. The Nirmul Committee was able to bring together a disparate group of people and unite a large number of diverse bodies on the single demand of Golam Azam's trial. They did not come to the Committee for any other purpose. To impose a new agenda on the Nirmul Committee, namely the demand for trial of Bangabandhu's killers, will only sow seeds of dissension and discord and thereby weaken the movement.

It is self-defeating because, if we are to believe the Awami League General Secretary, then the Nirmul Committee is failing to mobilise the nation on the demand for Golam Azam's trial, and has to bring on the issue of Bangabandhu's murder to gather support for its original agenda.

—See Page 12 Col 4

Shibir murder charge

15 trial body members seek bail today

By Staff Correspondent

Bangabandhu's killers, Lt Col (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman and 13 others are to appear in the Court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate today (Wednesday) to seek bail in the case accusing them of the murder of two activists of the Islam Chhatra Shibir and for inciting the violence that occurred Saturday.

The ICS lodged the case with Ramna thana against the 15 persons alleging their involvement in the killing, but the Ghatik Dal Nirmul Samannay Committee rejected the charges as "false" and "baseless".

DCC acquires Matuail land for garbage dump

By Sharier Khan

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has acquired 52 acres of land at Matuail as a part of the city's new garbage dumping scheme.

The scheme is a part of the 116-crore-taka environmental improvement project funded by the World Bank.

According to sources, the garbage dump at Jatrabari would become unusable in two to three years. The low-lying area there, which is used for the dumping has almost been filled up.

The scheme envisages to follow the 'sanitary land filling method,' according to this method, garbage would be dumped in pits which would be covered by dumping soil over it every day so that no rotten stench would be there.

At present, DCC has to dispose of 2000 to 2500 metric tonnes of garbage from the 333 sq km Dhaka city every day. If this amount can be maintained each day, the Matuail dump can be used for at least 20 years.

Under the new scheme, DCC will add new garbage-carrying trucks to its present fleet of 170 vehicles. At present, DCC requires 184 vehicles.

The new trucks, having certain mechanical advantages, —See Page 12 Col 1

Lakhani's bail prayer rejected

The bail prayer of Lakhani, a senior executive of Scimitar Exploration Ltd, was rejected Tuesday by Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Nazimuddin Ahmed, reports UNB.

Lakhani, Senior Vice President and a Director of Scimitar, was arrested on charge of forgery. A Pakistani national, Lakhani is married to a Bangladeshi woman.

It is alleged that the government signed a contract in 1987 with the Scimitar for exploration of petroleum in Sylhet district.

After expiry of the contract, the company applied for extension and the matter was under consideration. But before a final decision on the —See Page 12 Col 4

Hearing of Azam's writ continues

'Intention of a person is important'

Citizenship clings to a person as long as he doesn't denounce it, pleaded the defence counsel in the court yesterday claiming Golam Azam as a born citizen of Bangladesh as his parents and forefathers were, reports UNB.

Barrister AR Yusuf quoted a law book, "Conflict of Laws", written by Dicey and Morrison, to substantiate his argument before a High Court division bench of the Supreme Court.

"Domicile of origin" determines citizenship, he said, quoting from the book.

"Temporary absence cannot disqualify a person for citizenship," he further pleaded placing his argument on a writ in Golam Azam's citizenship case.

Citing two judgements incorporated in the Dhaka Law Report in Abdul Huq and Hamidul Huq Chowdhury's cases—No 33 and 39 respectively—where, Yusuf said, it has been mentioned that temporary absence of a person cannot disqualify him from his citizenship.

Barrister Yusuf said Golam Azam had been here till November 22, 1971 and came back on July 1978—a temporary absence from the country.

Intention of a person is very important... Golam Azam had all along intended to return to Bangladesh, Yusuf further pleaded, adding after leaving Pakistan in 1972, he never went back to Pakistan.

Citizenship and acquisition of passport are not synonymous, the defence lawyer stated citing Mirza Shahab Ispahani case in DLR 40.

Ispahani surrendered his Pakistani passport to British authorities and came to Bangladesh with a British passport in 1972.

He filed the case to get back his passport, in which the judgement made it clear that citizenship and passport are not synonymous, Yusuf said.

Golam Azam was compelled to take Pakistani passport as "travel document" to come back to the country with that in 1978 and surrendered it to the authorities, he said.

DU teachers for united move to curb terrorism

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University teachers at a meeting yesterday (Tuesday) decided to take necessary action through the Disciplinary Board against terrorist activities on which the investigation reports have been prepared.

The meeting was attended by teachers' representatives to the DU Senate and Syndicate, deans, provosts, proctors, department chairmen and directors of the different institutes of the university with the Vice Chancellor Professor Maniruzzaman Miah in the chair.

The meeting observed that —See Page 12 Col 7

Mubarak, Rabin to work for ME peace



Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (Left) meeting in Cairo Tuesday with President Hosni Mubarak in the 13th Israeli-Egyptian summit. —TV photo

CAIRO, July 21: President Hosni Mubarak said Tuesday he has accepted an invitation to visit Israel. It would be the first visit by an Egyptian president to the Jewish state since the assassination of Anwar Sadat in 1981, reports AP.

Mubarak told a news conference held jointly with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that together they could advance the Middle East peace process.

But Mubarak added that he expected additional confidence-building measures from Israel. Rabin was invited to Egypt after his Cabinet ordered a temporary suspension of Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to 1.8 million Palestinians.

The two leaders spoke after 1 1/2 hours of talks.

Mubarak also offered to host bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations, stalled for three months, in Cairo. Rabin said Israel initially is committed to having —See Page 12 Col 8

চট্টগ্রামে বেসিকের আরো একটি শাখা

বার আউলিয়ার দেশ বন্দর নগরী চট্টগ্রামের জুবলী রোডে আজ শুরু হচ্ছে বেসিক-এর ১২তম শাখার কার্যক্রম।

ক্ষুদ্র শিল্পের বিকাশ ও সম্প্রসারণসহ বেসিকের সকল প্রকার ব্যাংকিং কার্যক্রম সর্বদা গ্রাহক কল্যাণ ও সমৃদ্ধি লক্ষ্যে নিয়োজিত।

BASIC

ব্যাংক অব স্মল ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ এন্ড কমার্স বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড

(সরকারী মালিকানাধীন একটি তফসীলি ব্যাংক)

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ফোন: ৮৬২৮১২-৩, টেলেক্স: ৬৩২১৮৫ বেসিক বিজে ডায়াল: ০০-৮৮-০২-৮৬৩৫৪৮