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Inside Today

Article

ME Peace May Help Bush Retain Presidency

Spotlight on Middle East by Musleh-uddin Ahmad
 Page 4

International

UN Council body demarcates Iraq-Kuwait border



Attorneys for Michael Jackson have filed suits for libel and breach of contract against The Daily Mirror
 Page 5

Business

Steps to be taken to encourage local and foreign investment for development of tourism
 Page 7

National

Five get life term for killing one in Sylhet
 Page 11

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



In Search of Roots
 Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Amjad Khan dead

NEW DELHI, July 28: Indian actor Amjad Khan, who appeared in more than 200 films died of a heart attack at his home in Bombay, local news agencies reported today. He was 49, reports Reuter.

BCL activist stabbed

BARGUNA, July 28: One BCL activist was stabbed several times and admitted to Sadar hospital today. Md Mohsin (20), a Chhatra League supporter of Barguna Government College, was attacked this evening near the hospital by a group of miscreants, reports UNB.

Shishu Chalachitra Sangsad body

A 25-member Executive Committee of Bangladesh Shishu Chalachitra Sangsad for the year 1992-94 was constituted in Dhaka on July 25, according to a press release of the Sangsad. Reazuddin Ahmed, Ahmed Bashir and Syed Fazley Alam have been President, General Secretary and Treasurer of the committee, reports BSS.

Killing of JCD activist condoned

Abdus Salam Talukder, Secretary General of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister yesterday condemned the brutal killing of Siddeswari College branch Chhatra Dal Organising Secretary Shafiqul Islam Shafiq yesterday by Chhatra League terrorists, a party press release said, reports BSS.

Boat capsized in Jamuna

SIRAJGANJ, July 28: Six people were reportedly missing when an engine boat capsized in river Jamuna near Meekhola in Kazipur thana this morning, reports UNB.

Shantibahini guns down 4 policemen

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 28: Shantibahini insurgents in a fresh attack today gunned down four policemen in Longadu upazila of Rangamati district.

The victims were one Havildar, one Nayek and two constables.

According to police, the Shantibahini men opened indiscriminate fire on the police personnel from a hill-top jungle at about 7:30 am. The policemen were heading towards a road protection outpost at Manikka Karbari Para of Longadu upazila.

One policeman managed to escape.

The bodies were flown to Chittagong at noon today.

The latest Shantibahini attack came after a lull of about two months.

The insurgents took away the victims' arms -- one SMG, one SLR and two three-not-three rifles.

Meanwhile, another encounter between the outlaws

and police took place near Nazimtila-Harakmarkarbari-para this morning. But no casualty was reported.

In Dhaka meantime, representatives of "Bangali Krishak Sramik Kallyan Parishad" on Tuesday said that the people of the cluster villages in Khagrachari district would like to come back to their respective areas instead of being the victims of the so-called Shantibahini.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club vice-president of the organisation Sheikh Mizanur Rahman and organising secretary Syed Anwar Hossain said that Bengali-speaking people of the areas were leading a captive life in the cluster villages and were sometimes passing their days without food.

The parishad leaders said that the Shantibahini atrocities that started in 1986 were still continuing and that the villagers felt a sense of insecurity

and could not go out of the villages for additional income.

They demanded adequate security to and sufficient rations for every family and said that without security it was not possible for them to stay there.

The parishad leaders drew the government's attention to the "Pahari Chhatra Parishad" and demanded a ban on its activities terming the organisation a wing of the Shantibahini.

They said that a malaria epidemic had been playing the area but that no medicare facilities had so far been provided to the villagers.

The parishad demanded inclusion of representatives from the Chittagong Hill Tracts National Co-ordination and Peace Council (CHTNCPC) in the nine-member Parliamentary Committee formed recently.

Secretary general of the Bangladesh Human Rights Commission and convener of CHTNCPC Saiful Islam Dildar was present at the press conference.

Kabul govt seeks Dhaka's help for reconstruction

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

The provisional government of war-ravaged Afghanistan has sought assistance from the international community, including Bangladesh for its reconstruction efforts.

An officials source said that the government was considering to respond to the request and likely to make some 'token' contribution.

The source did not specify, but indicated that Dhaka might despatch a medical team and send some assistance in kind -- tea for example.

The government initiative apart, the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society is likely to provide help to be channelled through its counterpart in Kabul.

Dhaka received a formal request from Kabul earlier this month in this regard, and an Afghan embassy man met Foreign Ministry officials.

Meanwhile, Kabul is to raise the strength of its Dhaka mission, now manned by only three diplomats. The two officials, the Charge d'Affaires and a first secretary, who have been here since before the changeover, have recently

See Page 12 Col 6



Chinese super diver Fu Mingxia, 13, happily displays the gold medal after winning the women's 10m platform final in Barcelona Monday.
 — AFP photo

More golds for China

BARCELONA, July 28: US Olympic record of 684.8

swimmer Matt Biondi, winner of seven medals in 1988, began his quest for Olympic history Tuesday, while China won two shooting events at the Summer Games and raised its gold-medal total to five, reports AP.

Meanwhile, two rivals met in a showdown for gold in women's gymnastics between the US and former Soviet teams. But togetherness was the theme as US men's volleyball players, still seething from a game lost by an official ruling, shaved their heads before winning a key match with Canada.

China's Wang Yifu won the men's air pistol event with an



Barcelona '92

Triangular fight: Riot police deployed

BL College closed sine die

KHULNA, July 28: Authorities of Government BL College at Daulatpur here today closed down the college for an indefinite period following a clash between activists of Shibir and BCL, JCD and others in the campus, reports UNB.

The college authorities have also asked the students to vacate the halls by 10 pm tonight.

The clash, following the judgement of Shafiq murder case Monday, erupted between the supporters of the rival groups.

Shafiq, a Shibir leader of Rajshahi University was killed by during a violence in 1989, April 18 in the campus. The judgement of the killing was awarded Monday which acquitted all the accused, 18 of whom were activists of Gonolantic Chhatra Oikya.

Tension in the campus, which has been prevailing since the judgement was pronounced, mounted at around 10 am today when supporters of BCL, JCD and Chhatra Moitri entered the campus forcibly.

Shibir activists were resisting other students from entering the campus since the announcement of the judgement.

The clash with chase and counter chase lasted till 6 pm resulting in injury of four activists. Several rooms in four halls were also ransacked during the clash.

The injured are Nazrul Islam and Ahad of Shibir, Sirajul Islam (BCL) and Biplob of (JCD).

Meanwhile, eight platoons of riot police were deployed in the campus and hall areas.

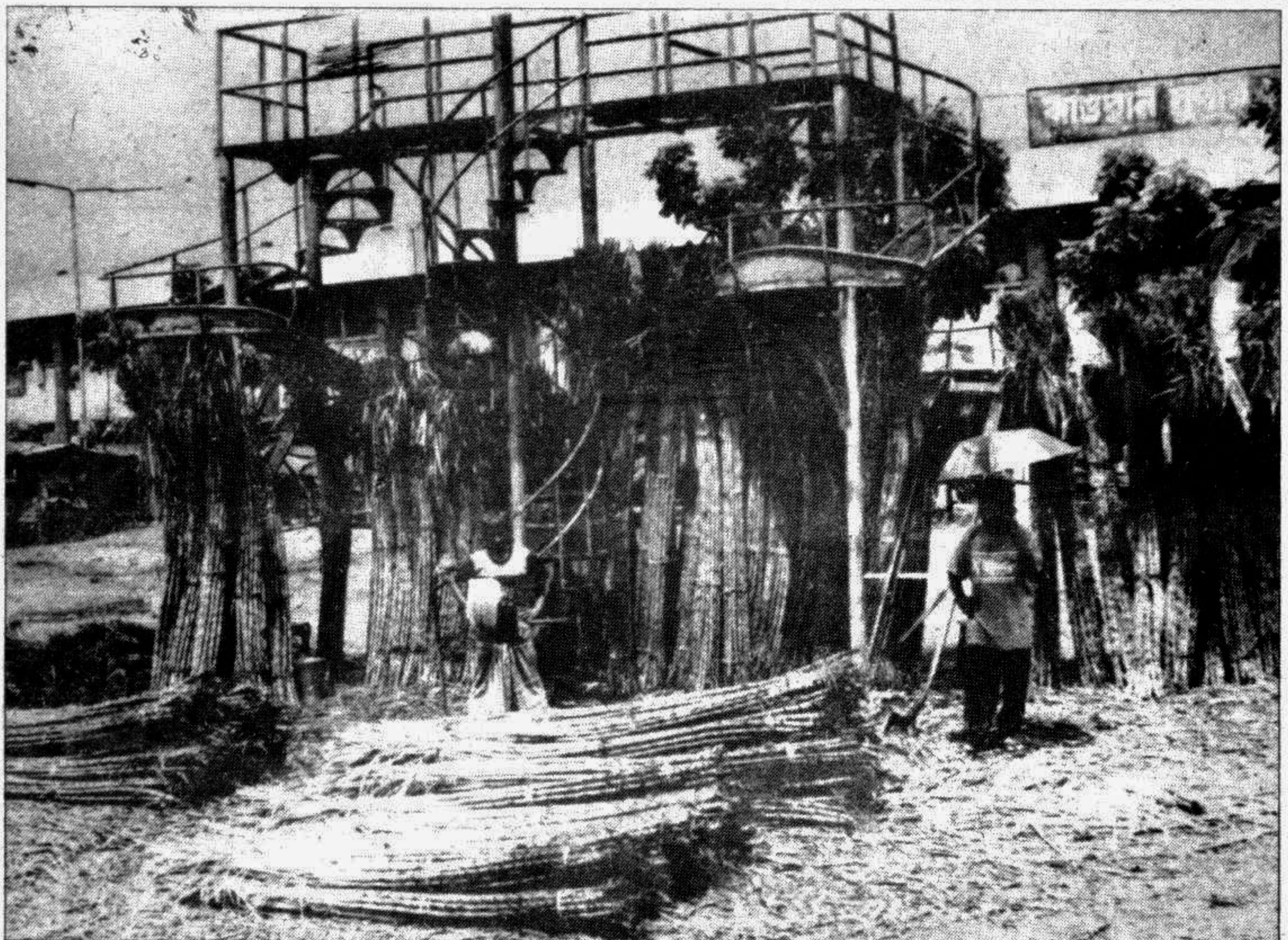
Mostafiz arrives in Paris

PARIS, July 28: Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman arrived here this morning on a three-day official visit to France, reports BSS.

Rahman who is accompanied by Additional Foreign Secretary A H Mahmood Ali, was received at the Charles De Gaulle International Airport by senior officials of the French Foreign Ministry. Bangladesh Ambassador to France K M Shehabuddin and French Ambassador to Dhaka Serge Degal-laix were present.

The whole range of bilateral relations between Bangladesh

See Page 12 Col 2



A PARK WITH A DIFFERENCE: Sugarcane vendors are trying to make the Karwan Bazar 'Children's Park' even sweeter than what it was designed to be. There are no residential plots around this little park. There is the kitchen market on one side, and a wholesale market and business houses on the other. The road in front of the park is a dead-end. The city planners 'perhaps' thought that the shoppers would send their kids in the park before getting into the market or that the weary businessmen of the neighbourhood would take a little rest in it. Alas! no shouts of the happy toddlers are heard any longer in the park. During the day it is a park all right, but for the vendors. In the dark, Karwan Bazar Children's Park becomes a den of anti-social elements.
 — Star photo

30,000 Children go blind annually

By Inam Ahmed

The Child blindness situation in the country has not improved in the past ten years with 30000 children still going blind every year, according to a report of the Planning Commission.

The report said that the number in childblindness in 1982-83 was the same as it is today despite different government programmes to prevent it during the period.

Against this backdrop, the government now plans a Taka 37 crore project to prevent childblindness.

The project will begin in 1992-93 and continue till 1996.

The project contains three components — nutritional education, distribution of vitamin A and distribution of iodine tablets. Most children go blind due to vitamin A deficiency.

Different non-government and government programmes have been going on to distribute vitamin A capsules. However, contradictory figures are available on the coverage of vitamin A capsule distribution.

According to the Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN), the coverage is 85 per cent. On the other hand, a BRAC report in 1990 said that the coverage was only 35 per cent of the children.

According to government report, the percentage of night blindness has been reduced significantly in the last seven years. From 3.6 per cent in 1982-83, the percentage of

night blindness has come down to 1.78 per cent.

Though the annual number of blind children has not shown any significant change over the last ten years, it came down from 170 cases per one lakh children in 1982-83 to 130 cases per one lakh children in 1990-91. Of the 30000 blind children each year, half of them die within five years of their age.

Shuvo Jewellers burglary: One nabbed, stolen gold recovered

By Staff Correspondent

A team of Bangladesh Jewellers Association nabbed on person from Tanti Bazar area Tuesday morning in connection with the burglary at Shuvo Jewellers, and recovered 24 tolas of stolen gold.

Burglars broke into Shuvo Jewellers at Baitul Mokarram Market sometime between Thursday night and Friday night during the weekly closure of the market. The burglars decamped with 210 tolas of gold from the shop, the owner claimed.

The president of the association, Syed Shamsul Alam, told The Daily Star that acting on a secret tip-off, he and some of his associates rushed to a shop

See Page 12 Col 4

Hasina in Canada 'BNP violating pre-election pledges'

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina was given a warm reception when she arrived in Canada Monday ending her trip to the United States, reports UNB.

On arrival at Montreal airport, the Awami League chief was greeted with bouquet by expatriate Bangladeshis and party supporters. She was then taken to Montreal City auditorium and was accorded a reception, according to party press release issued in Dhaka yesterday.

Speaking at the reception, Hasina recalled with gratitude the contributions of the expatriate Bangladeshis in mobilising world opinion in favour of the anti-autocracy movement.

Narrating the post-autocracy political, social and economic situation in Bangladesh, the opposition leader said

See Page 12 Col 3

US iterates Kashmir solution thru Shimla Pact

WASHINGTON, July 28: A senior State Department official has reiterated the US position that the Kashmir issue should be settled bilaterally between India and Pakistan under the Shimla Agreement, reports PTI.

He told Indian correspondents here yesterday that the US firmly believes that Kashmir is a problem that must be solved between the parties.

The US is going to do everything possible to encourage the parties, he said. If the parties want to encourage the US to take on a different role or do something else, then they should of course speak.

7 more die of diarrhoea in C'Nawabganj

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, July 28: Diarrhoeal death toll in Chapainawabganj district has increased to 11.

Diarrhoea is taking epidemic form in Nawabganj Municipality. At least three thousand people were inflicted with diarrhoea here and seven people died.

The dead include: Anwar (45) of Huzrapur, Babu (14) of Belepkur, Mamun (25) of Chandail, Tamin (6 months) of Sahapara, Purnima (6) of Nayanpuka and Moktar Hossain (22) of Chandail.

US team starts inspection as US warships head for Gulf

MANAMA (Bahrain), July 28: UN weapons experts began searching Baghdad's Agriculture Ministry on Tuesday for information on terror weapons that may already have been spirited away during a three-week standoff, reports AP.

The United States, which led the alliance that defeated Iraq in the Gulf War, kept up the pressure on Saddam Hussein to meet other terms of the cease-fire. President Bush sent warships to the re-

gion. Kevin St Louis, a member of the UN Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament reached by satellite telephone in Baghdad, confirmed that the inspection had begun and said the area around the Agriculture Ministry was "quite peaceful and calm."

The ministry, which was the scene of repeated demonstrations that had forced the United Nations to pull back inspectors last week, was sur-

rounded by security barriers. St Louis told The Associated Press that Rolf Ekeus, the Swedish diplomat who heads the disarmament commission, did not go to the ministry with the team of experts led by the German Achim Biermann.

St Louis said Ekeus held a news conference to announce the inspection was proceeding and relate that he had met with Iraqi officials at the Foreign Ministry.

Two American members of

the inspection team and a Russian remained outside under a compromise worked out between Iraq and the United Nations. None of the experts inside were from countries that went to war last year to force Iraq to reverse its invasion of Kuwait.

Under the terms of the cease-fire, Iraq must demolish its weapons of mass destruction under UN supervision. Tuesday's inspection follows a tense standoff that ended after

said Monday it was sending a battery of Patriot missiles to Kuwait and a third aircraft carrier to the Middle East to step up pressure on Saddam.

American forces also were preparing to join Kuwaiti troops in exercises next week dubbed operation "Eager Mace '92-93." Kuwait's ambassador to the United Nations, Mohammed A Abulhasan, told reporters in New York that Iraq might try to invade his country again.

The Bush administration