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The Daily Star

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Announcement

Due to wider coverage of the Barcelona Olympic Games we are constrained to hold back Rising Stars till the end of the Olympics. Inconvenience caused to our young readers is sincerely regretted.

— Management

NEWS BRIEFS

Huda visits Press Club

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda visited the National Press Club yesterday (Friday). He exchanged views with the leaders of the journalists unions on different developmental aspects of the Club. BPUJ President Rezauddin Ahmed, Secretary General Amanullah Kabir, DUJ President Shahjahan Miah and General Secretary Altaf Mahmud, Press Club President Mohammed Haq and other leaders of the journalists unions were present, reports UNB.

16 injured in Sirajganj clash

SIRAJGANJ, July 31: Sixteen people were injured, four seriously, in a clash between two rival groups in village Gupirpara of sadar thana of the district today. Four of the injured were admitted to sadar hospital with stab injuries. The rest were released after being given first aid, reports UNB.

SSC examinee killed in clash

BRAHMANBARIA, July 31: Naimul Haq (17), who appeared in this year's SSC examination, was killed in a clash at Narsinghar village of Brahmanbaria sadar thana today. Five people, including a woman, were also injured in the clash between rival groups of villagers this morning. The clash ensued over previous enmity, reports UNB.

Gun, ammunition looted

MAGURA, July 31: Armed miscreants looted a country made gun with 5 rounds of ammunition from a house in sadar thana of the district Thursday, reports UNB.

Over 100 injured in clash : 14 arrested : Classes suspended

Police recover rocket launcher from RU hall

By Staff Correspondent

Rajshahi University wore a desolate look Friday as most of the residential students deserted the campus following a pitched battle the previous night that left more than 100 injured.

Police in a pre-dawn swoop on four residential halls of the university Friday recovered huge quantity of weapons and ammunition including a rocket launcher and arrested 14 students.

Rajshahi University Syndicate in an emergency meeting banned rallies, meetings and processions on the campus for three days from Friday.

The Syndicate also decided to tighten security calling police at all the student dormitories.

Our correspondent reports: Hundreds of the university students huddled in shuttle buses hurriedly left the campus following a seven-hour clash between the activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) and the supporters of Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO).

Fourteen RU students were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with stab wounds. Condition of Kuttubuddin, Shahidul Islam, Masudur Rahman and Shahinur Rahman, residents of Sher-e-Bangla Hall, were serious, according to the doctors.

A special contingent of the Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) raided the Nawab Abdul Latif Hall, Shah Makhdum Hall, Shahid Dr Shamsuzzoha Hall and Syed Amir Ali Hall at about five in the Friday morning.

Campus dwellers said that about 200 police men in full riot gear rounded off the halls and recovered one rocket launcher, five pipe guns, 17 Chinese axes, 35 rounds of shells of different firearms, 15 hand bombs, 35 arrows, one bill hook (ramdao), five tridents (trishul), one machete, 14 spears and seven knives. RMP also gave the same recovery list.

Police arrested 14 people during the raids. However, the identity of the arrested were not immediately available.

Campus sources said that Syed Amir Ali Hall and Zeha Sec Page 12 Col 1

Rousing cheers for Ben Johnson

Ben Johnson

BARCELONA, July 31: Ben Johnson, the cheat who shamed the Olympics, was given a rousing cheer when he burst back on stage with a lightning start at the Barcelona Games on Friday, reports Reuter.

Gone were the stocky frame and yellow eyes of a man pumped full of steroids.

But the Canadian who used to start quicker than a Grand Prix car can still press that accelerator pedal.

The man, vilified on Seoul as the sprinter who went from hero to zero in 9.79 seconds was greeted with a banner saying 'Corre ben' (run Ben).

His name being announced on the loudspeaker brought the loudest cheer of the day.

Johnson shot from the blocks and then, knowing he had qualified, coasted to the line in second place behind Nigerian Davidson Ezingwa.

"My muscles feel good. My mind feels good. I just have to have a good day. That wasn't a bad start," said the man of few words.

But he will have his work cut out to topple European champion Linford Christie and Sec Page 12 Col 3



Sensation

Olympic medals table after this morning's events (Gold, Silver, Bronze), reports AFP.

MEDAL TABLE

United Team	19	8	10
United States	11	12	10
China	7	10	4
Hungary	6	4	1
South Korea	5	0	2
Germany	4	5	9
Australia	3	3	3
Poland	3	3	1
Japan	2	2	4
Cuba	2	2	2
Turkey	2	1	0
Spain	2	0	0
Bulgaria	1	4	0
France	1	3	8
Italy	1	3	4
Britain	1	1	2
Norway	1	1	0
Canada	1	0	1
Sweden	0	3	3
New Zealand	0	2	2
Romania	0	1	4
Peru	0	1	0
Latvia	0	1	0
Brazil	0	1	0
Israel	0	1	0
Holland	0	0	3
JOP	0	0	2
Finland	0	0	1
Belgium	0	0	1
Mongolia	0	0	1
North Korea	0	0	1
Surinam	0	0	1

Two planes crash in China, Nepal

Over 200 feared killed

LONDON, July 31: A Yak-42 airliner carrying 116 passengers and 10 crew members crashed on takeoff from Nanjing Airport in east China today, killing 100 of those on board, Xinhua news agency reported, reports Reuter.

It said the 26 other people on board the flight, from Nanjing City in Jiangsu Province to Xiamen City in southeast China's Fujian Province, were injured and rescue operations were still going on.

The aircraft, operated by the China General-purpose Airline Company, failed to lift off and ended in a ball of fire about 600 metres (yards) beyond the runway, the agency said.

Report from Kathmandu says: A Thai Airways Airbus carrying 99 passengers and 14 crew crashed in Nepal today and the wreckage was spotted about 100 km (60 miles) south of Kathmandu, a senior police official said.

He said the wreckage of the plane was reported by soldiers near the village of Aghor but it was not immediately possible to say whether there were any survivors.

Deputy airport manager of Kathmandu airport said, "since the plane crashed on a hill, the chances of any survivors is very slim," he told reporters.

Police rescue teams had already been sent in that direction and were heading towards the village along a narrow, twisting mountain road that leads south to India, he said.

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TWA jet catches fire on takeoff

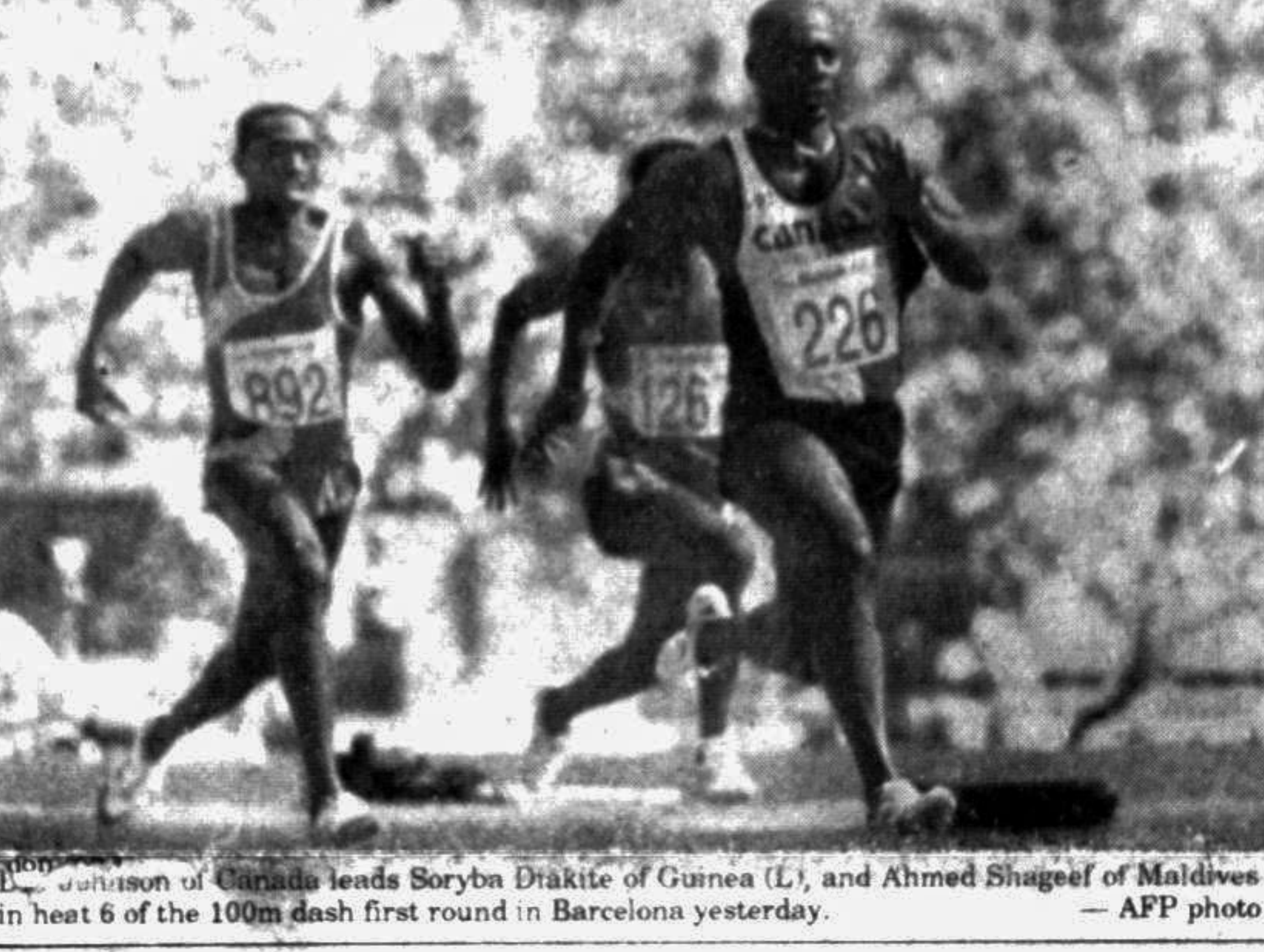
Over 200 feared killed

NEW YORK, July 31: All 291 people aboard a TWA jet escaped to safety on a runway at Kennedy airport within minutes of an aborted takeoff and fire that gutted the rear half of the plane. At least 55 people were injured.

"It's amazing no one died on that thing," said Tom Middlemiss, an airport spokesman.

The Lockheed L-1011, bound for San Francisco, caught fire Thursday as it sped down the runway. The takeoff was aborted, causing the plane to veer off the runway and crash through a barrier.

The fire prevented escape. Sec Page 12 Col 5



Ben Johnson of Canada leads Soryba Diakite of Guinea (L), and Ahmed Shageef of Maldives in heat 6 of the 100m dash first round in Barcelona yesterday. — AFP photo

CPB leader stabbed to death in Khulna

By Staff Correspondent

Unidentified miscreants yesterday stabbed to death Ratan Sen, an elderly leader of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at the Khulna metropolitan city, reports reaching in the capital said.

The CPB, however, accused the Jamaat-Shibir activists of murdering its leader in a cowardly and brutal manner.

Ratan Sen, president of CPB Khulna district unit and a former secretary of the party's central body, was attacked by some miscreants near the Khulna Stadium at around 9.30 am on his way from Rupsha Ferry Ghat to the local party office, party sources said.

The miscreants pulled down Sen from the rickshaw he was riding, stabbed him indiscriminately and cut the tendons of his legs and hands, party sources quoted the witnesses as saying.

He was rushed to the hospital where doctors declared him dead.

The CPB has called a half-day hartal at Khulna city today (Saturday) to protest the murder.

Reports received from Khulna last night said, police detained the rickshawpuller for interrogation. Tension gripped the city following the incident.



Ratan Sen demanding arrest and punishment of the killers. Born in Uzirpur under Barisal district, Ratan Sen joined anti-British Movement and became member of the Communist Party in early forties. In his long political career, he spent 22 years in captivity and in hiding. A bachelor and a dedicated politician, Sen was all along associated with left politics. He Sec Page 12 Col 6

No substitute for breast milk : PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the countrymen to popularize the breastfeeding programme for healthy growth of children, reports BSS.

In a message on the occasion of the World Breastfeeding Day, the Prime Minister said breast milk is a human right for baby and it has no substitute. Mothers would have to be inspired for feeding their children breast milk, she said.

Begum Zia said the issue of breastfeeding is very important in a developing country like ours and all have to be careful in this regard. A publicity drive has been started in the meantime about breastfeeding.

The Prime Minister pointed out that breast milk is the best food for the babies, but in many cases they are not fed breast milk properly.

Many mothers also prefer to feed babies bottled milk instead of breast milk due to ignorance and distorted culture, she said.

Begum Zia said the physical and mental growth of the children is impeded by not giving them breast milk as per requirements. Side by side, she said, risk of infection and death also increase many fold.

The Prime Minister said healthcare of children has been given due importance as they are the future of the nation.

WB mission chief worried over 'future of country'

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman Friday stressed the need that political parties arrive at a national consensus on major economic issues to provide political backing and commitment for the development programmes in the country.

The much coveted objective of economic development cannot be achieved without national consensus, the Finance Minister said while inaugurating a day-long special seminar on "Development Agendas for the 90s."

Organised by the Bangladesh Economic Association, the morning session of the seminar was chaired by Prof Rehman Sobhan while the afternoon session was chaired by former finance minister A M A Muhiit. The seminar was held at the Planning Academy auditorium.

The Finance Minister went on to point out that on the issue of market economy there already existed a consensus among the major political parties of the country.

There is no reason why debate cannot be turned into action, he said, as many of the economic issues have been identified as far back as 1972. "We should go above political rhetoric and discuss the issues on a purely economic and social level," he noted, adding "let us come to a conclusion which will enable us to act upon and show results."

The Finance Minister said that although the macro-economic sector had been well set to boost the economy problems in implementation, management and low level of efficiency were hindering that process.

Presentations and discussions took place on macro-economic policies, poverty alleviation, women in development, technology development, environment, industrial policy, food and agriculture, financial sector reform decentralisation and human resource development. Participants at the seminar included former cabinet ministers, parliamentarians, economists and experts, representatives of donor agencies and leading businessmen of the country.

In his opening remarks Prof Sobhan said that the discussions on the recommendations of the Task Force was long overdue. He urged the government to make use of the recommendations in the overall development planning process.

Presenting the paper on macro-economic policies, Dr Wahiduddin Mahmood, who was also the convener of the task force on the same subject, pointed out that the success of the ongoing market oriented policies depended on the performance of the private sector.

However, he added, private sector investment had gone on a declining trend since the 80s and whatever private investment had taken place had been diverted from other development sectors. "It needs to be stressed that the market oriented policies were not a substitute for development."

Furthermore, Dr Mahmood noted that there was a deficient investment demand characterised by the poor record of the private sector in generating surplus.

He said that a lot of rigidity in the aid conditionalities by donors arose out of lack of credibility in the government's macro-economic policies. Conflicts exist between tariff, revenue and efficiency in the economy, he added.

Discussing on the presentation of Christopher Willoughby, the World Bank Resident Mission chief, said that the government achieved a 'great deal' in Sec Page 12 Col 7

Hasina in Boston

'Ruling clique involved in corruption'

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has said that the ruling clique is involved in corruption, reports UNB.

Hasina, now in the US city of Boston, Mass at the invitation of Bangladesh Association of New England, was speaking at a reception Wednesday at the renowned MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology).

"We are determined to ensure food, clothes, work, education, health and shelter for the deprived multitude," she told the reception, a party press release today (Friday) said.

The function, presided over by Dr Shajahan Mahmud, was also addressed, among others, by party MPs Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Abul Hasan Chowdhury and Prof Abdul Mannan, Poet Mohammad Sec Page 12 Col 8

Specific date for Rohingya repatriation demanded

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, July 31: The Rohingya Refugee Repatriation Committee (RRRC), a body formed recently by the community leaders here, today demanded that the government announce a specific date to start repatriation of more than quarter of a million Rohingyas who were driven from their homes in Myanmar in 1978.

The RRRC in a protest rally at Cox's Bazar in Ukhiya thana demanded suspension of construction of all refugee camps including the camp of Jumnapara in Ukhiya upazila.

The rally presided over by Advocate Ahmed Hossain and addressed by former upazila chairman of Ukhiya Mahmudul Haq Chowdhury, Badsha Mia Chowdhury, Makbul Hossain Chowdhury, GS of Cox's Bazar Government College Jasimuddin and Abul Kashem said that construction of camps were destroying the environment.

Accusing the Rabita al-Islam al-Islami and International Islamic Relief Organisation (IIRO) of providing arms to the refugees, the committee demanded suspension of all relief activities by those organisations.

The RRRC said it would hand over memorandum of their demands to the Prime Minister, the Relief and Repatriation Commissioner, camp-in-charges of various camps, DCs, and SFs on August 2.

If the demands were not met, the RRRC warned that it would halt running of vehicles Sec Page 12 Col 9

Heavy fighting in Sarajevo, airport closed again

SARAJEVO, July 31: Serb forces and Bosnian territorial units fought a major battle near a maternity hospital and zoo in downtown Sarajevo on Friday. Doctors said at least eight people were killed, reports AP.

Fighting erupted before dawn in the Poljine section, in the northern part of the downtown area and continued into the afternoon.

The battle came in an upsurge of fighting around the Bosnian capital that forced temporary closure of the airport, its lifeline to the outside world. Authorities issued a warning to residents, and central Sarajevo was deserted.

Fifty orphans who were to be evacuated from Sarajevo on Friday were stranded by the fighting.

The increased fighting followed several days of talks in London among representatives of the Muslim-led government, and Bosnia's Serbs and Croats on a political settlement to the conflict that has killed at least 7,500 people since spring.

Little progress was reported. Talks among the same representatives two weeks ago resulted in a cease-fire that lasted only a matter of hours before it collapsed.

Bosnian territorial officials said the infantry and artillery battle began with a Serb assault on the neighborhood. But territorial forces appeared to be pushing the Serbs back.



An exhibition match was played between the Film Artistes Association and Football Players Welfare Association at the National Stadium yesterday to raise fund for the distressed footballers and film-artists. The match ended in a 2-2 draw. — Star photo