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Inside Today

Article
Foreign Investment: What are the Prospects for Bangladesh?
 On the record: By Shah AMS Kibria Page 4

International

 Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said he never authorised political bugging by the KGB
 US sending 2400 troops to Kuwait for war games Page 5

Business
 Govt, jute-textile workers accord only temporarily averts crisis
 Sugar producers divided over EC single market Pages 6, 7

Metropolitan
Dhaka Day by Day

 A Case for Newspapers Page 3

JCD-BCL clash: 20 hurt: Police deployed MMC closed sine die

From Our Correspondent

The Mymensingh Medical College (MMC) was closed sine die Saturday following clashes between rival students that left at least 20 injured, official sources said.

Students were ordered to vacate the hostel.

Activists of the pro-Awami League Chhatra League BCL (M-I) and the ruling party-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) locked in clashes over a dispute on the cultural week, witnesses said adding that seriously injured Shameem and Mizanur were admitted to hospital.

College sources said that students left the hostel by 5 pm Saturday, the deadline set by the authorities.

The closure decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the College Academic Council chaired by the Principal, in front of whose office the clashes took place.

During the clashes both the groups used firearms, rods, sticks and knives. Clashes continued for more than an hour. General students ran helter-skelter amid the firing and indiscriminate cocktail blasts, witnesses said.

The JCD activists were on a sit-in strike in front of the Principal's office before the trouble erupted. They went there to hand over a memorandum demanding punishment to those involved in an untoward incident over holding the cultural week at the college.

Saturday's clashes were a sequel to the July 29 incident between the two groups over a painting placed at the back of the stage erected on the occasion of the college cultural week.

JCD activists alleged the painting, a woman in a dancing posture, bore some similarity

BCL factions trade gunfire in DU again

By DU Correspondent

An hour-long gunfight between two feuding factions of the Chhatra League (BCL) rocked the Dhaka University campus again yesterday (Saturday).

Over 150 shots were fired from different firearms near the Arts Building and its western area known as the 'Mall' area of the University at about 11.15 am yesterday, witnesses said.

According to the sources police lobbed around 15 tear gas canisters to disperse militants of the Montu-backed 'third world' and the BCL (M-I) groups.

Witnesses said that the Montu faction activists entered



Shotput gold-medalist Michael Stulce of the US prepares to throw in Barcelona Friday.



Students run helter-skelter for safety as the BCL factions start gunfire on the campus (top) and police action during the clash (bottom) yesterday. — Star photo

Christie, Devers win 100m golds

BARCELONA, Aug 1: Britain's Linford Christie powered to victory in the men's 100 meters Saturday, finishing in 9.96 seconds.

Frank Fredericks of Namibia won the silver in 10:02. Dennis Mitchell of the United States won the bronze in 10:04, reports AP.

American Gail Devers won the women's 100 meters Saturday in an unofficial time of 10.82 seconds. Juliet Cuthbert of Jamaica won silver and Irina Privalova of the Unified Team took the bronze.

Devers, who almost had her feet amputated a few years ago because of Graves disease, jumped in the air for joy after realising she had won the race and then climbed into the stands to hug a friend.

Devers, 25, failed to reach the final at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Cuthbert finished a hundredth of a second behind Devers and Privalova was another hundredth of a second behind in third place.



Linford Christie...100m gold

Sensation

MEDAL TABLE

BARCELONA, Aug 1: Olympics medals table on the seventh day of competition on Saturday (tabulated — gold, silver, bronze):

	G	S	B
CIS	21	13	13
United States	15	15	14
Germany	11	10	11
China	8	12	4
Hungary	8	5	2
Australia	5	8	5
South Korea	5	0	3
Spain	5	0	0
Poland	3	4	3
Japan	3	2	5
Canada	3	1	3
France	2	3	9
Italy	2	3	5
Britain	2	3	2
Cuba	2	2	4
Turkey	2	1	0
Bulgaria	1	4	1
Romania	1	1	4
Czechoslovakia	1	1	1
Norway	1	0	0
Estonia	1	0	0
Greece	1	0	0
Sweden	0	3	3
New Zealand	0	2	2
Netherlands	0	1	5
Yugoslavs	0	1	2
Israel	0	1	1
Austria	0	1	0
Brazil	0	1	0

Note: Two bronze medals awarded in judo finals

NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina shocked
 Awami League President and Opposition Leader in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has expressed her deep shock at the death of 100 passengers in a plane crash in China and 113 others in another crash of a Thai-Air, passenger plane. Hasina sent two separate messages of condolence to the Prime Ministers of China and Thailand, reports UNB.

Chittagong hotels observe strike
 CHITTAGONG, Aug 1: Hotels and restaurants here today observed strike in support of their demand for withdrawal of Value Added Tax (VAT). The strike was jointly called by Chittagong Hotel and Restaurants Owners Association and VAT Resistant Committee. In a statement, Mohammad Shahe Alam and Mominul Haq, President and General Secretary respectively of the association, said that their struggle for withdrawal of VAT would continue, reports UNB.

15 PDB employees suspended
 PABNA, Aug 1: Fifteen employees of Pabna Power Development Board's commercial section were suspended today on charges of irregularities, corruption and submission of false statements. A 4-member inquiry committee headed by Director, Design, Motaleb Hossain today paid a surprise visit to the section following report by a World Bank team which came here on Thursday. UNB.

Govt preparing list of criminals, terrorists

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury said in Dhaka Saturday that the government was preparing a list of wanted criminals and terrorists, reports BSS.

He called for secretly passing on the names and addresses of terrorists and toll-collectors to the concerned higher authority or directly to him.

The Minister was speaking to the leaders of different traders and Bank associations of the city including Moulvibazar Traders Samity yesterday afternoon.

Matin stressed that criminals and culprits would be given punishment irrespective of their party affiliation.

The trade association leaders demanded enactment of a stringent law to curb terrorism and to do away with the lengthy process of application of law in handling the terrorists.

In this context the Home Minister told them that an anti-terrorism bill would soon be tabled in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Expressing his sympathy and sorrow at the killing of a prominent businessman Fazlur Rahman Mona, the Home Minister said all-out steps had been taken to arrest the killers and assured that the criminals would be tried.

Referring to the various complaints raised by the association leaders, Matin said the police forces were being reorganised and modernised making them accountable.

President and General Secretary of Moulvibazar Traders Association, Amanullah and Shahidullah Patwari, President, Bangladesh Salt Traders Association Shahidullah, President, Bangladesh Footwear Traders Association Khoka Sikder and General Secretary Babubazar Rice Whole-Sellers Association Mohammad Shah Jalal were, among others, who participated in the discussion.

Earlier, the leaders of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry held a meeting with the Home Minister.

Speaking to them, the Home Minister said the government had taken special measures to curb terrorist activities and serious crimes in the city. Special squads and cells were being formed so that police could quickly reach the place of incident and take effective steps, he said.

He sought cooperation of all in government efforts to ensure law and order.

Dhaka Chamber President M Younus and Senior Vice President Masudur Rahman were, among others, who took part in the discussion.

JCD, BCL clash in Bogra: 30 hurt, 20 held

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Aug 1: At least 30 persons were injured, in a clash between activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) here in the early hours today.

The Awami League office in the town was also burnt down allegedly by the JCD activists, sources said.

When Fire Brigade reached the spot to put out the fire, the vehicles were also stoned.

Later, police resorted to lathicharge and brought the situation under control.

About three dozen of crackers were exploded during the clash.

Police arrested 20 persons from the spot, twelve of them were later released.

Meanwhile, the DC of Bogra held a talk with the leaders of Awami League at his office to solve out the problems.

The leaders, however, failed to reach any agreement.

Students, garments workers clash in Tongi: 25 hurt

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Aug 1: At least 25 persons were injured, three seriously, in a clash between a group of students and workers of a garments factory in Tongi today.

The clash between a group of students of the Tongi Government College and the workers of the Continental Garments Factory began at around 11:30 am and lasted over an hour.

Both sides blamed each other for starting the clash during which traffic the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway

Exporters demand withdrawal of 0.5 pc advance tax

By Staff Correspondent

The Federation of Exporters Association of Bangladesh (FEAB) Saturday demanded immediate withdrawal of 0.5 per cent advance income tax at the source of all exports.

The Federation observed that some provisions of the budget like this tax at the source would make the country's export uncompetitive in the global market.

Speaking at a press conference at Hotel Sheraton, the Convener of the newly formed Federation, M Mosharraf Hossain said that this 0.5 per cent tax would ultimately turn out to be about 40 per cent of the net income of the exporters.

Besides, the pre-shipment inspection system on the import of raw materials would also make the production cost higher as well as cost "precious time" to the exporters, the Federation alleged.

"These provisions are against the concept of an export-led economy and the industrial and export policies of the government," Hossain said.

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