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NEWS BRIEFS
SAMA launched
 Bangladesh Chapter of South Asian Media Association (SAMA) was formally launched yesterday (Sunday) at a function presided over by SAMA President Mahboob Alam Chowdhury, a former editor of Bangladesh Times. Javed Jabbar, Chairman of SAMA and a former State Minister for Information of Pakistan, addressed the meeting and presented a brief report on the launching of Pakistan and Sri Lanka chapters of the organisation. The meeting also decided to hold a South Asian Media conference during the SAARC summit in Dhaka in December, reports UNB.
B Chowdhury visits Noon
 Senior vice-chairman of BNP and Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday visited the ailing BNP central committee Publicity Secretary AKA Feroz Noon at his residence. Chowdhury stayed for sometimes with Noon who recently under went an open heart surgery in Singapore, and inquired about his welfare, reports BSS.
'Ananda Michhil' today
 Different children organisations will bring out an 'Ananda Michhil', a procession of jubilation, in the city this morning for Bangladesh's ratification of the international child rights charter. The procession will begin from Shishu Park and end at Shishu Academy, a press release of Terre Des Hommes, a non-government organisation (NGO) said, reports BSS.
Shopkeepers' hartal in Jhenidah Aug 4
 JHENIDAH, Aug 2: Shopkeepers and traders' samity of the district has called for a hartal on August 4 to protest the administration's failure to curb terrorism. The samity also gave a 72-hour ultimatum to the local administration to arrest the terrorists who ransacked and looted shops in the town a week ago, reports UNB.

Parliamentary parties meet this afternoon

AL-led opposition plans no-confidence motion

By Mahfuz Ullah & Nurul Kabir

The Opposition parties in Parliament, barring Jamaat-e-Islami, are meeting this afternoon to work out the modalities of a no-confidence motion against the government of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).
 Opposition sources told The Daily Star that the no-confidence motion would be moved to protest the failure of the government to check the breakdown of law and order affecting the politico-economic stability of the country.
 Besides, the Opposition felt neglected as their repeated demand for a Special Parliamentary Committee on law and order had been ignored by the Treasury bench.
 Meanwhile, the law and order situation came up for stormy discussions in

Parliament on Thursday, July 30 and yesterday. Taking part in the discussions, leading members of the Opposition demanded the resignation of the Home Minister and indicated that they would be constrained to move the no-confidence motion.
 The meeting of the Parliamentary parties and groups would be held in the chamber of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament at 3.30 pm today.
 Opposition sources said that a consensus had been reached about the motion but the timing of the motion.
 The Article 159 and 160 of the Rules of Procedure, the Bible of Parliament, say that any member can move the no-confidence against the Cabinet and it needs support of 30 members for leave to be discussed in the House. It also says that three days' notice would have to be given for the motion to be accepted for discussion. The Opposition, against this backdrop, is confident that their motion would be discussed. They, however, admitted that it would be defeated because of the majority enjoyed by the Treasury bench.
 Two senior leaders of Awami League, preferring anonymity, told The Daily Star that they were left with no other option but to move the motion. They further said that if necessary they would get in touch with Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition, now abroad, over telephone on this issue.

They said that the no-confidence motion should be 'the message' for the government.
 Suranjit Sengupta said that they were planning the move to register protest and added that they were doing it to echo the voice of the people.
 Rashed Khan Menon, confirming the move, said that they would discuss the issue today and after getting it approved at the party forum would press for its placing.
 Maudud Ahmed, leader of the Jatiya Party parliamentary party said that they were invited to the meeting and added that the motion would be discussed.
 BNP position, was, however, not available about how it was planning to ride over the situation to be created by this Opposition move.



US sprinter Gail Devers proudly displays her gold which she won in the women's 100m dash with a time of 10.82 seconds in Barcelona Saturday. — AFP photo

Sensation
 MEDAL TABLE

BARCELONA, Aug 2: Olympics medals table on the eighth day of competition Sunday after eight events (tabulated—Gold, Silver, Bronze):

	G	S	B
CIS	25	17	16
United States	16	16	18
Germany	14	11	14
China	10	13	6
Hungary	9	7	2
South Korea	6	1	3
Spain	6	0	0
Australia	5	8	5
Japan	3	4	6
Poland	3	4	4
France	3	3	10
Britain	3	3	3
Romania	3	2	5
Canada	3	1	3
Italy	2	3	5
Cuba	2	2	5
Czechoslovakia	2	1	1
Turkey	2	1	0
Bulgaria	1	4	1
Norway	1	1	0
Brazil	1	1	0
Estonia	1	0	0
Greece	1	0	0
Sweden	0	3	3
New Zealand	0	2	3
Netherlands	0	1	5
Yugoslavs	0	1	2
Israel	0	1	1

Note: Two gold medals were awarded in the women's vault gymnastics. Two bronze medals awarded in judo finals. The bronze total of the CIS has been amended after light-heavyweight weightlifter Samadov was stripped of his medal.

Uproar in House over law and order

By Staff Correspondent

With the Awami League (AL)-led Opposition reiterating its demands for the resignation of the Home Minister and the formation of a Special Parliamentary Committee on law and order, Parliament yesterday witnessed a noisy scene over the prevailing law and order situation in the country.
 However, the opposition did not implement its walk-out threat despite rejection of the demands by the Treasury bench.

Taking the floor, immediately after munajat was offered for the late Abdul Wazed Chowdhury, AL leader Tofael Ahmed raised the issue of Ratan Sen's killing in Khulna July 31.
 Tofael said that no action had yet been taken to nab the culprits and added that the situation was worsening across the country.
 He said that it was the resolution of the Opposition to form a Parliamentary Committee to solve the problem, otherwise, the government should resign.
 Tofael also raised questions on the government decision to deploy plain clothes policemen to arrest mastans as the measure would be used to victimise opponents.
 Refuting the allegations of Tofael, State Minister for Communications Fazlur Rahman Patal said that before the government could implement a decision a doubt was always cast.
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President terminated services of 16 law officers, not I, says Mirza Hafiz

By Staff Correspondent
 Termination of the services of 16 government law officers was done by the President and not by the Law Ministry, Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Gohar Hafiz said Sunday.
 Addressing a crowded press conference at the Bangladesh Secretariat, the Law Minister said that the government had been taking necessary steps including reforming the laws to stabilise and consolidate parliamentary democracy in the country.
 Mirza Hafiz strongly denied some press reports that the

Biggest rowing shock of the Olympics

BARCELONA, Aug 2: Two British brothers caused the biggest rowing shock of the Olympics and an unheralded Italian cyclist scooped the road race title today, busiest day of the games so far with 30 gold medals at stake, reports Reuter.
 American world champion Eric Griffin lost his appeal against a controversial computer defeat in the boxing and tennis world number three Pete Sampras became the latest big name to topple out of the depleted tennis tournament.
 Britain, bouncing back after three of its athletes were sent home in a doping scandal, were still celebrating Linford Christie's 100 metres win when brothers Jonathan and Greg Searle scooped another gold.
 The British siblings de- See Page 12 Col 6



Myanmar rejects UN involvement in Rohingya repatriation

Myanmar is reported to have rejected outright the proposal for involving the United Nations or any of its agencies in the repatriation of the Rohingya refugees, reports UNB.
 The proposal was repeatedly forwarded to Yangon at official level meetings of the two countries, the last one held at the Myanmar frontier town of Maungdaw in the third week of July.
 The Myanmar government's refusal to accept the world body in the repatriation mechanism has stalled the "safe and voluntary return" of about 3 lakh refugees to their homeland in Arakan, Myanmar, diplomatic sources said here.
 The repatriation was due to begin on May 15 last as per agreement between the two countries.
 Several world leaders have expressed concern over the continued violation of human rights in Myanmar forcing the Rohingyas to flee to the neighbouring Bangladesh in their thousands.



Shops in most of the city markets remained closed yesterday as a mark of protest against extortions (top) and a protest rally of the businessmen in front of National Press Club (above). — Star photo

City shop owners observe strike

By Staff Correspondent
 Shops in the capital remained closed yesterday as the shop owners went on a strike protesting extortion of money and demanding punishment to the killers of Fazlur Rahman alias Mona.
 Mona, a city businessman, was shot dead by unidentified miscreants recently.
 Shops in the city super markets including the government New Market, Elephant Road, Baitul Mokarram and the wholesale markets of Moulvibazar were shut from dawn to dusk.
 City dwellers had to halt their shopping for the day.
 Observance of the strike was marked by explosion of crackers at the Elephant Road when a procession of the strikers was passing through the area in the afternoon.
 According to witnesses, the crackers were hurled at the processionists. None was, however, injured in the incident.
 The Moulvibazar Shop-owners' Association which called for the strike, organised a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon.
 A five-point charter of de- See Page 12 Col 8

Two-tier system for local govt suggested

The Local Government Commission Sunday presented its report to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia recommending a two-tier system for local administration, reports UNB.
 The Commission, formed on November 24, had 18 meetings before finalising the report on July 30.
 Prime Minister thanked the Commission and said its recommendations will be considered by the government.
 She hoped that the report will help formulate a comprehensive guideline for the local government.
 Explaining the salient features of the report, Information Minister and Chairman of the Commission Barrister Nazmul Huda said the report fulfilled the constitutional pledge of the democratic government to make the administration more transparent.
 He said the two-tier system — union and district council — will strengthen the democratic process as all members at both levels would be elected representatives.
 The down-to-top planning system would ensure people's participation in the development programmes of the gov-

Hearing of writ continues 'Azam absconded abroad on politico-military mission'

Gohar Azam was asked by the government through a gazette notification to appear before a court before he had been disqualified to be a citizen of Bangladesh, but he absconded abroad on "a politico-military mission", reports UNB.
 This was stated by Attorney General Aminul Huq in the High Court yesterday, refuting defence lawyer's contention that the Jamaat leader had never been given any notice to explain his position before his disqualification.
 "It's not true that Gohar Azam has never been asked to appear before any authority of Bangladesh, rather he remained absconded," the government pleader said on the 11th day of hearing of a writ petition in Gohar Azam's citizenship case before a High Court division bench.
 The attorney read out the gazette notification of February 9, 1972 published on February 15 which asked Azam to appear before the Subdivisional

DU body to settle BCL feud

By DU Correspondent
 The Dhaka University authorities Sunday formed a committee to negotiate peace between two feuding factions of Awami League backed Chhatra League.
 The committee was formed at a joint meeting of the proctor and provosts of different residential halls with the Vice Chancellor Professor Maniruzzaman Miah in the chair.
 The meeting discussed ways and means to drive out the outsiders from the residential halls for restoration of peaceful academic atmosphere on the campus.

Tripura CM suggests 'Delhi should take steps to repatriate Chakmas'

CALCUTTA, Aug 2: The Tripura Chief Minister, Sanjiv Barman, today expressed the hope that the centre would take necessary steps to repatriate the Chakmas, sheltered in the state's different camps in south district, by having negotiations with the Bangladesh government, reports PTI.
 Barman told a press conference here that the state government had already sent a list of the refugees to the centre. "I hope the process of repatriation will take place not before the winter," he added.
 Claiming that insurgency of the All-Tripura Tribal Force (ATTF) had been under control in the state, the Chief Minister alleged that confessional statements by the arrested ATTF activists in courts revealed that the ATTF had links with the CPI (M). Besides, he further alleged that the CPI (M) had provided 'political protection and arms' to the ATTF insurgents.
 Of the 53 persons killed by the ATTF in 1991-92 in Tripura, none of them belonged to the CPI (M), he

Preparations for SAARC summit afoot

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi
 Dhaka plans simple but impressive ceremonies for the seventh SAARC summit it will host in the second week of December.
 The summit, an annual event of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), has returned to Dhaka a year earlier, as Bhutan, the scheduled host for the seventh conference, passed it over citing lack of facilities.
 Launched in Dhaka in 1985, the SAARC has brought together Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives for the uplift of the region's one billion people.
 Preparations for the Dec. 12-14 summit have got underway with the government approving a Tk eight-crore budget, setting up ministerial-level committees, a preparatory committee headed by former Foreign Secretary Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury and a summit cell of officials.
 Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman will travel to six SAARC countries next month to extend Prime Minis- See Page 12 Col 1