

Dhaka to get Tk 90 cr Russian loan

Bangladesh will receive Taka 90 crore equivalent to 12 million pound sterling from Russia under the Russian credit repayment programme for the year 1992, reports BSS.

A letter of exchange was signed in Dhaka recently between the governments of Bangladesh and Russia following a week-long detailed discussions. The discussions were held during the eight-day visit of six-member delegation from Russia led by deputy chief, Department of Asia and Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations Victor Ivonovitch Kelgum from July 27.

Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance MA Quader and the trade representative of Russia in Dhaka VAS Kovtina signed the letter of exchange on behalf of their respective governments.

This amount has been due for repayment of credit extended for Ghorashal Power Plant.

During the discussions between the two sides it was revealed that Russian Federation would import from Bangladesh items like raw jute, jute bags,

jute cloth, crust and finished leather, tea, consumers goods like readymade garments, sanitary and kitchen wares, leather goods, perfumes, cosmetics, shoes, domestic electrical and electronic appliances, communications means, pharmaceuticals, computer equipment and accessories etc. under the credit repayment programme.

The Russian delegation also submitted a technical and commercial proposal for establishment of 100 MW gas Turbine Power Plant in Mymensingh.

The delegation called on ERD Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury on

Saturday and discussed formation of draft trade agreement, bilateral economic and technical cooperation between the two friendly countries. During the discussion it was reiterated that establishment of Joint Economic Commission (JEC) will provide a framework and mechanism for holding annual bilateral discussions for expanding project assistance and volume of trade between Bangladesh and Russian Federation.

Anti-terrorism drive : 300 arrested

Police as part of their drive to curb terrorism recovered illegal arms, over 100 rounds of bullets and arrested some 300 people from different parts of the country, reports UNB.

Among the 300 people detained, 114 were from the Dhaka City.

Police in 24 hours till Monday evening, seized 4 revolvers, 14 pigeons and one 1.22 bore rifle.

In Dhaka City, police upon a secret information rounded up three people and recovered two revolvers and 38 rounds of bullet from Rampura Power House yesterday.

The arrested were identified as Saidul Alam (18), Jahangir Alam (20) and Abdur Rashid alias Babul (20).

After searching the body of Saidul Alam, police found one Pakistan made .32 revolver with four rounds of bullet.

They also recovered a country made revolver with 34 rounds of bullet from Jahangir's waist.

Patrol police on Sunday night detained five terrorists near the Agargaon Radio Centre while they were fleeing in a baby taxi after committing crime.

Olympic record

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the first round on Monday. American Johnson, with his curious high-stepping action, cruised into the second round with a victory in 20.80 seconds.

Briton Christie, who announced on Sunday that he was determined to go for an Olympic sprint double, qualified without problem, finishing second in his heat to Daniel Cojocaru of Romania in 21.23.

But Johnson's compatriot Mike Marsh threw his name into the favourites' hat with the fastest time of the morning of 20.38 and there were impressive runs, too, from 100 metres silver medalist Frankie Fredericks of Namibia and European champion John Regis of Britain.

Fredericks and Regis were drawn together in a tough second round heat, which also included Nikolai Ntonov of Bulgaria, later on Monday.

All the big names in the women's 200 metres moved through to the second round without undue difficulty.

Jamaica's Merlene Ottey, still seeking her first individual gold at a global meeting, will be up against one of the four women who beat her in the 100 final, bronze medalist Irin Privalova of the CIS, in the second round.

Ottey won her heat in 22.95 but the fastest time was set in

a later race by American Gwen Torrence, silver medalist in both sprints at last year's World Championships in Tokyo. She clocked 22.66.

World champion Noureddine Morceli of Algeria was the most polished looking runner on view in the first round of the men's 1,500 metres, winning his heat comfortably in three minutes 37.98 seconds.

But it was a good morning for Kenyans with Joseph Chesire and David Kibet winning 1,500 metres heats and Erick Keter breaking his own national record with a 48.28 run in the 400 metres hurdles heats, the fastest time of the day.

In the men's discus, world champion Lars Riedel of Germany failed to qualify for the final.

Maradona to sign for Seville

SEVILLE, Spain, Aug 3: Argentine star Diego Maradona will sign a two-year contract to play for Seville here next week, the local media reported on Monday reports AFP.

The deal, worth 6.5 million dollars, was hammered out between Maradona's agent Marcos Franchi and Seville president Luis Cuervas.

Army officers

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The Prime Minister, who looks after the Ministry of Defence, signed an order Thursday terminating their services, the sources said.

The order took effect August 1.

Those who were forced into retirement include 55 Infantry Division GOC Maj Gen Ahsanullah, Brig Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury, a Brigade commander in CHT, Brig Sharif Aziz, 203 Brigade commander headquartered in Khagrachhari, Col Khaled Azam, Commanding Officer of the President's Guard Regiment.

Ahsanullah, made Major General less than a year ago, was Director of Military Intelligence during the last days of Ershad.

Brig Aziz served as private secretary to the fallen General. The sources said that the officers were reportedly accused of providing arms to some elements who swooped on the anti-Ershad protesters.

Mozammel Press Secy to PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday appointed Md Mozammel Huq, President of the National Press Club and an eminent journalist, her press secretary, an official announcement said here, reports BSS.

Huq, a prominent reporter, has a chequered career of over two decades and played a vital role in the anti-autocracy movement and cause of the freedom of press in the country.

He was elected president of the National Press Club in 1990. Earlier, he was general secretary of the Club for two consecutive terms.

Huq received the first Philips Award for journalism in 1986 for his professional excellence.

Huq was born in Comilla on January 1, 1956.

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Workers of BCIC, BSFC and BSEC Combined Action Committee brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the government plan to privatise industries. — Star photo

Launch docoity: 10 including 4 Ansars hurt

By Staff Correspondent

A clash between Ansar members and a band of pirates left at least 10 people including four Ansars and a five-year old child wounded at a launch on a canal near Mollar Hat Ghat at Shidur Tek, Shariatpur Monday morning.

The ansar members instantly nabbed five of the bandits while around 15 others decamped with cash and goods worth about Tk 1.5 lakh.

The launch, MV Mitall-3, was on its way to Dhaka from Shariatpur.

A group of bandits boarded the launch from Mollar Hat Ghat masquerading as passengers. When the launch reached near Shidur Tek, they exploded crackers on the launch and started looting, eyewitnesses said.

Members of Ansar team deployed in the launch said that they immediately opened fire and chased the bandits. At least 12 gunshots were fired during the half-hour chase and counter-chase, they added.

The Ansars, however, arrested five of the dacoits. They were brought to Keraniganj police station but the case was registered with Badarganj PS.

Of the arrested, three were identified as Joyal, Delwar and another Joyal.

No-confidence motion

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sider the move, if not we will be forced to move the no-confidence motion. As in a parliamentary system a motion against an individual minister virtually affects the whole lot so it would be a motion against the whole Cabinet.

A leading member of AL, preferring anonymity, said that the legal aspects of the motion would, however, be examined by legal experts before it was moved.

Rashed Khan Menon and Suranjit Sengupta said that they had expressed their support for the no-confidence motion in very clear terms and now the ball was in the court of AL.

Talking about the reported no-confidence motion, Abdus Salam Talukder, Secretary General of BNP told The Daily Star that under a parliamentary system the Opposition had freedom to move such a motion but added that BNP would fight it back.

Questioning the motive of the Opposition, Salam Talukder said "What would they achieve out of this? The motion would be defeated because the BNP has the absolute majority in the House."

Terming the motion a deliberate move to embarrass the government, the Secretary General said that it was about a year that an elected government was in power. He wanted to know why a democratically elected government should

Little progress in BCCI loan recovery

By Inam Ahmed

The drive to 'recover the loans of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) is yielding little result, according to concerned sources.

They said some big borrowers of the bank had reservations about giving their money back.

The borrowers say that the suspension of the activities of the bank have caused them great financial losses. They charged that with the suspension of functioning of the bank, they could not get working capital for their business.

Some of the borrowers may even go to the court to claim compensation for the damage done, sources said. The convening committee of the BCCI cell had asked the bank to realise its loans.

However, a lot of goods brought on Letter of Credit (LC) through the BCCI have been released by the indentors, sources said. The indentors paid the money through the Agram Bank.

Meanwhile, the BCCI bank will be refiled this month changing the name. All preparations have been completed for the re-filing.

The deposit of the BCCI was estimated at Taka 6220.7 million while its investment stood at Taka 983.9 million with loans and advances of Taka 4734 million.

The proposed bank will have an authorised capital of Taka 100 crore with an initial paid up capital of Taka 60 crore.

Sources said the board of directors of the bank had already been formed.

Disruption in worldwide air bookings

By Asiuzzaman

Airlines communications for worldwide ticket reservations were suspended with Bangladesh for several hours Saturday causing sufferings to the passengers in the country, airline sources said.

The communication line was, however, restored at around 4 pm after 10 hours of disruption, a Biman official said.

There was a fault with the micro-wave line between the Bethunia Satellite Ground Station and the Dhaka TNT office," a TNT official said adding that "the line was subscribed by the Society of International Telecommunication Aeronautics (SITA)."

More than 20 airlines in Bangladesh and 60 others worldwide use SITA's communication system, a local SITA official said.

The breakdown did not hamper aviation communications of flight operations through the Zia International Airport, the source added.

Bangladesh Biman was worst affected by the breakdown as its reservations are totally maintained by SITA's Atlanta-based organisation Gabriel.

Bookings for seven domestic destinations were also suspended during the period and Biman started selling open tickets for domestic flights.

The sources said that there was a minor disturbance in the line for the past several days which possibly caused Saturday's major breakdown.

Mona murder : Two arrested

CHITTAGONG, Aug 3: A special squad of Chandgaon police arrested two alleged killers of prominent businessman and sports organizer Fazlur Rahman alias Mona from West Bakolia here last night, police said, reports BSS.

Acting on secret information, the police squad raided a house at D C Road, West Bakolia at late night and succeeded in arresting Asifuddin, (23) and Shaful Alam, (21), suspected to be connected with killing of Mona.

The Midnight File

Kabul airport reopens

KABUL, Aug 3: The airport in the Afghan capital reopened today after heavy rocket fire a day earlier damaged three planes and a hanger. Officials said several military and civilian flights had left the airport, which came under attack Sunday by forces of the radical Mujahideen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in fighting that left at least 13 dead and 100 injured, according to official figures, reports AFP.

French voters back Maastricht Treaty

PARIS, Aug 3: A majority of French voters back the Maastricht treaty on European union and would vote for it were a referendum held this week, a new opinion poll shows. A survey by the IFOF polling organization to be published Tuesday in the newspaper Liberation shows 57 per cent of those who plan to vote on the treaty say they will vote yes, reports AP.

Azam disqualified

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This law, therefore, has put any other law completely in abeyance, he added.

Submitting on the conduct of Golam Azam, the Attorney General cited few books like "Genocide '71", an Account of the Killers and Collaborators", compiled by the Muktiyuddh Chetana Bikash Kendra, "Muktijuddho O Golam Azam", written by Halim Dad Khan, and "Muktijuddhe Dainik Sangram Bhumika", written by Ali Akbar Tabi.

Books, photographs and all other materials produced before the court made evident speeches of Golam Azam during the Independence War showing his (Azam's) allegiance to Pakistan, Huq said.

The Attorney General said Golam Azam went to Pakistan on November 22 in 1971 to augment the fire potential of Razakar.

He further said Azam was instrumental in organising the Razakar force by providing political cover. Even after December 16, 1971 Golam Azam exercised his all possible influence on the Muslim countries not to recognise Bangladesh and also moved to recapture East Pakistan.

Alluding to "Witness to Surrender", a book written by Major Siddique Salek, he said an officer engaged in an operation at Keraniganj following an information provided by a rightist politician that freedom fighters had concentrated in the area.

But, the officer said, "there were no rebels, and no weapons. Only poor country-folk, mostly women and old men, got roasted in the barrage of fire. It is a pity that the operation was launched without proper intelligence. I will carry this burden on my conscience for the rest of my life."

Mostafiz Ershad, Matin

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BNP government came to power following elections last year.

Rahman discussed all issues of common interest — bilateral and multilateral — in Paris and Madrid with a view to expanding the state of bilateral ties with both the nations.

France expressed readiness to extend all possible cooperation to Bangladesh in its developmental efforts, the Foreign Minister said.

During his talks with his French counterpart Ronald Dumas and Humanitarian Affairs Minister Bernard Kouchner, Rahman found great appreciation of Bangladesh role in airing the views of the Least Developed Countries.

President Francois Mitterand invited Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for visiting France and the visit could take place mid next year, the Foreign Minister said.

About visit to Spain, Rahman said great scopes existed for further cooperation in the cultural and other fields with Spain.

Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman and French chargé d'affaires and deputy head of mission in Dhaka Michel Penaud received the Minister at the airport.

WASA bill

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trate powers in the hands of the Prime Minister. They further said concentration of powers in an individual will turn one into an autocrat which is contrary to the spirit of parliamentary democracy.

Refuting the opposition's contention, the LGRD Minister said with the passage of the 12th amendment to the constitution, the Prime Minister has become the chief executive of the government instead of the President and so the responsibility has been given to the Prime Minister.

The minister dispelled the opposition's fear that the law will give all powers to the Prime Minister. He said not necessarily the Prime Minister shall be the chairman of the EPZ, she may nominate some other person as the chairman of the EPZ authority.

Opposition members' demands for circulating the bill for eliciting public opinion or sending it to the select committee were rejected by the voice vote.

At the fag end of the 5-hour sitting, the Home Minister, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, informed the House that two persons were arrested in connections with assassinations of CPB leader Ratan Sen in Khulna last Friday. All-out drive was being made by the police to arrest all others involved in the killing of the CPB leader, he said and added that one of the arrested persons was Murad.

Earlier, the House dealt with two call attention motions relating to erosion in the Jamuna River moved by Awami League member Haje Rashed Mosharraf and another relating to construction of a cross dam in Galachipa thana moved by Anwarul Islam of Awami League.

The Speaker, Shethk Razak Ali adjourned the House at 9.25 pm till 4 pm today.

The Indian Commerce Minister arrived in New Delhi as the head of seven members delegation on August 2.

Tinbigha corridor

India yet to nod to transit-time extension

LALMONIRHAT, Aug 3: The scheduled extension of transit time through the Tin Bigha corridor could not be effected today due to non-availability of any clearance from Koochbihar authority, reports UNB.

The agreement signed by the authorities of the two governments on July 2 stipulated that the four-hour transit time frame, decided in the accord, would be extended for further two hours after one month (Aug 3).

Deputy Commissioner of the district said, "we did not receive any clearance letter from Koochbihar administration in this regard" and added that it will be decided at a meeting soon at the district headquarters or at "Binodokendra" near Teesta Barrage.

Dhaka Board SSC results likely next week

Results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations 1992 of Dhaka Board is expected to be announced next week, official sources said, reports BSS.

Manual tabulation of marks are in progress and the results will be published by computer compose, the sources added.

RU campus tense

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Dr Zoha Hall, Sher-e-Bangla Hall, Shah Mokhdum Hall and Amir Ali Hall were still the strong hold of Shibir activists where they are threatening the activists of rival groups from entering into the halls, the general students who returned to their halls after Thursday's violent incident alleged.

Witnesses said that groups of Shibir activists were moving in the campus in "silent procession" although the authorities banned rally and all sorts of political activities for the next 15 days in a bid to restore peace on the campus.

Presence of the students on the campus was however, higher on Monday than on the previous day.

Five party leader and JSD Secretary Hassanul Huq (nu) visited the university campus and held talks with the leaders of Chhatra Oikya at the RUCSU building today.

The university authorities announced admission test results of Science and Law faculties (1991-92 session) and results of rest of the faculties would be announced within a couple of days, sources said.

In another development, the Rajshahi Metropolitan Magistrate rejected the bail petition of 14 Shibir activists who were arrested with rocket launcher and other firearms from four residential halls.

Meanwhile BSS adds: Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) has condemned the Thursday's inci-

RU VC

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dent and demanded immediate implementation of enquiry committee report and punishment to those who were responsible for the incident.

That from now on classes and examinations would continue on schedule and that police guard was strengthened in nine residential halls as well as on campus to maintain peace.

He sought the cooperation of the student organisation and concerned quarters to maintain peace in the campus.

When this correspondent drew Rahman's attention to newspaper reports that branded him a pro-Jamaat man; he said that "he was never attached to the Jamaat."

A section of newspapers commented that the activities of the Shibir became violent after Rahman's appointment as the Vice-Chancellor last month after former VC Amanullah Ahmed resigned before completing his tenure.

A professor of Botany, Rahman was appointed Vice-Chancellor by the government.

The Vice-Chancellor also said that he did not sign the statement of the 50 teachers of the University demanding immediate release of Golam Azam.

Declining comment on Golam Azam he said that "it's a controversial issue."

He, however, supported the step taken by the government against Golam Azam.