

# Guarded optimism

From Page 1 Col 7

These people, sheltered across the country in some 70 camps which many in Dhaka prefer to call 'Pakistani enclaves', causing strain on the country's poor economy, opted for Pakistan when Bangladesh won freedom after fighting a bloody war.

They take pride in calling themselves Pakistanis, fly Pakistan flags in the camps. According to the Foreign Minister, Bangladesh Government spent Tk 211 crore for them until February this year.

The Pakistan leaders, officials say, assured a breakthrough in the repatriation bid when the Foreign Minister was in Islamabad as a prelude to the Prime Minister's trip. But sceptics talk about the shadow that might fall between the announcement expected to be made during the PM's trip and the start of the repatriation.

The fear is substantiated by the sharp differences of opinion among the leading Pakistan politicians with varied political interests. Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto has never nodded positively to the move.

The Rabita Trust, a joint endeavour of the Pakistan government and the Makkah-based Rabitat al Alam Al Islami, has made little headway, since its formation in 1988 at the behest of the late Gen. Ziaul Huq, as far as the mobilisation of money is concerned.

The Trust has set a target to raise about 500 to 600 US dollars an amount it estimates would be required to airlift and rehabilitate the returnees. It was planned that as soon as half the money was collected, the repatriation would start. Till date, the Trust is far from the target. Pakistan is reported to have promised the rest.

The whole process has made some progress as the Pakistan authorities have already selected the possible sites for rehabilitation of the returnees. The provincial government of Punjab has earmarked 1085 acres of land in 14 districts. The Trustees at their first meeting last November formed three committees for fund-raising, preparation of rehabilitation plan and logistics arrangements.

However, Nasim Khan, leader of stranded non-Bengalis in Bangladesh, points out to the political scenario in Pakistan. He says "Money is not the problem... the problem is the political will on the part of the Pakistan government."

On the other major front, the sharing of assets, the Prime Minister will table the old proposal, placed and later agreed by the two countries 15 years ago, that a joint working group composed of interministerial representatives and experts be formed.

According to Dhaka's official records, Islamabad should reimburse Tk 2446 crore, priced at the 1971 level, an amount Bangladesh says the people of the then East Pakistan contributed to Pakistan's development programmes and investments. Bangladesh also claims Tk 3240 crore as war reparations. Officials expect a positive response from Pakistan on the proposal. Foreign Minister Rahman is learnt to have received such indications during his Islamabad visit last month. Analysts, however, cite past

instances to brush aside the possibility of any substantial outcome in the long run on the issue that Pakistan has constantly evaded since it was first discussed in 1977.

In 1980, the foreign secretaries agreed on the formation of the working group, but Islamabad later kept quiet. In 1989, the then Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto accepted, in principle, Bangladesh proposal to constitute a Council similar to the 1947 Partition Council, or as an alternative accept an international arbitration. At the discussion table, Pakistan officials floated their Prime Minister's position.

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ing for assets-sharing and war reparations virtually invites another issue - whether she will ask that Pakistan offer formal apologies for the atrocities by its army during the War of Liberation. A vigorous campaign against the anti-Liberation elements at home adds relevance to the question.

The two major issues apart, according to officials, the prime ministers will discuss expansion of bilateral trade, joint venture projects, cooperation in science and technology, and regional and international issues of common concern.

The two countries have already formed private sector committees, as agreed during Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman's visit last February, to what officials say give a meaningful boost to their economic and trade relations. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif prefers increased private sector co-operation.

The two-way trade showed a slow-down in recent years since trade links were established in 1974-75 through third parties elsewhere. But soon business became direct after they signed the General Trade Agreement in 1976.

The 1978 shipping agreement gave a further fillip to commercial activities. In the subsequent days Pakistan emerged as the second largest trading partner after the US.

To promote cooperation through an institutional framework, the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) was set up in July, 1979. It meets alternately in the respective capitals. Commerce Minister M K Anwar attended the last meet in November last year in Islamabad.

Two accords - one on exchange of land in respective diplomatic enclaves and the other on cooperation in science and technology - are set to be signed during Begum Zia's visit.

A warm welcome awaits the Prime Minister in Pakistan. Islamabad officials proposed elaborate ceremonies, but Dhaka's protocol officers insisted on trimming the plans citing time constraints.

The PM will have a busy itinerary throughout her three-day stay in Pakistan, but the "substantive" programmes are scheduled on the first two days - Sunday and Monday.

On Tuesday, she will fly to Lahore, the capital of Pakistan's most populous province, where she will be accorded a civic reception and conducted to some holy places. Punjab is the home province of Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif at whose invitation she is going to Pakistan.

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over a BNP Parliamentary Party meeting in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. —PID photo

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over a BNP Parliamentary Party meeting in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. —PID photo

# Kevin crashes oldest record

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A banned stimulant and steroid-related drug that can turn fat into muscle.

The drug was found in his urine samples after he finished fourth in Sunday's hammer final, Olympic officials said.

He faced a four-year ban from the sport. US officials said he had already left Barcelona.

Chinese women's volleyball player Wu Dan was expelled for taking a Chinese folk medicine that contained strychnine.

Belarus Marathon runner Madina Biktigirova was banned for taking the stimulant norephedrine after she came fourth last Saturday.

The 400 metres hurdles was the first athletics world record to fall at the Barcelona Games.

Young, 25, roared to victory by six metres in the first

47-second run in history. The tall American's best time coming to the Olympics was 47.72 seconds, almost a second slower.

Winthrop Graham of Jamaica came in second in 47.66 seconds and Britop Kriss Akabusi was third in 47.82.

The record and gold made up for Young's disappointments at the Seoul Olympics four years ago and at the 1991 world championships in Tokyo. He finished fourth both times.

Minutes earlier, Marsh had failed to break the 200 metres record. His chances were hit by a headwind and he finished 0.29 seconds outside Italian Pietro Mennea's record set in 1979.

Namibian Frankie Fredericks, who also finished second in Saturday's 100 metres final, took the silver

medal in 20.13 with American Michael Bates third in 20.38.

Torrence made up for her disappointment of missing a medal in the women's 100 metres. She was first off the curve in the 200 and finished a metre ahead of Jamaicans Juliet Cuthbert and Merlene Ottey.

In the women's long jump, all the favourites qualified for Friday's final. Heike Drechsler of Germany had the only seven-metre leap, winning her group with 7.08 metres.

Jan Ove Waldner won Sweden's first gold medal of the Games with a one-sided 21-10, 21-18, 25-23 defeat of French world number one Jean-Philippe Gatien in the table tennis final on Thursday.

Croatia reached the final of the men's basketball when Drazen Petrovic sank two free throws with nine seconds left to lift Croatia to a 75-74 victory over the CIS.

# JMB tender

From Page 1 Col 6

The bank also pointed out risk involved in inviting bids for the project as PDB and DESA's system loss and annual collection performance remained yet "far from acceptable standard."

It, however, viewed a number of government actions in addressing power sector discipline in improving its performance as "sufficient to justify the invitation of bids on Sept 1, 1992." BPDB and DESA should implement further reforms, it said.

WB noted many of the key actions, initiated recently, could be effective only if these measures are fully implemented and sustained.

# Speaker's ruling over news of notice

Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali yesterday asked the press not to publish contents of any notice submitted by any MP to the Parliament Secretariat until it is accepted by the chair, reports UNB.

Pointing out rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure, the Speaker said "I would ardently request the press not to publish the contents of any notice until it is accepted by the Speaker". Otherwise, it will be unfortunate if the House takes unpleasant action against the newspapers.

The Speaker's ruling came when a treasury bench member drew attention of the chair to Thursday's news reports on the notices of no-confidence against the government. Khalilur Rahman questioned how the contents of the notices were leaked to the press from the Parliament Secretariat.

"It's a clear violation of the rule... All the newspapers publishing the contents of the notices violated the rule," the Speaker said.

The press could only report that a notice was submitted, it cannot publish its contents under any circumstances, he added.

Rule 280 says, a notice cannot be published by any member or any person until it is accepted by the Speaker and circulated among the members of parliament.

# BNP: No-confidence

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The notice of no-confidence, in all possibility, will be included in the Orders of the Day of Parliament Sunday, August 9. The session will resume at 4 in the afternoon on the day.

On the day, the Speaker, as provided in the Rules of Procedure, would read the motion to the House and request those members who wanted the motion to be discussed to rise in their respective seats.

If the number of MPs was more than thirty, then the Speaker would declare the date for discussions. But no debate would be allowed as there is no provision for it.

Authoritative sources said that the motion would be discussed on August 12, after the return of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia from her official visits to Bahrain and Pakistan.

BNP sources said that the Prime Minister would be available to answer to allegations mentioned in the notice of no-confidence.

Meanwhile, MPs belonging to the BNP were advised yesterday to attend the sessions of the House regularly. A similar

advice was issued on August 4 reminding the members that their presence was necessary for smooth functioning of the House and passage of bills before the House was prorogued.

Referring to the Opposition move, leading members of the party commented that they were not surprised at the move as "The Opposition had never had confidence in us."

Jamaat-e-Islami, sources said, discussed the no-confidence move yesterday but did not reach any conclusion. It is expected to meet again today to work out the strategies.

However, different Opposition leaders initiated backstage dialogue with the Jamaat in a bid to win support. They commented that it would be difficult for the Jamaat to sit on the fence this time but feared that the Jamaat might submit a different notice. However, Jamaat sources said that it might consider supporting the move while taking part in deliberations rather than submitting a notice.

GCO protests Biswas' name on DU calender

A group of unruly students of Dhaka University yesterday set fire to several thousand calendars of the university protesting the Chancellor's name on it, reports UNB.

Witnesses said a group of militant student activists entered the Dhaka University Book Centre in a procession, brought outside at least 5 thousand calendars and set them on fire at about 1 pm.

The DU authorities as part of their tradition, publish calender for the academic year with the names of the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor printed at its top.

Protesting the name of President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Chancellor of the university, in the calender for the academic year 1992-93, the student activists demonstrated on the campus.

They were reportedly members of the left leaning Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikyo (GCO).

Later, the leaders and activists of the GCO brought out a procession on the campus to protest the same.

# The Midnight File

## US teaches Kuwait's army finer points of warfare

UMM AL-AISH (Kuwait), Aug 6: US marines taught Kuwait's tiny army the finer points of Urban warfare under chemical attack today - occasionally resorting to mime to get their message across. The marines taking part in a month of wargames designed to send a signal to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, put their charges through their paces in a bombed-out barracks 35 km (22 miles) south of the Iraqi border. They stormed buildings and practised roomy room clearance, reports Reuter.

## 60 arrested in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Aug 6: Police fired in the air Thursday and beat up a slogan-shouting group of people protesting frequent searches by security forces in the strife-torn Kashmir valley, police said. At least 15 people were injured.

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SRINAGAR, Aug 6: Police up a slogan-shouting group searches by security forces police said. At least 15 people were injured when paramilitary forces dispersed the 500-strong crowd, said an official at the scene, mostly elderly men, who were on assembly of more than 100 people, who spoke on AP.

# Seen from

From Page 1 Col 5

ger of falling from grace will as his chair.

However, the ever-playful Foreign Minister nonchalantly waved his left hand while resting his head on the right to prove that there was no reason to lose confidence in his ability to keep a grip on things.

"All the screams made me think somebody had released a snake here", the upright Maj Gen said.

Suranjit Sengupta may be the lone MP of the Gonar Party, but for a few seconds yesterday, the extra-tall veteran parliamentarian in Sunamganj took up the leadership of the entire Opposition bench in the absence of leader, deputy leader and whip.

Suranjit's moment of post and glory occurred at Niamatullah Sabu Bangladesh Nationalist Party had tabled a resolution asking the government to nationalise Savar Degree College.

After getting an assurance from the Education Minister Sabu sought permission of House to - surprise, surprise - withdraw his resolution.

Those in favour, that is Treasury benches, bellowed loud "haa".

And when the Speaker called on those against his hand and said "nob against, either", and the whip followed him by keeping silent. That's leadership.

For a fleeting moment yesterday, it seemed that never-vocal, always-quiet forever-beautiful Selina Shah of Kushtia might end her long run of silent days on the floor.

Soon after the Mag break, the dazzling I elected to one of the 30 served seats pulled the 'and of her silk-trim saree over head and stood up, firing pointing to the sky, asking the floor.

It was only the floor sought, not the moon, but fortunately, Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni carried himself another black mark remaining unmoved.

"No point of order", he said and Shahid's moment passed as quickly as it had threatened to come.

What is the distance between the law and law-ners? There shouldn't be but Maj Gen Majedul seemed to have it quite m up yesterday.

# Fresh clash in Adamjee: 25 injured

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 6: Clash at the Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) flared once again this afternoon as the feuding workers groups were locked in a one hour gunfight at the Dhaka Baja Colony.

The fight started at 4 pm when the Jattya Party backed Siddique Sardar group tried to enter the colony which is under the control of BNP backed Khair group.

About 25 persons were injured in the clash, five of them seriously.

Police fired 20 rounds of rubber bullets to bring the situation under control. Five persons were also arrested from the spot.

The clash spread from the colony to Muktyjodha office, Shapla Square and Dhaka Baja High School area.

Witnesses said BDR on patrol at the mills area remained inactive during the fight.

A tense situation is now prevailing in the area.

# Road mishap

From Page 1 Col 5

Police said that another 15 injured were admitted to the Combined Medical College Hospital.

Witnesses said that the bus 'Janasathi Express' from Sayedabad lost control on the rain-drenched airport road and rammed a tree, a lightpost and then turned upside down.

The wooden body of the bus was completely mangled.

The injured were carried by the city-bound cars passing by the accident spot.

Traffic movement in the road was stalled for several hours following the accident.

Our DMCH Correspondent reports: The bodies of the victims of the road mishap were brought to the morgue at about 8 pm Thursday from the police station.

Identity of the injured admitted to DMCH could not be ascertained because all of them were unconscious due to brain haemorrhage.

Autopsy will be performed today, doctors said.

Cantonment police seized the bus while its driver absconded.

# Biman

From Page 1 Col 8

airlines Thursday described this as a "phenomenal growth" in Biman's revenue earnings, particularly against the backdrop of its hopeless image as a losing enterprise.

In 1990-91, it incurred a staggering loss of about Tk 40 crore as a result of the Gulf War and a general slump in the world aviation industry. In the previous year (1989-90), the airlines earned a modest profit of Taka 1 crore.

The sources ascribed this "phenomenal growth" in Biman's revenue earnings to a number of positive steps that started to yield good results.

An aggressive marketing drive, improvement in passenger services, simplification of ticketing and reservation and introduction of computerised auto-confirmation system were cited as causes that helped the airlines to make a spectacular take off last year.

There was also belt-tightening at Biman in the form of streamlining its administration

