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NEWS BRIEFS

ALWC meets September 5

A meeting of the Awami League central working committee will be held on September 5 at 11 am at the party central office. AL General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, MP, has requested all concerned to attend the meeting, reports UNB.

DESA snaps more lines

Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) in a drive against defaulters disconnected the power lines of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training at Kakrail, Ramna Park flood light, Ramna Park and Central Animal Husbandry Hospital at Kazi Alauddin Road yesterday, says a press release. Earlier the power line of Home Economics College and Asia Food Industries Siddhirganj were also disconnected Tuesday, reports BSS.

Heroin recovered, 6 arrested

RANGAMATI, Aug 19: BDR personnel recovered one kilogram of heroin worth about Tk one crore from Ghagrapara in Kawkhali thana today and arrested six people, all belonging to the same family. They are: Zamiatmohon Chakma, his son Uttamkumar Chakma, daughters Sweetsy and Sangeeta Chakma and grand daughters Aparna and Morichika Chakma. Army officials at Kaptai did not rule out the possibility of the involvement of the outlawed Shantibahini in this case, reports UNB.

Attempt on Menon Former JP MP, brother and another arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Former Jatiya Party MP Alhaj Monirul Islam Monir and his younger brother Zahurul Islam Rumi, General Secretary of Shantinagar Club, were arrested in connection with the attempt on Workers' Party (WP) leader Rashed Khan Menon MP and sent to the Dhaka Central Jail Wednesday afternoon.

The former MP and his brother were picked up along with 11 others early Tuesday and detained at the detective branch of police office at Mintu Road for questioning in connection with the attempt on the WP leader.

Unidentified assailants shot and seriously wounded Rashed Khan Menon near his party office at around 8:35 pm Monday.

Police brought charges against the former MP and his brother under Sections 326 (for injuring gravely), 307 (attempt to murder) and 34 (common intention) of the Bangladesh Penal Code (BPC), a police source said.

Another person, Morshed Sanaullah, nabbed by people near the Workers Party office at Topkhana Road and handed over to Ramna police Tuesday was also arrested under Section 54 (suspicion) and sent to jail yesterday.

Earlier Morshed was interrogated by Ramna police in connection with the attempt on Menon. But yesterday police said that Morshed was not charge with the attempt.

Ten others including three players of Shantinagar Club, also picked up and brought to the Detective Branch office for questioning Tuesday were released Wednesday afternoon.

The former Jatiya Party MP and his brother were produced in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court Wednesday afternoon. Police did not seek his remand for further questioning, police sources said.

Solicitors on behalf of the two accused moved bail petition in the Court. But the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate rejected the petitions and ordered that they be sent to jail.

The Detective Branch police Tuesday visited some areas including Kamalapur and Sadarghat along with Kamal and Shwapon, two eye-witnesses of Monday's incident, to flush out the assailants, according to sources.

However, police could not arrest the assailants till Wednesday night, according to police sources.



A torch procession was brought out in the city yesterday in support of today's hartal. — Star photo

Indo-Pak accord banning use of chemical weapons

NEW DELHI, Aug 19: India and Pakistan today signed agreements banning the use of chemical weapons and setting out a code of conduct on the treatment of diplomats, but left the thorny issue of Kashmir open, reports AFP.

The two agreements were linked at the conclusion of three days of talks between Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shahryar Khan and his Indian counterpart Jyotindra Nath Dixit, officials said.

Khan described the talks as "very good, very satisfactory," the Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted him as saying after the meetings in New Delhi's Hyderabad House.

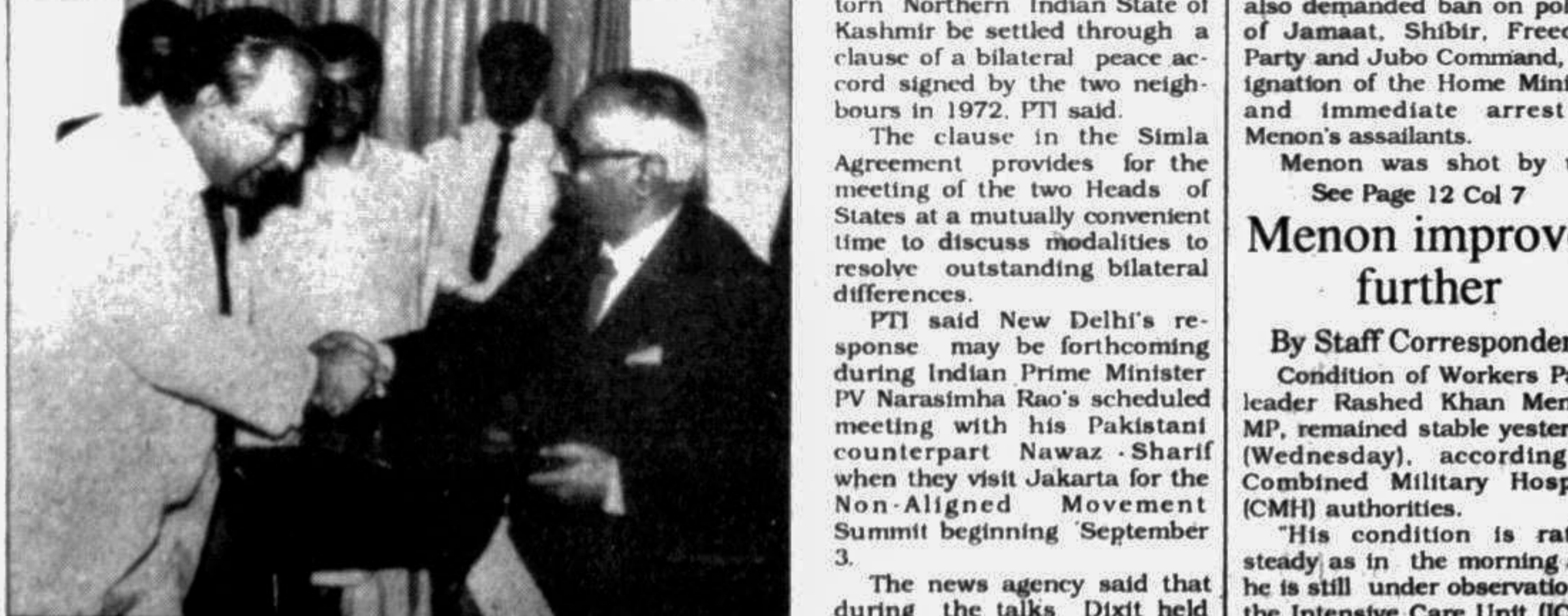
The two foreign secretaries also exchanged instruments of ratification on an agreement on advance notice of military exercises, manoeuvres, troop movements, prevention of airspace violations and for permitting overflights and landings by military planes.

After the talks Khan said India had yet to respond to a Pakistani suggestion that the dispute over the secessionist torn Northern Indian State of Kashmir be settled through a clause of a bilateral peace accord signed by the two neighbours in 1972. PTI said.

The clause in the Simla Agreement provides for the meeting of the two Heads of States at a mutually convenient time to discuss modalities to resolve outstanding bilateral differences.

PTI said New Delhi's response may be forthcoming during Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's scheduled meeting with his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif when they visit Jakarta for the Non-Aligned Movement Summit beginning September 3.

The news agency said that during the talks Dixit held the view that it was not possible to isolate individual clauses from the rest of the Indo-Pakistan Accord.



Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shahryar Khan and his counterpart JN Dixit shake hands after signing accords in Hyderabad House, New Delhi yesterday. — AFP photo

35000 killed, 2.3m Muslims flee Bosnia for Europe

WASHINGTON, Aug 19: Bosnian Serbs have largely accomplished their goal of forcing Muslims out of a large territory adjacent to Serbia, according to the first public US report on that campaign, reports AP.

The report, written by two Senate Foreign Relations Committee investigators, estimates that 35,000 people have died in the violence in Bosnia, most of them — upwards of 20,000 — in the forced evacuations of Muslim villages. Most international attention has focused on smaller numbers killed in artillery shelling cities or in detention camps.

The investigators spent a week in former Yugoslavia earlier this month.

Separate intelligence figures obtained by The Associated Press indicate that some 2.3 million Muslims already have fled Bosnia, about one-third of them to Western Europe.

On Friday, Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Poland's first post-communist Prime Minister, is to leave for former Yugoslavia. He will head a special UN human rights team to collect independent evidence of atrocities.

United Nations spokesman Pierre Mehu said Wednesday that Mazowiecki was being briefed by top human rights officials in Geneva prior to his trip.

An emergency meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission has appointed Mazowiecki to investigate the situation, particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina. His evidence could be used in war crimes trials.

The US Senate report is filled with witness accounts of atrocities during the purge of Muslims from Bosnia-Herzegovina, and provides gruesome new details of the terror campaign still raging.

Several accounts appeared to confirm details of the first news reports about the detention camps, including the description of one at Brcko where nearly all of the estimated 1,000 captives were killed over a period of several weeks.

There is every reason to believe individual accounts as part of a story repeated throughout Muslim Bosnia-Herzegovina in April, May and June of this year, the Senate investigators said.

They said, roughly 70 per cent of Bosnia has been substantially cleared of its Muslim inhabitants, who were formerly the majority, leaving only Serbs in the region next to Serbia.

The report criticized the United Nations and the State Department for what it called a slow response to the crisis. As early as June, reports of atrocities were flowing back to Washington from US diplomats, and a UN memo dated July 3 noted the existence of "concentration camps" and a policy of purging Muslims from the region.

Related Story on Page 5

US, allies draw up ultimatum to Baghdad

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 19: US-led allies have drawn up an ultimatum for Saddam Hussein, threatening to shoot down Iraqi warplanes and helicopter gunships unless air attacks on Shiite Muslim rebels in the country's south are halted, reports AP.

In Washington, a Bush administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity said Wednesday that the United States, Britain and France would deliver written messages of warning "fairly soon" to the Iraqi UN Mission.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that approach was being taken because the three Western nations do not have normal relations with Iraq in their capitals or in Baghdad.

In Brussels, Zaid Haidar, Iraq's ambassador to Belgium and the 12-nation European Community, said Wednesday that the plan was "a provocative action to push Iraq" to take some action that would give the allies "a pretext for military action against Iraq."

"The whole aim is to boost the electoral campaign of Mr Bush," he contended.

"But I believe myself that my government is wise enough not to fall for this provocative action," Haidar said.

The warning by Britain, See Page 12 Col 3

AL, allies opt for movement

By Staff Correspondent

Twelve opposition political parties including the Awami League Wednesday reached a consensus to launch a joint movement against the anti-liberation forces and to mount pressure on the government to take action against those forces.

The leaders, most of them from the former 15-party alliance, resumed their second day's talks with AL chief and leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Sheikh Hasina in the chair at her Minto Road official residence.

The meeting was adjourned until Thursday evening, the sources said.

The meeting, according to sources, mainly discussed the action programmes which would be taken after Thursday's hartal.

Answering to a question if there were any possibility of another hartal within this month, the source said that "first we have to read public pulse. But there was near consensus on certain other actions like protest week, demonstrations and sit-in strike. The dates of the programmes were yet to be finalised."

The meeting also discussed the question whether to launch a new alliance on to revive the defunct 15-party alliance, the source said adding that a formal meeting on this question might be held sometime after the hartal.

The meeting also discussed a leaflet in the name of the Five-party alliance which called for a protest week beginning August 21 but the representatives of the alliance disowned the leaflet.

See Page 12 Col 8

Students clash: One loses eyes, another hand

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 19: Two students of Khulna Mohsin College were seriously injured in a bomb blast following a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) this morning at college campus.

According to information, JCD announced Monday that they would not allow any BCL workers on the campus.

Today when Atiquzzaman, 22, Cultural Secretary of BCL of the college entered the campus, he came under bomb attack.

His two eye-balls were damaged.

In the same incident, Rok-uzzaman, 20, a worker of JCD was also injured. His left wrist was blown up.

Both the students were admitted to the Khulna General Hospital.

One pigeon shot was heard during the clash in which random explosions rocked the campus in the morning, the sources said.

Police recovered three powerful handbombs from a room of the college after the clash.

Classes were closed for the day after the fighting over, police said, trifling personal matters.



Kuldeep Nayar, an eminent Indian journalist and a columnist for The Daily Star, speaking at a reception hosted in his honour by the Editor and the Staff of the paper yesterday. During his talk, he discussed the problems of cooperation among the media in SAARC countries and answered questions on issues facing South Asia. — Star photo

Dhaka-Delhi Foreign Secy level talks Saturday

By Staff Correspondent

Foreign Secretaries of Bangladesh and India hold talks Saturday in Dhaka.

Indian Foreign Secretary JN Dixit, accompanied by a joint secretary each from the ministries of External Affairs and Home, arrives Dhaka Friday evening on a two-day visit.

Official sources said that the two sides would handle "all the issues on the table" in line with the joint declaration released after Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's visit to India late May.

As per the declaration Commerce Ministers of the two countries have already met and signed notes to extend the bilateral trade agreement.

To honour the declaration, the Irrigation Ministers are scheduled to meet at the end See Page 12 Col 1

Islamic Foundation against political rallies at Baitul Mokarram gates

A meeting of the board of governors of the Islamic Foundation Bangladesh yesterday decided to approach to the government to make necessary measures not to hold any political rally, meeting or gathering at the southern and northern gates of the Baitul Mokarram Mosque to ensure sanctity of the National Mosque, reports BSS.

The meeting was held at the conference room of the foundation with State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof M A Mannan in the chair.

It was also informed in the meeting that the proposed budget allocation for 1992-93 fiscal year for the foundation stood at Taka five crore four lakh and 92 thousand.

According to an official handout, the meeting was attended, among others, by Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs Abdul Awal, Khatib of Lalbagh Jam-e-Masjid Maulana Mohammad Aminul Islam, Professor Emeritus Dr Sirajul Haque, Director-General, Islamic Foundation Alhaj Mansurul Haque Khan, Khatib of Baitul Mokarram Mosque Maulana Mohammad Obaidul Haque, Secretary, Islamic Foundation, Mohammad Shahjahan Siddiqui.

Press Note 'Police opened fire on refugees in self-defence'

The government is determined to take measures to ensure voluntary repatriation of the Rohingya refugees and has taken all possible measures, according to a Press Note issued by the Home Ministry here yesterday, reports BSS.

The Press Note said most of the refugees at the Cox's Bazar and Teknaf Rohingya refugee camps were eager to return home voluntarily and their number was increasing gradually. But a handful of trouble-shooters were active to create impediments to their voluntary repatriation by holding out threat and resorting to physical torture and coercion, for this clashes took place at several camps in the past and the police had to intervene to bring the situation under control, it added.

Explaining the Tuesday's incident at a refugee camp around 10 am under Cox's Bazar district, the Press Note said when some refugees of Haldiapalong Rohingya Refugee See Page 12 Col 7

UNHCR concerned over Rohingya camp incident

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) yesterday expressed concern over Tuesday's incident in Haldiapalong camp in Cox's Bazar, reports UNB.

At least three Rohingya refugees were reported killed in police firing aimed at dispersing some unruly camp inmates who attacked relief officials there.

"UNHCR is trying to ascertain the causes of the incident as well as receive information on the number of dead and injured," said a press release from the agency's Dhaka office.