

FOR YOUR SAMPLE / PARCEL SHIPMENTS IN 189 COUNTRIES

CALL: 232224, 237784, 238653, 239145, 239217, 252432

BAKULGANGA EXPRESS FEDERAL EXPRESS

BAKULGANGA EXPRESS CO. LTD. 95, MOTUHEL, C.A. DHAKA FAX: (880-2) 863027

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

Inside Today

Article

Whither Transparency?

Column: Passing Clouds by Zillur Rahman Siddiqui Page 4

International



500 survivors from a sinking cruise ship arrive in Singapore

China, South Korea set up diplomatic ties Page 5

Business

Exemption of interest rate for sick industries suggested Page 7

Feature

Education
Educational television in India Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



The Serpentine Fingers Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Shukla arrives today

The Indian Minister for Water Resources, Vidya Charan Shukla, arrives in Dhaka today on a three-day visit leading a six-member delegation to the ministerial-level talks with Bangladesh on sharing of river waters. Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Resources and Flood Control Minister M. Majid-ul-Huq will head the Bangladesh team at the meeting being held as a follow-up of the summit meeting held between Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and her Indian counterpart in New Delhi in May this year, reports BSS.

Biswas visits Menon

President Abdur Rahman Biswas visited Rashed Khan Menon MP at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka last evening. The attending physicians briefed the President on the latest health condition of the Workers' Party MP and his treatment. Begum Abdur Rahman Biswas accompanied the President, reports BSS.

4 killed in Bogra bus mishap

BOGRA, Aug 24: Four people were killed and 12 others injured today (Monday) when a bus rammed into a crowded market at Chowmuhuri Hat, 12 kilometres from the town. Of the dead, three were identified as Habibur Rahman (36), a passenger, and two pedestrians Solaiman (32) and Azzul Karim (45). The other — a young man of about 20, also a pedestrian — could not be immediately identified, reports UNB.

BNP anti-terrorism programme

Dhaka City unit of Bangladesh Nationalist Party has chalked out anti-terrorism programme for creating public opinion against terrorism BSS

Govt rejects 5-party pre-condition for dialogue

The proposed dialogue between Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and the leaders of Five-Party Alliance has become uncertain as the government yesterday refused to consider any pre-condition.

The Alliance leaders earlier said that they preferred a meeting represented by a single person and that its proceedings should not be publicised in the media.

Meanwhile, sources said that the Left-leaning youth organisations had decided to revive the Youth Action Committee to launch a movement against violence and fundamentalism.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) sources said that the government refusal to accept the conditions was communicated to the Alliance leaders yesterday after the weekly Cabinet meeting.

A senior Cabinet Minister, preferring anonymity, said "We fail to understand why they are imposing conditions and the BNP has no reason to accept those conditions."

However, Nirmal Sen, Convenor of the Alliance reiterating the conditions, told The Daily Star that "Even if it was a telephonic conversation they (meaning government) would have to talk to me, and nobody else." He also added that the situation had

By Special Correspondent

changed. The Alliance decision agreeing to a bilateral dialogue with the government, has, in the meantime contributed to the development of cracks in the Opposition unity in protesting the attack on Rashed Khan Menon.

Commenting on the proposed dialogue, Shahjahan Siraj, MP, of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) said that "the Five-Party Alliance should not have opted for a bilateral dialogue." He further added that there was no alter-

native to the uniting of actions of the pro-Liberation forces against such heinous crimes (referring to the attack on Rashed Khan Menon).

Two other leading MPs in the Awami League-led Opposition also expressed scepticism on the fate of such bilateral moves.

It was not immediately known to what extent the Opposition reactions would affect its unity but Nirmal Sen said that "I would talk to Opposition colleagues about future course of actions after the present phase of the joint action programme was over on August 27."

The decision to revive the Youth Action Committee came following a meeting yesterday evening. The meeting was participated by leaders of the Workers Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh, National Awami Party, and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Jin).

The meeting observed that contacts should be established with youth fronts of the BNP and the AL to facilitate revival.

Meeting sources said that Fazle Hossain Badsha of the Workers Party-backed Jubo Maitree would contact youth front of the BNP while Helaluddin of the CPB-backed Jubo Union and Nazmul Huq Pradhan of the JSD-backed Jatiya Jubo Jote would contact the youth front of the AL.

Menon's jaundice worsens

By Staff Correspondent

The condition of Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon — remained unchanged yesterday at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

According to a CMH health bulletin, his jaundice has exacerbated and Menon continued to be pyrexial and his respiratory rate has increased which is consequent upon fever and overall metabolic response to extensive hepatic and pulmonary injury.

Menon has been under treatment at the CMH Intensive Care Unit since August 17 after he was shot at by unknown assailants in front of his party office.



The ransacked reception centre of UNHCR office at Dhanmondi (top) and two of the arrested Somali refugees, with their faces hidden, at Dhanmondi Police Station cell (above).

Formal talks with Malaysia begin today

By Staff Correspondent

Formal talks between the foreign Ministers of Bangladesh and Malaysia covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common concern begin in Dhaka this morning.

The talks are expected to be followed by the signing of an agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the two countries. A joint commission led by the foreign ministers of the two countries will be set up under this agreement.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah bin Haji Ahmad Badawi, now in the city, arrived here Sunday after midnight on a five-day official visit to Bangladesh.

He is leading a 15-member delegation comprising high officials of Malaysia's ministries of foreign affairs, agriculture, human resources, international trade, primary industries and youth and sports.

Talking to newsmen soon after his arrival at the Zia International Airport, Datuk Abdullah expressed his happiness to be in Dhaka and termed Bangladesh a very friendly and brotherly country.

He said that he was looking forward to setting up a Joint Commission with Bangladesh.

In reply to a question, Datuk Abdullah emphasised the need for a safe return of the Rohingya refugees to Myanmar.

The Malaysian Minister was received at the airport by Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman.

Related story on Page 7

Somali refugees storm UNHCR office: 5 held

By Staff Correspondent

A group of Somali refugees Monday attacked and damaged the local office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at Dhanmondi, witnesses and police said.

Police arrested five Somalis, including two women, from the scene of the incident. Police sources said that six Somalis took part in the attack at around 10:30 am.

They damaged a car and furniture including sofa, chair, table and refrigerator at the UNHCR office located at the House No 32, Road No 11 in Dhanmondi.

The arrested Somalis identified themselves as Asma Ismail, Zamana Noman Ali,

Sayed Ahmed, Yusuf Mohammad Yusuf and Soleman.

Police said they may be produced in court today.

One police constable who also came under the attack told The Daily Star that two Somalis first came to the office and sought an interview with the Programme Officer dealing with relief.

The office peon asked them to wait outside the office until the official approved their interview but the Somalis refused to wait outside.

When the police constable intervened, the two Somalis turned violent attacking him and the office staff.

They were snatching away

See Page 12 Col 4

Opposition members stay away Committee on CHT begins investigation Thursday

By Nazmul Ashraf

The government is determined to go ahead with the controversial committee on the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHTs) in its quest to solve the long-standing crisis in the region, well-placed sources said.

The committee starts functioning Thursday.

Although opposition members in the committee have decided to stay away from it, the committee has unilaterally decided to begin an investigation into the prevailing situation in the CHTs by its mem-

bers belonging to the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

The committee, headed by the Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed, in its first meeting, not attended by the opposition members, decided August 8 that its members would visit Khagrachhari August 27-28, Rangamati August 29-30 and Bandarban September 5-6. In their trips to the three CHT districts, committee members would listen to and exchange opinions

with the chairmen of the local government and the members of the public.

The government formed the nine-member committee July 9 with five MPs of the ruling party, one each from three opposition parties — Awami League, Jamaat-e-Islami and Workers Party and the Communications Minister as its convenor.

The committee later co-opted another AL MP from Khagrachhari dropping Abdul

See Page 12 Col 4

Proposals to revamp sick textile industries ready

By Inam Ahmed and Masud Hasan Khan

The Textile Ministry has drafted a new set of proposals suggesting ways to revamp the sick textile industries to be placed at the cabinet meeting for its decision.

The proposals already drafted are now under scrutiny of the ministry, concerned sources said.

The Finance Minister had agreed to discuss the new suggestions with the Textile Minister, according to the sources, after the leaders of the Bangladesh Specialised Textile Mills and Powerloom Industries Association submitted a memorandum to the

Prime Minister on July 26.

The new draft summary prepared for the cabinet discussion followed an earlier one last year which could not be discussed because of reservations by the Finance Ministry, the sources said.

The summary highlighted the ways to resolve the financial crisis prevailing in the textile sub-sector and proposed rejuvenation of the sector with an aim to produce export quality fabrics.

It suggested that the interest rates on the textile units should be brought down to 10 per cent to facilitate the own-

ers to repay their bank loans.

The specialised textile units which were set up before 1986 with bank loans had been charged with 14 per cent interest rate while the debt-equity ratio was 60:40 and 70:30.

On the other hand, the textile units installed under the BSCIC loans were charged with 10 per cent interest every year with debt-equity ratio of 80:20.

The draft summary chalked out a projected cash flow statement of the sub-sector based on present capacity

See Page 12 Col 5

Govt has let loose terrorists: Hasina

TUNGIPARA (Gopalganj), Aug 24: Sheikh Hasina today accused the government of letting loose terrorists against the democratic forces and called on the people for unitedly resisting all nefarious designs against democracy and independence, reports UNB.

"We are determined to root out the government-backed terrorism and restore discipline in society to consolidate the hard-won democracy and ensure people's economic emancipation," she said.

The Awami League president and leader of the Opposition in parliament was addressing public meetings at Nilpha Boira High School and

Basuria Senerchar Junior School premises here this afternoon.

The meeting at Nilpha Boira was presided over by Hajj Abdur Rakib Mia and at Senerchar by Mohammad Akbar Hossain Munshi.

Hasina said after the fall of the Ershad regime, people had expected that the government would initiate specific policy and programme for improving their condition. "But people's hopes were dashed to the ground because of undemocratic behaviour as well as inefficiency and indifference of the ruling party."

She alleged that "the people

See Page 12 Col 1

UN forces shut Sarajevo airport amid fierce fighting

SARAJEVO, Aug 24: UN peace-keepers closed Sarajevo airport to aid flights today after it was hit by a mortar during fierce fighting between Muslim and Serb forces, reports Reuters.

UN sources said an airport building was struck.

The area around the Holiday Inn hotel in the centre of the Bosnian capital was also bombed with mortars as the warring communities kept up pressure on each other ahead of an international conference on Yugoslavia in London on Wednesday.

Fighting resumed at dawn after an overnight lull in

clashes that have cost scores of lives in the last few days.

Earlier, the Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug reported that 1,700 artillery shells fell on Serb-held positions in the last 24 hours.

About 20 soldiers and civilians, including women and children, were killed in the bombardment, Tanjug said. The report could not be independently verified.

Fighting throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina intensified at the weekend as rival forces fought for territorial advantage prior to the London talks.

The UN General Assembly is expected to hear an

outpouring of support for Bosnia when it reconvenes Monday to debate the crisis in the embattled republic at the initiative of the UN's Islamic members.

It will be the first time the entire 179-strong membership of the world body has had an opportunity to take a stand on Bosnia.

Mortars killed 14 people and wounded 20 in Sarajevo in the space of six hours on Sunday and two foreign students died when a shell smashed into their dormitory on the edge of the city.

Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic said as he left for

London on Sunday, that the Serbian policy of "ethnic cleansing"—killing or driving out Muslims and Croats in Serb-held territory—would cease.

Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic said he was sending a letter to republics that have broken away from the old Yugoslav federation — Macedonia, Croatia and Slovenia — proposing talks on establishing inter-state relations.

Besides Bosnia, the London conference is expected to discuss other potential flash-points in the region, including Serbia's Albanian-majority

province of Kosovo and Macedonia.

The Macedonians haven't been able to secure European Community recognition of their independence because Greece objects to the republic's name.

More than 8,000 people are known to have been killed and almost two million displaced in four months of conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where Muslims and Croats are fighting Serb forces opposed to the republic's independence from Yugoslavia.

The real toll is believed to be much higher. Report from UN says: The

General Assembly is expected to hear an outpouring of support for Bosnia-Herzegovina when it reconvenes today to debate the crisis in the embattled republic at the initiative of the UN's Islamic members.

It will be the first time the entire 179-strong membership of the world body has an opportunity to take a stand on the struggle between Bosnia's Muslims and Croats, who proclaimed independence last March, and Serb militias opposed to breaking from the rump Yugoslav republic now comprised of only Serbia and Montenegro.

Water talks Shukla may table interim arrangement proposal

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

In what appears to be an event to vindicate the political commitment pronounced at the May meeting of their Prime Ministers, the Irrigation Ministers of Bangladesh and India sit tomorrow in Dhaka to discuss the vexed issue of water sharing.

Indian Minister Vidya Charan Shukla arrives tonight leading a six-member team that includes several top water resources experts.

According to some sources, Shukla might table a proposal for an interim arrangement, possibly something similar to the one that expired in 1988. Dhaka officials refuse to outline their position, saying let's wait and see.

In fact, there is hardly any talk of a possible agreement for reasons not explained.

Shukla's coming coincides with the expiry date of the timetable set by the top political leadership through a joint statement issued after Begum Zia's May 26-28 visit to India.

The statement stipulated that the ministers would meet within 90 days to discuss the issue that bedevils the relations between the two neighbours.

The view that the ministerial meeting is more to honour the accord than to yield something substantial gets ground because of the fact that Shukla was to have come much earlier, but both sides took about two months to agree on a date. Even the Indian press had

See Page 12 Col 7

Industrial loans to transport owners likely

The government is contemplating to grant industrial loans to transport owners, reports BSS.

The defaulters in repaying transport loans will also come under the terms and conditions applicable to the defaulting debtors in industrial sector.

The decision was taken in a meeting held yesterday at the conference room of the Ministry of Communications with Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed in the chair.

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mirza Abbas, State Minister for Communications Fazlur Rahman, Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed, Chairman Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) H

See Page 12 Col 3

CID given charge to probe attack on Menon

By Staff Correspondent

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police was given charge Monday to investigate into the attack on Workers' Party (WP) leader Rashed Khan Menon.

Unidentified assailants shot and critically wounded the WP leader near his party office at Topkhana Road in the capital at around 8:35 pm on August 17.

Haider Akbar Khan Rono, a WP leader, lodged a case with Ramna police the following day, accusing Jamaat-Shibir and Jubo Command activists of attacking Menon.

Earlier, the Detective Branch (DB) of police was

See Page 12 Col 4

SAARC parliament secys gen meet begins

The first meeting of the Secretaries-General of the parliaments of SAARC countries began at the committee room of Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

The two-day meeting will prepare a draft charter and rules for the Association of the Speakers and Parliamentarians of SAARC countries.

The meeting is the follow-up of a decision taken at the conference of the Speakers of SAARC countries held in Sri Lanka earlier this year.

Split into three business sessions, the meeting is being

See Page 12 Col 8