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NEWS BRIEFS

Classes of City College postponed

Dhaka City College authorities yesterday postponed all the classes of the college until September 1 in view of the situation arising around the college. The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the teachers with the Principal Mohammad Hafizuddin in the chair, a college press release said, reports BSS.

Miladunnabi on Sept 10

The Eid-e-Miladunnabi will be observed on September 10 as moon for the month of Rabul Awal had been sighted yesterday, according to an Islamic Foundation press release in Dhaka. The decision was taken by the national Moon Sighting Committee at its meeting held yesterday with State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof MA Mannan in the chair, reports BSS.

RU senate meet today

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Aug 29: The fourteenth meeting of the senate of Rajshahi University will be held tomorrow. Annual budget of 1992-93 and annual report of 1989-90 will be placed for consideration. Vice Chancellor Prof M Anisur Rahman will preside.

Another Polytechnic student shot dead

By Staff Correspondent

A student of the Dhaka Polytechnic Institute was shot dead at the Institute's Abdul Latif Hostel in Tejgaon in the city early Saturday.

The victim, Shahabuddin, a Second Year student of the Mechanical Department, was also a Joint Convenor of the Institute's Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) unit. He was 22.

Shahabuddin was reportedly murdered as a sequel to an internal conflict between two factions of the organization.

This internal conflict had also led to the murder of the General Secretary (GS) of the Institute's Central Students Union, Shakil Mahmud, in the same hostel June 24 this year.

According to Abdul Rauf, a Third Year student of the Mechanical Department, who was with Shahabuddin in Room No 105 during the incident, a

group of about eight armed men stormed into the room at around 5:30 am yesterday and started beating him (Rauf).

When Shahabuddin tried to save him, the armed men shot Shahabuddin dead, Rauf added.

Leaving Rauf wounded in the room, the killers dragged Shahabuddin's body out of the hostel and forced an autorickshaw driver at gunpoint to take it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Rauf said that he could identify three of the killers whom he named as Masud, Razu and Fuzo.

The autorickshaw driver, Abul Hasan, said that he agreed to take the body to the hospital out of fear when the assailants pointed pistols at him.

He said that the armed men were out of sight, he rushed with the body to a police out-

post under Tejgaon police station and informed police.

Later, police said that they sent the body to the DMCH for autopsy and rushed to the institute.

Our DMCH correspondent reports: The post mortem was done at the Forensic Department of the DMCH yesterday.

Shahabuddin received two bullets one in his left thigh and the others in the back from a sawed-off rifle.

Abdul Rauf, beaten severely by the armed men was first admitted to the DMCH from where he was shifted to the Rajarbag Police Hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, a source said that Shahabuddin was listed by police as a witness to the Shakil murder.

Another source said that

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting Rashed Khan Menon at the CMH yesterday. — Star photo

Khaleda, Hasina visit Menon

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon, MP, at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka yesterday evening prior to his departure for London this morning for liver treatment, reports BSS.

Begum Zia was beside Menon at the Intensive Care Unit of CMH for about ten minutes. She enquired about the health condition of the Workers Party leader from the attending doctors.

Talking to Menon who was looking cheerful, Begum Zia said, "We pray for your quick recovery and return home."

She also assured cooperation of the government, if required, during his treatment in London.

Menon recalled with gratitude the Prime Minister's personal concern. He said that he

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Menon on way to London

By Staff Correspondent

Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon was scheduled to be flown to London for advanced treatment early today (Sunday).

In a message issued from his sickbed at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Saturday, Menon sought "dua" and blessings of all for his early recovery and expressed his profound gratitude to the people for their deep love, affection and prayers.

Meanwhile, according to a medical bulletin issued by the CMH, the condition of Menon showed an 'all-round improvement' on the day and attending physicians gave permission to transfer him for treatment abroad.

Chief Physician Major Gen Anis Waiz and Chief Surgeon Major Gen M A Mohaimen, talking to newsmen at the Hospital last night, said that Menon was out of danger at the moment and that he was fit to travel for treatment abroad.

They added that emergency medical equipment and medicines were being taken along to tackle any complications in Menon's condition during the flight to London.

The Workers Party General Secretary had been undergoing treatment at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Hospital since August 17 when he was shot and critically injured by

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WB ban on commodity credit goes

The World Bank, eventually impressed by progress in the banking sector reforms, has lifted the more than one and a half year suspension on a commodity credit, reports UNB.

Early last year, the Bank put an embargo on the release of 40.1 million SDR (equivalent to 50 million US dollars), the second instalment of the Financial Sector Credit due to what it had said government's failure in implementing the agreed reforms in the banking sector.

Unsatisfactory realization of default bank loans was also cited by the bank as a reason for the suspension.

Since then, the World Bank had been refusing repeated government requests for withdrawing the suspension and, instead, asked for implementation of reforms in banking sector, including strengthening measures to realize default loans.

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Big arms haul from Islamic varsity halls

KUSHTIA, Aug 29: Police in an eight-hour operation today recovered a huge quantity of arms, including a locally-made light machine gun, from two residential halls of the Islamic University here.

A special squad led by Police Superintendent Anwar Hussain raided the PTI and MATS halls of the University from 12 midnight to 8 am today and recovered the arms.

During the raids, bombs and cocktails were hurled at police from the dormitories of the halls, believed to be strongholds of the Jamaat-e-Islami's student wing Islamic Chhatra Shibir. But police could not nab anyone.

District ASP of CID told UNB by telephone that the recovered arms included a locally made LMG, three guns, 11 cartridges, 43 hand bombs, 27 Indian Chocolate bombs, 5 ramdas, 8 Chinese axes, 10 daggers, one bayonet, 11 swords, 5 hockey sticks, 61 sticks and 80 empty pots for making cocktails.

Police halts GCO march towards PM's office

Gananatrick Chhatra Otkyo (GCO) brought out a huge procession Saturday and marched towards the Prime Minister's Secretariat planning a siege demanding implementation of its four-point demand, reports UNB.

But the riot police halted the procession near the Bangla Motor crossing where the students demonstrated for a while and later held a rally.

It was addressed by Chhatra Moity General Secretary Ragib Ahsan Munna, Gananatrick Chhatra Union President Bidhan Roy and Chhatra Samity General Secretary Abu Aslam Mintu.

The GCO's demands include immediate arrest and trial of the killers of CPB Leader Ratan Sen and those involved in the assassination attempt on Rashed Khan Menon, replacement of Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and ban on the politics of Jamaat-Shibir, Jubo Command and Freedom Party.

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Rab escapes mob attack

JHENIDAH, Aug 29: JSD (Rab) leader ASM Abdul Rab came under attack from a mob near Charobdil in Shailakupa thana of the district today (Saturday) while he was going by car to Amla in Kushtia, reports UNB.

About 100 people stopped Rab's car, asked him to go back to Jessore and also tried to assault him. They also pelted stone at his car but the JSD leader managed to escape in his car unhurt. However, another car following him was damaged by the mob.

Later briefly addressing a gathering at Sheikpara on Jhenidah-Kushtia road, Rab said country's over all development will not be possible unless representatives of the professional groups come to state power.

Local people said internal party conflict might be the cause of the attack on Rab.

PM leaves for Jakarta tomorrow Leaders to reinforce role of NAM

The 30-year old Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) will attach greater importance to economic security at its tenth summit beginning September 1 in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, reports BSS.

Foreign Ministry sources in Dhaka said the Jakarta summit would make an extensive review of the present world economic situation, the position and constraints of the Third World economies and adopt necessary measures to ensure equitable development and common prosperity for all.

The end of the cold war and bipolarity in international relations have necessitated the greater attachment to the economic matters by the Non-Aligned Movement, they said.

The leaders of NAM will also try to reinforce the role of the movement in the emerging new world order to forge stronger unity among the member states and underline their determination to play an effective role in shaping the course of international relations.

Important regional and international issues will prominently figure in the deliberations of the Jakarta summit.

The issues include improving the effectiveness of the United Nations, the Middle East situation, Palestine problem, situation in Afghanistan, Cambodia, South Africa, Cyprus, decolonization, security and disarmament, human

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African states oppose bid to expel Y'slavia

JAKARTA, Aug 29: Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi led an attempt by Islamic nations on Saturday to expel Yugoslavia from the Non-Aligned Movement but met stiff African resistance, reports Reuter.

The movement must be realistic and mature enough now to address the question of the membership of the former Yugoslavia," Abdullah Ahmad told Foreign Ministers preparing for a six-day summit of the movement, which starts here on Tuesday.

Malaysia and other Islamic countries are angry at the treatment of Muslims in the breakaway Yugoslavian republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Abdullah Ahmad said the Yugoslavia which joined the 106-member Non-Aligned

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Pentagon contradicts Bush's assurance US may hit Iraqi targets

WASHINGTON, Aug 29: The Bush administration is preparing to counter anticipated Iraqi attacks on Shi'ite Muslims with possible air strikes and the creating of a Shi'ite 'safe haven,' according to the Washington Post's today edition, reports Reuter.

The paper quotes administration officials speaking anonymously who said the ban on Iraqi flights imposed by the United States, France, Britain and Russia this week was the 'first step' in a campaign to pressure Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

The officials' comments run contrary to President George Bush's assurance on Wednesday that the main purpose of the no-fly zone was to 'monitor' Iraqi military activities in the southern part of the country.

The paper quotes a senior

Pentagon official as saying that 'should deterrence fail we have to look at alternative additional steps'... there's quite a number of things that could be done.

Options include bombing Iraqi military targets and establishing a more aggressive security zone for the Shi'ites modelled after the sanctuary established for the country's minority Kurdish population in the north, the paper quotes, officials as saying.

AP adds: US Navy pilots flying extended missions over southern Iraq on Saturday reported Iraqi air activity north of the exclusion zone but no encounters in the 'no fly' area.

"There is some activity on our radar," said Lt. Cmdr. Bob Playfair, 35, a fighter pilot. He made the comment after spending more than six hours patrolling over the marshes.

He added: "They could be playing. They could be training. We can't tell."

The activity was detected within 30 miles (48 kilometers) of the zone, pilots said. Of the zone, pilots said. Other reports says, China expressed serious concern Saturday over the 'no-fly' zone a US coalition has declared in southern Iraq, official media reported.

"The Chinese government believes that no step to be taken in that regard should jeopardize Iraq's unification and territorial integrity," an unidentified Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement carried by the state-run Xinhua News Agency.

It was China's first official statement on the coalition's order banning Iraqi civilian and military flights over southern Iraq.

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Pakistan shuts Afghan camps, sends army to sealed border

ISLAMABAD, Aug 29: Pakistan has sealed its border with Afghanistan from Friday in an attempt to stop the influx of Afghan refugees, reports Xinhua.

According to local press reports today, only people with passports and visas will be allowed to enter Pakistan.

For the first time, army has been ordered to seal the long border to keepout Afghans without proper travel documents.

Several thousand Afghans fleeing Kabul were stranded at the border town of Torkham Friday after Pakistan closed its border, the reports said.

Observers said Pakistan believed it could not afford to support the refugees as international aid to the refugees dropped.

As many as 6,554 individuals crossed over into Pakistan at Torkham on Thursday.

AFP from Peshawar adds: Pakistan has closed 107 Afghan refugee camps in its North West Frontier Province and banned the entry of fresh

arrivals from Kabul, official sources said here today.

More than 300 relief workers are to be retrenched with the winding up of these camps, Faezullah Khan, Additional Commissioner for the Afghan refugees said.

He told AFP by telephone that the decision followed the voluntary return home of nearly one million Afghans over the past few months.

The government has decided to close any camp whose population fell to less than 2,500, Khan said adding that the remaining people would be shifted to other tent villages to reduce the coast of looking after them.

There were more than 300 camps in the province, housing the about 3.5 million Afghans who first started fleeing the country after the 1979 Soviet military intervention.

The Soviets pulled out in 1989, but the war continued between the communist government in Kabul and Mujahideen guerrillas based in Pakistan until the April trans-

fer or power to an Islamic government.

The refugees began to pour back into Afghanistan of their own accord after the change of government, but the exodus from the camps abruptly reversed after the eruption of fighting for Kabul between the Hezb-i-Islami of hardline leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and troops belonging to the interim government of Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Meanwhile, the roar of rockets thundered overhead as Afghanistan's beleaguered Islamic government announced a cease-fire Saturday with hardline fundamentalists, who have rained destruction on Kabul for nearly a month.

Fareed, a defense ministry spokesman who like many Afghans goes by one name, said fundamentalist chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar signed the agreement a day earlier. He would not comment on the distant thundering of rockets.

But Hekmatyar's version of the peace pact conflicted with

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A student chases a suspected Bakushah Market shopkeeper (top) as BDR guard the market (below) yesterday. — Star photos



Students continue to block road

By Staff Correspondent

Tense situation was prevailing in the areas surrounding Dhaka College as students kept a part of Mirpur Road blocked to traffic and demonstrated in the street protesting the killing of a student and demanding relocation of Bakushah Market elsewhere for the fourth consecutive day Saturday.

The students kept the road from Nilkhet to Science Laboratory out of bounds to traffic. Hundreds of shops of several markets including Bakushah Market, Gauchhia Market, Chandni Chack Super Market, Dhanmndi Hawkers Market, Newmarket, were closed following the students' demonstration.

Farhad Hossain, a second year science student of the college was murdered reportedly by a group of shopkeepers at Bakushah Market at

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