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NEWS BRIEFS

WB mission chief meets Shamsul

The World Bank mission chief in Bangladesh Christopher Willoughby called on Food Minister M Shamsul Islam at his office in Dhaka yesterday. They discussed matters related to different aspects of food assistance in Bangladesh. Food Secretary A N M Yusuf was present, reports BSS.

Nurses go on strike in Pabna

PABNA, Sept 1: Nurses of Pabna Sadar Hospital today (Tuesday) began an indefinite work stoppage demanding punishment of some local people who allegedly misbehaved with them Monday night. Hospital sources said several people, believed friends and relations of a drug addict Lutfar Rahman alias Madhu Hajj of Shalgaria of the town, went to the Sadar Hospital and engaged in a brawl with the attending nurses, reports UNB.

24000 arrested in 'Operation August'

Police in their anti-crime drive arrested more than 24,000 people and recovered some 1,000 firearms from different parts of the country in last one month. They also recovered about 5,500 rounds of ammunition during their drive, code-named 'Operation August'. The recovered arms included two LMGs, three SMGs, 49 rifles, 59 revolvers, 699 pipeguns, 54 pistols and 314 guns, reports UNB.

Ecuador envoy new SC president

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 1: Ambassador Jose Ayala Lasso of Ecuador takes over as Tuesday as President of the Security Council for the month of September. He succeeds Ambassador Li Daoyu of China. The post rotates monthly according to the English alphabetical order of the Council's 15 member countries.

Political, economic security a must PM tells NAM session



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the NAM summit meeting in Jakarta yesterday. — AFP photo

PM tells NAM session

JAKARTA, Sept 1: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today stressed the need for harnessing durable structure of democracy through economic cooperation of the world community for peace and security, reports BSS. "Our search for peace and security will remain illusive if economic stagnation, deprivation and disparities persist", the Bangladesh Prime Minister said this while making her statement at the first plenary session of the 10th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) being held at the Plenary Hall of the Jakarta convention centre. She said, NAM's foremost concern must remain that of ensuring political and economic security to all nations both weak and strong, large and small. Prime Minister Begum Zia said, peace-keeping role of the

UN must be complimented by NAM's efforts in regional disarmament and confidence building measures. She said, cooperation among big powers must not be seen as a license to encourage regional hegemony. Dwelling at length on the objectives of NAM Begum Zia said, the democratisation of international relations has been a key factor of the movement. She pleaded for review and revival of NAM's role in the changed dramatic transformation of the global situation. She said, "It must forge together an effective and comprehensive programme of action." Begum Zia expressing her sincere faith in the movement's continuing relevance said, the composition of NAM reflected the views of great majority of states in the world and represented the con-

science of mankind. Referring to the redefined relations among states, Begum Zia said historic confrontations have ended, but new ones have begun with the positive and negative developments which have direct relevance to NAM. "On the one hand, ideological walls have broken down, and democracy has triumphed, on the other ethnic rivalries have surfaced and bloody civil wars are raging." She said in the midst of renewed faith in UN values and a cut-back in arms, there is also a market decrease in restraint and a proliferation of new kinds of global threats. While there is a growing concern for environment, there is also a wanton disregard for it. She said it has been witnessed that while more and more representatives and car-

Politics overshadows call to focus on economy

JAKARTA, Sept 1: Non Aligned nations opened a key summit today with calls for a new focus on economics rather than politics, but contentious issues such as Yugoslavia and US actions in Iraq refused to stay sidelined, reports Reuter. Malaysia and Iran, resisting earlier moves to shelve the Yugoslav issue at the Non-Aligned Movement summit, lashed out at Serbian attacks on Muslims

in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani expressed reservations on the move to postpone a decision on Yugoslavia's membership of the movement until the United Nations meets later this month. Officials of the 108-member movement tried earlier to stop Yugoslav overshadowing other issues at the six-day summit, the tenth since the

group was founded in 1961. Host Indonesia and others want to push the movement away from the confrontation of the past and give it new relevance in the Cold War aftermath by focusing on development and reducing the estimated dollar 1.3 trillion Third World debt. Iran and several other Muslim nations want the rump state of Yugoslavia kicked out, reports BSS. See Page 12 Col 1

Rely on own efforts, not on West : Suharto

JAKARTA, Sept 1: Indonesian President Suharto told developing countries today they must rely on their own efforts and not just the West to pull themselves out of poverty, reports Reuter. In a speech opening the Non-Aligned Movement's 10th Summit in Jakarta, he said a fair distribution of the benefits and burdens of development economic growth and internal and external stability were essential for development. "If a country desires devel-



Indonesian students performing traditional dance in front of banners of Non-Aligned Movement nations to welcome heads of state and government arriving for the NAM summit in Jakarta last Monday. — AFP photo

Press Yangon to take back refugees, PM asks Ghali

JAKARTA, Sept 1: United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed his concern over the influx of refugees from Myanmar to Bangladesh and hoped that the process of their repatriation would begin soon, reports BSS. The UN Secretary General made the references about Bangladesh while addressing the opening session of the 10th Non-Aligned Movement summit here. Ghali, a former Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister who took the UN post this year also

referred to the prevalent natural disasters in Bangladesh and said United Nations was closely cooperating with Bangladesh to prevent and reduce the impact of the natural disasters which cause huge loss of lives and properties of the country. Ghali, today assured Prime Minister Begum Zia that the UN would continue its efforts to find solutions to the Myanmar refugee problems. The assurance came when the UN Secretary General called on the Prime Minister See Page 12 Col 8

PM urges Sharif to implement agreements

JAKARTA, Sept 1: Begum Khaleda Zia today underlined the need for implementing the agreements reached between Bangladesh and Pakistan during her recent state visit to Pakistan, reports BSS. She told this to Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who called on her at the JCC here this evening. Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, who was present during the meeting, told BSS that Prime Minister Begum Zia laid stress on further strengthening the SAARC for See Page 12 Col 2

Pakistan raises Kashmir issue defying advice

JAKARTA, Sept 1: Pakistan today raised the Kashmir issue at the NAM summit defying chairman Indonesia's advice to desist from raising bilateral issues, reports PTI. Addressing the plenary session of the summit, the Pakistan Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, urged his Indian counterpart to "Work with us in seeking an equitable solution to this potentially explosive issue as mandated by the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and in the spirit of the Shimla Agreement."

Indo-Bangla joint move a must to save jute: Saifur

CALCUTTA, Sept 1: The Bangladesh Finance Minister, Saifur Rahman, today stressed the need for an Indo-Bangladesh joint action to contain the inroad of synthetic materials replacing the traditional jute goods to save the jute industries in both the countries, reports PTI. Talking to newsmen during his brief stopover here on his way for a two-day visit to Delhi, Rahman said that the government of India as well as West Bengal should take a serious drive in this regard and formulate a common strategy along with Bangladesh so as to develop jute industries in their respective countries. The Minister, who also held discussions with the West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, at the state secretariat

here, said that the meeting centered mainly on development of trade, industries and other issues of mutual interest between Bangladesh and West Bengal. The minister urged the West Bengal government to impress upon the government of India to import fertiliser, newspapers, Tangail and Jamdani sarrees in bulk amount from Bangladesh so as to narrow the trade deficit which has mounted to 1.3 billion US dollars. He said that the Bangladesh was importing several items from India in a one way traffic as a result of which import volume from this country had multiplied 11 times as much as the figure in 1980. Rahman expressed the hope that the government of

India would give a serious thought to it so that both the countries could achieve "collective self-reliance" both in respect of economic development and trade and industrial growth. Underlining the need for constant deliberations for the two countries to make headway in this direction, the Bangladesh Minister felt if there was any 'barrier' it could be removed mutually. Replying to a question about the Bangladesh government's reported refusal to supply natural gas to West Bengal, Rahman said 'we have no adequate gas to supply to other countries'. There was no possibility even in near future to supply such gas outside the country, See Page 12 Col 3

Excess water removed from Menon's body

Two pints of water were extracted from the body of Rashed Khan Menon yesterday, the third day of his admissions to the King's College Hospital in London. According to a message received through Workers Party sources, Menon's condition remained stable but he was being kept under oxygen. The message said that Prof Roger Williams under whose treatment Menon is sat with Col Zafarullah Siddiqi, the CMH Physician who accompanied Menon, to study the case history. The sources quoted Menon's sister-in-law Naila Khan, also a physician, as saying that necessary investigations including CAT Scan were continuing. A number of Bangladesh nationals yesterday went to the See Page 12 Col 7

DU plans to sack 19 teachers

Dhaka University authorities plan to terminate the services of some DU teachers, illegally staying abroad despite the end of their study leave. At least 60 teachers, enlisted as permanent University teachers are now out of the country, sources said. The sources, however, mentioned that some of them were living outside the country from as far back as 1975. According to a DU Syndicate source the University authorities have formed a five-member committee headed by the Dean of Arts Faculty to investigate the unauthorised stay of those teachers and decide on their dismissal from services according to rules. Normally, there is a system for the formation of a tribunal

at the initiative of the Syndicate to terminate the services of a DU teacher, sources said adding that as the process is a complicated and time consuming one, the authorities have formed the committee to take measures against those teachers within a short time. The authorities have already listed some 19 DU teachers staying outside the country illegally, sources mentioned. However, the newly-formed committee is to sit in a meeting to decide the matter within a couple of days. Regarding the unauthorised stay of those teachers, official sources told this correspondent that the University could not appoint new teachers permanently to those posts. See Page 12 Col 8

Russia will send 2 warships to Gulf to join peacekeepers

MOSCOW, Sept 1: Russia will send two warships to the Gulf to join international peacekeepers, Russian Navy officials announced Tuesday, reports AP. The large anti-submarine ship Admiral Vinogradov and the tanker Boris Butoma are likely to set sail "in the first ten days of September," said the Navy spokesman, Valery Novikov. Both vessels belong to the Russian Pacific Fleet, based in the Far East, and were chosen for the mission because the Fleet had "extensive experience of operations in the Gulf

region over the past years", Novikov said. The ITAR-Tass news agency said the voyage from the ships' base to the Gulf might take two weeks. The agency cited Col. Gen. Viktor Dubynin, chief of staff of Russia's armed forces, as saying that the ships will take part in the mission of the international peacekeeping force, carried out in accordance with a UN Security Council resolution on Iraq. Unconfirmed press reports earlier last month said President Boris Yeltsin ordered a warship to be ready to go to

the Gulf if needed to join in a possible military action by the world community against Iraq. The actual dispatch of the warships could signal a change in Russia's policy toward Iraq, which has been at odds with the United Nations since the Gulf War last year. The then-Soviet Union officially supported the UN allies during the war, but refused to take part in armed conflict against Iraq, its longtime ally. Russia's participation in peacekeeping operations in the Gulf also would be a policy boost for President Bush, who has sought broad interna-

tional participation in the conflict to avoid portraying it as solely a row between Iraq and the United States. Meanwhile, radar tracks from all aircraft patrolling southern Iraq indicate Iraqi pilots have not violated a 'no-fly' zone imposed by Western allies, a US Navy Air Wing commander said Tuesday. "They are not allowed to fly below (parallel) 32 north, and from the information we have... we have no validated, correlated tracks that they have been doing that," said Capt. Arthur N. Langston. But pilots under Langston's

command in Carrier Air Wing Five say the Iraqis have been growing bolder in their flights north of the zone. Another reports says, the first UN weapons inspectors to arrive in Baghdad since the West banned Iraqi military aircraft from southern Iraqi skies went to work Tuesday without incident, UN officials said. A UN official, reached by satellite telephone in Baghdad, said there had been "no problems" during a full day of work. The mission has been accompanied by high security and more secrecy than usual.

The UN official, who insisted that his name not be used, said a lot of Iraqi security personnel accompanied the team on Tuesday, but gave no specifics. The United Nations placed its workers on maximum alert after a bomb was found attached to the car of three UN guards in northern Iraq on Friday. The 21-member team — which includes Americans, French, Germans, Italians and Poles — set out from their Baghdad hotel early Tuesday without disclosing their target site. They returned at sunset.

Distribution of JMB tender documents starts

By Staff Correspondent. The distribution of tender documents for the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB) started from Tuesday following a green signal from the World Bank (WB) Monday. On the first day, documents were handed over to seven pre-qualified firms by the Communications Minister Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed at the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA) office. "It is no more a dream, it is now a child born today", the Minister said proudly on the hand-over occasion. The 528 million US dollar project, the single largest one for Bangladesh, is expected to be completed by May, 1997. Earlier, 54 internationally-known companies and consortiums applied for pre-qualification of whom 22 were finally selected. The JMB has four components namely the bridge, the river training and two approach roads. The last dates for submission See Page 12 Col 4

BNP observes founding day

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday observed its 14th founding anniversary throughout the country, reports BSS. The leaders and workers of the BNP, founded by President Ziaur Rahman in 1978, took oath to implement the 19-point programme of the party for the development, progress and prosperity of the people by removing terrorism and corruption from the country. All the party units observed See Page 12 Col 3

Govt's undemocratic attitude has led to unrest: Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina Tuesday said government's undemocratic attitude and wrong policy have led to political unrest and economic indiscipline in the country, reports UNB. "Ruling party's autocratic behaviour, wrong outlook, corruption, nepotism, patronisation of terrorists and policy of politicisation as well as its hostility to political opponents have frustrated the entire nation", she said. Hasina was addressing a meeting of the central committee of Chhatra League, the student front of Awami League, at the party central office yesterday noon. See Page 12 Col 5

Zia declared war of independence, Mujib wanted autonomy: Huda

GAZIPUR, Sept 1: Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda said here today that President Ziaur Rahman had established the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) for preserving the nation's independence and sovereignty through the restoration of multi-party democracy, freedom of the press by freeing the country from 'autocracy, repression of Rakkhi Bahini and one party BAKSAL rule,' reports BSS. Addressing a big public meeting at Joydevpur Bazar the Minister said the founder President of BNP Ziaur Rahman had 'declared the War of Independence on March 26, 1971 while Awami League leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman wanted autonomy for the then East Pakistan on the basis of See Page 12 Col 8

Dhaka floats idea of SAARC parliament

KATHMANDU, Sept 1: Bangladesh has floated the idea of setting up a SAARC parliament on the lines of the European Parliament of the EC countries "to sort out the common problems facing the seven SAARC member-countries, mostly concerning the economic system," reports PTI. Prior to his return home after a six-day visit to the Himalayan kingdom, Shaikh Razzak Ali, Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament and leader of the parliamentary See Page 12 Col 6