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NEWS BRIEFS

Bars, liquor shops closed on Sept 10

All bars and liquor shops in the country will remain closed on September 10 on the occasion of holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi. The licence holders will not get any compensation for the closure, reports BSS.

Food Minister off to Singapore

Industry Minister Shamsul Islam Khan left Dhaka yesterday for Singapore for medical treatment there. During his stay in Singapore, he will undergo eye operation and treatment. The Minister is expected to return home by the middle of this month, reports BSS.

84 held on various charges

Police arrested 84 people on various charges from different parts of the city on Sunday, a DMP press release said yesterday. Of the arrested people, five were wanted criminals and others included the accused in dacoity, arms and explosive cases, reports UNB.

JCD central body dissolved

The central committee of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, has been dissolved and all its activities in the Dhaka University suspended, reports UNB.

The decision was taken by the BNP high command, a party source said last night. Meanwhile authorities of the violence-ridden Dhaka University yesterday issued an ultimatum to outsiders and terrorists to quit the campus before launching a crusade against the trouble-mongers. 'Leave the dormitories at once, otherwise, the authorities will be forced to take any measures to deal with you.'

The strong warning came from a meeting of hall Provosts and Proctors with Vice-Chancellor Prof M Mantruzzaman Miah in the chair.

The move followed frequent gunbattles between rival student groups, leaving several dead, with the latest bloodshed taking place early Friday when two activists of the pro-government Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal were gunned down in two halls.

The meeting adopted some resolutions for restoring peaceful academic atmosphere on the campus and cleanse the halls of 'outsiders and terrorists'.

It resolved that stern action would be taken against anyone found trying to obstruct administrative steps and entry of law enforcing agencies into halls in time of need.

Authorities will call in police anytime if armed hoodlums or outsiders try to stay in the halls on muscle-power.

The meeting hoped that no organisation would raise question if authorities took any action against those students guilty of breaking discipline.

It decided to enforce all rules and regulations of residential halls, including dealing with guest of students. Guests should need prior

permission from the House Tutors for stay in any hall.

The meeting expressed firm determination to allocate seats among the bona-fide students according to merit. None will be allowed to stay without any valid documents.

The meeting urged all student bodies to cooperate with the hall administration in implementing decisions by the authorities.

A top official of the university told UNB that they had earlier taken such decisions several times but could not be implemented for political reasons and non-cooperation of student organisations. 'If only the political parties

cooperate with us... we'll be able to purge the halls of outsiders and terrorists,' he said.

Meanwhile, campus inmates were still fearing further trouble as an uneasy calm prevailed in the entire university. Huge paramilitary BDR and helmeted riot police have been deployed in Suryasen and Jashimuddin hall areas, the trouble-spots.

No gunmen were found yesterday (Sunday) in Mohsin, Suryasen, Jashimuddin, Zia and Mujib hall areas — known as the strong bastions of JCD, the student wing of ruling party. But, sources said, outsiders were still there. JCD men refrained from

politicising on the campus for the third day yesterday in pursuance of a moratorium ordered by the BNP topnotchers immediately after the killings of two JCD activists.

Meanwhile, classes and examinations of Dhaka University will resume today after two days of suspension declared following bloody violence.

Offices and library of the university, however, remained open. Fresh timetable for the ongoing Honours and Master's degree examinations which were scheduled for Saturday and Sunday will be announced soon, officials said.

NICAR okays administrative divn in Barisal

National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reorganisation (NICAR) yesterday approved the setting up of an administrative division in Barisal with effect from January, 1993, reports BSS.

Held at the International Conference Centre (ICC) with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, the NICAR meeting also approved the upgradation of 601 class-two social welfare officers working at thana and other levels to class one.

The meeting also decided redistribution of ministry-wise block funds for the infrastructural development of thana and districts.

The Prime Minister has asked the relevant ministries to take all necessary steps to begin functioning of Barisal as the administrative division in time.

The relevant ministers and secretaries attended the meeting.

Jakarta meet ends with call for new world order

NAM condemns ethnic cleansing by Serbs



Indonesian President Suharto (Right) closed the 10th NAM summit in Jakarta yesterday after delivering the closing statement while Foreign Minister Ali Alatas look on. — AFP photo

JAKARTA, Sept 6: The Non-Aligned Movement closed its summit meeting Sunday after denouncing "the obnoxious policy of ethnic cleansing by Serbs in Bosnia-Herzegovina," reports AP.

Although the movement broke no new ground at the summit, leaders strove to project the image of a group eager to face the challenges of the 1990s.

President Soeharto of Indonesia, which took over as chairman of the movement for three years, said it "will not only endure but will also continue to grow in strength in the service of all mankind."

Without explaining how, he said the end of the Cold War confirmed the validity of non-aligned principles.

Soeharto called for a renewal of the dialogue between the industrialized North and the developing South, which he said should be "conducted on the basis of genuine inter-dependence (and) mutual equality of interests and of benefits."

Distracted for more than a week by arguments over the carnage in member state Yugoslavia, the movement delayed the formal close of its summit for seven hours to work out language in a statement condemning Belgrade.

An earlier version was not deemed strong enough because it did not mention the Serbs by name. After the change was made,

Belgrade filed a reservation, saying "one-sided changes asked for by few countries, as well as singling out one party to the conflict, certainly serve neither the cause of peace nor of the truth."

Yugoslavia's presence overshadowed other deliberations even before the summit

opened last Tuesday, with critics saying the rump country should be ousted from the movement and told to reapply in the name of Serbia and Montenegro.

A final decision on its status was put off until after the opening of the UN General Assembly in mid-September.

AFP adds: The final message from the 10th NAM summit here today called for the establishment of a new world order based on peace, security and economic and social justice.

Agreed on by all heads of state or government as a general policy document following the September 1-6 summit, the 'Jakarta Message' said the new order should be "firmly rooted in the rule of law" and the United Nations charter.

"We are committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes in all regions of the world through a sustained process of dialogue and negotiation," said the document, which was released at the end of the summit along with a series of more comprehensive documents on

economic, political and social issues.

It reaffirmed the movement's support for the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to secure their inalienable rights to self-determination and independence," and called for a settlement of the problem based on UN resolutions.

The document also attacked racism and apartheid and expressed solidarity with the people of South Africa in their struggle to establish a united, non-racial and truly democratic nation.

On economic issues it called for funds released by arms cut to be channeled into helping developing countries, adding a call for total nuclear disarmament.

A widening prosperity gap between developed and developing nations has been made worse by inequitable international structures and unequal relations," it said.

"In this context the critical socio-economic situation in African, where millions suffer economic and social deprivation, cries out for concerted action."

The document recommended a quick resolution of the Uruguay Round of talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), revived North-South talks together with intensified South-South cooperation. See Page 12 Col 7

Hasina will propose SAARC opposition platform

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi Regional Cooperation (SAARC) barring Bhutan and the Maldives will speak at a seminar titled "Role of the Opposition in Asian Societies", to be hosted by the Pakistan Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

The tiny kingdom of Bhutan and the Indian Ocean islands of the Maldives do not have legislatures.

"Democracies in the region cohabit with persistent threats of military coups... hidden hands of martial men continue to dictate the governance in some of the countries", the source said speaking on the key-note of the speech the Bangladesh leader will deliver.

"She will make her points on a regional basis. She will not speak against any particular government but rather find

a regional angle to the issues," the source, a Member of Parliament, added.

The South Asian subcontinent, home to a fifth of the global population, is troubled by conflicts between countries. The SAARC, formed to ensure the well-being of its more than one billion people, cannot talk politics and armed conflicts at its meetings.

The Opposition leaders, according to Dhaka-based SAARC diplomats, may not shy away from these issues.

"The SAARC Charter is not going to stop them from doing that", said one diplomat. "The future and past prime ministers will discuss consolidation of democracy in their countries, share their experiences in the Opposition and See Page 12 Col 7

Stop terrorists or face consequences, AL warns Govt

Opposition Awami League yesterday asked the government to stop terrorists who kept the whole nation hostage and warned that otherwise the people will seek their own ways to protect their life and property, reports UNB.

"With the taking over power by this government, the terrorist 'Mafia Group' has kept the nation hostage with the backing of the government", said a resolution of the party's central working committee meeting.

Party chief Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting held Saturday at 29 Minto Road, the official residence of Leader of the Opposition in Parliament. The resolution cautioned that if the government fails to curb terrorism, people will build up resistance seeking their own ways to protect their See Page 12 Col 4

Saifur asks bankers to fund sick units

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday instructed the bankers to provide working capitals and inject funds for revitalising the non-performing industrial units on bank-client basis, reports BSS.

He also directed them to expedite the loan sanctioning process to help the government accelerate the pace of development in the country.

The Finance Minister was addressing the Chairman, Managing Directors and Directors of different commercial banks and development financial institutions at the NEC committee room here.

Rahman stressed the need for evolving a participatory banking system replacing the existing collateral banking to achieve rapid industrialisation and agrarian revolution in the country for the uplift of 112 million population. Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan, State Minister for Finance Mujibur Rahman, State Minister for Textiles M A Mannan, former minister and Agranj Bank Chairman L K Siddiqi MP, former minister and Sonal Bank Chairman Professor Iqbal Mahmood, Shilpa Bank Chairman A T M Alamgir MP, Investment Corporation of Bangladesh Chairman Sardar Shakawat Hossain Bakul MP, Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed, Industries Secretary Dr Ekram Hossain, Planning Secretary Dr Harun-Ur-Rashid, Janata Bank Chairman Professor Abdullah Faruq and Bangladesh Bank Governor S B Chowdhury. "Now Bangladesh has the best investment climate and the government is offering the See Page 12 Col 1

Labour headman shot dead in city

A labour headman, Abdur Rahim, was shot dead and robbed of Taka 83,000 he was carrying at Babu Bazar in the city Sunday noon.

He was one of the labour headmen engaged in the rice godown of the area. Owners and workers instantly shut down all rice godowns at Babu Bazar and Badamtoll for an indefinite period protesting the killing.

While Abdur Rahim, along with two others — Shaheed and Shah Alam, was going to the Babu Bazar branch of Agranj Bank to deposit Taka

82,965 at around 12:15 pm yesterday, five to six muggers held them up and demanded the money at gunpoint, according to Shaheed.

As Rahim refused to give the money, they shot him in the chest, immediately grabbed the money and fled, said Shaheed.

Rahim was immediately rushed to the Sir Salmullah Medical College Hospital from where he was instantly shifted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The doctors on duty declared him dead. See Page 12 Col 7

AIDS virus may have infected thousands

The number of people carrying the AIDS virus in Bangladesh may have already reached 15,000, experts fear.

However the known cases of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) positive, which leads to AIDS, are only nine in the country.

One of the nine people who tested HIV positive, died last year on return home from a job in Abu Dhabi. This was Bangladesh's first AIDS fatality.

The HIV positive cases were found after AIDS tests on 1.7 lakh people since 1986 — 48,000 tested in government-run laboratories and the remaining 1.22 lakh mainly in private clinics. The nine include a Swede who has already been deported. The others are Bangladeshi sailors and people who had worked in Middle East countries.

The tests were conducted in six laboratories that have facilities to detect the killer disease AIDS or Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome which has no cure to date.

Experts at Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research estimate that the number of people carrying AIDS virus could be more than 15,000.

Their estimate is based on the results of the people tested in government-run laboratories. The experts argue

that as there have been nine positive cases out of 48,000 tested, then, at this ratio, there would be at least 15,000 cases among 11 crore people, the country's total population.

"Though it is largely a guess, it can not be brushed off as baseless," said an expert.

The number may still be higher than 15,000 as Bangladesh still lacks adequate AIDS-detection facilities, according to the experts.

Of the six laboratories which specialise in AIDS tests four are currently in operation — one each at Institute of Post Graduate Medicine and Research (IPGMR), Institute of Public Health, Armed Forces

Institute of Pathology and Institute of Epidemiology Disease Control and Research, Mahakhall. The two non-operative laboratories are in Chittagong and Sylhet.

The tests were carried out among the 'high-risk groups' which included polygamists, drug addicts, prostitutes, professional blood donors, truck drivers and patients with sexual diseases.

One of the major reasons why the local experts believe the number to be higher is Bangladesh is in a region where AIDS is spreading fast, especially in Thailand, India See Page 12 Col 3

Menon coming round steadily

By Staff Correspondent The condition of Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon was steadily improving following his liver operation, according to information received in Dhaka from London.

Menon, now in the post-operative unit of King's College Hospital, had talked with the members of his family at about 2 pm Sunday, it said.

The faxed message quoted doctors at the hospital as saying that the condition of Menon's liver was better than it was earlier and that his health was improving after the removal of 100 grams of the damaged liver in the surgery.

Menon had talked with his wife and the doctors after the surgery, the fax said. Doctors were planning to shift Menon to the hospital cabin from the intensive care unit, it said.