

NIRMAN TILES
Broken Marble Tiles
In More Shades
Than The Rainbow
Tel: 605957, 861985

Inside Today

Article

Interview with M J Akbar

"What We Need is a United Front Against Communalism"
by Mahfuz Anam
Page 4

International

Muslims may be forced to accept three-way partition of Bosnia



Diana's step-mother Countess Spencer with her new husband Count Jean-Francois de Chambrun
Page 5

Business

Major trading powers ready to resume GATT talks without delay

BCIC units' output rises
Pages 6, 7

Rising Star

The aliens, Computers: The ultimate machine, How I made a friend and Jokes
Page 8

National

Number of floating people on increase in Chuadanga
Page 9

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Meetings Galore
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

GCO stages sit-in on RU campus

RAJSHAHI, July 9: Gonorantric Chhatra Oikya of Rajshahi University staged a sit-in demonstration in front of the administrative building on the campus Thursday to press home their 8-point demands. The demands include immediate release of two Chhatra Oikya leaders arrested on July 4, resignation of Vice-Chancellor Prof M Anisur Rahman and cancellation of the appointment of Treasurer Prof Mokbul Hossain, reports UNB.

World Population Day tomorrow

World Population Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere round the globe tomorrow to create public awareness on population problems, reports UNB.

One injured in bomb blast

By DMCH Correspondent
A young man received hand-bomb injuries on his head in the city Friday evening. The victim, Mohammed Abul Hossain, 23, was injured when a group of hoodlums hurled handbombs at him at Chankharpur in the city at about 6 pm yesterday. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Next summit in Naples; Russia gets \$3b

G-7 leaders to beef up global growth, combat joblessness



US President Bill Clinton speaks yesterday during his press conference at the US ambassador's residence in Tokyo after the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialised nations' economic summit.

TOKYO, July 9: Group of Seven (G-7) leaders agreed to pursue a strategy of global growth through broad economic policy and reforms aimed at creating more jobs, they said in a six-page communique released today, reports AFP.

In the statement released on the last day of a three-day summit in Tokyo, they said reducing unemployment required a double strategy: "Prudent

macro-economic policies to promote non-inflationary sustainable growth and structural reforms to improve the efficiency of markets, especially labour markets."

They agreed to send their Finance Ministers to special talks aimed at creating more jobs and reducing rising unemployment which has left 23 million people jobless in Britain,

Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

"That is unacceptable", they said of the jobless figure. The special meeting on unemployment was proposed by US President Bill Clinton ahead of the start of the G-7 Summit on Wednesday.

A French official said G-7 'Sherpas' so-called because they pave the way for top-level talks,

worked until shortly before dawn Friday drafting the communique which traditionally marks the end of the annual summit.

In the statement, G-7 leaders cited "modest recovery" in Japan.

But they said unemployment would resist the benefits of resumed economic growth more

See Page 12 Col 1

Shevardnadze escapes death again

TBILISI, Georgia, July 9: Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze narrowly escaped death for the second time in a week when rebels in the region of Abkhazia shelled his headquarters there, a presidential aide said today, reports Reuters.

Press service head Soso Margisvili said Shevardnadze was unhurt when the shells slammed into the building in the Abkhaz capital Sukhumi on Thursday evening.

"I will not leave Sukhumi—and will stay beside the heroic defenders of the city," Margisvili quoted Shevardnadze as saying.

The Georgian leader barely escaped with his life when a shell exploded close to his car while he was travelling through Abkhazia on Sunday.

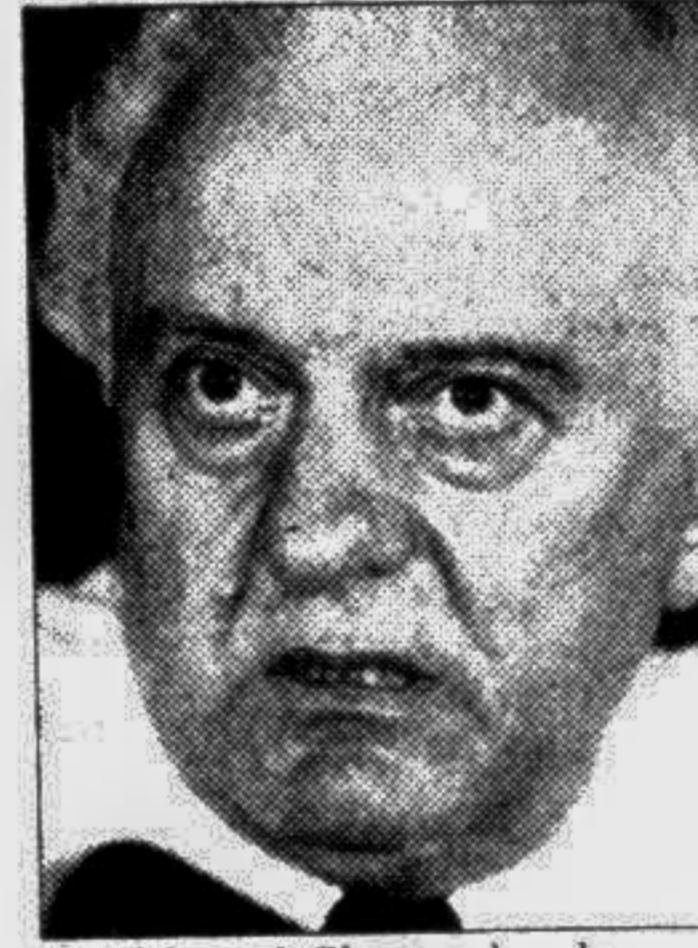
Georgia on Tuesday declared Martial Law in the province, where hundreds of people have been killed since government troops were sent in last August to suppress nationalist demands for more autonomy.

Tbilisi on Thursday accused the rebels of shooting down a helicopter carrying refugees over the region, killing 20 pas-

sengers and three crew members.

Meanwhile, rebels in break-away Abkhazia have formed an elite commando whose mission is to assassinate Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze in Sukhumi, a Georgian official said today.

Sandro Kavtsadze, Shevardnadze's representative at peace talks in Moscow, told a news conference that the crack team "has been trying to correct its line of fire in the past days to hit" the Georgian leader.



Eduard Shevardnadze

Big fire at Islambagh

By Staff Correspondent

A devastating fire gutted at least 60 kutch houses at Islambagh slum, Labagh in the city yesterday afternoon.

At least five people were injured, of whom two were hospitalised with serious burn injuries, according to witnesses.

The fire, which originated from a kitchen stove at Ali's bustee (slum) in the area at about 1:35 pm, quickly spread over the adjoining areas.

A nearby rubber factory was partially damaged in the fire.

Fire fighters extinguished the fire after a two-hour struggle.

Police could not estimate the loss until filing of this report last night.

This was the third incidence of a major fire in the Islambagh area, on the bank of the Bariganga, in less than a year.

Mostafiz goes to Islamabad today

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Foreign Minister M Mostafizur Rahman is due to leave Dhaka this afternoon for Pakistan to attend the two-day special meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) scheduled to be held in Islamabad on July 12 and 13. Syed Mozammel Ali, Director General at the Foreign Ministry, will accompany the Foreign Minister.

The Bangladesh team at the special OIC meet is expected to be joined by Dhaka's High Commissioner to Pakistan Anwar Hashim and Ambassador to Riyadh Momin Chowdhury who is also Bangladesh's representative to the OIC.

Bangladesh is among the 15 countries invited to the special OIC meet which will review the latest situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. UN peace-keeping efforts in the war-torn region are also likely to figure in the agenda, according to informed sources.

The Foreign Minister is expected to return to Dhaka on July 14.

Jamaat blames West for Bosnian situation

By Staff Correspondent

The central Majlis-e-Shura of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh yesterday expressed deep concern at the deteriorating situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and held the US and Britain responsible for the crisis.

In the concluding session of the three-day meet of the Majlis, presided over by acting Ameer Abbas Ali Khan, its leaders observed that the US and UK, in the name of peace talks, have let the Serbs and Croats strengthen their own positions with arms and kill the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Majlis also blamed the United Nations for not playing its role properly and said, "it has turned into a puppet of the US, UK and the other European powers."

The central body of the Jamaat regretted that the OIC and the governments of the Muslim states were silent on this issue, and said the atrocities in Bosnia were lingering because the Muslim states were shamefully dependent on the West and could not take independent decisions.

The Jamaat pointed out that the Muslim states could pressurise the West by using oil as a weapon and by imposing a ban on Western ship movements through the Suez Canal. It also favoured UN military action against the perpetrators of the atrocities in Bosnia.

Rally protesting genocide in Bosnia

By Staff Correspondent

A big rally was held at the north gate of Daulat Mukarram Mosque yesterday afternoon to protest against the genocide in Bosnia.

The rally, organised by the Bangladesh-Bosnia Solidarity Front, urged world leaders to handle the situation in Bosnia firmly and save thousands of Bosnian Muslims from annihilation at the hands of the Serbs and Croats.

The rally called for taking positive measures to protect the

News Analysis

Uruguay Round: Too little, too late for Bangladesh?

By A Special Correspondent

The announcement of an agreement on tariff cuts by the Group of Seven in Tokyo last week has led to some hope that the Uruguay Round of trade talks may not fall on its face just yet.

The Uruguay Round of discussion was expected to lead to global agreement on reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in agricultural and textiles and to set down more equitable and comprehensive rules for international trade, including trade in services.

The General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT) offers a dispute settlement mechanism in the area of international trade. The mechanism has evolved through various rounds of discussion between the GATT members who are officially known as 'Contracting Parties'. The Tokyo Round of discussion ended in 1979.

Earlier there were the Geneva Round in 1947, the Ancey Round in 1949 and the Dillon

Round in 1961.

Until the Seventies, discussion on trade took place in the context of tremendous industrial might in the present day developed countries which had grown under high tariff walls of the inter-war period. Hungry for larger markets, these countries started to move for lower tariff levels in the post-war era. From 1950 to the early 1970s the industrial countries experienced high productivity and income growth and thus tariff reductions faced little opposition.

The sweeping reduction in trade barriers under the GATT process, however, left the sectors like agriculture and textiles which are of key interest to the emerging developing countries, unattended.

The difficulties faced by the Uruguay Round arose because the talks seek to bring areas considered 'sensitive' by the developed countries, agriculture, textile, etc., under the

review of multilateral arrangements.

Agriculture is heavily protected in the developed countries. According to study by the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), agricultural goods in the developed countries enjoy 45 per cent subsidy compared to less than 3 per cent in developing countries.

Similarly, markets where developing countries have a competitive edge have a high incidence of non-tariff barriers. For example, 39 per cent of the textile items and 63 items of the clothing items face entry restriction in the developed countries.

For countries like Bangladesh, the failure to remove trade restrictions under the Uruguay Round is a major problem. Bangladesh has been dismantling her own trade barriers in the hope of getting access to the developed country markets in return. The un-

See Page 12 Col 7

Top priority to concluding Uruguay Round

TOKYO, July 9: Group of Seven (G-7) secured an unexpected success at this year's summit by giving a powerful political boost to long-stalled world trade talks the conclusion of which it said was 'essential' for global recovery and jobs, reports AFP.

The G-7 leaders — from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — as well as the European Community said their "highest priority" was concluding the Uruguay Round of trade talks in Geneva.

They linked the round's successful outcome by year-end to their own efforts to restore confidence and a new concerted strategy for jobs and growth.

The seven-year-old round, initially set to wind up by the end of 1990, has been held up for months by a stalemate between the United States and the European Community over farm trade and other tricky issues.

While previous summits have stressed the importance of concluding the round, a last-minute breakthrough before the summit opened Wednesday probably helped give G-7 summit a new lease of life.

See Page 12 Col 6



Riot police in Seoul arresting a demonstrator during an anti-American rally attended by some 400 students outside the Dongguk University yesterday. US President Bill Clinton will visit South Korea July 11-10.

Police-students battle in Seoul

SEOUL, July 9: Riot police today fought a hand-to-hand battle with more than 1,000 students staging an anti-US protest on the eve of President Bill Clinton's arrival in South Korea, reports Reuters.

Fighting erupted before most of the protesters were bundled into police buses and driven away.

Several people were hurt, including journalists covering the disturbances. Reuters TV soundman Kim Seh-Rah was kicked and beaten by Riot police and his equipment smashed as he and cameraman Choi Yoon-Sang were filming the violent scenes.

Police did not use teargas, as is their custom, to quell the demonstration at Dongguk University. The campus gates are just across from the Shilla Hotel, where Clinton's entourage is scheduled to stay on Saturday night.

Sharif invites Benazir to talk over dinner

ISLAMABAD, July 9: Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif invited Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto on Thursday to a reconciliation working dinner and agreed on a peace formula with arch-enemy President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, reports Reuters.

The moves towards ending Pakistan's deepening political crisis came a day after Bhutto asked for fresh elections to be called and threatened to lead tens of thousands of supporters in a march on Islamabad to back her demand.

I would like to invite you to a working dinner on any convenient date as early as possible, Sharif said in a letter to Bhutto.

He was responding to her proposal on Sunday that Pakistan's three main political leaders meet to try to resolve a political impasse that has resulted from a six-month-old power struggle between the President and the Prime Minister.

Pakistan has been virtually paralysed since Ishaq Khan sacked Sharif in April on charges of corruption and misuse, only to see the Supreme

Court reinstate him the following month.

Bhutto is demanding a national government, constitutional reforms and fresh elections. She threatened on Monday to lead a protest march on the capital unless Sharif bowed to her ultimatum to announce mid-term elections before Saturday.

Although I may not agree with all your perceptions and suggestions, your letter does provide a basis for a dialogue on the issues facing the nation, Sharif said.

Bhutto has refused to accept any such invitation unless Sharif first agree to her proposals. She is insisting the talks include the President.

Sharif gave no hint in the letter that he was ready to consider Bhutto's demand for early elections.

Aides say his 32-month-old government is not willing to hold elections until early next year after the President retires in December. The President is empowered to name the caretaker prime minister who would organise the polls.

See Page 12 Col 6

6 killed, 60 hurt in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

Six people including an infant were killed and 60 others injured, two of them critically, in two separate road accidents at Manikganj and Gopalganj yesterday.

UNB reports: At least three people were killed and 30 others injured when a Rajshahi-bound coach collided head-on with a truck near the Bathult bus stand at Dhamrai in Manikganj Friday.

Police said both the vehicles fell into a road-side ditch, leaving two men dead on the spot at about 9 am. The other person succumbed to his injuries at the Nayabhat health complex.

However, identity of the dead could not be ascertained immediately.

According to passengers, the

bus was overloaded and some passengers even sat on the engine bonnet. All the deceased were from among those sitting on the engine cover when the incident occurred, witnesses added.

Among the injured, nine were sent to Dhaka while ten others were admitted to the Dhamrai Health Complex, three taken to the Ganashastha Kendro and five brought to the Manikganj Sadar Hospital.

Drivers of the vehicles managed to flee the scene.

Our Correspondent from Gopalganj adds: Two women and a seven-month-old child were killed and 30 others were injured Friday in a road accident at Tetulia on the

See Page 12 Col 5

Water-logging acute problem in Ctg city

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, July 9: Hundreds of thousands of people living in the lowlying areas of this port city are virtually held hostage because of water-logging during every monsoon.

But the authorities here are yet to frame any definite strategy to combat the problem.

The areas worst affected by water-logging include Chawkbazar, Sholakbazar, Katalgonj, Bakalia, Badurtala, Chandgao, Bahaddarhat, Muradpur, Nasirabad Housing Society, Chaktai, Khatungonj, Chalpatti, Rajakali, Agrabad Commercial Area, Pathantuli and Sheikh Mujib

Road. These areas get inundated by 3 to 4 feet of water after a heavy downpour because rain waters remain stagnant due to severe blockage in the city's drainage system, according to the residents and officials.

According to Chittagong City Corporation officials and city dwellers, the water-logging problem here could be attributed to washed down mud and sand following rampant cutting of hills and mounds dotting the city which continue unabated despite protests from

See Page 12 Col 8