



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing an extended meeting of the Central Committee of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal at the Institution of Engineers auditorium yesterday. —PID photo

PM: Farmers' rights

From page 1 col 7. receiving full benefit from this reduction as they were not aware of it and at the same time vested quarters and middlemen were misleading them. Likewise, she said, the government had fixed the procurement price of paddy at Tk 225 per maund but the farmers were not getting the price because of the fraudulent practice of the middlemen. The Prime Minister asked the representatives of the Krishak Dal to stand by the side of the deprived farming community and ensure their rights. She said "The days of oppression have ended and the time has come to establish rights." Begum Zia said that the peasants' leaders especially the representatives of the Krishak Dal had to motivate the people against smuggling of agricultural products and inputs

48-hr SKOP strike

From page 1 col 7. agencies. "We are being forced into action again... our strike programme is not merely for higher wages... this (July 19-20) programme is aimed at protecting the economy and the industries," he said. Bashir told reporters that over 3 lakh workers from 64 jute mills, 83 textile mills, 19 sugar mills and 23 steel mills would observe the strike. About a meeting of a group of labour leaders with Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah on July 14, Abul Bashir said some "so-called" and "obscure" leaders went to the meeting to derive benefit by driving a wedge among the workers. In that meeting with the Jute Minister 150 CBA and labour leaders of the jute sector opposed the strike and assured the government that they would

Minimum basic pay

From page 1 col 7. the labour leaders would call off their shutdown and rail-road blockade programme after the announcement of the new wage scale. However, the SKOP, in a statement soon after the government's announcement, resented the move and termed it a violation of the government-SKOP agreement of July 6, 1992. The Labour Minister, who played the key-role in the government's so far fruitless negotiations with the agitating labour bodies, said that the public sector workers were being paid an advance Tk 250 monthly against the proposed salary increase. However, he regretted, the government could not implement the enhanced wages due to, what he said, the labour leaders' inflexible and negative attitude. About the National Minimum Wage, another vital demand of the SKOP, the minister reiterated that it involved the private enterprises that did not have a common financial ability. In this context, he told the press conference there was no legal obligation to fix up a national minimum wage. The Minimum Wage Board, which had been reactivated under the democratic government, was now working to fix minimum wages for 14 private sectors, he informed the newsmen. If minimum wages in these 14 sectors could be fixed, he hoped, the need for a national minimum wage would be met to a large extent, he added. Regarding the demand for halting the disinvestment move, Mannan Bhuiyan said the denationalisation process was being continued with a

Arms recovered from Sylhet Medical College

From Our Correspondent SYLHET, July 17: Sylhet Kotwali thana police recovered five pipe-guns, four daggers and one ram dao from behind the Milton Hall of Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College today. A case was filed in this connection, but none was yet been arrested. The college reopened today after two and a half months. It was closed *de facto* following a series of armed clashes between activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and the Islami Chhatra Shibir. There were no untoward incidents today.

Fake manpower agents held

From Our Correspondent SYLHET, July 17: Three members of an organised gang of illegal manpower recruiting agents were arrested while 30 passports and 130 fake seals were recovered from their possession from a house in the town Friday night. When contacted, an official source said that they were arrested on charge of sending job-seekers abroad by using forged papers and documents. Kotwali police arrested them from a house at Shahjalal Upashahar in Sylhet town. A case has also been lodged. All three hail from Kaliganj thana of Lalmonirhat district.

Donors pledge \$100m for Yugoslavia

GENEVA, July 17: Western donors pledged over 100 million dollar on Friday for relief operations in former Yugoslavia, enough to keep United Nations aid convoys rolling through Bosnia for the next three months, reports Reuter. The pledges came at a meeting of major donor nations at which UN refugee chief Sadako Ogata warned that the "entire relief effort will soon grind to a halt" without extra cash. "This was a good day for us," the UN High Commissioner for Refugees told a news conference afterwards. "We haven't had many good days for a long time."

JS probe body

From Page 1 Col 8. Speaker wants to hold the first meeting of the committee before leaving for Germany later this month. Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali is scheduled to fly for Germany on July 29 to undergo treatment. According to sources, the first meeting of the committee would concentrate on drafting a concrete terms of reference. The committee had also been authorised to fix its own time frame for preparing the report and submitting it to the House. The members of the probe committee include Chief Whip of Parliament Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Jute Minister Hannan Shah, State Minister for Establishment Aminul Haque, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar and Abu Yousuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman of the Treasury Bench and Abdus Samad Azad, Sajeda Chowdhury and Mohammad Nasim of the Awami League, Maudud Ahmed of the Jatiya Party, Maulana Abdus Sobhan of the Jamaat, Rashed Khan Menon of the Workers' Party and Suranjit Sengupta of the Ganatantri Party (GP).

Sick drug co

From page 1 col 7. the raw materials and machinery for the 18 banned items remained unutilised, further contributing to the losses, the sources added. Edruc Ltd started operation in 1948 and had been manufacturing about 96 products till the introduction of the drug policy. The company had created markets in about 28 countries of the world including Pakistan, Malaysia, the Middle East and some African countries. The total staff of the company is 250. They have not been paid since 1989. Managing Director of Pfizer Pharmaceuticals SH Kabir, when asked to comment on the government decision, said it was a positive move that would create optimism among a number of entrepreneurs of the sick industries. He also said there were a number of other pharmaceutical units which were affected seriously by the 1982 drug policy. As an instance, he cited the name of Sharma Chemicals, Comilla that was closed down on the very first day of its operation in early '82 because all the items it planned to manufacture were on the list of drugs banned by the Martial Law government.



The 14-party alliance yesterday held a meeting at the Awami League central office in support of the 48-hr hartal beginning Monday. —Star photo

Kuwait's UN-drawn borders legal: envoy

The visiting Kuwaiti special envoy yesterday said that about 200 kilometers of the Kuwait-Iraq border, demarcated by a UN Commission, is the legal and legitimate border between the two countries, reports UNB. Briefing newsmen here, envoy Dharar A. Razzoqi said that the final report of the UN Commission on the Kuwait-Iraq border demarcation was unanimously adopted by the Security Council in last May. "The demarcation has been done on the basis of true documents available from the parties concerned", Razzoqi said. The special envoy informed journalists that his country produced relevant documents to the five-member UN Commission to help demarcate the border between the two countries. All those documents, he said, are related to the Anglo-Turkish treaty of 1913, a map published by Baghdad in 1958 and the Kuwait-Iraq agreed minutes of 1962. Razzoqi went on to add that in 1932, the then Prime Minister of Iraq also reaffirmed the existing border, based on the Anglo-Turkish treaty of 1913, to be actual demarcation line between the two countries. He regretted that Iraq, which did not appear before the UN

14 parties

From Page 1 Col 8. timed to coincide with the agitation of the SKOP which is demanding implementation of the accord signed with the government on labour demands last year. The SKOP has called a 48-hour strike and country-wide road-rail barricade beginning from 6 am on July 19. The 14-party meeting also resolved that the government had resorted to repressive measures against the industrial workers just when people of all walks of life had started showing sympathy for their demands. The joint meeting also observed that Jamaat leader Golam Azam had already started making objectionable statements. The leaders will meet again this afternoon and are likely to decide, among other issues, ways and means of politically combating Golam Azam and his party, a senior AL leader told The Daily Star last night. Meanwhile, the city Awami League (AL) brought out a torch procession from its central office yesterday evening in support of the eight-hour hartal call for tomorrow. Led by city AL President Mohammad Hanif, the procession chanted slogans against corruption by ministers and demanded trial of Jamaat leader Golam Azam as a 'war criminal'.



Leader of the Japan New Party Morihiro Hosokawa (C) waves to well-wishers mobbing him during the last campaign rally yesterday for the lower house elections. Voting for Japan's most important elections in 38 years will take place today. —AFP photo

Japan's unpredictable polls

From Page 1 Col 4. favouring political reform. The three main opposition parties, who held about 200 seats in the dissolved parliament, sought to change the multiple-seat system to one of proportional representation while the LDP preferred a single-seat constituency system. Talks for a compromise formula broke down because of stiff opposition by LDP hardliners and parliament was dissolved. The formula would have reduced the number of seats to 500 with the opposition parties offering to set aside 275 seats as single-seat and the rest 225 as proportional representative constituencies. Under the present multiple-seat system, each constituency is divided into between two and six seats, forcing even LDP candidates to fight against each other. Critics point out that this compels candidates to gather large campaign funds and thus often seek controversial financial support of businesses. The problem came to the forefront recently after the arrest of Shin Kanemaru, a vice president of the LDP, on tax evasion charges. He was also accused of withholding political funds for his personal use. The recruit 'shares-for-favours' scandal involving LDP politicians earlier last year, too, raised questions about the political system. Two new political parties were formed last month by dissident LDP members advocating political reform. Ten former LDP members led by Masayoshi Takemura, who headed the LDP's political reform think-tank, formed a party called the Shinto Sakigake or the New Party Haribinger while Hata formed the Shinsetto. In addition, another political party, the Japan New Party (JNP), was formed last year by Morihiro Hosokawa, a former prefectural governor and upper-house member. The JNP also favours political reform. The Shinsetto has already initiated talks with other opposition parties about forming a coalition government after the polls. Earlier this month Hata posed in a five-way handshake with leaders of the SDPJ, the Kometo, the DSP and the United Democratic Socialist Party that promised to work together to make him the prime minister in a coalition government. However, analysts and LDP leaders have expressed their doubt about the effectiveness of such a coalition because of sharp differences concerning foreign and defence policies among them. Foreign Minister Kabuan Muto boldly predicted that the opposition parties would be unable to form a government after the polls because of the in policy difference. Seiroku Kajiyama, the LDP Secretary General, added: "In the medium and long term, a coalition would involve contradictions." Much about the coalition government depends on how many seats the opposition parties, including the new ones,

The Midnight File

'Racial madness' behind US hostility towards Iraq: Saddam

BAGHDAD, July 17: President Saddam Hussein launched today his strongest attack on the United States since Bill Clinton took office, saying "racial madness" was behind US hostility towards Iraq. Saddam, in a televised address, made no direct mention of the current crisis with the United Nations over weapons monitoring or to talks in Baghdad with a top UN arms envoy trying to defuse the situation, reports Reuter.

Over 300 Afghans killed or hurt in Russian attack

ISLAMABAD, July 17: More than 300 Afghans have been killed or injured in artillery attacks by Russian forces deployed across the border in the central Asian Republic of Tajikistan, official Kabul Radio said today. The Afghan government accused Moscow of intervening in Afghanistan because of problems in Tajikistan and denied supplying arms to rebels in the troubled former Soviet republic, the radio said, reports Reuter.

Clinton may send troops to help flood victims

ST LOUIS (Missouri), July 17: President Bill Clinton said today he was considering sending federal troops to aid relief efforts in the flood-ravaged Midwest. Clinton telephoned a radio station in Quincy, Illinois, from his aircraft while flying to St Louis to visit the area and spoke with governors of states devastated by flooding on the Mississippi and its tributaries, reports Reuter.

Ishaq Khan

From Page 1 Col 5. The Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) quoted sources as saying that the Prime Minister was insisting that the President resign first and then all other matters would be of 'secondary importance'. Sharif refused Friday to dissolve the National Assembly until Ishaq Khan stepped down. He said he was trying to resolve the 'artificial crisis' created in the country but vowed not to succumb to the 'undemocratic pressures' to curtail his five-year mandate due to expire in 1995.

LATEST

An announcement late Saturday night carried by the official Associated Press of Pakistan news agency said Nawaz Sharif would address the nation over radio and television tomorrow (Sunday) evening.

Prior to today's talks, Sharif chaired a lengthy meeting of his cabinet to discuss the situation, sources said.

Waheed put forward his proposals Thursday on the eve of a "long march" planned for by opposition factions under the banner of the All Parties Conference (APC).

The APC had claimed that hundreds of thousands would lay a siege to the capital from Friday until Sharif announced mid-term polls.

Bhutto accepted Waheed's request to call off the march amid speculation that the opposition move might compel the army to impose martial law.

Cracks started appearing in the opposition alliance after Bhutto backed down from her pledge to march on Islamabad with Fazlur Rahman, chief of the fundamentalist Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Party, accusing the former premier of "sabotaging" the opposition's battle against Sharif.

Russia

From Page 1 Col 4. that Moscow would not crack under the sustained US pressure but the decision was not unexpected.

President Boris Yeltsin boasted here in January that Russia was a superpower that would not brook arm-twisting, promising a continued commitment to honour the contract.

But press reports leading up to Friday's announcement said Moscow was ready to scrap the deal if the United States guaranteed compensation such as access to commercial satellite launches, and called the contract off.

At a parliamentary panel meeting here Friday, Foreign Minister Dinis Singh was at a loss to respond to Members of Parliament asking what the government was doing to ensure the deal.

PTI adds: India today regretted Russia's reneging on its contractual obligation to transfer space technology but emphasised that it would cause no set-back to the country's space programme.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said it was too early to say that Moscow's decision would hit the Indo-Russian relations in various fields.

A two-page statement issued by the spokesman significantly avoided criticism of the United States for putting pressure on Moscow to renege on its 1991 agreement with India.

The cryogenic engines and related technology that were to be supplied to India in terms of the ISRO-Glavkosmos contract of January 1991, are meant exclusively for India's civilian space programme, the statement said.

The spokesman said though no formal decision had been taken India might have discussions with the Russian government to deal with the problems arising out of Moscow's decision.

14 injured in city clashes

By Staff Correspondent. At least 14 persons were injured in two separate violent clashes at Lalbagh and Demra in the city yesterday afternoon. About 10 persons were injured in about an hour-long gunfight between two unidentified groups at Shahidnagar under Lalbagh thana over establishing domination on the locality, sources said.

The feuding group fired at least 12 rounds of gunshots and blasted around 20 hand bombs.

Among the injured Ali Hossain, 50, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Besides, at least four persons were injured in another clash between two localities at Golubagh under Demra thana yesterday.

Jamaat Shura

From Page 1 Col 5. held only 10 days after a scheduled meeting of the body July 7-9.

The party will also observe a "Bosnia Week" July 23-30 to raise funds for the besieged Bosnian Muslims, the source said.

Meanwhile, Prof Azam (72), who was released on Thursday after nearly 16 months of confinement, held informal talks with the central secretariat and the presidium members yesterday at the central office.

Appointments and transfers

By Staff Correspondent. The government has transferred three Additional Secretaries and two Joint Secretaries. The Director General of the NGO Bureau Fazur Rahman Chowdhury has been transferred as Additional Secretary to the home Ministry, Additional Secretary (OSD), Establishment Anisul Huq Chowdhury has been transferred to the Industries Ministry and Additional Secretary (OSD), Establishment SM Afaz Uddin has been transferred to the Commerce Ministry.

Joint Secretary (OSD) of the Establishment Ministry Khandaker Tajuddin Ahmed has been transferred to the Prime Minister's Office as Director General, Joint Secretary (OSD) of Establishment M Aztur Rahman has been transferred to the Health and Family Welfare Ministry.

Zahid Hussain, serving with the ISPR of the Ministry of Defence, and presently working as a Director of the Bangladesh Bank, has been appointed Director General of External Publicity.

Malaysia

From Page 1 Col 5. smuggled into Malaysia and other neighbouring countries, including Bangladesh.

Pemadam statistics say that in 1990, 1978 kg of drugs including 263 kg of heroin were seized at different places in Malaysia by the law enforcing agencies. The amount of recovery, however, reduced in the following years.

Over ten thousand people including 73 foreigners were detained in Malaysia during 1991 for committing drug offences. Among the foreigners 26 were charged under Section 39B of the Dangerous Drug Act from that carries the mandatory death sentence. These foreigners were Indonesia, Iran, Thailand, the Philippines and Myanmar.

Dr Siti Hasmah Mohamed Ali, wife of the Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, while inaugurating the annual general meeting of the Pemadam in Kuala Lumpur last month, said: "Everyone must get involved in the fight against drugs, which is the nation's number one enemy."

Editor: S. M. Ali

Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel CA, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Porana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.