

Mobilise external resources : Saifur Govt discourages 'white elephant projects'

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday laid importance on mobilisation of external resources to help increase the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the country, while discouraging bad projects and worst quality aid, reports BSS. Rahman was addressing the officials of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) here yesterday afternoon at the NEC conference room. Pointing to the adverse effects of the indenter-bias foreign aided projects on the national economy, the Finance Minister said, "The era of indenter-bias development process is over. We do no more need white elephant projects in the country only to get higher quantum of foreign assistance."

14 killed in Israeli attack

Civilians flee Lebanon

NABATIYEH (Lebanon), July 27: A flood of terrified civilians fled southern Lebanon today to escape a three-day inferno of Israeli air strikes and shells aimed at emptying areas used by guerrillas, reports Reuters. Security sources said more than 14 civilians and guerrillas had been killed and 123 wounded on Tuesday, taking the toll for the three-day Israeli blitz to at least 51 killed and 254 wounded. Planes, helicopters and artillery repeatedly hit a string of villages and towns north of Israel's security zone in the south on the third day of "operation accountability," launched to avenge the killing of seven soldiers this month. The offensive, the most extensive air and artillery bombardment since Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 to expel Palestinian guerrillas, sent tens of thousands of terrified civilians fleeing north.

Unending tale of woe

From Page 1 Col 5 Netrakona, 159 kilometres north of Dhaka, is a low-lying district and has been seriously hit by the floods which have so far claimed 11 lives. Famous for its fish and rice, Netrakona was inundated by the rolling waters from the Garo Hills in India's Meghalaya and incessant rains. A spectre of hunger and concomitant suffering was stalking Guatola when this correspondent arrived Tuesday at the tiny fishing village. Clusters of half-submerged shanties looked like small dots amid vast tracts of whirling waters stretching towards the horizon. All the croplands around the village were under waist-deep water while the tops of bushes stuck out of the waters. A temple of the Hindu deity of destruction "Kali" remained while the floods inundated the abodes of the Kali's worshipping mortals. Talking to this correspondent, Renu Bala accused the relief officials of "not dropping one single morsel" on the village. "By God, those sahibs neither wanted to know how we are passing our days here nor what we are eating and drinking," she lamented. Guatola villagers informed that they were now sleeping in fishing boats since it had become risky to live in the straw-and-bamboo huts whose foundations had melted like chocolate bars. "And there are venomous snakes of all types," said Ramendu Chandra Burman, Renu Bala's 27-year-old son. Fishing, the ancestral profession of the Guatola villagers, has nearly stopped because it is off season and it is difficult to fish in the rushing waters. The slim fishing boats are now used for commuting from one hut to another or fetching drinking water from a tubewell some half a kilometre away. A few fishermen were waiting patiently with their nets cast



Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia distributing certificates among the PhD degree holders of the fellowship programme of the Bangladesh University Grants Commission at the National Economic Council (NEC) auditorium in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Edn system

From page 1 col 7 She said the government had taken up different steps for creating opportunities for higher education and their proper management. The steps include establishment of open university, introduction of national university programme and allowing the setting up of private university in the country, she said. "Education is our political commitment," she said adding the allocation for education sector would be increased in the coming days to fulfil this commitment. The Prime Minister congratulated the persons who received the PhD degrees under the fellowship programme of the University Grants Commission and hoped that they would contribute significantly in their respective fields. The function was also addressed by Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, University Grants Commission Chairman Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq and member Professor Mohammad Ali. Earlier the Prime Minister handed over certificates among the 70 recipients of the PhD degrees. She also presented gifts to the guides of fellowship programme. Under the fellowship programme another thirty persons are doing their PhD degree courses at present.

Govt college teachers put off strike

The government college teachers put off their two-hour strike on the ninth day yesterday for 15 days with assurance from the Education Minister of looking into their 12-point demand, reports UNB. A press release of the Bangladesh Government College Professors Association said the decision was taken after a meeting of its leaders with Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar at his office yesterday. State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman was present at the meeting. It was attended by President of the association Prof Kamal Ataur Rahman, Secretary General Prof Momtaz Begum and Principal of Mymensingh Ananda Mohan College Prof Sadequr Rahman.

Sajjad for talks with Delhi

ISLAMABAD, July 27: Pakistan's interim President Wasim Sajjad has invited India to hold a "meaningful" dialogue aimed at resolving bilateral problems, it was reported today, says AFP. The two countries should take 'positive' steps for promoting peace in South Asia, Sajjad said late Monday in his first address to the nation since he became Acting President earlier this month.

Lankan Minister visits BRAC projects

Visiting Sri Lankan Minister for Food, Cooperatives and Janasaviya Weerasinghe Mallimaratchi passed a busy day in Manikganj yesterday, reports UNB. Mallimaratchi visited BRAC's (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee) non-formal primary school in Manikganj and expressed his desire to introduce the model in his country. The Minister went round the chick rearing unit, poultry model farm and mothers' club of the BRAC's project in Nakhonda village of Manikganj. The BRAC is pioneering a non-formal primary education programme complementing formal schooling for underprivileged and school dropout children in the rural areas of the country.

Opposition in Japan to form coalition govt

TOKYO, July 27: Delegates from seven opposition parties reached basic agreement Tuesday night on policies for a coalition government, further reducing the Liberal Democratic Party's fading hopes of keeping the power it has held since 1955, reports AP. "Basically, there are no obstacles to a coalition government," Kazuo Aichi, chief policy-maker for the Japan Renewal Party, said after emerging from 4 1/2 hours of talks at a Tokyo hotel. The seven parties have enough combined votes to take the reins of government. The Liberal Democrats lost their majority in Parliament in elections July 18, largely because of their failure to enact political reforms. The parties reached broad agreement on US-Japan relations, defense and foreign policy, but there remained some disagreement on economic stimulus measures. Some favor a tax cut, but most were opposed to the government issuing deficit bonds, which economists say would be needed to finance a tax cut. Leaders of the seven parties are to meet soon thereafter and announce their intention to form a coalition government, legislator Hajime Ishii of the Japan Renewal Party and other officials said. The Liberal Democrats had hoped to win over two swing parties — the Japan New Party and the smaller Sakigake (Pioneer) New Party — for an LDP-centred governing alliance, but Tuesday's agreement made that even more unlikely. The LDP announced new policies Tuesday to clean up political corruption that are quite similar to the new parties' policies — but not similar enough for Japan New Party head Morihiro Hosokawa. "Unfortunately, I have to say that there is still a gap," Hosokawa told reporters. That left the two swing parties leaning toward a coalition with five opposition parties, all of which agree on the new parties' anti-corruption plan. The question of who would become prime minister under the opposition coalition will be left for after the policy agreement, Kanzaki said. It is widely expected that Japan Renewal Party chief Tsutomu Hata and Japan New Party leader Hosokawa will be the main candidates.



A private ambulance carrying the body of Munir Hossain, hanged Monday night for murdering his wife, leaving the Dhanmandi residence of Munir's parents Tuesday morning for burial at the family farmhouse near Tongi in Gazipur district. — Star photo

Munir buried

From Page 1 Col 8 was not Munir's body. When Munir's bereaved family members refused to comply, a section of the crowd started pelting stones and bricks at the house, almost next door to the Dhanmandi police station. The on-duty policemen really had a task on their hands trying to keep the peace. Around 9:30 am the ambulance left for village Gachcha, near Board Bazar, Tongi where Munir's parents own a sprawling farmhouse. After a janaza there the body was lowered into the grave. Witnesses said Munir's father Dr Kasem was not among the about four to five hundred people who attended the last rites at Gazipur. A private ambulance carrying the body of Munir Hossain, hanged Monday night for murdering his wife, leaving the Dhanmandi residence of Munir's parents Tuesday morning for burial at the family farmhouse near Tongi in Gazipur district. — Star photo

Bosnian peace talks begin in Geneva

GENEVA, July 27: Leaders of all parties to the Bosnian conflict began direct talks here today on the future of the embattled republic under the mediation of EC representative Lord Owen and UN envoy Thorvald Stoltenberg, a spokesman said, reports AFP. Following a day of bilateral meetings between the mediators and the various parties, the plenary session opened at 6:00 pm (1600 GMT), the mediators' spokesman said. The Muslim head of Bosnia's collective presidency, Alija Izetbegovic, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Croat chief Mate Boban were all attending. Also present were presidents Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and Momir Bulatovic of Montenegro. The factions are meeting to hammer out a final settlement carving Bosnia-Herzegovina into ethnically based regions to end the 15-month-old war there. The Bosnian delegation is seeking to maintain a unitary state composed of several semi-autonomous provinces while the militarily stronger Serbs and the Croats are pressing for a loose federation of three ethnically based regions.

Body to probe BDR firing

The government has constituted a one member committee comprising Md Anwarul Haq, District and Sessions Judge of Kishoreganj, to investigate the incident that took place in connection with the cutting of an embankment along the Kushiara river in Zakiganj thana under Sylhet district Monday, reports BSS. A Press Note issued by the Home Ministry yesterday said a sad incident of clash took place between the BDR on duty and the local people on July 26 following a tense situation. The situation developed between two rival groups of the local villagers, and over the cutting of an embankment along the Kushiara river adjacent to Telikkhal village of Biroshri union under Zakiganj thana of Sylhet district. Four persons were killed and fourteen others injured in the incident. Three members of BDR were also injured, the Press Note added.

Brothel madam Rita sent to jail

By Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, July 27: The District and Sessions Judges' Court Tuesday rejected the bail prayer of brothel madam Rita Khanam and sent her to jail. Rita was charged with forcing an underage girl Rina Begum, 12, to engage in immoral activities in the local Tanbazar brothel.

Four Sarbahara men held

BARISAL, July 27: Four members of the outlawed Sarbahara Party have been arrested from Mondapasha village in Uzirpur thana, police said. Following a tip-off, police raided the village on Sunday night and nabbed Shahidul Islam (30), Habibur Rahman (28), Selim Kazi (32) and Karam Ali Hawlader (38). The arrested have long been wanted by police for unleashing reign of terror in the area, reports UNB.

One killed in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent SYLHET, July 27: A young man, Abdul Jabbar, 30, was killed by his rival group members at a haor in the village Jalalpur of Sylhet Sadar thana yesterday. The miscreants swooped on Jabbar with sharp weapons while he was fishing in the haor. He succumbed to his injuries on the spot.

2 killed in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, July 27: Two persons were killed in different incidents in the city today. Binash Chandra Sarkar, 40, a farmer of village Rangpur in Dumuria thana, was shot dead early today allegedly by the outlawed Sarbahara party. Police said about 15 to 20 armed youths took Sarkar out of a primary school premises at Kalibari, where he was sleeping with his son Polish, and shot him dead in front of his son at about 2 at night. The armed youths chanted party slogans while leaving the place, police added. His body was sent to Khulna Sadar Hospital for autopsy. In another incident, a group of miscreants killed Golam Nabi, 18, in Khalishpur area this morning. Police arrested one person in this connection.

The Midnight File

Aideed's top aide arrested

MOGADISHU, July 27: US troops serving in Somalia arrested a top aide of fugitive warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed in a dawn raid at a hospital in the capital, Somali sources said. The sources said the troops of the US Quick Reaction Force (QRF) arrested Issa Mohamed Siad, Foreign Secretary of Aideed's Somalia National Alliance (SNA) at the Benadir Hospital at 3:00 am local time (00:00 GMT), reports Reuter.

Clinton lauds Syria

WASHINGTON, July 27: President Bill Clinton on Tuesday praised Syria for "commendable restraint" in the face of fighting between Israel and Palestinian and pro-Iranian militants in southern Lebanon. "I think the Syrians have shown commendable restraint so far, and I don't think we should let Hizbollah and all these groups that don't want anything to happen in the Middle East derail the peace process," he said, reports Reuter.

Truce in Abkhazia from today

MOSCOW, July 27: The Georgian government and Abkhaz separatists today signed a ceasefire agreement which is due to come into force at midday tomorrow (0800 GMT), Itar-Tass news agency reported. The ceasefire agreement, concluded following talks between the two parties and Russian intermediaries in the Black Sea town of Sochi, also requires both sides to stop sending reinforcements to the area, reports AFP.

Floods : Diarrhoea

From Page 1 Col 4 warning division of the Water Development Board forecasts the flood situations in the districts of Sylhet, Sunamganj, Maulavibazar, Habiganj and Comilla are likely to improve further during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today. The water level at Chilmari is likely to decrease by 9 cm, at Bahadurabad by 6 cm, at Sirajganj by 9 cm, at Aricha by 9 cm, at Jamalpur 11 cm, at Mymensingh 7 cm and at Bhatrabazar 3 cm. "Since there is no indication of any major rainfall now," a source in the flood forecasting division said, "the flood and river situation is likely to become normal very soon." Our staff correspondent from Chittagong adds: several thousand people have been affected in the district. There is serious crisis of drinking water since most of the tubewells have gone under water. The Chittagong Civil Surgeon's office informed that 125 people have freshly been affected by the intestinal diseases which have taken a serious turn in Rangunia, Rauzan, Patikchhari, Satkania and Anwara thanas. Twenty-two medical teams had been sent to the diarrhoea-affected thanas, according to the district officials. Flood water at most places of the district have begun to recede except at Rangunia because of discharge of water from the Kaptai lake. Our Sirajganj correspondent adds: although the level of the Jamuna decreased yesterday, water seeping through a breached dam has freshly flooded eight villages under the Kaziur, Sirajganj Sadar and Rayganj thanas. The flood situation in the western side of the Brahmaputra flood control dam which gave in near Kaziur thana, has remained static. The affected people of the district who are largely suffering from a shortage of drinking water, salt and other essentials have not been given any relief yet although the district authorities had approved Tk 1.5 lakh, 50 metric tonnes of rice and some 800 pieces of garments as relief a week ago. Meanwhile, people in the coastal and char areas complained that at least 20 dacoities took place in Belkuchi, Kaziur, Sirajganj and Chowhalli thanas. They complained that police were yet to take any measures against recurrence of such incidents.

Rakibul Huda promoted

The government has promoted Mirza Rakibul Huda and M Shahidul Islam Chowdhury to Additional Inspector General of Police, reports UNB. Rakibul Huda was Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police of Rajshahi Range and Shahidul Islam DIG of CID, Dhaka, before their promotions, an official handout said last night.

Fertiliser law

From Page 1 Col 4 A government investigation blamed the Ministry of Agriculture for allowing the import of the highly toxic fertiliser and recommended legal action against the suppliers. The American manufacturers and exporters of the consignment were jailed and fined by US courts. Newspapers predict the vote will be close, with the Delhi-based Observer saying the government may be voted out 261-260.

Advertisement for Hotel Abakash featuring a chef's hat and a plate of food. Text includes: "SPECIAL OFFERS OF THE SEASON", "Hotel Abakash now offers you enchanting cultural function twice a month beginning from the 5th August '93 with the renowned artists of Bangladesh.", "Presenting Bangladeshi Mughal & Band Show. After the function you enter our cosy Restaurant and enjoy the exotic Bangladeshi Buffet Dinner prepared by our Executive Chef.", "For cultural Programme: a) Tk. 250.00 / person (Adults) b) Tk. 200.00 / person (Children under 12)", "For Buffet Dinner: a) Tk. 350.00 / Person (Adults) b) Tk. 250.00 / Person (Children under 12)", "FOR RESERVATION PLEASE CALL: HOTEL ABAKASH : 607085-89, 881548 T.T.C. HEAD OFFICE : 317836, 325455-59 T.T.C. SONARGAON : 811641/4937 T.T.C. SHERATON : 509479, 863391", "BE A GUEST OF OURS AND ENJOY OUR UNENDING HOSPITALITY", "BANGLADESH PARJATAN CORPORATION (National Tourism Organization)", "DPP (BA) 6607-25/7"