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NEWS BRIEFS

AL Advisory Body meets today

A meeting of the Awami League Advisory Council will be held today at 7 pm at the 29 Minto Road residence of the party chief Sheikh Hasina. AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman in a press release yesterday requested all members of the council to attend the meeting, reports UNB.

NAPEC meets today

The central Executive Committee of the Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP) will meet today at 10 am at its office. The NAP Committee will sit tomorrow at 10 am at the same venue. NAP General Secretary Pankaj Bhattacharya has requested all concerned to attend the meeting, reports UNB.

Nat'l Film Award distribution Aug 13

The National Film Award 1989-91, will be formally distributed on August 13 instead of August 6, said an official announcement yesterday. However, the venue and time of the function will remain unchanged, reports UNB.

Itar-Tass opens office in Dhaka

Itar-Tass news agency (former Tass) of Russia has opened its office in Dhaka and appointed Salai Uddin Shoush Choudhury as the chief representative in Bangladesh. Itar-Tass has signed a separate news exchange agreement with a new Bangladeshi news agency named Independent News Services (INSI) formed with a senior journalist and former Information Minister Shirajul Islam as chairman, reports BSS.



100 hurt as soccer fans clash

By Staff Correspondent

mob.

Sub-Inspector Harunur Rashid and two other constables on duty at Gate No 15 of the stadium were injured in the fracas that ensued.

Despite the intervention of police the violence spread to the adjoining areas of the Dhaka Stadium and offices and cars in

stadium erupted when Mohammedian SC players and officials strongly protested the second Abahani goal scored by Golam Gaus just three minutes before the final whistle. The Mohammedian players were claiming Gaus had fouled goalkeeper Kanan while going for the header that entered the net.

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Purana Paltan, Motijheel, Shantinagar and Kakrail became the targets of the agitated fans.

Eastern Bank officials claimed property worth several lakh was damaged at its Motijheel branch during the incident.

According to unconfirmed sources, police lobbed some 10 teargas canisters and baton-charged to disperse the unruly

The soccer hooligans damaged some 10 vehicles, parked on the commercial areas around the Dhaka Stadium and broke the window panes of some offices, witnesses said.

According to unconfirmed sources, police lobbed some 10 teargas canisters and baton-charged to disperse the unruly

The violence inside the stadium erupted when Mohammedian SC players and officials strongly protested the second Abahani goal scored by Golam Gaus just three minutes before the final whistle. The Mohammedian players were claiming Gaus had fouled goalkeeper Kanan while going for the header that entered the net.

Also, prior to the start of the vital game, thousands of fans had to push and jostle their way into the stadium. According to witnesses, there were many minor scuffles as people pushed to get in.

There were also incidents of ticket touts—who otherwise had a field day—being roughed up by eager fans who felt they were being fleeced too much.

While the season's biggest

crowd jampacked the stands, forcing an early closing of the stadium entrances, there were many who had to return home disappointed despite holding valid tickets and some with even VIP passes.

The match over, there was an acute shortage of transports in and around the stadium. Police version on the violence was not available till writing of this report after midnight last night.

UNB adds: Dhaka Medical College Hospital sources said 13 people injured in the violence were given first aid. Many were treated at different private clinics.

The match was disrupted for about 35 minutes by violence on the field and in the galleries, forcing police to teargas the beligerents to control the situation.

Discord in ministries over Import Policy

By A Special Correspondent

of the new IPO has led observers to believe that there are fundamental differences of opinion among senior policy-makers about policy for imports into Bangladesh.

This inference was given

credence to by Finance Minister Saffur Rahman himself when he told members of the Metropolitan Chamber earlier in the week that sectional interests and political interference were slowing down his economic reform efforts.

In his budget speech last June Saffur Rahman vowed to change the country's "restrictive and anti-export biased" import regime by lowering tariff rates, rationalising the tariff structure and eliminating quantitative restraints.

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30 Hare Road bldg

Minister, ministry cleared

The concerned parliamentary committee found Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah and his ministry were not involved in any corruption, as was alleged, with regard to the construction work in the 30. Hare Road house, reports UNB.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Works Ministry, in its adjourned meeting yesterday, unanimously reached the conclusion regarding the charge early brought in Parliament by the Opposition.

Hold at the Sangsab Bhaban with the Works Minister himself in the chair, the meeting held an extensive discussion on the report on the 30. Hare Road building before reaching a decision.

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ECNEC okays 8 projects

The National Economic Council (ECNEC) yesterday approved eight projects involving an expenditure of Tk 157 crore including a foreign exchange component of Tk 33 crore, reports BSS.

The projects include construction of a building for the National Institute of Mass Communication (NIMCO) at a cost of Tk 5.60 crore, the Salda Oil and Gas Exploration Project at a cost of Tk 22.50 crore, the Kailashtha Oil and Gas Development Project at a cost of Tk 24 crore, purchase of modern fire extinguishers, pump and rescue equipment for the Fire Service Department at a cost of Tk 14 crore, and the development of the Chittagong Export Processing Zone involving an expenditure of Tk 36 crore.

The construction of the NIMCO building will be started from the current financial year and is to be completed within the next two years.

The ECNEC also approved Tk 54 crore to compensate for the land acquired for construction of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge.

The meeting of the ECNEC executive committee was chaired by the Finance Minister Md Saffur Rahman.

Russia fully suspends rocket deal

MOSCOW, Aug 4: Russia has fully suspended a 350 million dollar contract to sell India rocket engines and the technology needed to make them, the Foreign Ministry said today, reports Reuter.

The contract has been fully suspended and the Indian embassy in Moscow has been informed of the government decision, ministry spokesman Andrei Zhiltsov said by telephone.

Russia limited the deal to sales of some engines and suspended the transfer of rocket technology to India in July after pressure from Washington which threatened sanctions against Moscow if the contract went ahead.

Washington opposed the sale, arguing that the engines could be used for ballistic missiles and that it violated the missile technology control resume, an accord adopted by western nations to prevent the spread of such technology.

State Department secy held for espionage

WASHINGTON, Aug 4: A State Department secretary has been arrested on espionage charges along with a self-described journalist, the FBI said Tuesday. A source said the journalist was from a West African country, reports AP.

Geneva Jones, a secretary employed at the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs since 1989, was arrested Tuesday by FBI agents, the bureau said.

Also charged with espionage is Dominic Ntubue, a self-described journalist, the bureau said.

Ntubue is a citizen of a west African nation, according to a law enforcement source who spoke on condition of anonymity. The source could not provide further details on Ntubue's nationality, and the FBI did not give any details on Ntubue's background.



A Bosnian Serb soldier checking his tank mounted heavy machinegun in Bosnia Tuesday at the front lines on the Ozren mountain some 10 km south-east of the Serbian-controlled northern Bosnian town of Doboj.

—AFP photo

Strength of BNP lies in its popularity, says Khaleda

these programmes were being followed by other parties also.

Referring to the country's huge population Begum Zia said the people feel its presence in the government, in the Jatiya Sangsad and in the streets, reports BSS.

The poverty, she said, could not be removed by providing jobs only asking the people, particularly the rural masses to go for plantation, fish cultivation and small scale industries.

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She said the acceptability of the socio-economic programmes of BNP was increasing as

Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal Naimuddin Alam and District BNP leaders including Abdus Salam, Md Sattar, Nazimuddin and Waheduzzaman.

Barrister Nazmul Huda and Prof Mohiuddin Ahmed were re-elected President and General Secretary respectively of the Dhaka District BNP at the conference.

The Prime Minister congratulated the newly-elected office bearers of the Dhaka District BNP and asked them to work for strengthening the organization and to highlight the government development activities to the people.

The Prime Minister said her government had started working to ensure fish-rice for the people side by side with its efforts to ensure dal-bhat for the people.

She underlined the need for maintaining unity of the party leaders and workers and asked them to shun any sort of conflict among themselves.

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said BNP did not pursue conventional or monotonous policies, but the time befitting policies of doing welfare to the people.

He urged the BNP workers to abide by the party discipline.

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Izetbegovic returns to talks today

GENEVA, Aug 4: Bosnia's Muslim president Alija Izetbegovic will return to the Geneva peace talks tomorrow after a three-day boycott, his Foreign Minister told reporters today. reports Reuter.

But his delegation also set a deadline of 24 hours for Serb forces to withdraw from strategic heights around the capital Sarajevo which they have seized over the past few days.

The commander of the Bosnian Serb army, General Ratko Mladic, said today his forces had taken control of a key mountain overlooking Sarajevo.

Bosnian government forces conceded their position was "critical" after a concerted Serb assault on Mount Igman, which dominates Sarajevo's western approaches.

Earlier Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said today his troops were ready to hand over to UN peacekeepers key heights near Sarajevo they have taken from Muslim-led government forces.

We are ready to hand it (the strategic Mount Igman) to the

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The gap between policy and performance

By Staff Correspondent

The report on Public Administration Sector Study in Bangladesh (PASSB) presented to the government Monday, illustrates several cases of failure of the Civil Service officials, particularly those of the Secretariat, in implementing policy decisions.

It mentions the instance when in February, 1992 the government declared an amnesty to the outlawed Sarbhara party activists.

The government offers mentioned that those who would surrender to the police (along with their arms), would be provided financial assistance and social rehabilitation services.

A number of Sarbhara accepted the government's offer, only to be disappointed. As the government failed to make the necessary arrangements for their rehabilitation, they became the targets of rival party men.

The report says that the government policy failed because there was an absence of follow-up action against those who did not surrender, no arrangement was made to provide

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Sugar price may go up yet again

Star Report

Corporation (BSFIC).

The Corporation, which was allowed to import one lakh tonnes of sugar to meet urgent demand, decided to bring it in installments of 12,000 tonnes each, for which eight international tenders were floated.

Two contracts for importing 24,000 tonnes of sugar have been finalised of which the first consignment of 12,000 tonnes reached Chittagong Port Monday while the second consignment is expected soon.

The importation of sugar is in the process.

According to a ministry source, the minimum landed cost of the imported sugar was estimated at 26,500 per metric ton. The ministry maintains

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Japan's new govt takes power today

ernments.

The prospect of change has excited to many Japanese voters, fed up with the political scandals that have left the Liberal Democrats barely able to deal with necessities like the national budget.

"We should welcome any improvement in the manner of Diet questioning," wrote Masatake Kyohara, a political writer for the national newspaper Asahi, in a commentary.

The vast differences in the ideological stances of the coalition partners—which range from socialist to conservative—raise questions, however, about the durability of the new government's united front.

Lawmakers occasionally have reported to scuffles and name-calling to make their points. Instead of long-winded filibusters, minority parties occasionally tried the comic delay.