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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 Salah Uddin Shoaib Choudhury as the chief representative in Bangladesh. Itar-Tass has signed a separate news exchange agreement with a new Bangladesh news agency named Independent News Services (INS) formed with a senior journalist and former Information Minister Sirajul Hossain Khan as Chairman, reports BSS.

## 100 hurt as soccer fans clash

By Staff Correspondent

At least 100 people, including 15 policemen, were injured when frenzied rival football fans went on a rampage in the city Wednesday evening.

The trouble began soon after a crucial encounter of the Premier Division league between the two top football giants—Abahani KC and Mohammedan SC. Abahani won the prestige match, marred by the players getting physical and frequently disputing the referees' decisions, by two goals to one.

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

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

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

Match report on page 10

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.

No arrests were made till writing of this report at 11 pm yesterday.

The violence inside the sta-

dium, 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 jam-packed 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 belligerents to control the situation.



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

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda said in Dhaka yesterday the success and strength of BNP was that the party had made the people feel its presence in the government, in the Jatiya Sangsad and in the streets, reports BSS.

She said the BNP had been carrying out the development programmes staying in the government and continuing political activities and projecting government's development efforts through public meeting and processions by remaining with the people in the streets.

The Prime Minister was addressing the biennial conference of the Dhaka District BNP at the Auditorium of the institution of Engineers.

Begum Zia said the BNP had ideals as well as the programmes and asked the party leaders and worker to motivate people in involving themselves with the ongoing socio-economic development programmes of her government.

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

these programmes were being followed by other parties also.

Referring to the country's huge population Begum Zia said the human resources must be transformed into strength.

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.

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 them.

Presided over by Information Minister and President of Dhaka District BNP, Barrister Nazmul Huda, the conference was addressed also by Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Forest and Environment Ganeswar Chandra Roy, DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman MP, Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan MP, General Secretary of

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Naimuddin Alam and District BNP leaders including Abdus Salam, MA 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 organisation and to highlight the government development activities to 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 politics, but the time-befitting politics of doing welfare to the people.

He urged the BNP workers to abide by the party discipline. See Page 12 Col 6

## 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 Reuters.

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 UN," he said. See Page 12 Col 7

## Japan's new govt takes power today

TOKYO, Aug 4: Japan's new coalition government takes power on Thursday pledging to clean up the corruption that ended the Liberal Democrats 38-year reign, but unlikely to immediately change any key economic or foreign policies, reports AP.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and his Cabinet must resign Thursday morning, in keeping with the constitution.

Parliament is then expected to elect Morihiro Hosokawa, leader of the Japan New Party and head of the conservative-led coalition, as his replacement.

For the first time since 1955, the Liberal Democrats will find themselves in opposition outnumbered by a coalition that has proposed major electoral reforms and strict campaign finance controls.

The coalition also favours a more open economy and granting more power to local gov-

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.

The coalition, which spans the political spectrum but is controlled by former LDP lawmakers, was formed after the Liberal Democrats lost their parliamentary majority in elections July 18.

Although Japan's Parliament is the oldest in Asia, its proceedings still lack the dignity and eloquence of European legislatures.

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

ing tactic of the "ox walk," a slow-motion shuffle on the way to the ballot box.

All this has exasperated Japanese who want their political institutions to be on a par with their first-rate economy.

"We should welcome any improvement in the manner of Diet questioning," wrote Masataka 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.

Asahi artist Shin Yamada portrayed the problem in a cartoon Wednesday that showed the seven coalition leaders all conducting an orchestra with batons poised at different angles.

Like many other leaders in the coalition, Hosokawa, a former LDP lawmaker and governor, has never held a Cabinet-level post. His party holds only a small minority of seats in the lower house.

Other former LDP veterans, like former Finance Minister Tawtomu Hata, who is head of the coalition Japan Renewal Party, are thought to be the dominant powers in the new government.

Hosokawa is expected to tap Hata's expertise for the Finance Ministry, given the fragile state of Japan's nascent economic recovery.

Other Cabinet posts reportedly will go to leaders of the other coalition parties, which also include the Socialists, the Democratic Socialists, Clean Government Party (Kometto), Sakigake (Harbinger) and the United Social Democratic Party.

## Discord in ministries over Import Policy

By A Special Correspondent

Although the export policy for 1993-95 has been drawn up and finalised by the government last Tuesday its twin—the import policy order (IPO)—is yet to reach the final stage of approval.

The last IPO for 1991-93 expired on June 30 this year but continues to be in force.

As its announcement of a new IPO has been delayed beyond July 7, 1993, the Ministry of Commerce has extended the period of validity for the 1991-93 IPO until further notice.

Such extension in IPO validity beyond the originally planned duration is not without precedence. But, the period of extension has never been of such length before.

The delay in announcement

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 Saifur 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 Saifur 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 re-

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## Tk 54cr for resettling JMB evictees

By Staff Reporter

The government has decided to spend Tk 54 crore for the resettlement of the people already affected or are likely to be affected by the acquisition of their lands for the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project, according to officials sources.

Till now some 2105 acres of land had been acquired in Tangail and Sirajganj districts out of the planned 5681 acres, the sources said, and added that the number of affected people would be about one lakh.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) held Wednesday with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in chair.

According to the sources, some amendments to the existing laws for compensation are also being made for implementing the resettlement plan, some provisions of which conflict with the Compensation Ordinances of 1982 and 1989.

This happened because of the World Bank's disagreement,

with the action plan made earlier under the said ordinances, on the ground that the compensation would not be enough for purchasing replacement land.

According to the 11-point resettlement plan made under the ordinances of 1982 and '89, the affected people were entitled to have cash compensation equal to the estimated price of their property plus another 25 per cent of the estimated price.

The World Bank recommended for raising the compensation money to the extent of 50 per cent of the estimated price of their property. It also opposed another provision of the government's previous resettlement plan which proposed to provide the affected people access to bank loans upto 50 per cent of the compensation money.

But the World Bank opposed the provision, saying that the affected people should not be made loanees because that might pave the way for their further harassment and eventual impoverishment.

## 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 Sarbahara party activists.

The government offer 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 Sarbaharamen 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

the promised financial assistance and also because of the absence of adequate protection for those who surrendered. The report states that rehabilitation had to be coordinated with several ministries, including Relief, Social Welfare, Education and Land, among others. This coordination was not accomplished.

Another instance of policy failure cited in the study report involves the case of the sugar policy.

The report mentions that the sugar requirement for Bangladesh is 350 thousand metric tonnes per year. The 16 sugar mills in the country produce only 150 thousand tonnes. Therefore, the Ministry of Commerce decided to import sugar based on pressure from sugar importers. However, due to political pressure from the sugar producers, this decision was cancelled. As a result, scarcity resulted in an increase in the price of sugar and stimulated illegal import and black market operations.

The report observes that the costs of this failure were borne by the population as a whole.

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 earlier brought in Parliament by the Opposition.

Held at the Sangsad 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 the

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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 Saida Oil and Gas Exploration Project at a cost of Tk 22.50 crore, the Kailashat 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 M Saifur 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 Reuters.

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 to power ballistic missiles and that it violated the missile technology control regime, 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 Ntuba, a self-described journalist, the bureau said. Ntuba 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 of Ntuba's nationality, and the FBI did not give any details on Ntuba's background.

## Sugar price may go up yet again

Star Report

The Ministry of Industries has made a proposal for increasing the price of sugar by at least one thousand taka per metric ton.

The proposal, already discussed at a recent meeting of the cabinet, was referred to the Cabinet Committee on Finance for necessary recommendations.

The ministry suggested enhancement of the ex-mill price of locally produced sugar to taka 26,000 per metric ton from the existing rate of Taka 25,000 which itself was Tk 22,500 per tonne until April 30 last.

The price fixation was advised by the ministry on the basis of the landed cost of sugar imported by the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries

Corporation (BSFIC). The Corporation, which was allowed to import one lakh tonne 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. Import of another 76,000 tons 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 See Page 12 Col 7