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NEWS BRIEFS

5000 to join AL today

By Staff Correspondent A noted industrialist of Bakerganj district Alhajj Syed Masud Reza along with 5,000 followers, including leaders and workers of different political parties, yesterday decided to join the Awami League...

Car stolen

A Toyota car was stolen from Shantinagar Bazar area yesterday. The white Toyota Corolla GL (Dhaka Metro Bha 8181) was stolen at about 8:30 in the morning when its driver went inside the bazar for shopping...

CMCSU leaders call on Hasina

The newly elected office-bearers of Chittagong Medical College Students Union led by VP Faisal Iqbal and General Secretary Rubul Karim yesterday called on Awami League president Sheikh Hasina at her Minto Road official residence...

Army team leaves for Mogadishu

The second batch of the main body of the infantry battalion left Dhaka for Mogadishu yesterday (Friday) to join the United Nations Operations in Somalia (UNOSOM). They were seen off at the Zia International airport by senior army officers early in the morning...

Takako Doi to preside over Diet Hosokawa new Japanese PM



Japan Renewal Party leader Tsutomu Hata (L) shaking hands with Takako Doi (R), the new Lower House Speaker, during a meeting of Diet members of the seven parties who formed a coalition government Thursday in Tokyo. New Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa is also seen.

TOKYO, Aug 6: The Japanese Parliament elected Japan New Party (JNP) leader Morihiro Hosokawa as Prime Minister today to head the country's first coalition government in 45 years, reports AFP.

The Lower House erupted in cheers from the seven-party coalition as Takako Doi, the Socialist Deputy elected Lower-House Speaker only four hours earlier, declared the 55-year-old former governor of Kumamoto Prefecture as Prime Minister Hosokawa won 262 votes in the 511-seat chamber.

Hosokawa replaces Kiichi Miyazawa, who resigned as Prime Minister on Thursday, ending 38 years of single-party rule by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) which lost its majority in Lower House elections on July 18.

The new Prime Minister, who left the LDP last year to found his own party, was expected to meet over the weekend with other leaders in the seven-party coalition to discuss a new cabinet, which may be announced on Monday.

Doi, a former chairwoman of the Social Democratic Party, the biggest party in the coalition, ordered a second vote to choose the Prime Minister after the first See Page 12 Col 1

CPB, NAP decide to join hands with Dr Kamal

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB-reformist) and the National Awami Party (NAP) have officially decided to join the process of forming a new political party with Dr Kamal Hossain and other like-minded forces.

Both parties adopted similar resolutions in this regard yesterday evening at meetings of their respective highest decision-making bodies. However, both resolutions faced some opposition.

The CPB's resolution was taken at its central committee meeting held at the Purana Paltan office with party president Saifuddin Ahmed Manik in the chair. The resolution was passed on the basis of majority support although there was no voting on it.

The NAP's resolution was adopted by its National Committee with 31 members in favour and 29 against. Held at the party's Segunbakhia office, the meeting was presided by party chief Prof Mozaffar Ahmed.

The CPB (reformist) resolution empowers the leaders to

take initiatives for a broad-based party with Dr Kamal and other like-minded political forces, including the NAP and the Ganatantrik Party. The CPB presidium will implement the decision.

Party sources said that the majority of the 47 members who attended yesterday supported the resolution while some, including Ajoy Roy, Barun Roy, Dr Wazedul Islam Khan and Dabtrul Islam MP disagreed.

The NAP National Committee meet was attended by 65 out of 103 members.

General Secretary Pankaj Bhattacharya moved the resolution, proposing initiatives for launching a party with Kamal Hossain and other democratic, progressive and patriotic forces.

An amendment, suggesting that unit of the CPB, the NAP and the Ganatantrik Party be achieved first before going for a greater party was however, rejected.

Party president Prof Mozaffar Ahmed and 28 others voted against the resolution while Pankaj Bhattacharya and his See Page 12 Col 1

Khaleda reviews preparations for BNP Council

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last night visited the BNP central office to review the progress of preparations for the forthcoming National Council of the party on Sept 1 and 2.

As BNP chairperson, Begum Zia is personally overseeing the activities of the 11 sub-committees formed in this regard.

Begum Zia is also holding both formal and informal meetings with the party leaders and workers and giving necessary instructions.

Meanwhile, party Joint Secretary General and Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah told BSS yesterday that the conferences of all the 74 political district committees, except nine, had been completed. The conferences of the remaining nine districts are expected See Page 12 Col 6

Chaos, terrorism grip country, says Hasina

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for ensuring independence of judiciary and rule of law in the country, reports UNB.

Addressing a meeting of the Lawyers Assistants' Association at 29 Minto Road in morning, she said that the country was gripped by indiscipline, chaos and terrorism as there was no rule of law in the country.

Although the government enacted Anti-Terrorism Act to curb terrorism, the law is being used in persecuting opposition leaders and workers who protest the undemocratic steps of the ruling party.

Hasina urged the lawyers assistants to join the movement for scrapping the so-called Anti-Terrorism Act and Indemnity Ordinance.

The Awami League chief asked the people to forge a greater unity of the pro-liberation and democratic forces and wage a movement to resist the anti-liberal elements. See Page 12 Col 7

Trawlers, boats sink in Bay

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 6: At least six trawlers and two fishing boats were reported to have sunk and 25 fishermen were feared missing in the Bay of Bengal some 25 km from Kalapara under Potuakhali district during a storm Wednesday last.

Some 30 to 50 fishermen of the sunk trawlers were rescued after the storm and dead bodies of three fishermen were recovered by some other trawlers yesterday, according to fishermen who were able to escape the fury of the storm.

They said last night, four trawlers sank in the sea during the storm Wednesday morning and later in the afternoon, two more trawlers and two boats sank.

The fishermen, upon returning to Khepupara, disclosed this and added that some other fishing boats might have been affected by the storm that began early Wednesday morning.

Meanwhile, rescue operations are on in the sea, the fishermen added.

JU situation still in limbo

By Shamsad Mortuza

The situation at the Jahangirnagar University remains in limbo as teachers and officials continue to abstain from work and the authorities remain prefer to silent.

Police is yet to take any steps against the 21 students against whom criminal charges were brought by the university authorities under the Anti-Terrorism Act for their parts in the July 29 incidents.

The university authorities blamed the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists for the attack on teachers that resulted in the closure of the institution for an indefinite period.

"The teachers-students relationship is excellent," admitted Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman, President of the Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUT), adding: "But the acts of a handful of students have jeopardised the relationship."

Referring to the government's procrastination in bringing See Page 12 Col 3

State Deptt expert resigns to protest US policy on Bosnia

WASHINGTON, Aug 6: The State Department's top specialist on Bosnia resigned, saying there is widespread dissent in the department over US reluctance to stop the violent carving up of the former Yugoslav republic, reports AP.

The resignation Wednesday of Marshall Freeman Harris, the desk officer responsible for monitoring the Bosnian conflict, was the second key State Department Bosnia expert in a year to resign over US policy toward the embattled country.

"I don't know that we're in great turmoil, but it's no secret that there's widespread dissent within the department," Harris said at a news conference on Capitol Hill Thursday. Harris will join the staff of Democratic Rep. Frank McCloskey, an outspoken critic of President Clinton's policy on Bosnia.

"I feel very strongly that the United States should not and cannot accept the dismemberment of a sovereign UN nation... when that dismemberment is being brought about by force," Harris said. "It's completely inconsistent with our values as a nation and what we stand for as a democracy."

The career Foreign Service officer said in the letter that the administration was pressuring Bosnia's Muslim-dominated government to accept a partition of the country that would chiefly benefit the Serbs.

The New York Times on Thursday quoted the resignation letter as saying the US push for air strikes was too little and too late and represented an abandonment of the administration's position that Bosnia should be preserved as an independent state.

"I can no longer serve in a Department of State that accepts the forceful dismemberment of a European state and that will not act against genocide and the Serbian officials who perpetrate it," The Times quoted the letter as saying.

Bosnia's Serb, Croat and Muslim factions have tentatively agreed to a partition plan that would end 17 months of fighting in which at least 150,000 have been killed. But the negotiations in Geneva are constantly on the verge of collapse over the details of the division.

Muslims, who made up 44 per cent of Bosnia's pre-war population, now control only about 10 per cent of Bosnia. Serb forces hold about 70 per cent and Croats the rest.

The official US position has been to support whatever agreement is reached and agreed upon voluntarily by all the warring groups.

But Harris, along with a handful of other State Department officials, have felt the United States has consistently minimised the aggression of the Serbs and thus weakened the outgunned Muslims even further.

Harris was also known to feel that the Clinton administration policy was too slow and uneven in responding to events in Bosnia, an official said.

"He was generally frustrated with the (US) policy on the negotiations (between the parties) and on our workings here," the official said.

In April, Harris joined 11 other State Department officials See Page 12 Col 8

Siege of Sarajevo Talks break up without accord

SARAJEVO, Aug 6: Talks between Bosnian Serb and Muslim military leaders broke up here today without agreement on opening up vital supply routes through Serbian lines into the encircled city, UN spokesmen said, reports AFP.

They said the two sides would meet again on Sunday for further talks on implementing a pledge by the Bosnian Serb army to withdraw from two recently-captured heights overlooking Sarajevo and open two roads into the city.

The talks involved Bosnian See Page 12 Col 8

Georgian govt resigns

TBILISI, Aug 6: Georgia's entire Cabinet resigned Friday, shaken by fights with parliament and leader Eduard Shevardnadze's remark that civil war and economic upheaval have pushed the nation toward disintegration, reports AP.

Parliament voted 127 to 19 to accept the mass resignation. Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua was expected to stay on as head of caretaker government until new Cabinet is formed.

Shevardnadze, the former Soviet foreign minister, remains chairman of Georgia's parliament. He said he agreed that the ministers should step down.

The government has been in growing turmoil for months because of a costly war with separatists in Georgia's north-western province, Abkhazia.

But the immediate provocation for the mass resignation was parliament's rejection on Thursday of the Cabinet's proposed budget.

"The Cabinet's decision stops further confrontation between the parliament and government," Shevardnadze said. "It is wise one."

More than 2,000 people have died in a year of fighting in Abkhazia, and the conflict has drained government coffers.

Shevardnadze told lawmakers Thursday that Georgia was facing disintegration.

Georgia today has two alternatives: "to be or not to be," he said.

RAJUK undertakes Tk 1000 cr satellite town project

By Asiuzzaman

The Rajdhani Unnayan Katripaksha (RAJUK) has undertaken an ambitious suburban on Satellite Town Project, claimed to be the biggest in the sub-continent, involving about Taka one thousand crore.

The "new town" has been planned in Rugganj thana under Narayanganj district, 14 km from the capital, on an area of 6,131 acres, one RAJUK

(Capital Development Authority) official said, adding that the project had been planned to ease the continuing population pressure on the capital.

"It will be a complete suburban town with industrial and commercial installations which will create employments," one RAJUK official said.

The project is expected to be passed at the Board meeting next week.

The authorities would start acquiring land in the planned project site at Yousulganj, after approval of the Finance Ministry the official said, without mentioning any time-frame.

He said that the lion's share of Tk 951 crore would be spent for land acquisition and development. If it is completed successfully RAJUK will earn a profit of Tk 232 crore by selling plots, he added.

There would be 30 blocks of 100 acres another each. 632 acres would be allocated for industrial purposes near the Balu river. The residential plots would cover 2387 acres. According to the plans, the city centre would cover a 173-acre area, the source added.

Jessore Board results likely tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examinations 1993 of the Jessore Education Board are likely to be announced on Sunday (August 8), official said Friday.

The preparations to publish the SSC results of the successful candidates out some one lakh 37 thousand examinees have almost been completed, said the Chairman of the Board Professor Hassan Waiz.

Meanwhile, some of the results of the SSC examination of

the Jessore Board have reportedly been leaked out by a section of unscrupulous employees of the board ahead of the official announcement.

Many examinees were seen distributing sweets in Jessore town celebrating their successes in the examination, reported our correspondent from Jessore.

When contacted over telephone, the Chairman of the Board denied the alleged leakage of the SSC results.

Besides civic centres, stadiums and other urban facilities, the town would have more than 60 educational institutions, including four colleges, 23 high schools, 26 primary schools, seven madrasahs and a vocational training centre.

A number of by-pass roads would be constructed to link the town with the capital, the source added.

Tagore's death anniversary observed

By Staff Correspondent

The 52nd anniversary of death of Poet Rabindranath Tagore was observed in the country Friday.

Different socio-cultural organisations held programmes to mark the occasion.

At the Shilpakala Academy, speakers at a discussion session highlighted the role of the poet in enriching Bangla language and literature and elevating the status of Bangla.

The discussion was participated, among others, by the Director-General of the academy Mobarak Hossain Khan, Dr. Anisuzzaman, and Prof. Mansur Moosa.

A cultural function followed with artists of the academy, Baitalik and Abhodaya taking part.

In the afternoon, Kazi Md Mansoor-e-Mawla presented a paper at the Bangla Academy with veteran journalist Obaidul Huq in the chair. Syed Samul Haq, Rahat Khan and spoke Farhad Mazhar spoke on the papers presented.

Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Tariqul Islam attended a programme at the Shilsha Academy Friday afternoon.

23 days after amnesty No response from Shantibahini

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Aug 6: The tribal rebels waging a protracted insurrection in the country's south-eastern hill districts, appeared to have rejected the general amnesty declared by the government last month.

The announcement of a much-trumpeted general amnesty, came in the fourth round of peace-talks held on July 14 between the Parliamentary Committee headed by the Com-

munications Minister Col. (Retd) Oli Ahmed and leaders of the outlawed Shantibahini. The amnesty will remain valid until December 31.

According to official sources, in the past 23 days since the declaration of the amnesty, not a single insurgent had surrendered in response to the amnesty.

Sources said that the manner and timing of the announcement of the amnesty might even have caused some confusion among the members of the Shantibahini in the backdrop of continuing peace negotiations with their leaders to find out a political solution.

"The rebels may have deemed it wiser not to surrender until a settlement is reached through the peace-talks," sources added.

However, the general pardons declared by the government on five earlier occasions received a good response although most of the hard-core armed guerrillas reportedly turned deaf ears and continued their insurgency aimed at achieving autonomy and the expulsion of Bengali settlers from the hill districts, according to sources.

Official sources said a total of 2849 tribal insurgents had surrendered to the government See Page 12 Col 7

Six dacoits held after gunbattle in Moheshkhali

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 6: Police arrested six alleged inter-district dacoits after a gunfight in the Modipara jungle under Moheshkhali Thana, thana source said.

Acting on a tip, police encircled the jungle where a group of dacoits were preparing for their next raid Thursday night, police said, adding that the dacoits sensed the presence of the police, opened fire.

After a 30-minute gunbattle, police nabbed six dacoits with four guns and some ammunition.

The rest of the gang managed to flee.

Shamim Ara Nipa performing in a programme at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in the city yesterday in observance of the 52nd death anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore.

— Star photo