

Hosokawa sits with his partners to form cabinet

TOKYO, Aug 7: New Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, promising a cabinet the people want, sat down with his new partners in the ruling coalition today to finalise the government team, reports Reuter.

Hosokawa, whose election late on Friday ended 38 years of unbroken rule by the scandal-ridden Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), opened talks with his coalition partners to draw up a list expected to include all the alliance chiefs.

Excluding Hosokawa, they are the heads of seven parties from LDP splinter groups to the socialists and including a union organisation.

"This is the start of coalition rule and I think (each alliance partner) should be represented," Hosokawa told reporters today. "We're not going to be like the LDP which just doled out posts (like rewards for loyalty) ... the suitability and ability of the candidates will be considered carefully."

"My aim now is to create a cabinet that lives up to the expectations of the people. It's not final yet ... but the line-up will include capable lawmakers (from my coalition), women and private citizens."

Hosokawa said an early meeting with US President Bill Clinton was at the top of his international agenda.

"It could be in September if I'm able to attend the UN

General Assembly session or in November, when a summit meeting (of leaders of the Asia-Pacific region) is scheduled in Seattle," he said as he headed for his first full day at the Prime Minister's residence.

AFP adds: The United States wants to work with new Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa to build good relations with Japan. White House Press Secretary Doc Dees Myers said Friday.

She said there are currently no "concrete plans" for President Clinton to meet with the Prime Minister, though she assured they would meet in the future.



Morihiro Hosokawa

JU incident Govt assures steps to nab miscreants

The government yesterday strongly condemned the attack on the teachers, officers and employees of the Jahangirnagar University and said steps would be taken to arrest the miscreants involved in the incident, reports BSS.

According to a Press Note issued by the Education Ministry here last night, the condemnation was made following a discussion of the teachers, officers and employees of the university with the Ministers for Information and Education and the Education Secretary.

The Press Note said, the government strongly condemns the attack and expresses its deep sympathy on the incidents of attacking teachers, officers and employees of Jahangirnagar University by some miscreants on July 29. It also condemns damage of property by the miscreants.

The government has already formed a judicial enquiry committee in this regard with a retired Justice of the Supreme Court. Besides the July 29 incident, the committee could enquire other relevant incidents. The committee will complete its inquiry as early as possible before the schedule time.

The government will take steps for the arrest of the miscreants involved in the incident, the Press Note said.

The government expressed the hope that the teachers, officers and employees would take step to open the university as early as possible following the above measures.

JU student denies charges

By JU Correspondent

Hafizur Rahman, Joint General Secretary of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) JU unit, in a rejoinder Saturday, denied all charges brought against him regarding the violence on July 29 on the campus.

In his written statement, Hafiz claimed that he was the victim of a "conspiracy", saying, "As a students' representative to the JU Senate, I was very vocal against the corruption in the institution."

"In the eleventh session of the JU Senate, I highlighted an instance of corruption by the JU Vice-Chancellor involving a sum of Tk 22 lakh, and since then the VC had been hatching conspiracies against me," Hafiz claimed.

Denying the charges of snatching a tender box, Hafiz said, "On August 6, 1992 I participated in the tender bid for two old microbuses ... When some outsiders tried to snatch a bank-draft attached to a tender bid, I managed to rescue it."

"The JU Registrar later on thanked me for this," Hafiz said. "As part of the conspiracy, I was expelled from the university on July 27 by the Vice-Chancellor for blaming a particular teacher for his irregularities with regard to taking classes," Hafiz claimed.

Hafiz is one of 21 students against whom the JU authorities have filed criminal charges with the Savar police for their parts in the untoward incidents of July 29. Several teachers and university employees were hurt and the JU had to be closed down.

FBUTA

From Page 1 Col 5 (GCO) yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor demanding immediate reopening of the campus.

In its memorandum, the GCO, an alliance of eight left-leaning student organisations, urged the acting VC Prof Abul Hossain to save the valuable academic life of thousands of students by reopening the university immediately.

The VC, Prof A. Hossain, informed the students that he was maintaining close contact with the government and the JU Teachers' Association (JUTA) in this regard.

Prof Abul Hossain said that he had arranged a meeting between the JUTA and the Education Ministry to remove the deadlock.

Earlier, the leaders and activists of the GCO brought out a procession on the campus chanting slogans in favour of their demands.

The JU was closed since die on July 29 following a violent clash that left at least 24 people, including 10 teachers, injured.

Parvez wants to join army

By Staff Correspondent

Khandaker Masud Parvez wants to join the Bangladesh Army. He secured the second position in the combined merit list of the Science group.

Parvez, a student of the Pabna Cadet College, likes a disciplined life. He scored 919 marks and got seven letters — English, Bengali, Mathematics, Geography, Islamiat, General Science and Higher Mathematics.



Sweden's Queen Sylvia and King Carl Gustaf, Japanese Empress Michiko and Emperor Akihito and Spain's Queen Sophia and King Juan Carlos (from L to R) on arrival at the funeral ceremony of Belgian King Baudouin at Brussels Royal Palace yesterday. —AFP photo

UN troops kill five Somali gunmen

MOGADISHU, Aug 7: American, French and Pakistani UN peacekeepers repelled a Somali ambush Saturday, killing five attackers and capturing 15 others, a military spokesman said, reports AP.

United Nations forces, which called in helicopter support, fended off the hour-long attack without casualties, UN spokesman Maj Dave Stockwell said.

It was not clear how many Somalis fled after the attack.

The Somalis attacked the 30-vehicle fuel and water convoy with rocket propelled grenades and small arms fire at about 1:30 pm (1030 GMT) as it returned from a supply run to town of Bali Dogle, 60 kilometres (38 miles) further west, he said.

Turkish Gen Cevik Bir, who commanded the 23,140 UN troops in Somalia, commended the "quick and decisive action" of forces involved in the firefight.

Fourteen American-manned vehicles were in the convoy, which was escorted mainly by French troops toward Mogadishu.

American and French attack helicopters and Pakistani ground forces came to the aid of the convoy soon after the fighting began.

King Baudouin's funeral held

BRUSSELS, Aug 7: Thousands thronged the streets here today as Belgium's royal family and foreign heads of state including Japan's Emperor Akihito and Britain's Queen Elizabeth II paid their last respects at the funeral of King Baudouin, reports AFP.

Queen Fabiola wore white as she walked with shaky step behind King Baudouin's gun carriage, accompanied by other royal family members and foreign heads of state, as the cortege passed through central Brussels today.

Thousands thronged the streets as the carriage, escorted by 130 mounted policemen, proceeded slowly to the nearby Saint Michael's Cathedral, where the mass began at 11 a.m.

At 9:40 a.m. precisely eight pallbearers of the army medical corps carried the mahogany coffin from the royal chapel to the gun carriage in front of the palace.

The Spanish-born queen wore white as she had indicated she wanted the ceremony to be a "mass of glory and hope."

Banking hours

From Page 1 Col 4 among themselves or they may cover themselves in the overseas foreign exchange markets," the statement added.

The Bangladesh Bank will also conduct seminars, workshops, etc., explaining to the banks, media and to the public the implications and benefits of the move to a current account convertibility of the Taka.

Dhaka to open mission in Tashkent

The government is taking all necessary preparations to open a diplomatic mission shortly at Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, official sources said yesterday, reports UNB.

Sarjil Hasan, now Consul General of the Bangladesh Consulate in Jeddah, has been transferred to head the new mission.

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The Midnight File

Clash outside UN hq in Geneva: 17 hurt

GENEVA, Aug 7: Seventeen people were hurt, 16 of them policemen, during clash outside the United Nations here involving some 4,000 demonstrators protesting violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina, police said today. The demonstrators clashed with police as they attempted to break into the UN headquarters, where talks on settling the conflict in the former Yugoslav republic have been taking place. Demonstrators threw stones and bottles at police who responded with tear gas and water canons, police said, reports AFP.

UN help sought to settle Tajik-Afghan border crisis

MOSCOW, Aug 7: Russia and four of its CIS Central Asian partners called on the United Nations today to help them find a political settlement the mounting Tajik-Afghan border crisis. Meeting here for an emergency summit, the five states called on the UN Security Council to "examine the situation and to take various measures including the eventual sending out of UN observers," according to a joint final declaration cited by the Itar-Tass news agency, reports AFP.

Kashmir gunbattles take 10 more lives

SRINGAR, Aug 7: More than 150 militants attacked a camp of Indian troops in Jammu-Kashmir state on Saturday, and four guerrillas and three soldiers died during the three-hour battle, reports AP.

Shortly after that skirmish ended in Sopore, a city 35 miles (55 kilometres) north of Srinagar, another gunfight broke out between rebels and soldiers of India's Border Security Force in Kachan Ganderbul, a nearby town, and three militants were killed.

Tensions have been very high in Jammu-Kashmir since Sunday, when a Border Security Force officer allegedly shot and killed an 8-year-old boy and his parents in Srinagar.

Almost every day since then, angry civilians have been defying a 24-hour curfew in Srinagar, the state's summer capital, and taking to the streets to scream at the Border Security

Forces. On Tuesday, when thousands of demonstrators ignored Border Security Forces firing over their heads in a bid to disperse them, the soldiers shot at the protesters, killing three of them.

In the worst battle on Saturday, more than 150 Muslim guerrillas attacked the Border Security Force camp with rocket launchers and automatic weapons such as machine-guns.

After the battle, thousands of civilians defied a curfew, gathered at the scene, and took away the bodies of the four slain militants to bury them with honour. They shouted slogans such as "We want freedom" as they carried the bodies away.

Combined merit

From Page 1 Col 4 (Cadet) 29, Pabna Cadet College (897), 10, Md Naimul Islam roll no-Pab (Cadet) 41, Pabna Cadet College (896), 11, Md Jahangir Alam roll no-Pab (Cadet) 6, Pabna Cadet College and Md Mizanur Rahman roll no-Rang (Cadet) 2, Rangpur Cadet College (895 each), 12, S M Ashiq Mahmud roll no-Pab (Cadet) 27, Mehdi Md Iftekar Uddin roll no-Pab (Cadet) 31, Pabna Cadet College and Md Rokon-ul-Hasan, roll no-Raj (Cadet) 17, Rajshahi Cadet College (894 each), 13, Muniruzzaman roll no-Pab (Cadet) 12, Pabna Cadet College (893), 14, Ahmad Iqbal Khan Sujon, roll no-Pab (Cadet) 13, Pabna Cadet College and Mosammat Naznin Farhana roll no-Bog-Ma-497, Bogra Girls High School (892), 15, Nur Hasan Khan Yousuf-Zaeq, roll no-Pab (Cadet) 25, Pabna Cadet College (891), 16, A T M Russel Ahsan, Sadiq, Dr Mushtaq Hossain, Dr Shahid Hasan and Dr AKM Azizul Huq.

Biman's DC-10

From Page 1 Col 5 The total cost of the repair work would be borne by the insurers of the aircraft lloyds of London.

On May 18, the DC-10 Biman aircraft skidded off the runway at Zia International Airport amid pouring rain with 135 passengers on board. However, none of the passengers were injured in the accident but the airplane sustained substantial damages.

Structural damage to the belly, nose and engines were identified as the major ones by the MDC engineers, the source added.

He also added that many of the minor damaged parts have to be sent abroad for repair works.

The maintenance department of Biman is providing all possible logistic support to the MDC team. The repair work is being conducted at the Biman hangar at Zia.

Salam Talukder

From page 1 col 7 a Joint Secretary General — Labour Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Communications Minister Oli Ahmed were possible candidates. The name of Social Welfare Minister Tariqul Islam is also being mentioned.

One group of BNP stalwarts are in favour of a minister-Secretary General but another group favours a full-time SG, unencumbered with ministerial obligations, in order for him to give better attention and reinvigorate party activities.

Barrister Salam Talukder, appointed by Begum Khaleida Zia in 1987, is the fourth Secretary General of the party. He succeeded KM Obaidur Rahman who held the key post briefly in 1986, before falling out with Begum Zia and eventually deserting the party to float his own.

Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury was the first Secretary General of the BNP, founded on September 1, 1978 by the late President Ziaur Rahman. Chowdhury functioned as SG until 1984 when present Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman took over for two years.

Naga rebels kill 20 villagers

NEW DELHI, Aug 7: Separatist guerrillas in India's north-east shot and killed at least 20 people Saturday after torching an entire village in Manipur state, Press Trust of India reported, says AP.

The guerrillas from the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, which is leading a two-decade-old campaign for secession of their state from the Indian union, raided Senapati village and set fire to all the 95 houses. They then shot and killed at least 20 villagers and wounded 30 others.

Hasina warns

From page 1 col 7 dependence of the judiciary, including repeal of all black laws and the Indemnity Act, as well as elimination of poverty and hunger from the country.

Welcoming the new-comers to her party, Hasina told them "You have taken the right decision at the right time when the nation is experiencing a crucial time."

She also invited other pro-liberation and pro-democratic groups and individuals to rally round her party to expedite the process of the AL's struggle to consolidate democracy and national sovereignty and to achieve a self-reliant economy.

The freshers, from Bakerganj thana, earlier thronged the Minto Road residence of Hasina. They include workers of the BNP, the Jatiya Party, the present and former Chairmen of local Union Parishads and some social workers.

A coterie of corrupt persons was exploiting the nation and remained active against the AL all through, she said.

"This group never wished the AL to be in power because it knows very well that the party won't allow the existence of any exploiter in society," she remarked.

The AL's recently announced new economic policy provided for clear-cut steps to remove poverty, ensure social justice and education and medical service for all, Hasina pointed out.

On the other hand, she viewed, each and every step of the BNP government was anti-people and conspiratorial. This "neo-autocratic" government was only protecting the interests of a handful of vested groups and depriving the common men of their legitimate rights, she charged.

Painting a gloomy picture of the country's socio-economic condition, the opposition leader accused the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia of ignoring the causes of the

Rajshahi Board Social Science merit list

By Staff Correspondent

1. Md Ariful Islam roll no-Pab (Cadet) 47, Pabna Cadet College (888), 2. Shahana Sultana roll no-Thak-Ma 1189, Thakurgaon Government Girls High School (872), 3. Samia Ferdous roll no-Raj-Ma 4137, Government PN Girls High School (862), 4. Md Abdul Karim, roll no-Durga 386, Bakhtiarpur High School (850), 5. A K M Ehsanul Haq roll no-Pab (Cadet) 46, Pabna Cadet College and Shah Mohammad Azizul Shahid roll no-Rang (Cadet) 42, (847 each), 6. Fahmid Sarwar, roll no-Rang (Cadet) 45, Rangpur Cadet College (846), 7. Md Mahbub Morshed, roll no-Rang (Cadet) 43, Rangpur Cadet College (845), 8. Abdul Mannan Mia roll no-Gai 1489, Dariatpura Amanullah High School (843), 9. A S M Mahmudul Hasan roll no-Rang 1440, Rangpur Zila School (842), 10. Shahanz Sultana, roll no-Raj-Ma 3233, Rajshahi University School and Md Ziaul Kabir roll no-Pab (Cadet) 48, Pabna Cadet College (841 each).

A cadet of the Pabna Cadet College, Niloy scored 920 marks out of a possible 1000 with letters in Bangla, English, General Mathematics, Islamiat, General Science and Higher Mathematics.

The only child of a private firm executive Ataur Rahman and radio engineer Farida Rahman Niloy, unlike those who studied 12 to 13 hours in preparations for the exams, spent much less time with his books.

His favourite pastimes — listening to music and studying non-academic books — were never neglected.

A regular routine of three to five hours of study a day, with some help of his tutors when he came home on vacations sufficed for Niloy to emerge as the best student among the lot.

When asked about his aim in life, Niloy Rahman said he wants to be a computer engineer.

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Some unauthorised constructions near Malibagh crossing in the city were demolished by the authorities yesterday. —Star photo

Yeltsin calls for settlement of Tajik-Afghan border dispute

MOSCOW, Aug 7: Russian President Boris Yeltsin called today for "urgent measures" to settle a border conflict between Tajikistan and Afghanistan, at the opening of a summit of central Asian states summoned to discuss the crisis, reports AFP.

His call came as Tajik forces backed by tanks and warplanes kept up an offensive against separatist rebels in the eastern autonomous region of Gorno-Badakhshan.

Moscow is seeking to persuade Tajikistan to negotiate with Islamic fundamentalists who have fled south to Afghanistan and with separatists in Gorno-Badakhshan, against whom Dushanbe opened a second front last week.

Yeltsin urged the summit to bring diplomatic, military and political pressure to bear to help end cross-border raids by Tajik rebels on government and Russian troops guarding the frontier, the Interfax news agency said.

Yeltsin told the summit, attended by Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, that "Our common concern (is the protection of) the border of the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States)". Turkmenistan, participating in the closed-door summit as an observer, is opposed to military intervention in the conflict.

The Russian leader proposed calling a conference with Afghanistan, used as a base by anti-Dushanbe Islamic fighters, under UN auspices which would lead to the signing of a "multi-partite peace and cooperation accord in Central Asia."