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US diplomat killed in Georgia

TBILISI (Georgia), Aug 9: A US diplomat was killed in a hail of gunfire by unknown attackers outside Tbilisi, the capital of this former Soviet republic, US and Georgian officials said Monday, reports AP.

The diplomat was identified as Fred Woodruff, a regional affairs officer posted temporarily in the political section of the US Embassy in Georgia, the embassy said. His age and hometown were not disclosed.

Another State Dept official resigns

WASHINGTON, Aug 9: A third State Department official has resigned to protest US policy in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina, officials said Sunday, reports AP.

Jon Western, who was investigating alleged Serb war crimes, told his superiors in a letter Friday that he was leaving in two weeks to protest a department policy he concluded was not tough enough, department officials said.

PM: Harmony

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5 lakh from her personal fund for different religious institutions in Chittagong.

Begum Zia said her government is determined to maintain communal harmony in the country at any cost. In this context, she mentioned that the government had provided assistance in rebuilding the temples damaged during the last year's disturbances.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh K Raghunath and Nepal's High Commissioner Lok Bahadur were present on the occasion.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: The Prime Minister's visit to Chittagong today was delayed for about six hours, due to inclement weather.

The Prime Minister was scheduled to attend the Janmastami function at 3:30 pm today at the J M Sen Hall.

But she arrived here by the last flight at around 9 pm and reached the venue by 9:30 pm.

However, after inaugurating the function, the Prime Minister went back to the capital the same night, police here said.

LDP defectors

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tion were named to cabinet posts to ensure balance in the new government, in effect making every cabinet meeting a summit of the main players in the alliance.

Hosokawa gave the key foreign, finance, trade, and defence portfolios to LDP defectors in Hata's Japan Renewal Party, seeking to ensure continuity in those policy areas from the previous government.

Besides Deputy Prime Minister Hata, the other Japan Renewal Party figures include Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii, a retired finance ministry bureaucrat-turned-politician, and Hiroshi Kumagai, Minister for International Trade and Industry, who hails from that ministry.

Hosokawa, 55, named three women and two non-political figures to his cabinet.

In the key post of justice minister, he named Akira Mikazuki, a law professor unaffiliated with any political party who sat on a government panel overseeing reform of the country's antiquated bar exam system.

Coalition officials said Hosokawa refrained from naming a politician to the justice post because to do so could affect investigations into major bribery scandal.

The other non-political appointments were Education Minister Ryoko Akamatsu, a former civil servant at the Labour Ministry in charge of women's affairs. She was instrumental in bringing about a 1985 law on equal opportunity.

The other two women in the cabinet were Environment Minister Wakako Hironaka from the Buddhist-backed Komeito, and Socialist Veteran Manae

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Shun criticism, help build nation

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plementing its election manifesto gradually. "We are implementing our election commitments one after another," said Begum Zia, Chairperson of the ruling party, "but we are facing obstacles instead of cooperation from the opposition in our development programmes," she said.

Begum Zia told her party leaders and workers that strengthening the BNP to carry forward the development programmes of the government and taking the politics of production to the people should be their primary task.

"There is no alternative to the BNP, so you all should carry the party programmes, manifesto and ideology to the common man," she added.

Begum Zia also urged the partymen to show a high degree of tolerance despite provocations, indecent slogans and misdeeds of the opposition. "Let them (opposition) do misdeeds; it will not affect BNP, rather they will be the losers," she told them.

The Prime Minister said the opposition had no specific programmes and was now trying to follow the BNP's programmes in a bid to reach the people. "But the people do not believe the opposition," she claimed.

The people have rejected the opposition parties because they did not have concrete programmes to run the country. They have become aware of opposition's lip service to them, she added.

Terming her government as a fully accountable administration, Begum Zia called upon all to maintain the present trend of development of the country.

Presided over by city BNP President Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shawkat Ali, MP, the inaugural function was also addressed, among others, by Senior Vice Chairman and Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Hafiz, Vice Chairman and Deputy Leader of the House Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Agriculture Minister Majid-ul-Huq, BNP Dhaka district President Barrister Nazmul Huda, Mohila Dal President and State Minister for Social Welfare Sarwari Rahman, DCC Mayor Mirza Abbas, MP, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain and party's city unit General Secretary Salahuddin Ahmed, MP.

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury made scathing attacks on the major opposition parties, with a special jab at the Jamaat-e-Islami. He accused the Jamaat of torturing, killing and cutting the veins of opponents in the name of religion and called upon the people to "unmask the traders in religion."

The ousted Jatiya Party has no political ideology. Their ideology is to please Ershad... it's not at all a political party," the Deputy Leader in Parliament said.

The spirit of the Liberation War is independence and sovereignty. So those who had introduced one-party rule and closed down all newspapers can't speak of the spirit of Liberation, he said, in a reference to the Awami League.

"The Awami League has failed both to run the country and to play the opposition role," he said, adding "They had nourished a vested group in their three-and-half-year rule; they do not know the language of democracy and their activities are not conducive to democracy."

The BNP government emphasises removal of poverty from the country and has achieved a great success within two and a half years in all sectors, including self-sufficiency in foodgrain and 30 per cent contribution of domestic resources in development budget, he pointed out.

Mirza Golam Hafiz informed the meeting that the government was going to make an announcement about the judiciary within the next couple of weeks. He emphasised the need for establishing rule of law.

He called upon the partymen to strengthen the BNP with utmost sincerity.

The function was attended by ministers, parliament members and senior BNP leaders.

Cynthia Tazreen, 17, hanged herself from a ceiling fan at her Daulatpur residence. She was reportedly unhappy with her result, police said.

Her body was found when the family members entered her room after breaking open the door this morning.

A UD case has been lodged with Daulatpur thana.

BNP city confce

From page 1 col 7

tion of the committee, formally announced their re-election shortly after her 45-minute inaugural speech.

The BNP chairperson also announced that two vice presidents of the city unit — City Corporation Mayor Mirza Abbas and State Minister for Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka — would retain their posts for another term.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia opening the Dhaka city BNP conference by hoisting the national flag while Mir Shawkat Ali raises the party flag at the conference venue yesterday.

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Janmastami

From Page 1 Col 8

Biswas, in a message on the eve of the Janmastami, expressed the hope that the spirit of love for humanity would inspire all to consolidate the ethnic harmony further as well as to maintain peace and continue the process of progress.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina, in separate messages, congratulated the Hindu community and wished success of the religious festival as well as peace and progress of the Hindu community.

The Central Janmastami Celebration Committee has drawn up a two-day programme which includes - The Geeta Yagna at the Dhakeshwari Mandir in Dhaka, procession, distribution of prasad, discussions, and cultural functions.

The Jagatbandhu Mahaprakash Monastery, the Sree Sree Geeta Sangha and other religious organisations have also planned similar programmes.

The president and the general secretary of Bangladesh Central Puja Ujjapan Parishad K B Roy Chowdhury and Swapan Kumar Saha, in a joint statement yesterday, wished continued peace, harmony and progress of the country.

The president and the general secretary of the Mahanagar Sarbanjanin Puja Ujjapan Committee Anil Chandra Nath and Djendra Nath Saha respectively, also felicitated the people on the occasion.

Prem Ranjan Dev of the Bangladesh Jatiya Hindu Parishad, in a statement, wished peace and harmony in the country.

The two-and-a-half hour long opening ceremony was followed by a cultural programme and a closed-door meeting of the councillors.

Murtaza Bhutto seeks new symbol

ISLAMABAD, Aug 9: The expelled brother of Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto is gearing up to challenge her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in forthcoming elections, officials and family said on Sunday, reports Reuters.

Body of raped woman yet to be identified

By Staff Correspondent

Police, in a circular Monday, sought help of the public to establish the identity of a body recovered earlier from near the Demra bridge in the city.

The unidentified woman, in her thirties, was sexually violated and stabbed to death on Saturday night, the circular said.

The photographs supplied by the police to The Daily Star show the victim wearing a striped dark blue saree, a golden plastic bangle on her left hand a tallman around her neck.

According to the circular, a one-year-old boy found near the victim's body was placed in the care of one Soltaman of Bamol, under Demra thana.

The body of the victim was sent to the Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

Team of doctors calls on Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

A delegation of physicians met Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina at her Minto Road official residence yesterday to discuss different problems in the health sector.

The physicians, during the meeting, also supported the AL called half-day hartal on August 15 and the August 20 grand rally at the Manik Mia Avenue.

The delegation members expressed grave concern over the killing of Dr Rafiq and sought the AL leader's cooperation to press for trial of the killers.

The physicians' team included Dr. Badruzzaman Dablu, Dr. Yunus Ali Sarkar, Dr. Nazrul Islam, Dr. Zahed Hossain, Dr. Abu Zafar, Dr. Sayefuddin, Dr. Mushtaq Hossain, Dr. Ismail Khan, Dr. Imdadul Haq and Dr. Nazmul Hassan.

Party General Secretary Zillur Rahman and other leaders including Dr. MA Quadri, Dr. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Ivy Rahman and Moutaz Hossain, were present during the meeting.

Girl commits suicide in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 9: An SSC examinee who secured a First Division with letters in two subjects committed suicide here this morning.

Cynthia Tazreen, 17, hanged herself from a ceiling fan at her Daulatpur residence. She was reportedly unhappy with her result, police said.

Her body was found when the family members entered her room after breaking open the door this morning.

Janmastami

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The Midnight File

Quake jolts northern India

NEW DELHI, Aug 9: A moderate earthquake jolted many parts of northern India for several minutes Monday, shaking buildings and rattling windows. The earthquake was between 6.5 and 6.8 on the Richter scale and its epicenter was about 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) northwest of New Delhi, said S N Chatterjee, a director at the Seismological Observatory, reports AP.

UK lifts arms embargo against Angola

LONDON, Aug 9: Britain said Monday it is lifting its arms embargo against the Angolan government, offering what could be a lifeline to the formerly Marxist administration in its war with rebel forces. The decision could pave the way for deliveries of military goods from other western countries, such as the United States, reports AP.

Bandertila incident Publication of enquiry report demanded

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: Convener of the South Halishahar Punarbasan and Adhikar Sangrakshak Committee (rehabilitation and rights preservation committee) Kamal Uddin Ahmed, in a statement issued to the press, demanded the immediate publication of the enquiry commission report on the Bandertila-Halishahar incident involving a section of unruly navy personnel.

The convener of the committee also demanded punishment of those responsible for the tragic incidents and expressed resentment at the delay with the enquiry report even eight months after the occurrence.

More Rohingyas return home

By Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 9: A group of 320 Rohingya refugees of 78 families have been repatriated to Myanmar voluntarily this morning.

They left from the Nayapara, Jumnapara and Lungkhali transit camps.

With this, the total number of repatriated Rohingyas comes to 32,191.

Biman passenger dies at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

Alli Miah, 33, a Bangladeshi passenger scheduled to fly to Saudi Arabia could not make it on the Biman flight BG 035 even after completing immigration formalities at the Zia International Airport yesterday.

Alli Miah collapsed at the immigration enclosure and was rushed to the Suhrawardy Hospital by an ambulance of the Civil Aviation Authority where the doctors declared him dead.

Bank employees

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Bank Employees' Federation Bakir Hossain told UNB if the government did not settle the issue through discussion with the trade unions, the stalemate would continue.

"We want to render services to our clients, but what benefit will we get for the extended services? There is no overtime or fringe benefit for the bank employees," he regretted, and said a bank official would not be able to go back home before 9 at night because of the extended schedule.

Criticising the decision, he said, it should have been taken after discussion with the bank officials and employees.

The situation in all the commercial banks had already become tense after the government stopped giving incentives since 1990 and fringe benefits since July 1991, Bakir said.

He demanded a separate pay scale, fringe benefits and incentives for the bank employees for the extended hours of customer service.

CBAs of ten banks yesterday held a meeting at the Sonali Bank head office in the evening to plan future programmes.

On the other hand, scores of bank clients, approached for their immediate reactions about the new timings, expressed overwhelming satisfaction.

A businessman of the Rampura area, Anisur Rahman, said the new timings would help the business community to a great extent.

"But, unfortunately, I did not get service today after 1 pm. The bank situation should be improved," he said.

Serbs

From Page 1 Col 5

ists at Geneva airport.

Peace conference spokesman John Mills said Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Muslim-led Bosnian government, would attend Monday's session. However, Croatian sources said Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban would not arrive until Tuesday.

The NATO allies met Monday to review options for bombing raids on Bosnian Serb targets amid continuing uncertainty that they will actually carry out air strikes.

The ambassadors of the 16 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation nations reviewed blueprints to knock out Bosnian Serb military positions outside Sarajevo, officials said.

But the allies disagreed over who has the power to start air strikes — NATO or the United Nations. "That continues to be the central point of dispute," said a NATO official.

The United States wants NATO to have the final say.