

NIRMAN TILES Broken Marble Tiles In More Shades Than The Rainbow Tel: 605957, 861985

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NEWS BRIEFS

Discussion on Mujib

From Our Correspondent TUNGIPARA, Gopalganj, Aug 13: The Awami League (AL) observed the fourth day of the week-long programme to mark the death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman through Qurankhwan and mflad mahfil yesterday. A discussion on the life of Mujib was held at the Tungipara Government High School premises in the evening. Sheikh Sohrab, who attended the namaj-e-janaja of Mujib in 1975, presided over. The meeting was participated, among others, by the Chairman of Editorial Board of the Ittefaq Barrister Mainul Hossain, writer Syed Shamsul Haq, Prof Anisuzzaman and Advocate Ahmed Hossain.

Majid visits Feni flood-hit areas

FENI, Aug 13: Agriculture, Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul Haq today visited the flood and erosion affected areas of Chhaganaiya, Parshuram and Sadar thanas of the district. The minister directed the Water Development Board (WDB) officials to repair some 51 cracks which appeared in the flood control embankments on rivers Feni, Kohua and Selonda, reports UNB.

PM distributes National Film Awards '89-91

'Depict Bangladeshi culture in films'

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday distributed the National Film Awards for 1989, '90 and '91 with a call for creating a cultural atmosphere conducive to the on-going national development, reports BSS.

"The soil and the people would be the basis of our culture which we call Bangladeshi culture," Begum Zia said, and called upon the film-makers to play a vigorous role in the blooming of indigenous culture.

The Prime Minister said, "We have to depict life in our films. Let 'Film For Life' be our motto", she said.

Begum Zia said, "We do not say that good films have not been made in the country at all, but their number is very few."

The Prime Minister pointed out that foreign film-makers were winning international awards by making films on Bangladesh's background. "Why aren't the local film-makers getting such awards?" she asked. "Now we have to go for a self-analysis."

The Prime Minister questioned whether our films were reflecting the struggle and creativity of masses in fields and factories properly.

of terrorism and distorted culture has to be broken and care must be taken in artistic development and use of advanced technology in film-making.

The Prime Minister called upon the film-makers to produce good films to avail the facilities created by her government to make the film industry dynamic, healthy and in keeping with the times.

The function, held at the Osmani Memorial Hall, was addressed by Information Minister Nazmul Huda. Information Secretary Nooruddin Al-Masud See Page 12 Col 5.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presenting the Best Actor award to Alamgir during distribution of the National Film Awards for the years 1989, '90 and '91 at the Osmani Memorial Hall in the city yesterday. Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda is also seen. — Star photo

Code of conduct for Taka convertibility this month

A technical committee comprising experts and representatives from all the commercial banks has been formed to recommend guidelines, ethics and norms for the newly-introduced free exchange market, according to banking sources.

The committee is likely to finalise its report by the end of the current month, the sources said.

A meeting of high officials of all the private and nationalised commercial banks Wednesday also reviewed the progress made in preparing the banks to cope with the deregulated system of banking begun with the recent government move to make the Taka fully convertible in the money market.

According to the sources, the code of conduct will be formulated in the light of those in neighbouring India and Pakistan, where a deregulated system has been in existence since long.

The code is needed to check, possible malpractices in the exchange market and to bring discipline in the deregulated banking system, they added.

Meanwhile, an official of the Bangladesh Bank said the central bank has been continuing

regular dialogue with the officials of the commercial banks and monitoring the progress being made towards the change-over.

The official said the commercial banks have been given upto September 30 to complete all preparations by adopting necessary technology and expertise to operate in the changed system. Some training programmes are also being

Floods kill 10 in Calcutta

NEW DELHI, Aug 13: At least ten persons died and thousands of houses inundated when rain-triggered floods hit Calcutta Thursday, reports Xinhua.

According to the Press Trust of India, 15 blocks in Midnapore district of the city were hit. 190,000 people were affected as most of the rain-fed rivers had flooded vast area snapping road communication.

Several road bridges were damaged and some river embankment breached, it said.

Reports of landslides also received from various parts of the district, it said.

conducted by the central bank for officials of the commercial banks in this connection.

Some commercial banks themselves are also organising training programmes by hiring experts from abroad. The ANZ Grindlays Bank plans such a programme by bringing experts from India, sources said.

According to a high official of a nationalised commercial bank (NCB), the country is in a strong financial position at the moment with its stable macro-economic condition and a formidable reserve of foreign exchange. This has allowed Bangladesh a more favourable atmosphere for introducing the free exchange market and make the Taka fully convertible.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the country has a reserve of foreign exchange for three months, which is much higher than neighbouring India and Pakistan.

India has a forex reserve of one month and Pakistan for 15 days, he said. The inflation rate in Bangladesh is also stable at present because of good harvests in the last few years, he added.

Under the new system, the

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Kamal won't go to Tungipara today

By Staff Correspondent

Dr. Kamal Hossain, convenor of the Democratic Forum, yesterday said he would not be attending a scheduled discussion meeting on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today at Tungipara.

He cited his pre-occupation with organising the Grand National Convention (NGC) later this month as the reason for his inability to go to Tungipara.

Talking to newsmen after the second day of discussions of the mini-convention of his allies in the city yesterday, Dr. Kamal also said: "We have paid tributes to Bangabandhu in our current meeting and demanded repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance which blocks the trial of his killing."

The discussion meeting at Tungipara, Sheikh Mujib's village home where he is buried, has been organised by a committee headed by Kader See Page 12 Col 1

BMA to announce fresh programme today

By DMCH Correspondent

The deadline for action against the killers of Dr Rafiqul Islam having expired yesterday, the Bangladesh Medical Association will decide its next course of action at a meeting today.

Dr Rafiqul Islam, a young physician, was reportedly beaten to death by a group of roadside hawkers at Farmgate on August 3.

A meeting of the BMA last Saturday gave the authorities until Aug 13 to bring the culprits to book, failing which they threatened to go for an 'action programme'.

Meanwhile, a special squad of the Detective Branch (DB) arrested one of the alleged killers from Muktagarh under Naria, thana of Shariatpur district on Tuesday.

Ali Ahmed Chawki, son of Tamiyuddin Chowki, a cosmetics vendor, was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate after interrogation at the DB office Wednesday.

Ali Ahmed reportedly confessed to his involvement in the death of Dr Rafiq. He also divulged the names of five other hawkers involved.

According to Ali Ahmed, Dr Rafiq wanted to buy a wallet from the footpath of the Farm View Super Market. The doctor and the wallet vendor had an altercation over the price of the purse. Suddenly, a group of vendors attacked the doctor and beat him up severely.

Dr Rafiq, left in an unconscious state by his attackers was sent to a nearby clinic See Page 12 Col 4

Violence mars hockey final

By Staff Correspondent

At least six people, including Abahani Krira Chakra player Alamgir, were injured in a clash of rival players and supporters during the Green Delta First Division hockey final between arch-rivals Abahani and Mohammedans at the Hockey Stadium yesterday.

Police baton-charged and lobbed several rounds of tear gas shells to disperse violent players and supporters who indulged in a brawl in the middle of the pitch.

The match had to be abandoned with the score reading 0-0.

Detailed story on Page 10.



An overview of the ruins of the six-storey Royal Plaza Hotel in Nakhon Ratchasima, Northern Thailand, that collapsed yesterday. — AFP photo

50 bodies recovered 100 feared killed in Thai hotel collapse

NAKHON RATCHASIMA (Thailand), Aug 13: More than 50 people were confirmed dead after a hotel collapsed in north central Thailand today and the toll was expected to pass 100, police and rescue workers said.

"We can still hear voices," a police rescue workers said as dusk settled over the site of the Royal Plaza Hotel in Nakhon Ratchasima, 250 km northeast of Bangkok.

"There are so many bodies we can see, but we are concentrating our efforts on helping the living," police sergeant Suwat Pongsuwan told Reuters.

An official at a private emergency foundation said more than 50 bodies had been retrieved from the debris of the hotel.

More than 200 teachers were

attending a seminar at the hotel when it collapsed, officials said. "I thought it was an earthquake," teacher Malee Sukya, 36, told Reuters. "I saw the window crack and then it broke. I tried to jump out but the building collapsed right away. Everything was black."

She sustained injuries to her stomach, back and mouth. More than 60 employees of the Shell Oil Company were also attending a meeting in the hotel. Forty others were attending a third meeting.

Some of the guests in the hotel were foreigners, rescuers said, even though Nakhon Ratchasima is off the beaten track for tourists.

The building was a two-storey structure to which four

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Repeal of Indemnity Ordinance Hasina blames PM of violating commitment

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday made scathing attacks on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for not repealing the Indemnity Act in breach of her earlier commitment.

"The government of Begum Zia, through a special messenger, had informed me of its intention to scrap the Indemnity Act," the Awami League chief told a condolence meeting in the capital yesterday evening.

"But Begum Zia had not yet translated her commitment into reality", she regretted.

The Bangabandhu Parishad organised the discussion meeting on "Bangabandhu, the Spirit of the Liberation War and the Present Reality", at the Engineers' Institution auditorium in connection with the 18th anniversary of Mujib's assassination.

The AL chief told her audience she had come to learn that the government was considering promoting some of Bangabandhu's murderers now serving in Bangladesh's missions abroad.

"Bangladesh is the only country in the world where the killers are protected by the gov-

ernment and rewarded with diplomatic jobs", she said.

"The Constitution is designed to guarantee citizens' fundamental and democratic rights, but our country is the only exception", Hasina said.

"There are laws in our country too, for the trial of killers. Aggrieved persons can demand trials for any killings, except myself."

"Why should I be denied my right as a citizen of this country?" Hasina, daughter of Bangabandhu, asked.

She called for observing the August 15 nation-wide half-day hartal to register protests against the killings of Bangabandhu, his family members and four national leaders as well as the 'Mitrul' by the present government.

"Our struggle is to establish an exploitation-free, happy and prosperous Bangladesh, as dreamt by Bangabandhu," Hasina said, and called for avenging Mujib's killing by materialising his dream.

Referring to the recent attack on a Janmastami procession in the capital, the AL chief termed it a "planned act by the gov-

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Security in Ayodhya tightened

NEW DELHI, Aug 13: Security has been tightened in the disputed holy town of Ayodhya after right wing Hindus ransacked an exhibition promoting harmony between Hindus and Muslims, reports AP.

Newspapers reported Friday that Hindu extremists tore apart posters at the exhibit on Thursday, and police feared more violence during the week-long programme of drama, music and marches.

Ayodhya, 300 miles east of New Delhi, has been a flash-point of tension since frenzied Hindu mobs razed an ancient mosque there on Dec 6, sparking off nationwide Hindu-Muslim riots that left more than 2,000 people dead in two months of violence.

The raid on the exhibition was believed to be partly in response to a small Muslim student group that had vowed to begin rebuilding the demolished mosque on Aug 15, India's independence day.

OIC urges US, allies to launch air strikes on Serbs

WASHINGTON, Aug 13: Leaders of Islamic countries today pressed the United States and its allies to launch air strikes in Bosnia but Secretary of State Warren Christopher said they were not yet at that point, reports Reuters.

"We are delighted at the decision that the administration has recently taken on the air strikes. We believe that action is now imperative," Pakistan Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar said, as he and other members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference posed for pictures with Christopher.

"We have come here to convey to you the anguish and distress of the people of our 51 countries at the tragedy that has been unfolding in Bosnia-Herzegovina for the past 18 months... crimes of aggression, genocide," Sattar said.

The Pakistan Minister stressed the admiration that he said the conference has for the United States which "has historically upheld international law (and been) a prime promoter of respect for human rights."

Christopher said he shared the anguish many feel over Bosnia but asked about a timetable for possible action, refused to speculate.

JU JCD leader arrested in city

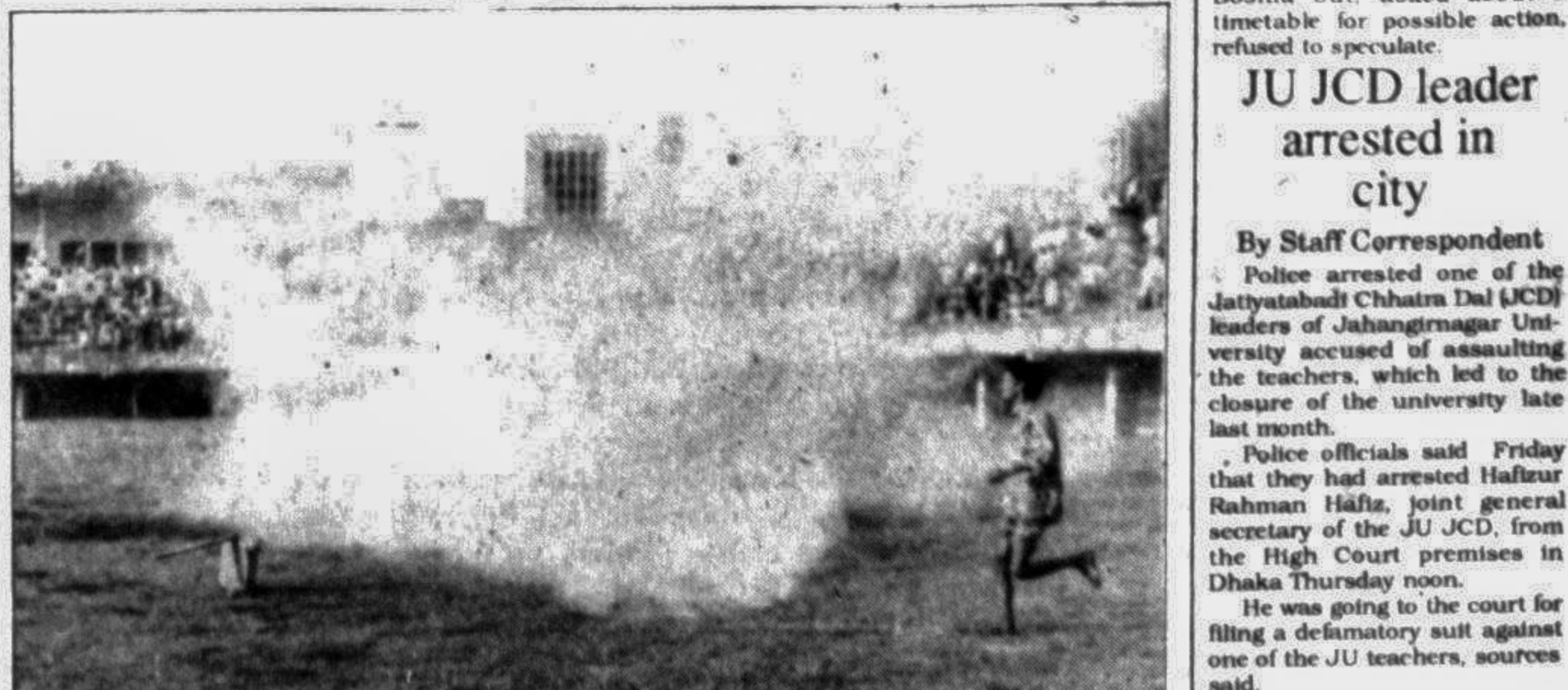
By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested one of the Jattiyatibadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders of Jahangirnagar University accused of assaulting the teachers, which led to the closure of the university late last month.

Police officials said Friday that they had arrested Hafizur Rahman Hafiz, joint general secretary of the JU JCD, from the High Court premises in Dhaka Thursday noon.

He was going to the court for filing a defamatory suit against one of the JU teachers, sources said.

Hafiz is one of the 21 JCD leaders against whom the JU authorities have brought charges under the Anti-Terrorism Act.



SMOKE SCREEN: Bellicose rival supporters are seen chasing each other braving the thick smoke screen caused by the tear gas shells lobbed by the policemen to restore law and order in the crucial Green Delta First Division encounter between arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting and Abahani KC, which ended in a fiasco at the Hockey Stadium in the city yesterday. — Star photo