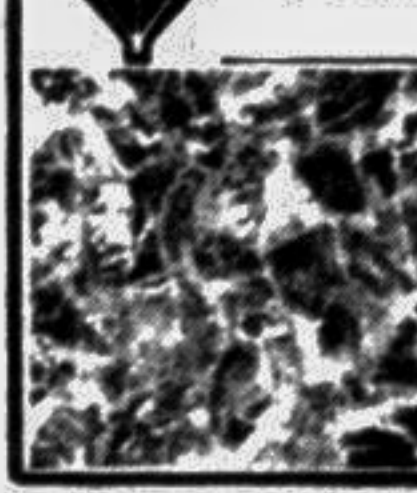


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NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda greets Hekmatyar

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday greeted the Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar on the occasion of the Independence Day of Afghanistan, reports BSS.

Deputy Solicitor suspended

A former district judge of Feni and Kushtia and at present a Deputy Solicitor in the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mohammad Azizul Haq has been suspended from service recently for misconduct and corruption, a PID handout said yesterday. He has been suspended in consultation with the Supreme Court under the Government Employees Regulations (Discipline and Appeal) 11(1) of 1985, reports BSS.

AL EC meets today

An emergency meeting of the Executive Council of Bangladesh Awami League will be held today at 4pm at the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at 29, Minto Road here, reports BSS.

Golam Ali new KU VC

Dr Golam Ali Fakir, Professor of Plant Pathology Department, Bangladesh Agriculture University, has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Khulna University for a term of four years. The appointment will be effective immediately, according to an official handout issued here yesterday, reports BSS.

Bosnian warring factions reach accord

UN to control Sarajevo for two years

GENEVA, Aug 18: In an apparent breakthrough in peace talks, Bosnia's warring factions agreed today to put their ruined capital under UN control for up to two years as part of an overall settlement, reports Reuter. UN spokesman John Mills said the agreement was reached after 4-1/2 hours of "exhaustive" debate of a draft plan for Sarajevo presented by international mediators on Tuesday.

That document has been

amended and has been agreed," Mills told reporters. Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban reached the Sarajevo accord 'in principle' on Monday, leaving wider 'map' negotiations as the only obstacle to a final peace accord.

Under the final deal, Sarajevo will not belong to any of the three ethnic republics currently being negotiated in

Geneva.

It will be a demilitarised city governed by a powerful UN administrator, to be named by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The administrator will be helped by an advisory body consisting of four Muslims, three Serbs, two Croats and one from 'other' minorities.

Only the presidency of the future Bosnian 'union', consisting of the leaders of the three republics, can recommend the

UN mandate be shortened.

"I do think that Sarajevo can meet the winter much earlier" said Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, whose forces have besieged and shelled the city for over 16 months.

"I think that the citizens of Sarajevo will take advantage of this solution," Karadzic told reporters.

Bosnia's Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic sowed a seed of doubt as he left the talks, saying

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the function on the occasion of inaugurating the newly constructed Container Terminal at the Chittagong Port yesterday.

— PID photo

Container terminal opens at Ctg Modern port facilities to boost trade : PM

CHITTAGONG, Aug 18: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said her government attached importance to increase exports to lead the country to the path of progress and prosperity, reports UNB.

Trade is the key to prosperity... and the thrust on trade calls for increasing port facilities", she said while inaugurating a container terminal at the Chittagong Port this afternoon.

The new container terminal, with modern facilities and two permanent jetties for ocean-going vessels, will reduce cargo handling time at the port. The terminal is part of a Taka 450 crore World Bank aided multipurpose project.

Presided over by State Minister for Shipping Harun al-Rashid, the function was also addressed by Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed, Forest, Environment, Livestock and Fisheries Minister Abdullah Al Noman, Planning Minister AM Zahidul Huk, Chittagong City Mayor Mir Nasiruddin, Shipping Secretary Walui Islam and Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority AKM Aminul Islam.

Members of Parliament and diplomats attended the function held at the container shed of the terminal.

The Prime Minister lamented

that the country has become dependent on imports. "Only half a century ago, the economy of this country was export-based and the volume of export from this port was higher than import. We want to overcome the present situation", she said.

Referring to the role of Chittagong port in achieving prosperity, she said the present government has initiated a fresh wave of development across the country and the improvement of the port is only a part of it.

The Prime Minister mentioned the liberal trade policy of her government and said a large number of export-oriented industries were being set up to increase the country's export.

She said the new container terminal equipped with modern facilities will increase the infrastructural facilities of the country's biggest port.

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ECNEC approves Tk 72cr for 'Food for Education'

The government will distribute one lakh metric tons of wheat among the poor school-going children under the "Food for Education Programme" this year, reports BSS.

A project to this effect at a cost of Tk 72 crore was approved at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) held here yesterday.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman presided. Under the project 5,55,450 children from 3703 primary schools in 61 districts will be benefited. Each of the children who maintains 85 per cent presence of the total working days in school will be given 15 kg of wheat a month subject to the maximum of 30 kg per family.

It was also decided in the ECNEC meeting to build a total of 333 multipurpose buildings for school cum disaster shelter within June 94 in 22 thanas of the greater Chittagong and Noakhali districts severely affected by the devastating cyclone of April 91.

These multipurpose three-storied buildings would also accommodate a mosque and a clinic. Total expenditure is Tk 180 crore which included a Saudi grant of Tk 177 crore.

Out of 333 shelters, construction of 138 shelters is nearing completion and the rest are expected to be completed as per schedule.

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Huda & co to form their own Jatiya Party

By Staff Correspondent

The new party, to be floated by a faction of the Jatiya Party, would be named the Bangladesh Jatiya Party, a leader of the faction led by former speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury said yesterday.

The name would be announced formally on September 10 at a press conference and approved at a council at the end of next month, the source said. He added that the planned council would also elect the executives of the new party, including the president and secretary.

Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, who is leading a threatened desertion by 30 JP dissidents, is in charge of its police. His resignation is pending.

See Page 12 Col 3

Deadline for BNP dist body confes Aug 25

By Staff Correspondent

The high command of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has reprimanded some of the district committee leaders for failing to complete the district conferences within the deadline set by the central body.

The high command also set an August 25 deadline for completion of the district conferences. Nearly a dozen district bodies failed to meet the July 31 deadline ahead of the party's September 1-2 national council.

However, conferences in five districts are unlikely to be held during the next week, party sources said, adding that party Chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had to intervene to finalise some of the committees.

The source said that factionalism and internal feuds were the major causes delaying the conferences. A special emissary of the Prime Minister would go to Cox's Bazar to resolve the groupings inside the party and to finalise a date for the district conference to elect new office bearers and elect delegates for the council.

The conference in Faridpur is being held today (Thursday) and in Shariatpur tomorrow. The Sylhet and Chandpur conferences have been scheduled for August 24.

But the district committee in Gazipur, like Cox's Bazar, is likely to ignore the latest instruction.

See Page 12 Col 1

Major changes in NBR

By Staff Correspondent

In a major shake-up of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), three Members have been retired or made OSDs while several senior taxation officials have either been transferred or sent on retirement.

Mujibur Rahman, Member (Taxes) has been retired while Abdul Latif Sikder, Member (Administration) and GM Rahman, Member (Customs) of the NBR have been appointed OSDs, a source in the Establishment Ministry said.

Abdur Rahman Khan, Commissioner of Taxes, and Masroor Ghazi, Additional Commissioner of Taxes, have been retired, the same source said.

In another major reshuffle, 25 Joint Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners of Taxes have been transferred.

A ranking official of the Ministry of Finance said the major changes in the NBR have been made "to tone up the government's revenue, tax and customs administration."

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, in a meeting with senior officials, expressed his determination to streamline the tax administration and root out inefficiency and corruption during a surprise visit to the ERD on Sunday last.

UP chairmen to head TDCCs by rotation

Star Report

Union Parishad chairmen will head the Thana Development Coordination Committees (TDCC) by rotation.

The cabinet recently approved an earlier recommendation regarding the composition of the TDCC made by the National Implementation Committee for Administrative Reform (NICAR).

The chairman of the TDCC will be appointed by the UP chairmen present at each meeting from amongst them on a rotation basis instead of appointing one chairman for a period of one year, as proposed earlier, according to approved procedure.

The guideline for the committee also includes participation, as members, of the different departmental heads working at the Thana-level. Members of Parliament of the respective

See Page 12 Col 8

City BNP public meet postponed

Star Report

The city unit of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) last night postponed its public rally which was scheduled to be held tomorrow at the Gulistan Square.

The city unit leaders of the party had announced the rally late last week. The programme was to coincide with a public rally called by the Awami League at the Manik Miah Avenue in the city.

The Awami League announced its programme two weeks back.

According to the BNP insiders, the Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia last night asked the city unit leaders of her party to postpone the rally.

The Prime Minister, who visited the party's central office

See Page 12 Col 2

Congress lacks charismatic leadership: Arjun

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao came under attack today from his main cabinet rival, who told a prominent news magazine the ruling Congress Party lacked charismatic leadership, reports Reuter.

"Charismatic leadership is not available in the Congress now, Human Resources Minister Arjun Singh was quoted as saying in an interview with the fortnightly magazine India today.

Rao and Singh have been shadow-boxing for control of Congress over the past year, with Rao hanging on despite a series of setbacks beginning with the demolition of a mosque by Hindu zealots in December.

Some 2,000 people, mostly Muslims, were killed in riots triggered by the mosque's destruction in December and a January, in March, bomb blasts killed at least 250 people in Bombay and dampened the en-

See Page 12 Col 2

Four killed Attempt on Egyptian minister

CAIRO, Aug 18: Suspected Muslim militants blasted the interior minister's car with automatic weapons fire Wednesday in an attack that killed at least four people and wounded the minister, reports AP.

Interior Minister Hassan al-Aly, 57, was shot in the right arm and stomach and was in serious condition at the Police Hospital, police sources said. El-Ally underwent open-heart surgery within the past month.

The attack occurred as his motorcade passed along a busy downtown street near government ministries, the US and Japanese Embassy and the American University in Cairo. Nearby is Tahrir Square, site of the Egyptian Museum.

An interior minister, el-Aly is in charge of its police. His resignation is pending.

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Benazir announces political package

ISLAMABAD, Aug 18: Benazir Bhutto, Co-Chairperson of Pakistan People's Party, today promised to bring about radical changes in the political set-up in the country if returned to power, reports Xinhua.

Announcing her political package at a press conference in Quetta, capital of Baluchistan province, the former Prime Minister said she would make constitutional amendments and create a new social contract to redefine relations between the federation and the federating units.

She said she would allow intellectuals, journalists, doctors and other professionals who did not have enough resources to contest elections to become legislators at national and provincial levels.

She also promised to restore

female seats in the assemblies and give adult franchise to the people in tribal areas under federal administration.

Self-government, she said, would be given to the northern areas besides the grant of right to appeal in a high court.

Rulers responsible for budget deficits would be punished as there is no justification for any government to spend more than revenues.

The PPP Co-Chairperson said that electoral and judicial systems of the country would be reformed so that there would be new balance of power between president and prime minister.

The power to appoint army chiefs should rest with the president, she added.

Benazir announced that her priorities would be to set the economy on right path and to improve the agriculture sector.

See Page 12 Col 2

Patients suffer as nurses go on strike

By Staff Correspondent

Patients in eight government hospitals and a number of medicare centres had to endure misery yesterday as the nurses began an indefinite strike protesting the transfer of the Nurses' Welfare Directorate to the Health Directorate.

Sources said the nurses did not turn up for their regular duties at the hospitals yesterday. Patients needing round-the-clock attendance suffered the most due to their absence.

The Bangladesh Diploma Nurses' Association (BDNA) and the Student Nurses' Association (SNA), who are leading this indefinite strike, justified their movement by saying that the transfer of the Nurses' Welfare Directorate to the Health Directorate would hamper the health services.

In the last one year, the BDNA and SNA launched two separate strikes demanding their regularisation.

Our DMCH correspondent adds: At least 21 patients left the Dhaka Medical College Hospital to avoid the suffering and confusion caused by the nurses' strike.

No scheduled surgical operations were held at the country's biggest hospital yesterday while only three operations in the surgical department and five in gynae department were carried out.

See Page 12 Col 7



Nurses brought out a procession in the city yesterday on the first day of their indefinite strike. — Star photo

AL action plan likely tomorrow

By Nurul Kabir

The Awami League (AL) is likely to announce a series of agitation programmes against the government at its public rally scheduled to be held at the Manik Miah Avenue in the city tomorrow.

The AL leaders would specifically call upon the country's peasant and students communities to launch simultaneous agitation against the government to press home their respective demands, the party sources said.

Besides, the party would call upon the people to resist, what they call, the corruption of the government and compel the ruling party to pass the indemnity repeal bill, 1991 in the next session of Parliament.

The AL leaders consider tomorrow's rally the beginning of a bigger agitation that would

climax in October this year.

According to the AL's official announcement, the party has called the rally to press for the trial of the killers of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and mobilise public opinion against the alleged corrupt practices of the government and the ruling BNP.

However, an influential AL leader, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star that the party, while announcing the programme, had also considered the importance of keeping its rank and file active, specially when Dr. Kamal Hossain was bent on floating a political party.

Sources in the AL said, the party high command would announce a series of programmes to be carried on by the AL activists throughout the country.

The AL, with a view to launching a decisive mass agitation in October this year, would now concentrate on organising the peasants and students of the country, a central leader of the party said.

The peasant front of the party — the Krishak League — is likely to take the initiative to mobilise the rural people under the slogan: "Save the Peasants, Save the Country," sources said.

The AL would address issues like withdrawal of subsidy from agriculture and ensuring fair prices for agricultural produce.

The AL high command is likely to instruct its student front — the Chhatra League — to press for implementation of the ten-point charter of demands formulated by the All-Party Students Unity Immedi-

See Page 12 Col 7



Egyptian security forces disperse a crowd of onlookers at the American University yesterday, after an attack by suspected Muslim militants on Interior Minister Hassan al-Aly in central Cairo which killed up to seven people and wounded 10, most of them critically. — AFP photo