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Non-govt teachers meet PM, call off strike

Teachers of non-government schools and colleges yesterday called off their strike and other agitational programmes and decided to resume classes, reports BSS.

The decision came in a meeting of the leaders of the central teachers' liaison committee and the Bangladesh Teachers' Association (Ashraf Nazrul) with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the International Conference Centre (ICC) last night.

The leaders of the non-government teachers informed the meeting of their decision to withdraw the strike and other programmes and said they would take additional classes to compensate the losses suffered by students due to the strike.

Prior to their meeting with the Prime Minister the leaders of the non-government teachers had a successful discussion with the government side.

The Prime Minister announced that the government's contribution to the basic salaries of the non-government school, college and madrasah teachers would be increased to 80 per cent from the existing 70 per cent, effective from January 1, 1995.

She also said one time-scale will be given to the teachers, which will be effective from July 1, 1994.

Teachers' Welfare Trust will be reconstituted, the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister said, her government always regards the teachers as most respectful persons and assured them of doing everything possible for their welfare.

Begum Zia urged the teachers to help implement the programmes taken by her government for the spread of education.

Referring to the highest budgetary allocations for the education sector and introduction of stipend for the girl students upto Class Ten, the Prime Minister said the programmes taken by her government for the spread of education.

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Ctg Steel Mills resume full operation soon

By Sohel Manzur

Chittagong Steel Mills (CSM) Limited, the largest manufacturer of steel products in the country, is likely to resume its operation in full swing next month after remaining 'almost closed' for over three years, according to officials sources.

A massive restructuring programme will also be undertaken to enable the CSM to overcome the enormous losses incurred by it every year and repay the outstanding loans totalling about Tk 250 crore, the sources said.

The Capital Restructuring Committee for the CSM headed by Industries Minister Zahiruddin Khan has also finalised its proposals for revamping the largest sick industrial unit in the public sector. Before resuming operation, the CSM would 'rationalise its manpower and reschedule its loans' with the banks.

According to the sources, of the 3,500 workers and employees of the mills, about 1200 opted for voluntary retirement and about 500 of them have already retired.

The main reason for the huge loss incurred by the Mills, identified by the officials of Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) is its old machinery, most of which have become almost obsolete in the last 27 years.

Several attempts made in the past for modernising the mills went in vain due to sheer negligence of the authorities to this vital industrial unit. Such an attempt was made sometime in 1987. Kobe Steel of Japan agreed to modernise the CSM for Tk 180 crore and Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan agreed to provide loan for this.

But things did not move further. Another proposal for modernising the CSM in late 80 was turned down by the authorities concerned on the ground that the money required for the project was not available.

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103448 tonnes of rice procured

The country's food stock position at the end of this month will stand at about 6.21000 metric tons, reports UNB.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Food yesterday disclosed this at its 24th meeting held at the committee room in the Sangsad Bhaban with Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali in the chair.

The meeting discussed the present food situation, price level of foodgrain in the market and progress of the current irri-boro procurement drive in the country.

The meeting was informed that 1,03448 metric tons of rice was procured till June 22 inspite of monsoon rain and expressed satisfaction over the procurement quantity.

Golam Azam addresses public meet

By Staff Correspondent

Jamaat-i-Islami chief Golam Azam addressed a public meeting in the city yesterday, his first since he returned to Bangladesh on a Pakistani passport in 1978.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday upheld the High Court verdict restoring his citizenship, cancelled by the post-Liberation government in 1973.

The meeting, which was termed a 'thanks-giving' one, was held at the north gate of the Baitul Mukarram.

Chaired by city Jamaat chief ATM Azharul Islam, the meeting was also addressed by party Secretary General Matur Rahman Nizami, Abbas Ali Khan, AKM Yusuf, Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid, Kamaruz-zaman and Jasimuddin Sarkar.

Golam Azam called for forging political unity on the basis of Islamic ideals.

The Jamaat chief also spoke about his citizenship issue, his political opponents and his party ideals.

"I was deprived of my fundamental right and now I have got it back," he said.

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Road barricade for Comilla Divn observed

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, June 23: Normal life was disrupted in the districts of Comilla, Chandpur and Brahmanbaria as a six-hour road barricade programme was observed here today to press home the demand for a division in Comilla.

The road barricade programme called by the Comilla Bibhag Bastabayan Parishad left thousands of trucks, buses and cars stranded on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway from 6 am to 12 noon.

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Romanian defender Daniel Prodan (top) heads the ball as Swiss forward Adrian Knup jumps during their Group A World Cup match at the Pontiac Silverdome in the USA June 22. Switzerland trounced Romania 4-1. — AFP photo

The day of the underdogs

UNDATED, June 23: The Americans were frightened they would be the first host nation to fail to reach the World Cup's second round. Instead, they topped fancied Colombia 2-1 Wednesday and only a series of crazy results can stop them, reports AP.

The Colombians were stunned earlier by a death threat to one of their players, but were outplayed anyway by a US team playing their best ever soccer in the competition that mattered most.

On a day when Cameroon players threatened strike action over pay, the contented Swiss looked certain to gain the second round after romping to a 4-1 victory over Romania.

In the Group A standings, the Swiss and the Americans have four points from two games. Romania have three

and Colombia, expected to head the group, have none.

The Americans, scoring their first World Cup victory since upsetting England in 1950, were helped on their way by a own goal from defender Andres Escobar. He tried to intercept a centre from John Harkes and slid the ball into his own net.

Ernie Stewart, who plays in the Netherlands for Willem II, scored the second in the 52nd minute from Tab Ramos' pass, and the game virtually was all over when Colombian substitute Adolfo Valencia replied in the final minute.

Marcelo Balba almost scored a spectacular third for the Americans, shooting fractionally wide from a 16-metre overhead kick.

The Colombians almost certainly will go home after their third game against the Swiss

on Sunday.

"Unfortunately I have still not been able to find the explanation as to why we played this badly," coach Francisco Maturana said. "I think it's obviously very weird that our participation has been a disaster."

"This is not what people expected from us. Unfortunately we could make only two substitutions. We would have liked to make 11 substitutions at halftime."

The Americans were buoyant.

"We proved to everybody today that we can play the game," goalkeeper and captain Tony Meola said.

The game plan today was to squeeze Colombia in the middle. They kept coming and coming and our guys kept stopping them."

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TONIGHT'S WORLD CUP MATCHES ON TV

Group E : Mexico vs Ireland 22:30 (BST) Group B : Brazil vs Cameroon 02:00 (BST) Group B : Sweden vs Russia 05:30 (BST)

French troops enter Rwanda

PARIS, June 23: The first French reconnaissance troops entered Rwanda today, launching a disputed intervention to save civilians from massacres in the war-torn country, a senior French military official said, reports Reuter.

Earlier, the UN Security Council authorised the intervention.

French Defence Minister Francois Leotard said in Paris that the French troops would launch a limited operation to protect the Tutsis and it could begin as early as Thursday.

The Commander of the French Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Jacques Lanxade, said a first contingent of 600 troops would be deployed once the operation got underway.

In Zaire, two huge French transport planes unloaded troops in the towns of Goma, near the Rwandan border, Ane Bukavu, just across the Ruzizi river from Rwanda, sources in Goma said.

Lanxade in Paris said a total of 200 troops were in these two towns and a third, Kisan-gant.

Advani with 2300 supporters held

JAMMU, June 23: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President L K Advani, with his 2300 party leaders and workers, was arrested for apprehension of breach of peace on the first day of the BJP's fortnight long 'Satyagraha' at Ranbreshwar Chowk on Shala Mar Road here today, reports PTI.

The satyagraha is aimed at focussing the attention of the countrymen towards, what the BJP called, deteriorating law and order situation in Doda district of Jammu region and to press the centre to declare the district as 'disturbed and entrust it to army.'

The Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, G A Ganai told PTI the arrested BJP leaders and activists were taken to three temporary-made jails at Gandhi Nagar, Bari Brahmana and Dhara. They were arrested under Section 107/151 CR. PC.

Tk 260m cotton mills project

Two commercial banks and a development finance institution have grouped together to support a Tk 260 million cotton mills project in the country, reports UNB.

The Sonali Bank, Janata Bank and Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS) have sanctioned loans of Tk 154.40 million to set up the modern cotton spinning mills at Sreepur in Gazipur district.

The loans have been sanctioned under a Consortium Agreement entered into by four commercial banks and two development finance institutions in 1993 to finance the large industrial project.

The two banks and the DFI signed a Consortium Loan Agreement with the Echo Cotton Mills Limited at the head office of the BSRS yesterday.

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BCL, Shibir clash on CU campus

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 23: At least 10 student were injured in a clash between supporters of Chhatra League and Chhatra Shibir on the Chittagong University campus this morning.

Two of the injured were admitted to a local hospital.

Both the sides blamed each other for the clash.

Meanwhile, police was deployed on the campus.

World Cup USA94 SCORE BOARD THURSDAY'S RESULTS Group A: Switzerland 4; Romania 1 Group A: United States 2; Colombia 1 STANDINGS Group A: P W D L F A Pts Group B: P W D L F A Pts Group C: P W D L F A Pts Group D: P W D L F A Pts Group E: P W D L F A Pts Group F: P W D L F A Pts Group G: P W D L F A Pts Group H: P W D L F A Pts Group I: P W D L F A Pts Group J: P W D L F A Pts

Your Last Chance to go to LA for the World Cup Final Entries for the Bumper The Daily Star World Cup Quiz close at 10 tonight. Rush in your entries. Win your free return air ticket, US 1000 dollars in living expenses and a ringside ticket to the grand final! Plus, the other regular prizes — Philips Powervision TV, B/W TV, Stereo-recorder and electric bulbs. Send as many entries as you like. All Prizes Courtesy: Transcom Electronics Ltd. Licensed manufacturer of Philips Lighting products, Radio and TV Sets.