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NEWS BRIEFS

Mandela warns of stern action

JOHANNESBURG, July 8: Nelson Mandela warned Friday security forces would crack down on factional violence in black townships southeast of Johannesburg that has killed at least 22 people in the past week, reports AP.

SAARC finance ministers' meet begins tomorrow

Quest for integrated steps against region's poverty

By Staff Correspondent

Participants at the two-day Conference of SAARC Finance Ministers' beginning in the city tomorrow, will try to formulate a strategy for sustainable reduction of poverty in the region.

The conference will seek ways for an integrated approach on poverty alleviation given the state of health, sanitation, water supply, education and other social infrastructures in the respective countries.

Member states will present country papers on different aspects of poverty alleviation, touching on the problems they are facing and the progress

they have made. Delegates also will review the global economy with special reference to the economic situation in the countries of South Asia. They will exchange information on individual experiences in economic reforms and their impact on the poverty situation in the region.

Exchange of information on harmonisation of pro-poor plans with the open economy, structural adjustment strategies and the challenges and member states' responses will take place.

Another important issue likely to dominate discussions is the initiation of a new dialogue with the donor community to create an enabling international atmosphere and for mobilisation of international support for poverty alleviation projects.

The first-ever regional Finance and Planning Ministers' meet will be inaugurated tomorrow at the International Conference Centre by the SAARC Chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The preparatory committee, which will set the details of the agenda, has been carrying on meetings at the senior officials' level in Dhaka. Several senior officials from the

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Interview with Foreign Minister

Water issue: Ball in Delhi's court

By M Anwarul Haq

"Political will on the part of India is required to solve the long-standing water problem with Bangladesh."

This was stated by Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star.

Mostafiz said all outstanding problems could be settled between Bangladesh and its neighbours through dialogue. So far India had not been able to exhibit the necessary political will for a solution of the water issue.

Mentioning that Dhaka was keenly awaiting the proposed visit of Indian PM Narasimha Rao, the Foreign Minister felt it was not possible to arrive at a settlement unless India sits at the table and negotiates.

"A clarification call by one party

will not result in any solution unless the other party responds or sits to negotiate," Mostafiz pointed out.

The Foreign Minister, in a two-hour long interview with The Daily Star, spoke about

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Bangladesh's relations with its neighbours, its role in world politics, the country's thrust in economic diplomacy, the efficacy of SAARC and a host of other subjects. He also gave his views about the role of the Opposition, the women community and the issue of Tasleema Nasreen.

Mostafiz said he was aware of a rumour circulating about

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Saifur to exchange ideas on reforms with Manmohan

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Ministers Manmohan Singh and Saifur Rahman, two exponents of financial reforms in India and Bangladesh, will exchange ideas and review their experiences when they meet in Dhaka this week, sources said.

Indian Finance Minister Manmohan Singh who would lead his country's five-member delegation at the first SAARC finance ministers' meet would extend his stay by a day to hold bilateral discussions with his Bangladesh counterpart, Saifur Rahman.

Manmohan is scheduled to arrive here this afternoon by the British Airways for the two-day SAARC meet beginning tomorrow.

The Indian Finance Minister will spend a busy day in Dhaka on July 12 meeting Saifur Rahman and other high officials. Manmohan's discussion

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US, North Korea start nuclear talks

GENEVA, July 8: The United States and North Korea on Friday started a crucial round of talks to ease tensions over the Communist country's nuclear programme, reports AP.

The talks, repeatedly postponed because of North Korea's refusal to allow full inspections of its nuclear facilities, are also expected to focus on US technical assistance and diplomatic links.

Both delegations were relaxed and smiling as they shook hands for photographers outside the North Korean diplomatic mission by the shores of Lake Geneva.

Robert Gallucci, the assistant secretary of state for political-military and a coordinator

for the Clinton administration's Korea policy, merely said he was "hopeful" when asked about prospects.

North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok Ju made no comment. Officials have indicated that very little news will be released about the negotiations, the first for one year. The two sides are expected to meet Friday and Saturday and will then take a two-day break. They will last through next week.

A senior US official told reporters on the eve of the talks that the United States wanted to see quick results.

He said Washington was considering exchanging liaison offices or forming consular relations with North Korea if the talks are successful.

Amirul panel sweeps JU senate polls

By JU Correspondent

The Jahangirnagar University (JU) Senate yesterday elected a three-member panel of nominees for the appointment of a new Vice Chancellor (VC) of the university.

The panel was elected at a special session of the university Senate with its president, acting VC Prof. Abdul Hossain in the chair.

Two panels contested in the election. The panel led by Prof. Amirul Islam Chowdhury won all the three posts of the panel. Prof. Chowdhury of the department of Economics bagged 61 votes out of 84 cast.

He is followed by Prof. Maudud Elahi (Geography) — 45 votes and Prof. Mesbaud Ahmed (Chemistry) — 55 votes.

Another group led by Prof. Khondakar Mustahidur Rahman (Economics) was defeated in the election by a huge margin of votes. He got 38 votes while two other candidates of his panel, Prof. Enamul Huq Khan (History) and Prof. Amir Hossain Khan (Physics), got 24 and 23 votes respectively.

The Chancellor of the University, President Abdul Rahman Biswas, will appoint one of the elected persons as the VC of the university for the next four years term. The post of VC fell vacant when the former VC Kazi Saleh Ahmed resigned in the wake of violence on the campus on July 29, 1993.

8 die of diarrhoea in Pabna

PABNA, July 8: Eight people died of diarrhoea in four thanas of the district in the last 24 hours, reports UNB.

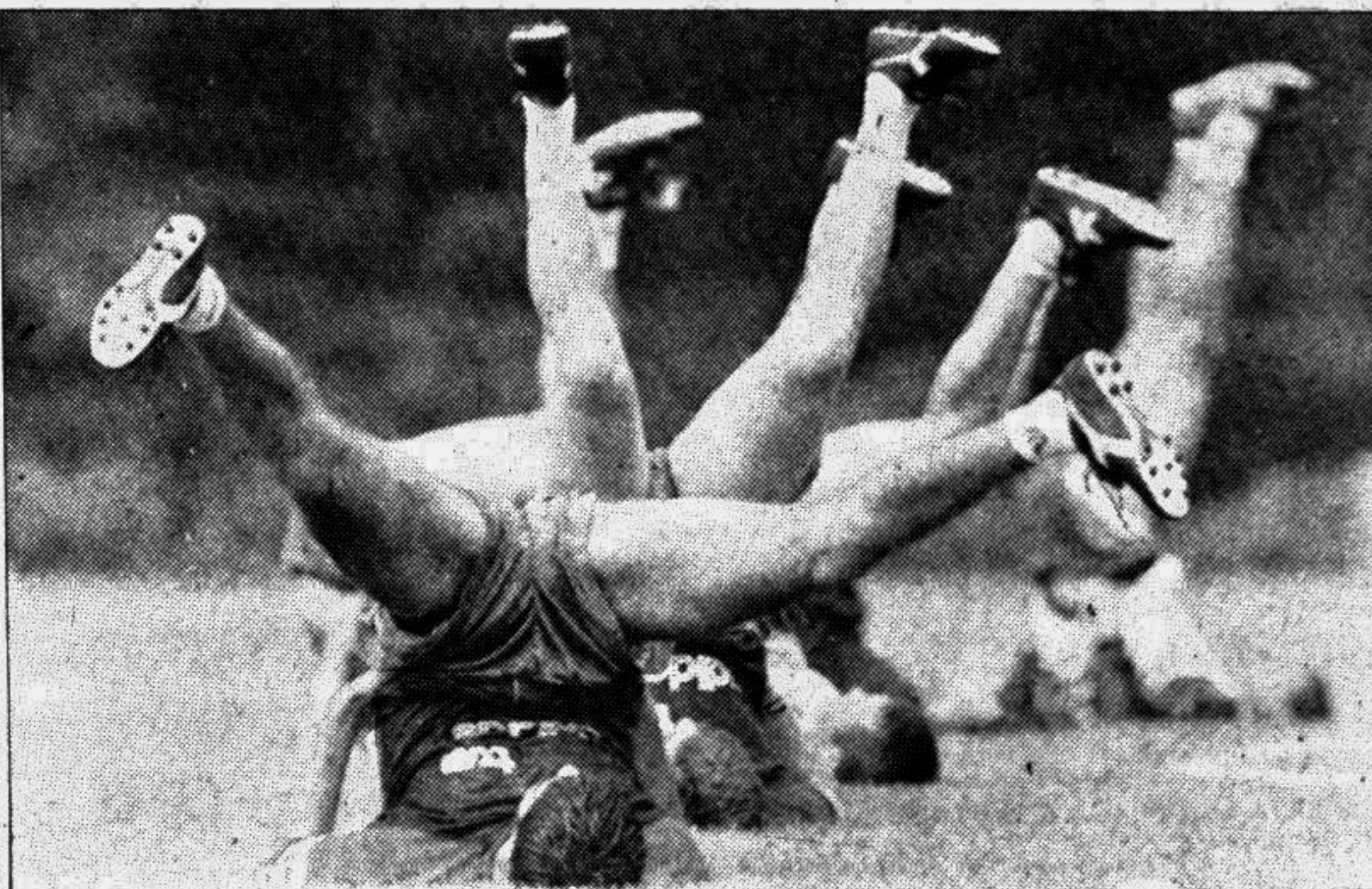
Sadar hospital sources said, diarrhoea has broken out in 12 villages of sadar, Sujanagar, Santhia and Chatmohor thanas.

The dead were identified as Tapu, 29, Shamu, 15, Asad, 22, Full, 5, Jotana, 6, Athar Ali, 32, Abdul Majid, 27, and Jashimuddin, 45.

Acute water crisis is prevailing in the affected areas, local people said.

Civil Surgeon of Pabna Dr. Matiar Rahman told UNB that 12 medical teams are working round the clock in the four thanas.

Acute shortage of saline is also prevailing in the hospitals, patients complained



Spanish player Josep Guardiola (front) leads his team in exercises during Spain's morning training session at the Middlesex School in Concord, Massachusetts. Spain will take on Italy in the World Cup quarter-finals at Foxboro Stadium tonight.

— AFP photo

Romario & Brazil only spanners in European march

UNDATED: Klinsmann, Romario, Baggio, Hagl. These are the names that dominate European soccer. Guess what? They're doing much the same at the World Cup, reports AP.

Heading into the quarter-finals, seven of the eight survivors are from Europe. On Saturday, Italy plays Spain at Foxboro, Massachusetts and the Netherlands takes on the lone Latin American interloper, Brazil, at Dallas, Sunday. It will be Bulgaria against defending champion Germany at East Rutherford, New Jersey and Sweden against Romania at Stanford, California.

Of course, even with the European flavour, the Brazilians are the favourites, and Romario is a major reason.

And where does the dangerous striker play club ball? In Europe, of course, for Barcelona.

Germany's Juergen Klinsmann is with AS Monaco of the

French first division. Italy's Roberto Baggio, who came alive late in the second-round game after an indifferent start to the tournament, is with Juventus of the Italian Serie A. Romania's Gheorghe Hagl plays



in the Italian Serie B with Brescia.

All are creative stars, attackers. Now that Baggio has awakened, all four seem capable of carrying their teams

to the title. "I know they'll throw the responsibility on me if Brazil is eliminated, but I'm ready for it," Romario has said. "I'll give my life to bring the fourth (championship)."

Just getting Romario to play for the national team was a chore that had all of Brazil holding its breath.

Known as much for his swagger as for his skills, he angered teammates and coaches back home with amazing regularity. Leading up to this tournament, he still complained about being left off the 1990 team.

But when Brazil struggled in qualifying, coach Carlos Alberto Parreira had no choice but to summon — plead with — Romario to rejoin the national squad. Brazil hasn't lost since.

Romario is the leading candidate for FIFA player of the year, an award Baggio was

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G-7 Summit opens in Naples

NAPLES, Italy, July 8: The G7 Summit of the world's leading industrialised nations officially opened in this southern Italian port city this evening, reports AP.

The 20th G7 Summit opened with Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, welcoming the leaders of the world's seven richest countries at the Castel Dell'Ovo, a Norman fortress overlooking the Bay of Naples.

After the arrival of the last guest, US President Bill Clinton, the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States sat down to a working dinner centred on economic issues, officials said.

Also present was European Commission President Jacques Delors.

AP adds, Japan's new Prime Minister assured President

Clinton on Friday that his coalition government will not alter Tokyo's foreign policy. Clinton said he looked forward to "constructive action" from Japan.

Clinton and Socialist Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama, in office just a week, held their first meeting before the opening of the summit.

Murayama said it was important that the United States and Japan maintain good relations. Clinton repeated his assertion that the US-Japan relationship is the world's most important bilateral tie.

Trade disputes and world trouble spots were at the top of the agenda for Clinton and Murayama.

There was no announcement of any breakthrough on trade matters but Murayama said they agreed to work cooperatively to establish stable ex-

change rates.

The dollar has been sliding against the yen. "We want the dollar to be properly valued, not undervalued," Clinton said at a joint news conference with the Japanese leader.

Murayama promised to promote trade liberalisation to open markets to American goods, but again there were no specifics.

Given the political turmoil in Japan, with four prime ministers in the past year, Clinton said it was "frankly difficult to imagine" how Japan could come up with a solution to trade frictions caused by Tokyo's 59 billion dollars trade surplus with Washington.

"I wouldn't say the signs are all bleak," the President said. He said American cars are selling better in Japan and the United States is getting a foothold in the rice market.

TONIGHT'S WORLD CUP MATCHES ON BT

Game A: Italy vs Spain at 22:00 (BST)
Game B: Holland vs Brazil at 01:30 (BST)

Body to finalise guidelines of JS secretariat

By Asiuzzaman

A four-member committee has been formed to finalise the guidelines and rules of the parliament secretariat.

The 'rules formulation committee', headed by the parliament secretary, was gazetted on Wednesday, sources said. The representatives of the ministries of finance, law and establishment are the members of the committee.

The newly-formed committee will hold its first meeting today (Saturday).

Earlier, the first meeting of the parliament secretariat

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Hasina protests harassment of opposition leaders

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday protested the armed attack on and harassment of opposition leaders and workers in different districts and asked the administration to remain neutral, reports UNB.

In a statement, she condemned the attempt by 'identified terrorists' to attack Manikganj district Awami League President Mosleh Uddin Khan Habu Mia and other district leaders at the party office recently.

None of the attackers has yet been arrested despite filing of a specific case against them.

Hasina alleged that the ruling BNP was using local administration for party interest, leading to deterioration of law and order situation. Leaders and workers of the Awami League and other opposition parties are being harassed by false cases.

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Economy improving, says SNC report

Star Report

Smith New Court, one of the leading international operators in stock market, has said that despite poverty, unemployment and low productivity, Bangladesh's economy has been remarkably resilient.

Smith New Court, now actively involved in the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), made the observation in its April report on Bangladesh.

The financial operator noted the country's good macro-fundamentals, low inflation rate and good external sector performance.

The report said despite natural calamities, "annual GDP growth has averaged four per cent since independence. The service sector has progressed remarkably, now accounting for 47 per cent of the GDP."

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ATTENTION READERS!

Freshgel



The Brazilian football team in World Cup '94.

Today's The Daily Star contains a free four-colour poster of the Brazilian football team, sponsored by Square Toiletries Limited, the manufacturers of Meril Freshgel toothpaste.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Subscription Closes — 10th July 1994

Since our closing of subscription date is inadvertently falling on Friday, 8th July, we are approached by prospective investors to extend the last date for submission of application for investment in the shares of Dynamic Textile Industries Limited. It is, therefore, extended up to 10th July, 1994.



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Shahjalal Varsity teachers go on strike today

By Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, July 8: The teachers of Shahjalal Science and Technology University (SSTU) will go on an indefinite strike from tomorrow demanding punishment of students involved in ransacking the Vice-Chancellor's office and manhandling some teachers early this week.

A group of students stormed the VC's office on July 4 demanding shifting of their term test examination on grounds of viral fever epidemic and frequent loadshedding.

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Sanskritik Jote condoles death of Jahanara Imam

By Staff Correspondent

The Sammilita Sanskritik Jote yesterday held a meeting at the Central Shaheed Minar to condole the death of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam.

Vice-President of the Jote Mamunur Rashid chaired the meeting.

Among those who addressed the meeting were Jote secretary Golam Kuddus, freedom fighter Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Nirmul Samannay Committee Secretary Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, CPB leader Muzahidul Islam

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Paste unit remains closed for want of sea fish

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 8: A frozen fish minced paste or 'Surimi' manufacturing industry based in this port city has remained closed for almost two months now due to lack of small sea fish used by it as the only raw material.

The industry, Sea Seolim Surimi Limited, a hundred per cent export-oriented Bangladeshi joint venture set up in 1992 at Isanagar here on the other side of the river Karnaphuli at a cost of around Taka 10 crores, uses the less

economic small-sized sea fish caught by deep sea trawlers, to produce Surimi for export to Korea, Japan, the EC countries and the USA, company officials informed this correspondent.

Such small fish are known as trash fish because the trawlers used to throw them back into sea before Sea Seolim came along.

To utilise these fish here, Sea Resource Ltd, a fishing company credited as being the country's biggest fishing joint

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