

Announcement



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Israel closes border crossings



Congress celebrates Rao's three years in office today
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Dwindling prices mark tea sale in Ctg again
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Supplement

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NEWS BRIEFS

President assents to three bills

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday assented to three bills passed by Parliament during the budget session. The bills are: The Bangladesh Industrial Enterprises (Nationalisation) (Amendment) Bill, 1994, The Bangladesh Bank (Amendment) Bill, 1994 and The State Acquisition and Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1994, reports UNB.

Hasina visits ailing Samad Azad

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday went to Suhrawardy Hospital to see the condition of party President member Abdus Samad Azad suffering from heart ailment. She stayed there for some time and enquired about his health. Party central leaders also went to see the ailing leader, reports UNB.

Jamaat CWC meets today

A meeting of the central working council (CWC) of the Jamaat-e-Islami will be held today at 9 am at party office. All members of the council have been requested to attend it. Another meeting of the Majlis-e-Sura of the Jamaat will be held on Thursday at 9 am, reports UNB.

NCD files cases against 6 persons

CHITTAGONG, July 13: Personnel of the Narcotics Control Directorate (NCD) today filed cases against six persons for their alleged involvement in trafficking of country-made wine, ganja and contraband cigarettes. An official source said the NCD personnel in cooperation with reserve police launched a drive against anti-social elements reports BSS.

Baggio's Italy in final

Sports Reporter

Two brilliant goals by Roberto Baggio powered three-times champions Italy into the final of the World Cup football tournament, giving them a 2-1 victory over the determined Bulgarians at the Giants Stadium in New York last night, according to live telecast.

Rank outsiders Bulgaria, despite going down by two goals within 26 minutes of play, fought doggedly and reduced the margin in the 44th minute through a penalty converted by their ace marksman Hristo Stoichkov.

Baggio, the Italian superstar, produced two moments of magic, netting both his team's goals in a span of five minutes as the Italians stormed the Bulgarian citadel halfway through the first session. Baggio thus took his tally of goals to five in the last three

games for Italy who appeared to be limping at the start of the tournament.

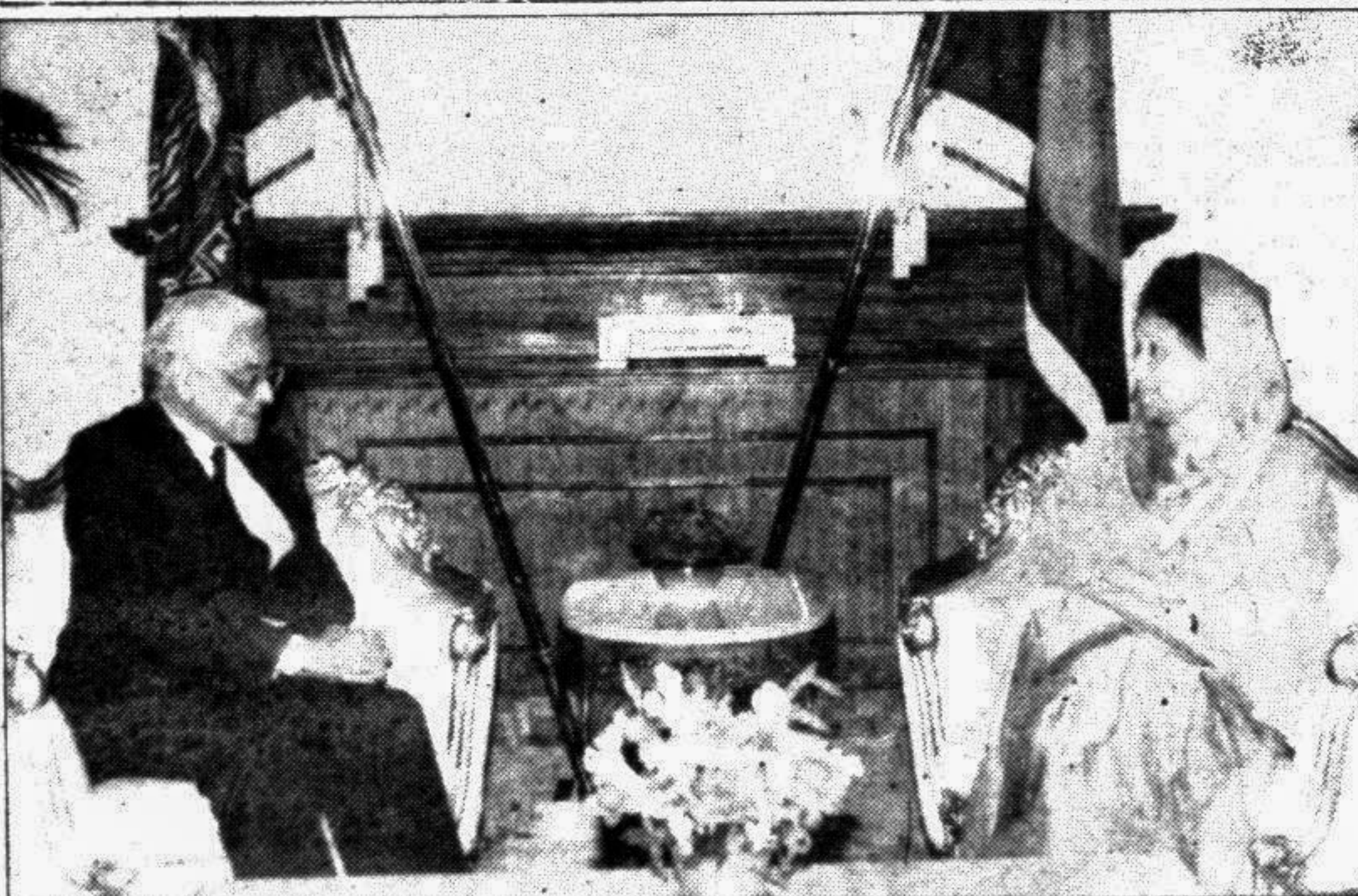
Baggio made no mistake in the 21st minute when he found himself in possession inside the Bulgarian box. Five minutes later he again found the mark with a fine placing to put his side in command.

Meanwhile, in between Baggio's strikes, the Italians peppered the Bulgarian defence, with Albertini suffering the mortification of seeing one of his shots returning to play

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Roberto Baggio



Adviser to the Pakistan Prime Minister on Finance and Economic Affairs V A Jafarey called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office in city yesterday. —PID photo

Pak Finance Adviser tells FBCCI Massive drive needed for exports to world market

By Staff Correspondent

Adviser to the Prime Minister of Pakistan for Finance and Economic Affairs V A Jafarey said yesterday that the South Asian countries would have to go for a massive drive for sale of their products in the world market.

"Our markets are no longer markets of the sellers only, these are also markets of the buyers, he said.

Jafarey said "We have been integrating our economies with the global economy by reducing tariff for ensuring cheaper prices of commodities for the benefit of the people." Jafarey said at a meeting organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday at its conference hall.

Presided over by FBCCI president Mahbubur Rahman, the meeting was attended by vice president of FBCCI Kazi Shafiqul Islam, MCCI president Latifur Rahman, High Commissioner of Pakistan in Dhaka Anwar Kemal and leading businessmen of Bangladesh. Jafarey narrated Pakistan's

experience in economic restructuring and privatisation and said the reforms and adjustment programmes were mainly aimed at averting threat of financial crisis and preventing slowdown in sustainable growth by addressing some of the structural issues.

"Major thrust of the government policy measures was, therefore, on reducing the budget and external imbalances," he said. Since 1989, the government has implemented a macro-economic and structural adjustment programme to correct financial imbalance and the structural weaknesses, strengthen fiscal and external balances, tighten monetary policy, improve resource mobilisation, rationalise tariffs, and privatise public enterprises.

Emphasising the need for transparency in the process of privatisation, he said although a reasonable speed is needed for a privatisation programme to be smoothly implemented, it should not be at the cost of transparency.

The FBCCI president said Bangladesh exports to Pakistan have remained static around a figure of 30 million US dollars a year over the last five years whereas imports from Pakistan had grown steadily — from 47.04 million dollars to 94.49 million in 1992-93, showing a balance of trade in favour of Pakistan. To bridge the gap, Pakistan may buy more Bangladesh commodities like jute and jute goods, sanitary wares, tea, betel-leaf, chemical fertiliser, cables and fruit juices, he said.

Mahbubur Rahman suggested that preferential tariff and trade arrangements between Bangladesh and Pakistan should be initiated to increase the flow of trade.

He also stressed the need for regular shipping services between the ports of the two countries to boost trade.

MCCI president Latifur Rahman, Salman F Rahman of BEXIMCO, Mirza Abu Mansur and some others asked questions relating to trade and co-operation between the two countries.

5400 hectares leased for hardrock mining

Star Report

Some 5400 hectares of land at Madhyapara in Dinajpur have been leased to Petrobangla by the Bureau of Mineral Development (BMD) for mining hard-rock.

An agreement for the mining-lease was signed Monday to facilitate implementation of the Madhyapara Hardrock Mining Project.

The implementation of the Taka 697 crore-project is likely to begin in the third week of next month. South-South Cooperation Corporation (Nam Nam) of North Korea will provide a fund of about Taka 522.61 crore as suppliers credit for the turn-key project

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Jafarey assures duty cut on Dhaka's items

Adviser to the Pakistan Prime Minister on Finance and Economic Affairs V A Jafarey yesterday called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and underlined the need for further widening the existing bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries, reports BSS.

During the meeting held at her office Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laid stress on removing the existing trade imbalance between Bangladesh and Pakistan.

Begum Zia urged the adviser to the Pakistan Prime Minister to increase the import of Bangladesh commodities including tea, leather, leather products, jute and jute products for reducing the trade gap between the two countries.

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Opposition leaders discuss action plans

The leaders of opposition parliamentary parties in a meeting yesterday reviewed the latest political situation and discussed action plans to press home the demand for caretaker government, reports UNB.

Chaired by Mohiuddin Ahmed of Awami League, the meeting at Sangsad Bhaban was attended by Tofael Ahmed, Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim, S S Halder, Begum Matia Chowdhury, Rahmat Ali and Harun-or-Rashid of Awami League, Moudud Ahmed, Anwar Hossain Manju and Manirul Haq Chowdhury of Jatiya Party, Maulana Abdus Sobhan and Sheikh Ansar Ali of Jamaat-e-Islami and Suranjit Sengupta of Ganatantri Party.

Briefing reporters Mohammad Nasim said the opposition is united on neutral caretaker government to conduct national elections and said the main parties which framed the modality of the interim administration would soon announce programmes in different phases to realise the demand.

"The government will have to bring the caretaker government bill, otherwise the opposition will not go back to Parliament," he said.

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800 Chakma families return from July 21

AGARTALA, July 13: Eight hundred refugee families will be repatriated in the second phase beginning from July 21, according to Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, MP and Chairman of the Chittagong Hill Tract Refugee Rehabilitation Committee, reports PTI.

Kalpa Ranjan told newsmen here today that Bangladesh would also take back the unregistered refugees in Indian camps if they were identified by the local people of the CHT.

Bangladesh, he said, would implement the 16-point charter of demands placed by the refugees. All the 379 families returned during the first phase in November last were rehabilitated, he said and added that the repatriation process would be completed within a year.

Kalpa Ranjan Chakma and Shahjahan Choudhury MP (BNP), had finalised the list of the refugees to return during the second phase with the refugee leaders. Upendra Lal

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War veterans pay their last respects July 12 to North Korean President Kim Il-Sung whose body is lying in state at the Presidential Palace in Pyongyang. —AFP photo

Drilling at Feni-2 gas field begins Aug 15

By Sharier Khan

The drilling work at Feni-2 Gas field begins on August 15 to ensure timely supply of natural gas to the KAFCO (Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company) project, sources said.

As per agreement, the government will supply the KAFCO 61.5 million cubic feet (mcf) of gas from December 1.

Under a 14 million US dollar funding from Japan, the government has initiated two programmes to ensure supply of gas to KAFCO. It has decided to extract 20 to 25 mcf of gas per day from the Feni-2 Gas Field and supply 30 mcf from the Bakhrabad Gas Field. Supply from two Bakhrabad pipelines are scheduled to start on July 20, an official said.

KAFCO sources told The Daily Star "KAFCO is presently

somewhere between pre-commissioning and commissioning stage and is already consuming five to seven million cubic feet of gas per day to run its utilities."

The 510 million dollar KAFCO project is considered to be the country's biggest ever multinational joint venture industrial enterprise aiming to generate Tk 400 crores of sales annually. While the government funds 40 per cent of the 100 per cent export-oriented fertiliser factory the rest is being funded by the Commonwealth Development Corporation of UK, OECF of Japan, the Industrialisation Fund for Developing Countries of Denmark and four Japanese and Dutch private companies.

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No feeder vessel at Mongla Frozen shrimp export comes to standstill

By Staff Correspondent

Export of frozen shrimp from the Khulna region has come to a virtual standstill due to the non-availability of feeder vessels at Mongla Port.

According to the Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association yesterday, nearly

70 containers of frozen shrimp worth over Tk 30 crore is awaiting shipment at Mongla Port at the moment.

The exporters are fearing that the stranded shrimps may be damaged at the port while

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Star Quiz Bumper Prize winner off to USA

By Staff Correspondent

Shafquat Ayub, the lucky winner of The Daily Star World Cup Quiz Bumper Prize, left recently for the United States to watch the July 17 Final at the Pasadena Rose Bowl, California.

Shafquat, a 28-year-old executive with IFDC, a USAID-funded project, won the bumper prize at the lucky draw for the sixth and final Star Quiz held at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium on June 26 last. Shafquat's solitary entry was picked out of more than 33 thousand correct entries by Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman.

Shafquat's prize includes a Dhaka-Los Angeles-Dhaka return air ticket on United

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PHILIPS

The Philips Awards for Literature and Journalism

1400 Bangla Year

Transcom Electronics Limited announces with pleasure the annual Philips Awards for the Bangla Year 1400. The Awards were initiated in 1392 Bangla Year to honour two outstanding works, one in the field of literature and the other in the field of journalism. We have been pleased to note that these Awards have generated a lot of interest amongst both journalists and writers and have thus earned a good reputation. We are inviting again participants to compete for these Awards in their noted fields in the Bangla Year 1400. This year the Award for Literature shall be credited to a novelist or a writer of an original book of short stories adjudged the best provided it is published during the 1st Baishakh to 30th Chaitra of the Bangla Year 1400. The work should be in Bangla and has to be written by a person holding Bangladeshi nationality.

Similarly, the Award for Journalism shall be given to a journalist for investigative reporting adjudged the best. The date of publication should be during 1st Baishakh to 30th Chaitra of the Bangla Year 1400. The work may be either in Bangla or in English and has to be written by a person residing in Bangladesh and holding Bangladeshi nationality.

Each Award consists of a sum of Taka, 50,000, a Certificate and a Trophy, to be handed out during the official ceremony in Dhaka. The considerations to be taken into account for the Awards will be:

A. For Literature:

- Originality
- Human values and Universality
- Reflection of contemporary life and Language and style

B. For Journalism:

- Factual integrity
- Total Comprehensiveness of the Subject
- Objectivity
- In-depth analysis and importance of the contemporary life.

The contestants for Literature and Journalism are invited to make 5 copies of their titles/reports, 2 copies of recent passport size photograph to reach Mr. Hasan Ahmed, Transcom Electronics Limited, 100, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka, on or before 15th Ashwin 1401 (1st October, 1994) either by registered mail or in person.

Two separate panels of judges will be formed to decide the Awards and their decisions shall be deemed final.

The decisions will be published in the press during the 2nd week of Agrahayan 1401 and the Award winners will be informed by mail accordingly.

Transcom Electronics Limited

Birendra, Koirala under fire Thousands take to streets



Pro-leftist youths, students and activists of the Nepal Communist Party shout slogan against King Birendra and Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala on Tuesday during a demonstration in Kathmandu. —AFP photo

KATHMANDU, July 13: More than 25,000 communists from different factions took to the streets today to denounce the Nepalese King and Prime Minister for dissolving parliament and calling mid-term polls, witnesses said, reports AFP.

Riot police stood by but did not intervene as the protestors marched through the capital. Six government vehicles were damaged during the protest, the witnesses added.

The protestors carried effigies of Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala along with black flags and party flags. They later burnt Koirala in effigy at the end of the march.

There have been other protests around the country since the King announced Monday that parliament would be dissolved and elections called for November 13, a move which angered all major political parties.

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