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NEWS BRIEFS

Salam Talukder off to Lanka

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder left Dhaka yesterday for Sri Lanka on a seven-day official visit...

Gun recovered in Madaripur

From Our Correspondent MADARIPUR, July 23: A country-made automatic gun was recovered by the Kalkini police Thursday...

2 killed in Patiya bus plunge

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 23: At least two persons were killed and 40 others injured when a bus fell into a ditch at Patiya...

Egyptian envoy hosts reception

Egyptian ambassador in Bangladesh Mohammad Kamal el-Miligy hosted a reception in celebration of the National Day of Arab Republic of Egypt...

BOI in the dark about 372 approved projects

Entrepreneurs of as many as 372 industrial projects out of 1286 registered with the Board of Investment (BOI) during the past three years are yet to take any initiatives to set up their industries.

By Rafiq Hasan

"We still do not know whether the non-implemented units would ever be set up or whether the entrepreneurs have abandoned their projects," a BOI source said...

Office, mentioned that another 182 industrial units would go into operation soon. Among them, 162 are local enterprises and 27 foreign and joint ventures.

There are also another 337 units in the process of implementation. Among them 319 are local and 18 are foreign. The 48 foreign-invested industries which have already gone into production in the past three years are mainly from South Korea, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, India, Hong Kong, the United States and Switzerland.

Exports, imports decline in last qtr of fiscal '93-94

The country's overall economic situation continued to show mixed signs during the last quarter of fiscal 1993-94 which ended June 30.

A recent review of the economy by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) shows that during this period, production of jute, textiles, cement, steel, edible oil and basic metals was on the rise, but that of tea, sugar, paper, newsprint and garments declined.

Export and import during the quarter under review, as estimated from past trends, declined by 15 per cent and one per cent respectively.

On the other hand, money supply and net credit to the government increased by 11.22 and 136.82 per cent respectively during the period.

In the previous quarter, money supply had increased by 7.97 per cent but credit to the government declined by 20.65 per cent.

Total credit to government by the banking system stood at Tk 43,108 million at the end of June 1994 compared with Tk 18,203 million at the end of March 1994, showing an increase of 136.82 per cent over the quarter under review.

Bulk of the increase in credit to the government went to the BSRs and to the jute and telecommunications sectors.

Fifteen year treasury bonds worth Tk 19,622 billion were issued in favour of the jute sector in 1993-94 to write-off their overdue working capital loans and also to replenish their capital.

The T&T Board received Tk 2,750 billion through three-year treasury bonds for setting up digital telephone lines. Similarly, the BSRs was provided with Tk 1,750 billion for its reorganisation and improvement in operational efficiency.

A total of Tk 30,121 billion was disbursed in the form of treasury bonds during the fiscal 1993-94 as against Tk 25,070 billion in the previous year.

The foreign exchange reserve stood at 2.77 billion dollars at the end of June 1994 compared with 2.76 billion dollar at the end of March 1994 and 2.12 billion dollar a year ago.

Imports during April-June 1994 came down to 945 million US dollar from 951 million dollars in the preceding quarter.

The MCCI pointed out. This was calculated on the basis of the past import trend. Total import bill for 1993-94, as estimated above, stood at 3850 million compared with 3986 million in the previous year, showing a decline of 3.4 per cent.

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SAARC FMs to adopt proposal for regional dev fund

The 14th meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers to be held in Dhaka at the end of the month will adopt a proposal to set up a South Asian Development Fund.

It will also review the progress made in the sphere of SAPTA and the 12 areas of cooperation among the member-states.

The two-day meeting scheduled for July 30-31 is expected to be participated by most of the foreign ministers of the regional forum.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman, who is the current Chairman of the council of ministers, will preside over the business sessions.

An important task of the council meet will be to fix the date for the eighth SAARC summit, earlier scheduled to be held by December in New Delhi.

But last week, host India intimated to the member-countries through the SAARC Secretariat its inability to organise the summit within the specified time because of its preoccupation with state elections. Instead, New Delhi has proposed that the summit be held in mid-April next year.

The exact date can be fixed only if all the member-states agree to the proposal, taking their own domestic calendars into consideration.

In the past, differences over dates had led to repeated changes of summit schedules. Only seven summits have been held in the nine years since the founding of the organisation, although the SAARC charter proposes a summit every year. The seventh summit was held in Dhaka in April last year.

The two-day ministerial meet will be preceded by a four-day meeting of senior officials beginning July 26. These meetings include those of the Programming Committee and the Standing Committee.

By M Anwarul Haq

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The Standing Committee, comprising the foreign secretaries, will be sitting from July 28 and will hold both formal and informal consultations to prepare the official agenda for the ministerial meet.

The foreign ministers are scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on July 29, a day ahead of their meeting, so as to have time for informal consultations and for finalisation of the report of the Standing Committee.

Sources indicated that most of the SAARC foreign ministers have already indicated their availability for the meeting. However, there was no confirmation until yesterday from the Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh.

The foreign ministers' meeting will, among other things, review the progress of the decisions and action programmes adopted at the last summit in Dhaka. The meeting will also endorse the resolutions and programmes adopted at the recent SAARC finance and planning ministers' meeting also held in Dhaka.

A review of the progress made in poverty alleviation, development of women and children's programmes and some concrete measures for more people to people contact will be made at the forthcoming meeting.

A South Asian Development Fund (SADF) is likely to be established at the council meeting for the benefit of the member-countries. An Inter-Governmental Group (IGG) had

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Cholera claims 1000 Rwandans in camps daily

GENEVA, July 23: The UN High Commissioner for Refugees on Saturday welcomed the US round-the-clock airlift for Rwandan refugees in Zaire but criticised other countries for doing too little too late, reports AP.

UNHCR spokesman Rupert Colville said the death toll in

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Goma's cholera-stricken camps, already more than 1,000 a day, will continue to mount because of delays by donor governments.

He said there has been no response to UNHCR appeals for sanitation equipment, fuel and an effort to improve the

APSU rally in Ctg demands trial of Golam Azam

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 23: Several hundred supporters of All Party Students Unity (APSU) marched in the city streets here today demanding the trial of Jamaat chief Golam Azam and other war criminals.

They also chanted slogans calling for making the July 26 meeting a success. Earlier, APSU organised a students rally at Dost Building premises.

The rally chaired by the president of Chhatra Union city unit, Fazul Kabir Mintu was addressed by Mofizur Rahman, president, BCL city unit, Nazimur Rahman, president, JCD city unit and Azimuddin Ahmed, GS of CUCSU.

Meanwhile, Jamaat unit here has started publicity through loudspeakers for its scheduled meeting at Laidighi maidan on July 26 which would be addressed by its chief Golam Azam.

Jamaat blames BNP for planning to block Ctg meet

The Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday blasted the ruling party for planning to obstruct its public meeting at Laidighi maidan in Chittagong scheduled for Tuesday, reports UNB.

Twenty MPs of the Jamaat in a joint statement said the BNP has set its student front, the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, to call for a counter-meeting at Laidighi maidan on the same day at the same place and time with ulterior motive.

They said their party got permission on July five for the meeting in Laidighi Maidan from the authorities concerned. It is the duty of the government to instruct the law enforcing agencies to ensure peaceful holding of meeting there.

The calling of counter-meeting at the same venue and time is 'unlawful and demonstrate an attitude of terrorism.' The people want to see what steps the government is going to take against terrorists under the Anti-Terrorism Act, they said.

The Jamaat MPs warned that the ruling party would be responsible for any untoward situation over the holding of the public meeting.

Kim Jong-il wants summit with Seoul

BEIJING, July 23: Kim Jong-il is in firm control of North Korea and wants to hold summit talks with Seoul, a South Korean newspaper publisher said here today meeting him, reports Reuter.

Kim was "absolutely full of confidence, calm, showed no sign of nervousness. The country was calm. He's in firm control," Bo Hi Pak, publisher of the Segy Times newspaper, told a news conference in Beijing.

There's no succession problem. He's in good health, quite energetic and jovial," Pak said after arriving from an 11-day trip to Pyongyang, where he had an audience with Kim, Pak proudly brandished pictures of he and Kim shaking hands.

"A North-South summit is just a matter of time," said Pak, who is also chairman of the Washington Times Corp which publishes the Washington Times newspaper and the weekly magazine Insight on the News.

Kim Jong-il, known as the "dear leader" to his countrymen, took power after the death of his father, "great leader" Kim Il-Sung on July 8.



Muktijoddha captain Mohsin goes up with Abahani's outside left Gaus for a high ball. Mohsin, a former national goalkeeper and still one of the best, was not really in his elements yet Muktijoddha recorded the biggest win in their history beating Abahani KC 3-2 for the 12th Federation Cup title at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Muktijoddha lift Federation Cup

Popular recognition may still be a long shot for them but the quest for the elusive oasis of adulation in a vast desert of antagonism was auspiciously begun for Muktijoddha Sangsad Kriha Chakra at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Reborn out of hatred, jeers and boos following their officials' dramatic star-player coup—an unprecedented tale of luring top players from the clutches of traditional powers that transformed heroes into villains overnight—Muktijoddha, the hitherto harmless middle class team of no pedigree had the first brick of tradition laid when they beat the infinitely more popular giants Abahani Kriha Chakra 3-2 in an entertaining final of the Beximco 12th Federation Cup yesterday evening.

Muktijoddha's maiden grand slam in the domestic circuit could have been written in letters of incredible authenticity had they not let slip a seemingly unassailable 3-0 half-time lead.

The men in red, who have been revved up this year by the presence of as many as ten members of the national team, yesterday exacted a moist savoury twin revenge.

In the semifinal Muktijoddha sent Mohammedan Sporting Club, the other heavyweight of the local soccer besides Abahani, packing with Mizan scoring the match-winner and paving the way for repayment of the 1-3 loss to the black-and-whites earlier in the DMFA Cup.

Revenge against Abahani was even sweeter. Imdadul, Abahani's right back whose controversial penalty goal threw Muktijoddha out of the DMFA Cup semifinals, had more than a just retribution last afternoon when a la Andres Escobar of Colombia in the recent World Cup the young man unwittingly, of course, contributed to one of Muktijoddha's three goals.

Brimming with confidence following coach Kazi Salahuddin's tactical experiment of drafting wing-back

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Li Peng to visit Dhaka

By Staff Correspondent The traditional ties between Bangladesh and China are expected to receive a new impetus with the proposed visit of Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng sometime at the end of this year.

Competent sources said details of the visit are being worked out in response to an indication conveyed to Dhaka recently.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, during her visit to China in 1992, had extended an invitation to her Chinese counterpart to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient date.

Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen paid a four-day official visit to Dhaka from February 24 last.

Sources indicated that a meeting of the Bangladesh-China Joint Economic Commission is likely to be held in Dhaka sometime in November.

Students launch 'razakar-fatwabaz' resistance week

By Staff Correspondent The Samprodayikata Birodhi Chhatra Samaj began its 'razakar-fatwabaz' resistance week yesterday with a renewed pledge to continue the students' agitation "until the war criminals including Golam Azam were tried by a special tribunal and religion-based politics was banned."

On the first day, the Chhatra Samaj held a students' rally on the Dhaka University campus and brought out a procession.

Addressing the rally, the student leaders announced that they would "eliminate the anti-liberation, fascist and communal forces politically" and undo any conspiracy against the Bangladeshi nation.

The speakers said that the 'fascist forces' were misleading the religious-minded people by misinterpreting the tenets of religion.

Those who addressed the rally included Khizir Hayat Mohammad Liju, Mostaque Alam Tulu, Rupam Choudhury and Rezaul Haq Reza.

Taslima broke the law, FM tells Le Monde

Taslima Nasreen has violated the secular law of Bangladesh, the widely circulated French newspaper Le Monde has quoted Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman as saying, reports BSS.

"Police delivered her a warrant of arrest and she went into hiding. If she had presented herself to the court, justice would have followed its course," the Foreign Minister told the South Asian correspondent of the French newspaper.

The Le Monde, in a report yesterday, quoted the Foreign Minister as saying: "In France you have not allowed the

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Japanese Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama (L) and South Korean President Kim Young Sam (R) speaking at a joint press conference after summit talks at the presidential Blue House in Seoul yesterday. - AFP photo

Advertisement for Shah Sports featuring 'Grand Opening Today!!!' and 'The Oldest and the Largest Sports' with contact information for the show room in Dhaka.