

Inside Today

Article

Does the Collapse of Communism and Cold War Give Rise to Fratricide and Ethnic Cleansing?

by Md Asadullah Khan
Page 4

International

India seeks Bhutan's permission to pursue Bodo rebels

Rebels attack Yangon troops
Page 5

Business

Malaysia may import 40,000 MT of paper from green jute a year

Project to link Arab stock markets nearing completion
Pages 6, 7

Feature

Environment

The fight against polythene; Promotion of ozone layer protection in Asian countries; Bangladesh perspective and Poor water, poor people
Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Fascination for Tinsels and Bangles
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Medical team off to Rwanda

A Bangladesh team of experts has left for Rwanda to make a preliminary assessment of the nature of cholera epidemic there and scale of assistance required. A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday reports BSS

Hartal observed in Rangpur

From Our Correspondent
RANGPUR, July 25: In response to a call of the Division Implementation Sangram Committee, a complete six-hour hartal from 6 am to 12 noon was observed peacefully in Rangpur today. The Sangram Committee is demanding the establishment of a new division in Rangpur comprising eight districts of greater Rangpur and Dinajpur.

Ex-Pak intelligence chief held

ISLAMABAD, July 25: Pakistan authorities have arrested former Director of Intelligence Bureau, Brig (Retd) Imtiaz Ahmed and his aide Maj (Retd) Mohammad Amir on charges of high treason.

Myanmar urged to release Suu Kyi

WASHINGTON, July 25: The US House of Representatives today urged Myanmar to release opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners and to restore democracy and human rights. The resolution, passed by voice vote, expresses the sense of the House that political power should be transferred from the military to an elected civilian government and that human rights should be respected, reports Reuters.

Historic Washington Declaration

Jordan, Israel agree to end 46 years of hostility

WASHINGTON, July 25: Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel and Jordan's King Hussein declared an end today to 46 years of hostility and opened the way for economic cooperation, report AP/AFP.

The historic Washington Declaration, which was also signed by US President Bill Clinton, was expected to pave the way for a full peace treaty.

"What we have accomplished and we are committed to is the end to the state of war between Jordan and Israel," Hussein said after the signing.

Rabin echoed that senti-

ment. "Millions of eyes all over the world are watching us with great relief and great joy," he said. "Another nightmare of war may be over."

While celebrating the end of hostilities, both leaders conceded that much more needs to be done to make the two neighbours live together as partners.

The White House ceremony marked the third historic settlement of ancient enmities that have plagued the Middle East.

President Clinton opened the signing ceremony declaring that the two former ene-

mies 'with the world as their witness' have pledged to 'settle their differences by peaceful means'.

In addition to ending the state of war between them, the declaration paved the way for cooperation on several fronts, including opening of telephone service, sharing of electric grids, and creation of two new border crossings. Air service also will be established.

They agreed to make it possible for tourists from other countries to travel between them. The accord envisions establishment of a cultural park spanning their border as

well as several joint development projects.

Clinton sat between the two leaders at a table set up on the South Lawn of the White House as they signed the declaration.

Rabin called the signing a start down 'the road which still must be completed'. The Israeli leader said he hoped that 'not long from today we shall return for signing a final and permanent treaty of peace'.

At the first public meeting between the Arab and Jewish leaders, Hussein declared 'This day is a day of hope and

See Page 12 Col 4

Dhaka hails accord

Bangladesh welcomes the declaration signed by King Hussein of Jordan and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington yesterday for peaceful resolution of outstanding bilateral issues.

A Foreign Office spokesman told BSS last night that the leadership of both the countries had displayed vision and courage in entering a new era of peace, reconciliation and co-existence in the Middle East.

He said Bangladesh always maintained that lasting peace in the region would need to be based on comprehensive settlement of all issues between Arabs and Israel.

The declaration signed yesterday is yet another historic step towards a just, comprehensive and durable settlement of the Middle East problem, the spokesman observed.

APSU calls hartal today

Students, police clash in Ctg: 50 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 25: At least 50 persons, including five police personnel, were injured in a clash between police and supporters of the All-Party Students Unity (APSU) here this afternoon.

The injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and private clinics.

One constable, Ali Asraf (27) and one Habildar, Md. Harun (32) were admitted to the CMCH with bullet wounds. Some of the injured were released after first aid, hospital sources said.

Police arrested 17 persons during the clash.

The clash broke out at 6 pm when a large contingent of

police, mostly in riot gear, intercepted a procession of APSU supporters in front of the Shaheed Minar. The procession was heading towards Laldighi maidan with Jamaat supporters who had already taken possession of the venue (Laldighi maidan) for tomorrow's scheduled public meeting there to be addressed by Jamaat chief Golam Azam, already here, according to witnesses and police.

The procession was brought out after a rally organised by APSU at the Shaheed Minar this afternoon demanding trial of Golam Azam and other war criminals.

At one stage, the clash was

See Page 12 Col 4

UNDP programme review meet begins today

By Staff Correspondent

The two-day mid-term review meeting of UNDP's Fifth Country Programme will begin in the capital today.

The meeting between government and donor agency officials will review the ongoing country programme (1991-95) funded under a 106 million US dollars grant assistance from the United Nations Development Programme. The programme is the second largest of the UN agency and it is being utilised in 15 different sectors through 111 projects.

More than 150 senior officials from different ministries, divisions, agencies of the government, UNDP, relevant UN agencies and other bilateral and multi-lateral donor agencies are expected to attend the review meeting to be held at

See Page 12 Col 7

PM attends office at Secretariat

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday performed her regular administrative functions at her Bangladesh Secretariat office, reports BSS.

During the office hour the Prime Minister also visited the secretariat clinic, public administration computer centre and the secretariat record room.

At the secretariat clinic she talked to the doctors and directed them to improve the medical services.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf was present there.

She then visited the public administration computer centre and asked the concerned officials to use the advanced technology for the improvement of the work.

State Minister for Establishment Aminul Haq was present.

DUTA deadline to govt to remove NU VC

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) yesterday gave the government a 72-hour ultimatum for the removal of the Vice-Chancellor of the National University (NU), Dr Abdul Bari.

The ultimatum was given as the national anthem was reportedly not played during the opening ceremony of the first senate session of the university on July 19.

The DUTA said, if the VC was not removed, it would announce a new action programme.

The DUTA at its meeting also suspended the membership of Professor M Ershadul Bari of the Department of Law, Dhaka University, as he reportedly spoke against the playing of the national anthem in the Senate meeting.

The DUTA meeting held in the University Club building was chaired by its president, Professor Md Shahadat Ali.

Docs in Faridpur hospital go on 3-day strike

FARIDPUR, July 25: Doctors of the General Hospital here went on a three-day strike today protesting attack by the students of a college in an angry demonstration against the tragic death of their teacher and his wife, reports UNB.

A group of unruly students attacked the hospital and the residence of Civil Surgeon following the death of Nirod Biswas, a teacher of Rajendra University College, shortly after his wife had killed herself on Sunday.

Police said Nirupama Biswas took poison over an altercation with her husband in the morning. She was rushed to the hospital where the doctors declared her dead.

In the afternoon, the highly shocked Nirod himself felt pain in his chest and abdomen and was admitted to the hospital. His condition deteriorated and he died at about 10:30 pm.

The death of the teacher angered the students of the college and they started vandalising the hospital residences of the Resident Medical Officer and the Civil Surgeon. Civil Surgeon Kazi Syed Ahmed was injured during the attack.

The students took away the body of the teacher and sent it to his village home in Barisal.

Later, police rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control.

Stock market to have a fresh fund of \$ 100m

By Inam Ahmed

A new fund of 100 million US dollars is being set up for the country's stock market.

The fund — Bangladesh Fund — has been sponsored by one of the pioneering foreign institutional investors (FIIs) in the country, Smith New Court of London and Banque Indosuez.

Primarily, 35 million dollars will be readily invested in the share market and later more investments will follow, sources said.

The directors of the fund are: Bruno Charles Georges-Picot of Banque Indosuez, Michael Bouglas McWilliam of Smith New Court and Chowdhury Kamal Hyder of Bangladesh.

Presently, a number of foreign firms including Regent Moulval Fund, Himalayan Fund and Commonwealth Equity Fund are actively participating in share market investment.

The Smith New Court's presence in the Bangladesh Fund is being seen as a welcoming sign because the British company has been actively upholding Bangladesh's image abroad in different fora.

In the Euromoney organised seminar on South Asia early this month in London, the company had strongly backed Bangladesh in the presence of 430 foreign in-

vestors some of whom pointed out that the political situation in Bangladesh is volatile and hartals adversely affect investments, according to sources who attended the seminar.

The FIIs have been funding the country's stock market for the last one year and about 80 million dollars have already been invested by them.

The country's economic experts now feel that increased foreign investments would help the country attain a targeted six per cent GDP growth

See Page 12 Col 8

Five foreigners without passports held

By Staff Correspondent

The Special Branch (SB) of Police Sunday night arrested five foreigners from the city's Sundarban Hotel for not carrying passports.

The foreigners — three Taiwanese and two Chinese — were detained at the Tejgaon police station for questioning.

They were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court yesterday from where they were taken on remand for three days.

Koirala faces threat of expulsion from party

KATHMANDU, July 25: Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala faces the threat of expulsion from the ruling Nepal Congress (NC) party when its central committee meets on Wednesday, a party source said.

Koirala was preparing to split from the Congress and from his own party with the backing of 91 former MPs from the two houses in Parliament, the Prime Minister's office told AFP.

With Nepal in a growing political crisis since King Birendra dissolved Parliament earlier this month, NC President Krishna Prasad Bhattarai called Wednesday's meeting with the main objective of expelling Koirala, the highly placed NC source said.

There have been strikes and several demonstrations against the dissolution of Parliament which followed the voting down of Koirala's government programme. Koirala now heads an increasingly contest caretaker government up to new elections in November.

The NC and Communist opposition have joined forces in an attempt to get Parliament recalled by the King and Koirala sacked.

SAARC FMs' meet to take stock of progress: Silwal

SAARC Secretary General Y K Silwal said here yesterday that the two-day SAARC council of ministers' meeting beginning here on July 30 would take stock of progress made so far under the integrated programme of action (IPA) and outside the IPA.

Talking to BSS on his arrival at the Zia International Airport to attend the meeting, the Secretary-General said the institutionalisation of SAARC was a great achievement. "We are heading in the right direction and making progress," he said in reply to a question.

Silwal, who is accompanied by his spouse, was received at the airport by the Director-General of SAARC desk in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ashfaqur Rahman.

The Secretary-General said that the SAARC had been dealing with many important issues including poverty alleviation.

Asked to comment on the delay in holding the next SAARC summit, the Secretary-General said SAARC was in a stage of infancy and as in the past there might be some problem for a member country to hold the summit as described in the SAARC Charter. He, however, expressed the hope that eventually the leaders of the seven nations would reach a consensus to maintain the SAARC Charter with regard to holding the summit.

Repatriation and rehabilitation of Chakmas to cost Tk 25 cr

By Asiuzzaman, back from Khagrachhari

The repatriation and rehabilitation of some 50,000 Chakma refugees camped in the Indian state of Tripura, would cost Bangladesh about Tk 25 crore, official sources said.

The refugees, returning home after eight years, are being given Tk 10,000 in cash for each family, two bundles of CI sheets, Tk 8,000 for purchasing cows and free ration for the next six months.

They have been given a waiver of agricultural loan up to Tk 5,000 as per government decision. Moreover, a total of Tk 20,50,000 loans of 700 refugees would also be waived. The authorities are also considering raising the initial cash payment up to Tk

15,000 from Tk 10,000 now, sources said.

The repatriation began on February 15 following a tripartite agreement among Bangladesh, India and Shantibahani.

In the first phase, 1,841 members of 379 tribal families returned home ending their refugee life in Tripura bordering Bangladesh's Khagrachhari district.

The second phase of the repatriation began on July 21 under which some 3,348 refugees belonging to 648 families are due to return.

The tribals fled home in 1986 because of violence in Panchhari thana under Khagrachhari district and took shelter in Tripura. More than 40 people were reportedly killed

in the violence.

Before starting the repatriation, the Bangladesh and Indian authorities sorted out the refugee families living in the camp.

Authoritative sources said the Indian authorities had sent a list of 11,806 families with 56,496 members who, they claimed, were living in the camps. The Bangladesh authorities, on verification, found that there were 10,629 families consisting of 51,966 members. So far 186 families have been dropped from the list, as per agreement between the two sides, because of duplication in the list.

Fresh verification of some 4,530 disputed refugees of

See Page 12 Col 1



A Chakma returnee (R) receiving a government grant of Tk 10,000 from an official at a refugee reception camp at Tabalchhari on July 21.

— Star photo