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NEWS BRIEFS

Mostafiz greets Turkish FM

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman congratulated Prof Murtaz Soyasl, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey, on his appointment as the Foreign Minister. "Please accept my sincere felicitations on your appointment as the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey. I am confident that the bilateral relations and friendly cooperation existing between the two brotherly countries will grow further during the term of your office," Mostafiz said in a message, reports UNB.

One dies in Sylhet road accident

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, July 31: A rickshaw puller was killed and two others were injured in a road accident on the Airport Road yesterday afternoon while the victim, Hamidul Haque, 20, along with two passengers, was going to the Cadet College area. A passenger bus (Chittagong Ja-9727) coming from the opposite side collided head on with the rickshaw. A case has been registered.

Hanif visits Sromojibi Hospital

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif yesterday visited the 'Sromojibi' Hospital in the city, run by the Corporation, at Nayabazar. During the visit the Mayor expressed his dissatisfaction over mismanagement at different sections of the hospital. He also found some doctors, nurses and employees absent from their duties at the time of his visit, reports BSS.

JCD slates BCL

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal yesterday (Sunday) blamed the Chhatra League (M-I) for ransacking Bangla Academy and the offices of political parties in the city on Saturday during the hartal called by the Awami League and the Anti Communal Student Unity.

Security Council okays invasion of Haiti

UNITED NATIONS, July 31: The UN Security Council today approved a US-led invasion of Haiti should President Clinton decide to send troops to remove the country's military leaders, reports Reuter.

The resolution, initiated by the United States, was adopted by a vote of 12-0, none against and abstentions from China and Brazil.

It allows President Clinton to select the date of military intervention. The resolution also calls for a 6,000 strong UN peacekeeping force to replace the invaders when a 'secure and stable environment' has been established.

The key provision in the resolution authorises member states "to from a multinational force under unified command and control, and in this

framework, to use all necessary means to facilitate the departure of the military leadership."

Meanwhile, AP adds: US Ambassador Madeleine Albright said the resolution was a warning to Haiti's military-backed government that "if they are not going to leave soon and voluntarily they are going to leave soon and invol-

untarily."

She said the resolution showed that "everybody is fed up with what they are doing to the people of Haiti and that it is time to restore democracy."

But several Latin American states said they feared the resolution would set a precedent for international approval of US intervention in the region.

SAARC Council of Ministers' confce ends Next summit in April

By Staff Correspondent

The eighth summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) will be held in April next year in New Delhi, Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman announced in Dhaka yesterday.

The SAARC Council of Ministers at its two-day meeting in the city decided that the "next summit of the regional grouping will be held in New Delhi on April 15-17," he told a press conference at Hotel Sheraton on conclusion of the

14th meeting of the Council. The Bangladesh Foreign Minister is currently Chairman of the Council comprising foreign ministers of the seven SAARC countries.

In reply to a question whether the SAARC charter has been violated by not holding the conference annually, Mostafizur Rahman said, "No, if we all agree we can temporarily amend the charter requirement to suit the other requirements more pressing."

The regional forum formed in Dhaka in 1985 so far had seven summits although its charter specify that the seven heads of state or government should meet annually.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister took over as Chairperson of SAARC at the seventh summit held in Dhaka in April 1993.

In reply to another question on the Pakistan Foreign Minister's reported remarks

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing leaders and workers of the Bangladesh Sugar Mills Sramik Federation who joined the BNP's labour front at her Hare Road office yesterday. —PID photo

Sufia Kamal succeeds Imam

By Staff Correspondent

Octogenarian poet Begum Sufia Kamal has been made the new convenor of the Eka-turer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Jatiya Samannaya Committee.

She succeeds the late Jahanara Imam, who spearheaded the agitation for trial of the war criminals under the banner of Nirmul Committee.

A meeting of the Nirmul Samannaya Committee yesterday unanimously selected Sufia Kamal as the Nirmul chief. Chaired by Syed Hasan Imam, the meeting decided to hold a meeting of the representatives of all the Nirmul components at the TSC auditorium of Dhaka University on August 8. Nirmul representatives from all districts have been requested to attend the meeting.

The committee also decided to hold a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city at 4 pm today to protest the July 26 killings in Chittagong.

The meeting observed one minute's silence in memory of those killed in Chittagong and demanded punishment for the killers. It also condemned the Khatib of the Baitul Mukarram for his alleged comments against the country's Liberation War, independence and the freedom fighters.

Students condemn Press Note

By DU Correspondent

The Sampradayikota Birodhi Chhatra Samaj has strongly protested and condemned the press note issued by the Home Ministry on Saturday regarding the bomb blast near the Pir Yemini Market on Friday last.

The students' alliance opposed to communal politics, in a statement yesterday termed the press note "motivated" and alleged that it reflected the BNP government's attitude of appeasement towards the Jamaat.

No disinvestment if sugar mills profit next year: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the workers to increase production in the mills and factories to make the country self-reliant, reports UNB.

"We have numerous problems but our resources are limited," she reminded and stressed the need for optimum utilisation of whatever is available.

Begum Zia was addressing the leaders of the Sugar Workers' Federation of Bangladesh (SWFB) who came to her Hare Road office in the evening to join the Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal (the labour front of the BNP).

Some 40 leaders of the federation who called on the Prime Minister represent independent trade unions of the country's 14 sugar mills employing about 32,000 workers. Referring to the workers' plea to reconsider the disinvestment plan for the sugar

mills, the Prime Minister assured them of consideration only if the mills were made profitable.

She said the sugar mills workers had a year's time to make their respective units profitable without increasing the price of their product.

"We have to control the price of all essentials, along with sustaining the development process," Begum Zia said. "We all have to take responsibility. The people will not forgive us if we fail to fulfil their aspirations," she reminded the workers.

The Prime Minister accused the Opposition of not making their due contribution to national development. "They have not carried out their responsibility of a shadow government. They have done nothing except making unfair personal criticism," she said.

We've been compelled to boycott JS: Hasina

Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Opposition has been compelled to boycott Parliament because the government had made it ineffective and urged the people to unite for realising elections under a caretaker government, reports UNB.

This inefficient government has no right to stay in power," she said terming the three and a half years of BNP rule as an era of broken pledges and failure on all fronts.

Addressing a huge public meeting arranged on the Feni Trunk Road by the district Awami League, the Leader of the Opposition announced a ten-year plan of her party for eradicating illiteracy, solving unemployment problem by

establishing cottage industries and reopening the closed mills through efficient management. Hasina alleged that the BNP did not fulfil the pledge it had made during the anti-autocracy agitation for realising the 10-point demand of the students. The government of Khaleda Zia is retrenching workers without providing them alternative job opportunities, she said.

The Awami League chief alleged the government has failed to realise the due share of the Ganges water because of its subservient foreign policy.

Hasina blamed the government for all-pervasive bribery, corruption and terrorism, which she claimed had vitiated society. It has also failed to

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Khaleda may visit Islamabad, Delhi in Nov

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the current chairperson of SAARC, is expected to visit India and Pakistan in November, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman said yesterday.

He was talking to newsmen at the Hotel Sheraton lobby after holding separate bilateral meetings with Pakistan Foreign Minister Sardar Asef Ahmed Ali and Indian State Minister for External Affairs R L Bhatia. The parley took place at Hotel Sheraton here.

Emerging from the talks, the first ministerial-level formal contact since Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh and Sardar Asef met here last December, Bhatia told UNB that they discussed the recent incidents of assaulting diplomats and matters relating to territorial waters and fishing.

"We had a very good meeting. India believes in resolving all bilateral issues, including Kashmir, through dialogue," Bhatia said.

He said the recent incidents of beating diplomats had "vitiated" the atmosphere between the two countries. He said the diplomatic code of

conduct would be strictly followed to stop recurrence of such incidents.

Hatia said both sides agreed to take steps to create an atmosphere conducive to conducting further talks on bilateral issues.

Pakistan Foreign Minister Sardar Asef Ahmed Ali told UNB that the Kashmir issue came up for discussion. He said, "Kashmir is very much a disputed issue in South Asia."

He said both the countries had so far failed to solve the Kashmir issue bilaterally. He, however, said, "I'm optimistic about resolving the crisis."

Indian Foreign Secretary K Srinivasan and Pakistan Foreign Secretary Najmuddin A Sheikh assisted the two ministers.

Briefing newsmen on the India-Pakistan talks yesterday, Pakistan High Commissioner in Bangladesh Kemal Anwar said the meeting was held in "a very cordial atmosphere."

He said the ministers discussed all important matters including Kashmir. There would be further talks on the Kashmir issue.

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Indo-Bangla JBC meets Aug 3

Top business leaders of Bangladesh and India will discuss ways of boosting bilateral trade in a more equitable manner when the Bangladesh-India Joint Business Council (JBC) holds its second session in the city Wednesday, reports UNB.

Seventeen members of an Indian team, headed by a leading entrepreneur, P D Patodia, will start arriving in the capital from today. Patodia is the current chairman of the JBC, established for promoting private-sector interaction between the two countries.

Federation of Bangladesh

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Sylhetis end boycott

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, July 31: The month-long Biman boycott programme failed to press home the demand for a new administrative division in Sylhet ended today. It was part of the series of programmes which began one and a half years ago demanding the creation of a division comprising the four districts of greater Sylhet.

Fresh programmes would be declared next week, said a source of the Division Implementation and Greater Sylhet Development Action Council today.

An official source, on condition of anonymity, said the Biman has already incurred a loss of Taka 6 crore as the number of passengers in both

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Construction of JMB to start in October

The construction of the Jamuna Bridge will begin in the first half of next October through dredging and reclamation as part of the river training works, the largest chunk of the project in terms of money involved, reports BSS.

The mobilisation works have already been started at the construction sites, an official handout said in Dhaka yesterday.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Communications was yesterday apprised of this at its 30th meeting. The Executive Director of the Bridge Authority Mohammad Ali presented a paper before the committee on the progress of project implementation.

The meeting was informed that all preconditions to the gross effectiveness of the loan, except an agreement with the

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Nizami blames AL, BNP for Ctg killings

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami yesterday accused the Awami League of sharing the responsibility of Chittagong killings along with the government by observing hartal on Saturday, reports UNB.

The Jamaat secretary general said the Labour and Manpower Minister and the Chhatra Dal by issuing statements after Chittagong incident made clear government's complicity in July 26 terrorism in the port city, where six people were killed.

He was addressing a meeting organised to condole the deaths in Chittagong. The meeting organised by the city unit of the Jamaat at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram mos-

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India, Pakistan agree to discuss irritants

India and Pakistan agreed yesterday to take steps to create a congenial atmosphere for dialogue to resolve contentious issues between the two countries.

The agreement came after a 30-minute meeting between Pakistan Foreign Minister Sardar Asef Ahmed Ali and Indian State Minister for External Affairs R L Bhatia. The parley took place at Hotel Sheraton here.

Emerging from the talks, the first ministerial-level formal contact since Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh and Sardar Asef met here last December, Bhatia told UNB that they discussed the recent incidents of assaulting diplomats and matters relating to territorial waters and fishing.

"We had a very good meeting. India believes in resolving all bilateral issues, including Kashmir, through dialogue," Bhatia said.

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US ultimatum to Japan

WASHINGTON, July 31: The United States took the first step today towards imposing trade sanctions against Japan for its government purchasing policies, giving Tokyo 60 days to improve matters or face punitive action, reports AFP.

"I am taking this action as a result of Japan's failure to address longstanding discrimination against United States suppliers," US Trade Representative, Mickey Kantor said in a statement.

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Assam CM denies infiltration from Bangladesh

The Statesman, an Indian daily, in its July seven issue published a story entitled, "From Bangladesh to Assam: Saikia Goes by Census, Deviates from Party Line" which said the professional population figures do not confirm the general impression that there has been a massive infiltration from Bangladesh to Assam, reports BSS.

The report said that the Assam Chief Minister Hiteswar Saikia had made it clear he would be guided only by the census projections and not by unofficial reports on the influx. Saikia told a press conference that there had been no influx to Assam. Also the head counting in the 1991 census did not indicate any excess population in the state.

Saikia made his position clear after the Indian Home Minister SB Chavan said that the infiltration of foreigners was the major problem in the North-East. Saikia asserted that as chief minister he would be guided by official data and records and not by hearsay, the report added.

The report further said, See Page 12 Col 5

Indian troops get permission to enter Bhutan

GUAHATI, India, July 31: The tiny Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan has given the Indian army permission to enter its territory to attack tribal militants suspected of killing 50 Muslims, Indian officials said today, reports Reuter.

They said the Thimpu government had told Delhi it could send troops into Bhutan to wipe out bases suspected of harbouring Bodo militants fighting for a separate state within India in the neighbouring northeast Indian state of Assam.

The Bhutan government has given such permission to the Indian army on at least one previous occasion.

India believes Bodo mili-

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Debate Festival begins tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The first National Debate Festival '94 begins in the capital tomorrow.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar is expected to inaugurate the three-day festival at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of the Dhaka, See Page 12 Col 4



MEET

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