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NEWS BRIEFS

Ties with SAARC nations reviewed

The overall relation of Bangladesh with the SAARC countries were reviewed yesterday at a meeting of Dhaka's envoys in South Asian capitals. Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Irrigation and Water Resources Minister M. Majid-ul-Haq, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Commerce Minister M. Shamsul Islam were present at the meeting held at the Foreign Ministry, reports UNB.

Smuggler held

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 4: Police arrested an alleged smuggler and recovered some silver and about Taka one lakh from his possession on Friday. Premamanda Dev Nath, 30, of village Uchhapura in Sadar thana was rounded up from the town following a tip-off. Police also recovered 7.6 kg silver from his village home and cash of about Tk 86,000 from his two other residences, reports UNB.

Model polls in Tongi tomorrow

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf will inaugurate conduction of a model election in Tongi pourashava tomorrow at 11 am. Some 1.7 lakh voters in the pourashava's seven wards will exercise their franchise in the new system of voting, being introduced to ensure free and fair elections, reports UNB.

City BNP bodies meet tomorrow

A joint meeting of the city committees of the BNP will be held at 7 pm tomorrow at its Nawab Yusuf Market office. Food Minister Li Gen (Redd) Meer Shaukat Ali, who is also the president of the city committee, will preside over the meeting, reports UNB.

Teacher shot, 20 hall rooms ransacked

Gunbattle on DU campus

Star Report

An Associate Professor of the Dhaka University sustained bullet injuries and an employee was severely beaten up during an hour-long intense gunbattle on the campus between rival activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at around noon yesterday.

Two senior teachers, including the DUTA general secretary, were also harassed in the presence of the Vice Chancellor while four other students were beaten up when some 20 rooms in a number of residential halls were ransacked immediately after the skirmishes.

A reign of terror engulfed the entire Arts Faculty area during the clashes in which hundreds of gunshots were

fired. No arrests were made following the incident.

An Associate Professor of the History Department, Ratan Lal Chakravarty, received gunshot wounds in his left leg when he was caught in a cross-fire near the Aparajeyo Bangla statue at around 12.20 pm. He was later admitted to the Pangu Hospital.

An employee of the Arts Faculty Dean's office Bazlur Rahman, was attacked by another group of armed activists in his room at around 1.20 pm. The group left the spot after beating him almost to unconsciousness. He was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Nirmul Committee leader and chairman of the Management Department Prof Abdul See Page 12 Col 3



Dr Ratan Lal Chakravarty of the History Department, hit by a bullet in the leg during the clash at the DU, being taken to the operation theatre at the Pangu Hospital yesterday.



Students, employees, rickshaw-pullers and even a riot policeman duck for cover during the fierce gunbattle at the Dhaka University's Arts Faculty yesterday between rival Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Chhatra League activists. Ironically, the graffiti on the wall exhorts students to shun guns and save the country's education. — Star photo by AKM Mohsin

Belgrade to sever all ties with Bosnian Serbs

BELGRADE, Aug 4: Yugoslavia said today it would immediately cut off political and economic ties with Bosnian Serbs, who have relied on Belgrade for military supplies during their 28-month war against Muslims and Croats, report AP, Reuters.

Belgrade closed the border between Yugoslavia and Bosnia to all supplied except food, clothes and medicine. A similar ban was announced in May 1993, but it was barely enforced.

The Yugoslav government had threatened to sever ties with Bosnian Serbs unless they accepted an international peace plan to end the war in Bosnia. But Bosnian Serb leaders rejected the proposal for a third time on Wednesday.

The rump Yugoslavia — consisting of Serbia and Montenegro — is suffering under international sanctions imposed for its crucial support for Serbs in Bosnia.

The sponsors of the latest peace plan, which would re-

quire Serbs to surrender some of the territory conquered in Bosnia, have threatened to toughen measures against Belgrade unless the Serbs accepted the proposal.

Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, the region's power broker, is widely viewed as the chief instigator of the ethnic war in Bosnia and the earlier war in Croatia. But he apparently now wants to stave off further economic ruin that could jeopardize his hold on power.

Milosevic urged Bosnian Serbs to dump their leaders, whom he branded "war profiteers." He said they had jeopardized their own people and broken many previous promises to stop fighting.

"That is why we have to cut off all further relations and co-operation with such a leadership," Milosevic said.

Meanwhile, Islamic countries warned today they might arm Bosnian government forces themselves unless a ban on weapon supplies to ex-Yugo-

slavia was lifted in favour of the Muslim-led administration in Sarajevo.

The warning came in a communique issued after a meeting in Geneva of a 'contact group' of Foreign Ministers from the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) which also called for tougher economic sanctions against Belgrade.

Issuing a fresh threat to Bosnian Serbs, the White House also warned today that the United States may delay the international arms embargo in Bosnia despite objections from United States allies.

An increasing number of Congress members feel the embargo favours the Bosnian Serbs, who have been supplied by Yugoslavia's Serb-dominated government and enjoy an overwhelming superiority in heavy weapons.

The United States is trying to force an agreement between the Bosnian Serbs, the Muslim-led Bosnian government and the Croats.

DUTA concerned at silence of varsity admin

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) termed yesterday's acts of violence at the Dhaka University as 'fascist activities of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)' and expressed concern at the silence of the university administration.

The Dhaka University Syndicate, in a separate statement, called for maintaining a congenial atmosphere on the campus.

The DUTA, in a meeting of its working committee yesterday afternoon, demanded a judicial investigation in to the incident.

The teachers observed that the role of the law enforcing agencies during the 'terrorist activities' was 'mysterious'.

The DUTA also demand punishment of the persons involved in the incident.

It has called a general meeting at 5 pm today to discuss the situation obtaining in the university campus.

Yesterday's meeting was presided over by the DUTA president Professor M. Shaukat Ali. See Page 12 Col 1

Pakistani held with 2 kgs of heroin at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

A Pakistani with 1.9 kilograms of heroin was held at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) in the city yesterday.

Wahid Ahmad, the accused drug-trafficker, was detained by the Dhaka Cantonment police yesterday evening under the Narcotics Control Act '90, according to both police and Customs sources.

Customs surveillance men held Wahid and recovered the heroin valued at Taka two crore when he was about to cross the airport's Green Channel after his arrival in Dhaka around noon.

Wahid arrived from Karachi, Pakistan, by a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight PK 264 at 11:40 am.

"He was moving suspiciously. We challenged him while he was crossing the Green Channel and recovered the heroin from his handbag",

a Customs officer said.

The Customs officers called the narcotics experts who, after a preliminary test on the spot, confirmed the seized item as heroin. However, the haul will be sent to the laboratory for further tests, said a high official of the Narcotics Control Department who visited the airport after the seizure.

Wahid may be produced in court today and police is likely to seek his remand for interrogation.

It is the second major drug haul at ZIA since a teenaged American girl Eladiah McCord was held with 3.27 kgs of heroin on February 25, 1992. She was nabbed just before leaving Dhaka for Zurich, Switzerland and is now serving a sentence at the Dhaka Central Jail.

PM blames particular party for DU violence

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia termed yesterday's violence at the Dhaka University as unfortunate and blamed a particular opposition party for masterminding it with an evil motive to disrupt peace on the campus, reports UNB.

"The country's educational institutions, including the universities, had long been running peacefully, but they (a particular opposition party) intentionally staged the untoward incident to destroy the peace on the campus," she told the elected representatives of 25 college students' unions of Barisal division who called on her at her Hare Road office last night.

Begum Zia asked the students to remain alert against the troublemakers in order to free the campus from disturbance and advised them to devote themselves to studies.

"We will, with the help of the people, free those who have banded to jeopardise the hard-earned democracy and the Constitution," she told the gathering of student leaders.

She made it clear that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party

(BNP) would never deviate from democracy, the Constitution and the truth.

The BNP has not just brought in democracy, it has been continuing the practice of democracy for the last three and a half years, she said. "As a result, a development spree is prevailing in all sectors of the country."

Referring to the victory of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in different educational institutions all over the country, the Prime Minister said this proved that the new generation liked the nationalist forces. "It's a good sign for the country."

Begum Zia said some opposition parties were puzzled at the development, production and people-oriented activities undertaken by the government. "And this is why they (opposition) have hatched a conspiracy against the BNP."

The central vice-president of the Chhatra Motry Rafiqul Islam Kazal along with over 100 leaders and activists formally joined the JCD at the function.

Govt plans to highlight its achievements

By Staff Correspondent

The government is considering several steps, including the setting up of a 'special cell', to highlight the success stories of the BNP regime through the mass media, well-placed official sources said.

The other steps include broadcast of special programmes on radio and television, making documentary films, publishing books and booklets and forming an advisory body comprising media experts.

The 'special cell', to be directly guided by the Information Minister, will coordinate the activities to project the BNP's successes through radio and television, the Directorate of Films and Publications (DFFP), the Press Information Department (PID), the External Publicity Wing, the Mass Communication Department, the new agencies and the newspapers, according to a plan.

The plan, formulated by the press wing of the Prime Minister's Office has, meantime, been okayed by the

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda. The minister termed the plan 'very good' and has instructed the officials to take necessary steps for its implementation.

The plan has been formulated in line with the recent BNP Standing Committee decisions. The committee last month stressed the need for projecting the ruling party's achievements, in the last three and a half years.

A copy of the plan was made available to The Daily Star yesterday.

According to the plan, a deputy press secretary of the PM's office would head the special cell which would also be provided with a deputy chief, office assistants, transports and other logistic supports.

Panel discussions on national issues like elections under a caretaker government and the Opposition's boycott of Parliament, special reports on the development activities of ministries and interviews of See Page 12 Col 5

Pulp-producing digester handed over to KPM

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 4: Country's first pulp-producing digester built by the state owned Chittagong Drydock Ltd was, formally handed over today to the Karnafuli Paper Mills, a subsidiary of the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC).

The device called 'globe digester' built at a cost of Tk 1.25 crore completely with indigenous raw materials and technology, will produce pulp for paper mills by converting green jute.

The five-meter dia globe-shaped digester weighing 20 tons has a capacity of 65 tons. The Chittagong Drydock, a subsidiary of the Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) will complete building another digester by September this year for producing pulp for rayon mills of the country.

See Page 12 Col 5

Anti-liberation forces have raised their heads: Hasina

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday said autocratic and anti-liberation forces have raised their heads taking the advantage of 'weak governance' by the BNP, reports UNB.

Addressing several hundred BNP workers, businessmen and industrialists who joined the Awami League at her 29 Mintu Road official residence, she accused the BNP of failing to run the country and jeopardising democracy.

The Awami League president also alleged that police, being "instructed by the Prime Minister" was giving protection to "pro-BNP terrorists and extortionists." As many as 45 businessmen were killed during the BNP rule, she said.

Hasina, also the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, said the administration had virtually collapsed because of politicisation. She criticised the Prime Minister for what she said, maintaining seven expensive offices when the people are fighting for food and shelter.

She charged the government with denying the people See Page 12 Col 8

Prokrichi condemns suspension of 12 doctors

By Staff Correspondent

The Prokrichi and BCS Action Council, in a meeting yesterday, condemned the recent suspension of 12 physicians of Tongi and Gazipur by the Health Ministry.

The meeting observed that the suspension was ordered even though the physicians had resigned much earlier.

The Prokrichi felt that this action, initiated by a vested bureaucratic quarter, was taken to tarnish the image of the physicians concerned.

The meeting further maintained that instead of accepting the demands of the Prokrichi, the government and the bureaucracy had resorted to repressive measures to destroy the country's medical system.

The Prokrichi observed that although a large number of bureaucrats have been overstay abroad on deputation or on different training programmes, but no action had been taken against them.

See Page 12 Col 2

Transport strike begins in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 4: Transport owners and workers began an indefinite strike in Sylhet district from today, while another strike on different routes of Sunamganj district passed its eighth day today.

No vehicles left Sylhet today for any destination, causing immense suffering to people.

Prices of different commodities including foodgrain have marked sharp rises in the local markets.

The strike has been called following difference of opinion between the Sunamganj district administration and the transport owners workers over the construction of a new bus terminal at Sunamganj.

Meanwhile, meetings are expected to be held tomorrow in Sylhet and Sunamganj to end the crisis. Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad is likely to attend the meeting.



Female activists of the Alliance des Femmes (Women's Alliance) take part in a protest outside the Bangladesh embassy in Paris Wednesday to support controversial writer Taslima Nasreen (portrait C) who ended two months as a fugitive and surrendered to the High Court in Dhaka Aug 3. — AFP photo