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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 1 lakh from his possession on Friday. Premananda Dev Nath, 30, of village Ulchupura 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 conducton of a model election in Tongi tomorrow at 11 am. Some 1.7 lakh voters in the paurashava'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 (Reid) Meer Shawkat 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

fire. No arrests were made following the incident.

An Associate Professor of the History Department, Ratan Lal Chakrabarty, received gunshot wounds in his left leg when he was caught in a crossfire 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

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Dr Ratan Lal Chakrabarty 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

REBELIA, 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, accepted AP, Reuter.

Belgrade closed the border between Yugoslavia and Bosnia to all supplies 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.

That is why we have to cut off all further relations and cooperation 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 communiqué 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 defy 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.

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CMM recalls Taslima's arrest warrant

By Staff Correspondent

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) yesterday recalled the warrant of arrest issued against Taslima Nasreen upon a petition filed by her lawyer, court sources said.

Nasreen is now living in her apartment at Shantinagar in the city under heavy police guard following Wednesday's High Court order granting her an anticipatory bail.

CMM Shahiduddin Ahmed, responding to the petition filed by Taslima's counsel Sarah Hossain, noted that since Taslima was now at large following the High Court bail the order for her arrest should not be executed.

On June 4, the CMM ordered the police to arrest the controversial writer under Section 295 (a) of the Penal Code for husing the religious

sentiments of the country's Muslim population. The section provides for a maximum of two years' imprisonment or fine or both if convicted.

Taslima's lawyer said, another petition seeking an interim bail would be filed in the CMM's Court after the High Court order reaches the lower court.

An HC division bench comprising Justice AKM Sadeque and Justice KM Hasan Wednesday granted the writer bail and ordered that she surrender to the lower court through her lawyer.

Meanwhile, the authorities have extended special security to Taslima Nasreen who became the target of the fundamentalists following her interview with an Indian newspaper in which she reportedly sig-

gested recasting of the Holy Quran.

Plain-clothed Special Branch officials backed by armed policemen were deployed at the main entrance to Taslima's posh flat at the multi-story apartment complex. She lives in one of the 160 flats.

"She instructed us to allow any visitor to her residence, the receptionist of the apartment complex told The Daily Star.

A Special Branch police official said that they are keeping a 24-hour vigil on the movement of all visitors to the apartment complex.

DUTA concerned at silence of varsity admin

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) termed yesterday's acts of violence as the '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 into the incident.

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

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

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

Yesterday's meeting was presided over by the DUTA president Professor M. Shamsul Islam.

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