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NEWS BRIEFS

Biswas visits ailing minister

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday went to the PG Hospital to see the condition of ailing State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Eunus Khan. President Biswas stayed at the hospital for some time and enquired the attending doctors about the progress of his treatment, reports UNB.

Painter Devdas hospitalised

Renowned painter Devdas Chakraborty is indisposed and was admitted to the Mahanagar Clinic Saturday night. Family sources said investigations are being carried out to determine the cause of his ailments. He was feeling uneasy, reports BSS.

Programmes for div in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent SYLHET, Aug 7: The division implementation and greater Sylhet development council today declared a fresh course of action to press home the demand for a new division. The programme includes a 72-hour hartal from October two in greater Sylhet, co-ordination meetings of leaders of four districts on August 16, meeting with national leaders and a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the first week of September.

JP secretariat meets today

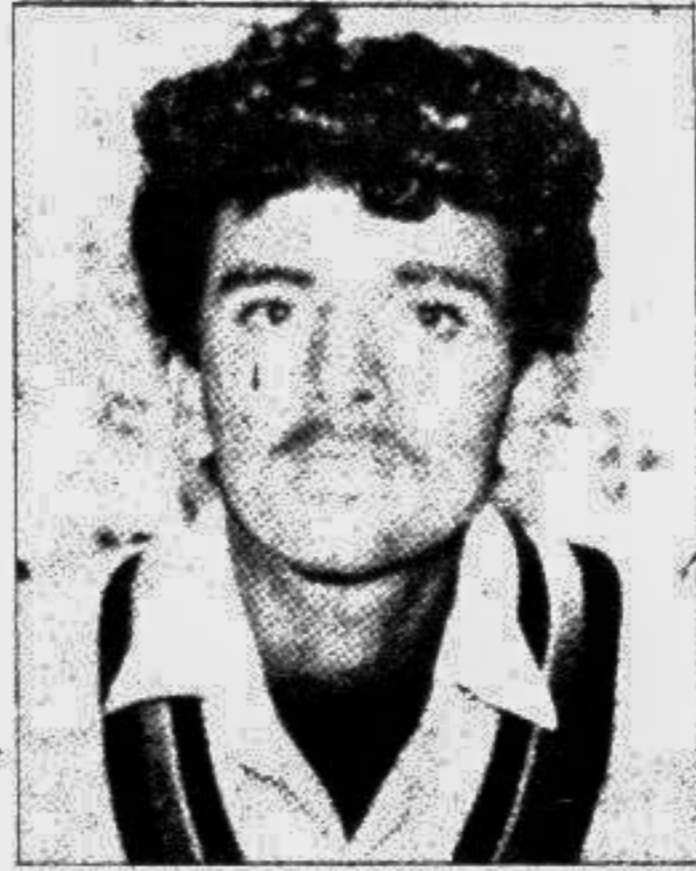
A meeting of the Jatiya Party central secretariat will be held today at 4 pm at its temporary office at Moghbazar. JP Secretary General Khaledur Rahman Tito has requested all central committee members staying in Dhaka, city unit president and general secretary, and presidents and general secretaries of the party's front organisations to attend the meeting. Another meeting of the party's Dhaka city working committee will be held tomorrow at 7 pm at the Gulshan residence of JP acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, reports UNB.

Phensidyl seized

Police seized 195 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup and arrested four people from two areas in the city yesterday. Acting on a tip, Motijheel police raided a house at the Gopibagh area and recovered 125 bottles of phensidyl and arrested one Hira. Demra police arrested three people with 70 bottles of phensidyl while they were selling the syrup at Gopibagh Railyatge.

Bangladesh win 7-nation youth cricket title

Sports Reporter



Javed Omar...Man of the match

The country's lesser known young cricketers gave sport-lovers some cause to cheer about as Bangladesh clinched the title in a seven-nation International youth cricket tournament in the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

According to a faxed message, the Bangladeshi colts won the final at the Kilat ground by a convincing margin of 53 runs to exact a precious revenge over the teenage Lankan cricketers who had earlier prevailed over them narrowly in a round robin league encounter Friday.

Batting first Bangladesh rattled up an adequate total of 241 for seven wickets from their stipulated quota of 50 overs.

Opener Javed Omar Belim Golla, who was later named

order bat Imtiaz Zakaria remained unbeaten on a breezy 41 off 50 balls.

Vice-captain and wicket-keeper Khaled Masud Pilot cracked a timely 26 off 20 balls in the slog overs.

One-drop Mirhab Hossain Opee, who had earlier scored the only century for Bangladesh in this tournament, was the other notable scorer with 27.

The Sri Lankan newball bowlers, who wrought havoc with the Bangladeshi upper order batting in the previous encounter which Sri Lanka won by one wicket, could not do much apart from sending back opener Shahrir Hossain Biplab cheaply.

C Fernando was the pick of the bowlers finishing with two for 26 from six overs.

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Top US official in city

By Staff Correspondent

The newly-appointed US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Timothy M Carney arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a four-day trip.

During his stay in Bangladesh, Carney would be meeting officials of the Foreign Ministry and politicians of both the ruling party and the Opposition.

A ranking source described the trip of the US official as a familiarisation tour.

Carney yesterday made a courtesy call on Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her official residence.

US Ambassador David N Merrill and Awami League leaders S A M S Kibria and Abul Hasan Chowdhury, MP, were present.

The US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State's itinerary also includes visits to India and Pakistan.

12 companies offer to set up private power plants

By Inam Ahmed

Although a dozen private sector offers for setting up power plants have been received, the government's procedural framework is yet to be streamlined.

According to official sources, a number of issues including legal, contractual and policy guidelines remain to be finalised to usher in the private sector in power generation.

Earlier last month, a 13-member committee headed by an Additional Secretary of the Energy Ministry was set up to review the technical and financial aspects of the private sector offers and recommend their possible acceptability to the government. The committee was set up as per a cabinet decision to expedite private sector participation in power

generation. But this committee now seems to be debating over some vital issues like whether to go for solicited bids or unsolicited bids, the environmental aspects of some projects, and fuel and the procedure for purchase of the generated electricity, according to committee sources.

Currently all the 12 offers are unsolicited proposals, from both local and international companies. These companies are: the International Energy Group, USA; Solar International Trading Corporation, USA; North America Consultants, Canada; National Power, UK; Geppetrol Resources, Canada; China Chang Jiang Energy Corporation, China; the ARRO Company, USA; PBI Capital, USA; Industrial Engi-

neering Services, Bangladesh; Electro-Mech Engineers, Bangladesh; Alkashif Ltd, Bangladesh and Westinghouse, USA.

Some committee members feel that these unsolicited bids may lack competitive elements and may obstruct the path for future solicited bids. On the other hand, others felt that in order to attract quick private investment in the capital-intensive sector unsolicited bids should be encouraged initially.

Officials said this problem has arisen because of the absence of an overall power policy clearly outlining, in a transparent manner, the government's strategy for generating power, both by the public and private sectors.

The country's existing low tariff rate structure is also dis-

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The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) demolishing unauthorised shops and structures on the Ghaznavi Road beside the Geneva Camp in Mohammadpur yesterday.

Doctors' strike Aug 10

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) has called a countrywide doctors' strike on Wednesday to protest the recent suspension of 12 doctors and to press home its 21-point charter of demands.

The doctors belonging to the BMA also called a 48-hour strike on August 17 and 18 and decided not to work for over eight hours a day from August 11 to 16.

BMA leaders announced their action programme at a press conference in the city yesterday.

The government doctors will also refrain from private practice during the strikes.

The press conference, held at the BMA Bhaban, was addressed by BMA president Dr M A Majed and secretary general Dr Gazi Abdul Haq. Senior vice president of BMA Dr A Bayes Bhuiyan, Dr Fakhrul Islam, Dr Mushtaq Hossain and Dr Rafi Ahmed were present at the press conference.

Terminating the suspension of the 12 doctors as a conspiracy to tarnish the image of doc-

tors," the BMA leaders demanded removal of the Health Secretary and dissolution of the vigilance team which took the action against the doctors who were reportedly found absent from the hospitals of Tongi and Gazipur, during its surprise visit last week.

"For absence from one's duty for a day, a day's salary may be deducted as per service rules. The suspension was not a normal administrative measure — thus we have called the strike," Dr Majed said explaining the reasons for the strike.

"The action against the 12 doctors was a pre-planned move. The vigilance team was formed by the Health Minister on July 28. On July 31, at 8:05 am, the team visited the hospitals of Tongi and Gazipur for fifteen minutes, found no doctors and suspended them all," Dr Majed alleged.

Interestingly, the government issued their suspension order on August 3. But, the state-controlled electronic

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We have ensured dal bhat for commonman: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said her government is continuing countrywide development based on the BNP's 19-point programme to ensure basic needs of the commonman, reports UNB.

"We have been able to ensure dal bhat for the commonman," she said and attributed the success to the BNP's politics of production.

The Prime Minister was addressing the leaders and workers of Jhenidah district BNP and its front organisations, including the Ainjibi Forum, as well as newcomers to the party and newly-elected office-bearers of different colleges of the district who made a courtesy call on her at the Hare Road office at night.

"Ridiculing the Opposition claim that there had been no development under the BNP government, the Prime Minister said: 'They do not like the progress and are creating impediments to the develop-

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News Analysis DU clash heightens tension

By S Y Bakht

The mayhem unleashed at the Dhaka University campus on Thursday may have alarming implications for the already tense political situation in the country, fear political analysts and observers.

After an unusually prolonged lull, the campus erupted like a powder-keg with the student fronts of the ruling BNP and the main opposition Awami League locked in a dangerous posture of confrontation. It appeared that the whole episode was calculatedly orchestrated as if to flex their muscles or, more precisely, their firepower.

But the incidents unfurled during the day were more than a mere test of strength. In fact, these were an extension of the highly-charged political atmosphere arising out of the debate over the contentious caretaker government issue, pro and anti-Liberation forces and fundamentalism, analysts point out.

What is more alarming is that the university teachers are intensely involved in the debate and the DU incident left one of them with a bullet in his leg and two others jostled and

manhandled. The question foremost in the minds of the general public at the moment is: "Does the DU incident signify a new level of confrontation between the two largest political parties in the land?"

The matter is further complicated by the fact that leaders of both the BNP and the AL instead of trying to defuse the situation, lent strong support to their respective student fronts and, as usual, blamed each other for the violence.

In the process, they seemed to have encouraged the radical elements in the two parties, apparently to go for an all-out confrontation, observers say.

Within hours of the incident, the Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson took a public posture blaming a "certain party" for the incident while the AL chief, the very next day, termed it a "well-planned terrorist act masterminded by the government" to further complicate the political atmosphere and distract attention from the caretaker government issue.

"But does this absolve the

JCD and the BCL of any blame?" ask the observers.

The public posturing of both the leaders on the DU incident has serious political implications given that the major opposition parties have taken to the streets besides their continued boycott of Parliament over the demand for holding future national elections under a caretaker government.

What further clouds matters is that the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has taken sides and directly blamed the JCD for the attack on the teachers. Observers point out that the DUTA reaction may be somewhat justified given that its Secretary General was assaulted.

They, however, add that by taking a position so quickly and so decisively DUTA may have compromised its neutrality, which will somehow make the association's role as a campus peacemaker less effective.

A few days ago, Dr Ershadul Bari, Dean of the Faculty of Law, was harassed and his office was ransacked, allegedly by a group of students.

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DCC men evict illegal occupants in Mohammadpur

By Staff Correspondent

Several of people — mostly children — were injured as a mob clashed with police while resisting the eviction of illegal occupants in the city's Mohammadpur Ghaznavi Road yesterday.

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) men and police evicted the illegal occupants, mainly stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh (Biharis) from the roadsides near the Geneva Camp around 11 in the morning.

Police lobbed teargas shells to disperse the mob which demonstrated and barricaded the DCC men and police, temporarily preventing them from carrying out the scheduled eviction, witnesses said.

However, the DCC men bulldozed several dozen shops, shanty houses of illegal occupants and the ward office of the ruling BNP on both sides of Ghaznavi Road within one hour.

The occupants and leaders of the Stranded Pakistanis' General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) alleged that the DCC authorities evicted the people without any prior notice.

But the DCC men refuted

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Shun partisan interests for development: Hanif

By Staff Correspondent

Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif has urged all to rise above party politics and work for development of the country.

"We have been too much political and now it is necessary to rise above partisan interests that are hindering the national development," the Mayor told a discussion meeting organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) at the Chamber building yesterday.

"We must check any unhealthy trend in the national politics," he said. "Otherwise, we will proceed towards an uncertain future."

Speaking as chief guest at the discussion meeting on "Industrialisation, Expansion of Trade and Commerce and Urbanisation," Hanif said appropriate plans must be formulated for the development of the city as well as the country. These plans should not change with the change of government. He regretted that the practice in our country was to abandon and identify as bad everything done by the past government.

"We must develop a mentality of recognising the good works of others," he said. "I

think the governance by Bangabandhu, Zia, Ershad and Khaleda should be evaluated from a non-partisan point of view."

Similarly, he said, their failures should also be criticised. "Tolerance is a must for people-oriented politics," the mayor noted.

Termining terrorism the 'main obstacle' to industrialisation, Hanif said we would fail to attract foreign investments unless the political and labour unrest was checked. "Deterioration of law and order was also hampering investments by the local entrepreneurs, he added."

About terrorist activities in the city, the mayor said that he had formed a 20-member anti-terrorism committee in each of the 90 wards in the City. Headed by the respective ward commissioner, the committees were identifying the terrorists, he said and added these bodies could not succeed unless the government cooperated with them.

The mayor recalled that he had met the Prime Minister to seek increased fund for the development of the city. "I was given assurance but I am yet to

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Naziur Rahman gets 4-yr jail

Former LGRD Minister Md Naziur Rahman was yesterday convicted for corruption and sentenced to four years' simple imprisonment, reports UNB.

Naziur Rahman, who has been hiding since the fall of the Ershad regime in a mass-upsurge in December 1990, was tried in absentia.

Hailing from Bhola, Naziur Rahman, who was wielding much power during Ershad's rule, was also sentenced to four years' imprisonment in another corruption case in 1992.

According to the present case filed by the Bureau of Anti-Corruption, Naziur Rahman made a verbal sanction of Tk 1,19,61,645 by abusing official power for the construction of a bus terminal in Bhola. The money was paid for construction work without prior sanction of the authorities.

It was further found that

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DMCH outdoor opens today

By Staff Correspondent

The All-Party Students Unity (APSU) of the Dhaka Medical College (DMC) has decided to open the outdoor department of the hospital today (Monday).

The decision came after the Health Ministry's assurance that the employees now living in college premises would be shifted soon to other parts of the city.

The hospital authorities constructed some temporary houses for its employees but the area turned into a big slum over the years vitiating normal atmosphere on the campus.

The students have been boycotting their classes since June 26 and on Saturday they put the outdoor department under lock and key demanding immediate demolition of the slum.

The Ministry of Land on Saturday assured the Ministry of Health that one acre of land would be allotted within a week to rehabilitate the employees.

The APSU, however, had no word yesterday on resuming classes.

Gunshots disturb lull forced by DU ban

Star Report

Late night gunshots and mysterious outsiders still threaten the academic atmosphere of Dhaka University although a week-long ban on political activities, imposed Saturday, remains effective.

Meanwhile, in order to end the campus violence, moves are underway for talks with the Vice-Chancellor, university high officials and leaders of different student bodies, including those of the JCD, BCL and Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikkyo (GCO).

A high-official of the university informed The Daily Star that the talks are likely to take place Tuesday.

beaten by a group of unidentified persons.

Witnesses said five persons came to the Department of Political Science at 12:30 pm and attacked Zafar who, they said, was a BCL activist.

The attackers left the scene after a few minutes. Zafar denied his association with any student body, witnesses added.

At around 1:35 am yesterday, residential students of Surya Sen, Mohsin, Jasimuddin, Zia, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Sir A F Rahman halls heard at least 20 rounds of sporadic gunfire. The students said, they also heard gunshots from the direction of the TSC. They said, the

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BCL sit-in today

By DU Correspondent

The pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) will stage a sit-in in front of the Home Ministry this morning to protest, what they said, the terrorist activities of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal on the Dhaka University campus on Thursday.

Besides, the teachers of the university will continue their token strike today protesting the attack on teachers. All the examinations will however be exempted from the teachers' strike, said a DUTA press release yesterday.

A teacher and an employee were injured and three senior teachers manhandled during Thursday's violence.

Meanwhile, the students of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism

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DUTA observes token strike

By DU Correspondent

The teachers of Dhaka University observed a token strike yesterday as part of a FBUTA programme demanding removal of the Vice-Chancellor of the National University, Dr MA Bari.

About 200 teachers brought out a silent procession from the Aparajeya Bangla on the campus. The processionists later held a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar.

Addressing the rally, president of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) Prof Shahadat Ali called upon all to identify the persons who had 'dishonoured the national anthem' in the first meeting of the NU Senate as 'enemies of the nation'.

Besides, the teachers of the DU would boycott all the activ-

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Non-govt pry teachers threaten hunger strike

By Staff Correspondent

Teachers of non-government primary schools after a two-day sit-in in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday extended their programme till Wednesday, and threatened to go for an indefinite hunger strike from Thursday if their 4-point demand was not met.

The non-government primary school teachers began a two-day sit-in from Saturday. Their demands include nationalisation of all registered non-government primary schools and appointment of teachers on the basis of strength of students.

Addressing a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon, the president of the association, Asaduzzaman and other leaders, criticised the

government for, what they said, its lack of initiative in resolving the problems of the primary school teachers.

Meanwhile, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar said yesterday the government is taking steps towards fulfilling its commitments made for solving the problems of the non-government teachers.

The minister was presiding over a meeting of the leaders of National Federation for Teachers' Association.

The meeting reviewed the progress of implementation of the commitments to the non-government teachers (also reached consensus on some issues relating to introduction of time-scale and gratuity for the non-government teachers.