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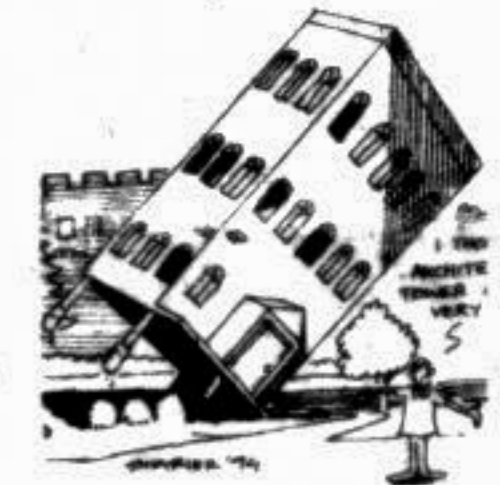
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NEWS BRIEFS

Bangabandhu Museum opens today

By Staff Correspondent
The Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum will be inaugurated at the Bangabandhu Bhaban in the city today. Awami League President and Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the museum at 4 pm. The Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust has organised a function in front of the Bangabandhu Bhaban on the occasion. The Daily Star regrets the inadvertent error regarding the time of inauguration of the museum in its Saturday's issue.

WB for total reform of power sector

By S Y Bakht and Inam Ahmed

With very little improvement in the system loss and collection rate situation, the World Bank (WB) is seeking a total reform of the power sector, both Bank and Energy Ministry sources confirmed. The issue is likely to be raised in a critical review meeting between the officials of the world bank and the ministry scheduled for August 22. In 1989, the WB suspended all loans to the power sector when the system loss reached a staggering about 44 per cent and the collection rate of the Power Development Board (PDB) was extremely poor. The bank sought a substantial reduction in the system loss and improvement in collection before resuming loans to the sector. At the upcoming meeting the WB mission would be led by a senior official from Washington, Janet Koch, while the home team would be led by Energy Secretary, Faizur Razzak. The review meeting comes

at a time when the combined system loss of the Power Development Board (PDB) and the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) increased in recent months after showing a decreasing trend earlier this year. The chances of the World Bank resuming power sector loans soon are slim. In a preliminary meeting with Energy Ministry officials last month, the WB was severely critical of the slow progress of the initiatives taken to improve the dismal situation and is now seeking a 'total reform' of the power sector, bank sources said. The WB has come to the conclusion that the existing agencies cannot improve the situation because all efforts to bring down the system loss and increase the collection rate so far have failed to produce the expected results, the sources added. According to official figures, the existing average system loss of the PDB and DESA had

been 36.2 per cent for the July '93 to March '94 period. It had come down to as low as 34.1 per cent in February, 1994, but again increased to 34.9 per cent in March. (See chart.) According to an authoritative source, the WB had expressed strong dissatisfaction over the system loss, saying it was one of the worst in the world, and said it must be lowered by another 10 to 12 per cent. On the other hand, it observed that the much-awaited power sector reform programme is yet to get the Cabinet's approval. The reform, among other things, aims at commercialisation of the agencies, private participation in the boards of the agencies, reform of the managements, and giving power to the agencies to enhance up to five per cent of the tariff at their own discretion. The Cabinet had sat twice to discuss the reform proposal by the Energy Ministry, but



Leaders of the pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and the Awami League-backed Chhatra League (M-L) brought out a peace procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. Vice Chancellor Emajuddin Ahmed (in safari) is seen leading the procession, with JCD president Fazlul Haq Milon on his right and BCL chief Mainuddin Hassan Chowdhury on his left. — Star photo

Geotextile will boost jute sector, hopes Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday hoped that the newly-innovated jute geotextile would open a new horizon for greater use of jute in the country and generate momentum in the sector, reports UNB. The new use of jute is expected to boost the demand for jute at home and abroad," she said addressing a symposium on Jute Geotextile at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the city. The Prime Minister also awarded gold medals to the two co-innovators of jute geotextile — Dr Zahid Hossain Prodhon of Arcadia Property Development Ltd and Dr ABM

Abdullah of the Bangladesh Jute Research Institute — as well as to the Adamjee Jute Mills for support in the research work. Dr Prodhon presented a keynote paper at the symposium, organised jointly by the Ministry of Jute and Arcadia Property Development Ltd, a private company. Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Minister M Majid-ul-Haq, Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah, Dr A B M Abdullah, Jute Secretary Mohammad Abu Hena, Al-haj S M Khaleda Chowdhury, Chairman of Arcadia Property Development Ltd, and Dr AMM Shafiullah of the BUET also

addressed the function, also attended by ministers, MPs, diplomats, heads of research institutions and researchers. The Prime Minister later saw various jute products displayed at the lobby of the ICC. Jute geotextile is any permeable textile material used with foundation, soil, rock or any other geo-technical engineering materials as an integral part of a man-made project structure or system. Mentioning possible uses of jute geotextile in the construction of flood control embankments, railway lines, highways and barrages, the Prime Minister hoped that

AL to observe Mourning Day tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent
The Awami League will observe a 'National Mourning Day' tomorrow to mark the 19th anniversary of the death of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The party has called a six-hour hartal from 6 am to 12 noon across the country on the day to press the demand for repealing the Indemnity Ordinance that has stopped the trial of the killers of Mujib. In observance of the day, the AL, its front organisations and various socio-cultural bodies have drawn up elaborate programmes. AL chief Sheikh Hasina and other central leaders of the

\$200m WB loan for JMBA made effective

A 200-million dollars World Bank (WB) credit for the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, agreed upon earlier, has been made effective, removing the last major hurdle in the way of the project, reports UNB. The WB head office in Washington yesterday, informed the government of its decision declaring the credit effective from August 12, a press release of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA) said. The JMBA said it expected a similar response from the OECF, Japan, "any time now" as it had already expressed satisfaction over the progress made by the government in fulfilling its conditions. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) too has declared its loan effective from the same date. The three co-financiers together are providing a 600 million US dollars for the execution of the 700-million dollar project. The WB step came in view of the fulfilment of all the conditions it tagged to the effecting of the credit agreement, signed February 25 this year, the JMBA release added. Some of the major conditions were: Completion of necessary actions under the resettlement plan and environment

Students celebrate campus peace accord

By DU Correspondent
The major student organisations yesterday jointly celebrated the agreement reached among them on Friday for restoring a congenial academic atmosphere in all the educational institutions including the Dhaka University. The leaders of the student bodies exchanged bouquets and flowers and reiterated their determination to uphold the 'consensus among them for peaceful co-existence of all the student bodies on the campus. Vice Chancellor of the DU Prof Emajuddin Ahmed attended the celebration at Madhu's canteen on the campus yesterday morning. Later,



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaking at a discussion organised by the Bangabandhu Parishad on the occasion of the 19th death anniversary of Sheikh Mujib and the 'National Mourning Day' at the Engineers' Institution auditorium in the city yesterday. Also seen on her left are S A M S Kibria, Dr S A Malek and Dr Nelima Ibrahim. — Star photo

BNP rule has strengthened fundamentalists, says Hasina

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday said fundamentalist and anti-liberation forces would gain strength if the BNP is allowed to remain in power for one more year, reports UNB. Speaking at a discussion on "Fundamentalism, Communism and Spirit of the Liberation War" at the Engineers' Institute yesterday evening, she said the BNP, which came to power with the support of the fundamentalist forces, is now patronising them to weaken the pro-liberation and democratic camps. "As a matter of fact the de-

Tk 1000-cr roads project to be launched today

The over Tk 1,000-crore Second Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance Project (RRMP-II), a vital project for the country's highway sector, will be launched today, reports UNB. A three-day workshop, to be inaugurated by Communications Minister Oli Ahmad in the city today, will mark the launch of the World Bank and the British-aided project. Representatives of the World Bank from its Washington headquarters are already in the city to participate in the project launching workshop. The British Overseas Development Administration

BMA chief apologises

By Staff Correspondent
In the face of volleys of questions by the reporters, Prokrichi Chairman Dr M A Majed apologised for his comments on the country's journalists and their professional integrity. "I am extremely sorry for my comments," an emotion-choked Majed said at a press conference of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council at the BMA Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday afternoon. The apology came one day after a Bangla daily published his remarks on the journalists. The Bangladesh Patrika Thursday reported that Dr Majed had said "The journalists are bloody... cowards."

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Daily Star Roundtable on "The Future of Jute: Problems & Prospects" will be held on Tuesday, August 16, 1994. The main participants will include Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah, political leaders, Members of Parliament, representatives of trade bodies and associations, labour leaders and well-known experts in the jute sector. With a view to involving our valued readers in the deliberations of the Roundtable, we invite them to send in any questions or suggestions that they would like raised in the discussions. These may be either hand-delivered or faxed (863035) to us latest by noon, August 16. Envelopes should be clearly marked "Daily Star Roundtable on Jute". PLEASE SEND IN YOUR OPINIONS TO HELP ENRICH THE DELIBERATIONS The Daily Star... striving to serve its readers better

Opposition leaders react to Huda's remarks

Star Report
Three major opposition parties have sharply reacted to Information Minister Nazmul Huda's reported statement regarding the Opposition agitation and said the minister has misinterpreted the law and deliberately tried to create confusion. The Information Minister was quoted as saying on Thursday that the opposition parties might be prosecuted under section 124A of the Bangladesh Penal Code (BPC) since they were indulging in activities calculated "to lower the prestige and image of the government."

Actor Alamgir's brother shot dead

By Staff Correspondent
In two gruesome murders in the city yesterday a youth was shot dead by his friend while a woman was killed by her husband. Fariduddin Ahmed Azam, 35, residing at Noorabad Colony in Ditu Road, Eskaton was shot dead by a youth at 3 am yesterday. Neighbours in the area reported that they heard three revolver shots following a brawl between the deceased and one of his friends. Police said the victim and the assailant were in a drunken

Bangladeshi soldier shot dead along Iraq-Kuwait border

KUWAIT, Aug 13: Gunmen shot dead a Bangladeshi UN military observer in an ambush on a UN patrol on Friday night on the Iraqi side of the demilitarised Iraq-Kuwait border, UN observers said today, reports Reuter. The mission spokesman said: "A UNIKOM patrol was ambushed by armed assailants at Safwan on the Iraqi side of the DMZ (demilitarised zone) on the Baghdad-Safwan highway. "One UNIKOM military personnel was shot dead on the spot and one was wounded. A third soldier was injured. The wounded man is in hospital. See Page 12 Col 4

Govt, Opposition MPs talk across table

By Staff Correspondent
The Awami League, Barrister Ziaur Rahman MP and Ansar Ali Siddiki MP of the BNP, Maulana Abdus Sobhan and Sheikh Anser Ali of the Jamaat, Shamsuddoha MP of the Gana Forum and Lutfar Rahman Shajahan of the left Democratic Forum. The roundtable was also attended by Supreme Court Bar Association Secretary Ozair Farooq and Dr Mafazzul Huq, a teacher of the DU. Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam was the moder-

Uttara Bank Gulshan Branch from today

Uttara Bank opens its 198th Branch at Gulshan from today (14.8.94)

Gulshan Branch Landmark Shopping Centre 12-14, Gulshan North C.A. Gulshan Circle-2, Dhaka.

The branch is fully computerised to offer a whole range of modern banking services

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