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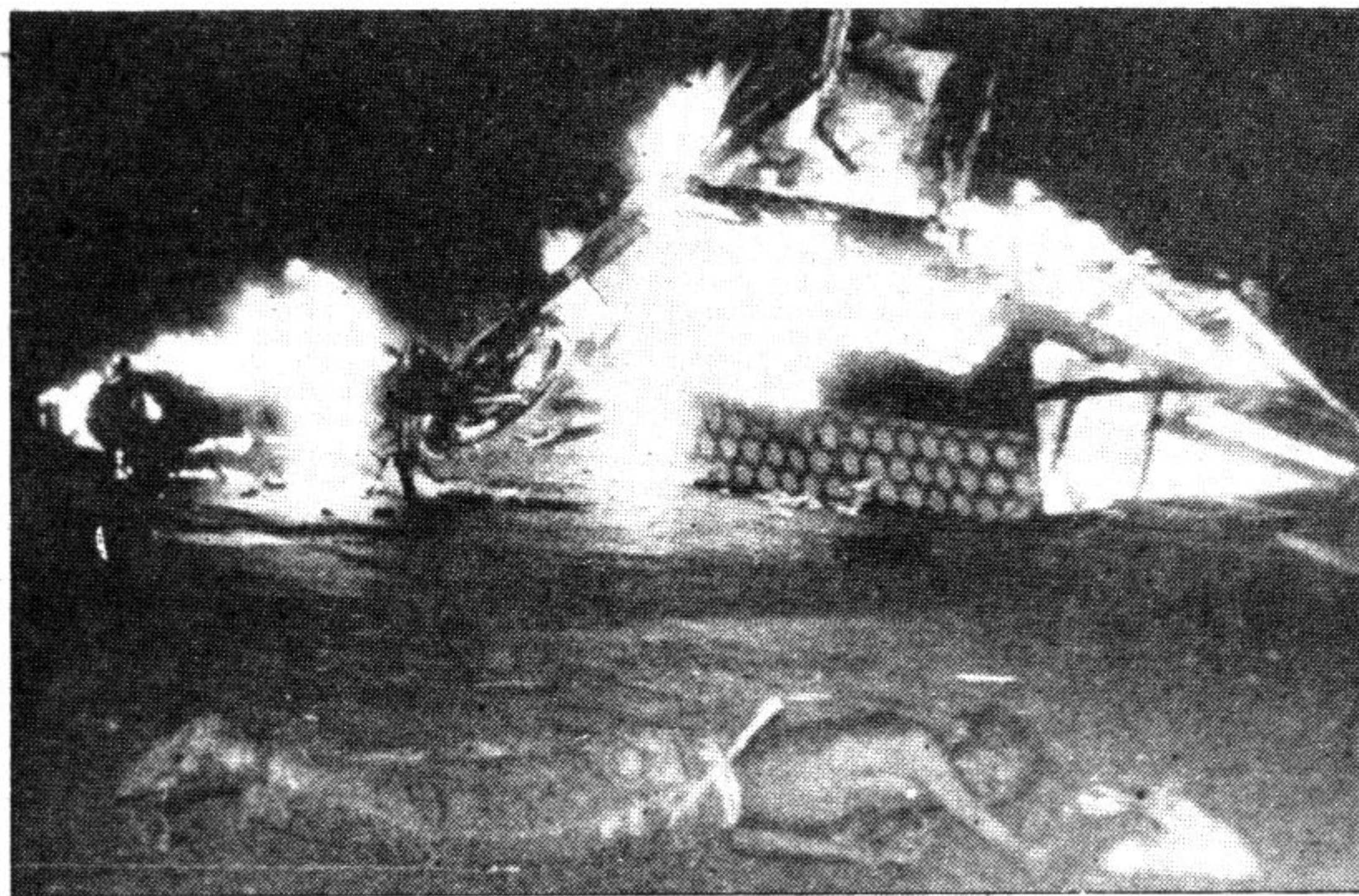
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Dhaka Day by Day

Feasting on Mangoes
Page 3100 hurt as soccer fans go
on a rampage in city

Frenzied football fans set fire to two motorbikes and a lottery ticket sales counter near the National Sports Council building at Purana Paltan near the Dhaka Stadium in the city yesterday. An unidentified man injured in the violence is seen lying on the road (foreground). — Star photo

By Sports Reporter

More than a hundred people, including a number of policemen, were injured when unruly football fans went on a rampage following a violence-marred Star Premier Division league match between defending champions Mohammedan Sporting Club and Public Works Department (PWD) SC

Match report on Page 10

at the Dhaka Stadium last night.

The teams were tied 1-1. Trouble began just one minute from the final whistle when referee Rafiqul Islam over ruled appeals from the Mohammedan players and officials for a stoppage after their skipper Rumman bin Wali Shabbir lay writhing in pain inside the PWD penalty box after a collision with the goalkeeper.

This enraged the Mohammedan players and officials into attacking the man with the whistle and instigated commotion in the stands, which led to a clash between

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BUET closed sine die

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) was closed sine die last night due to deterioration of the campus situation centring the scheduled elections of its central students union (EUCSU) and hall unions.

The BUET authorities asked the resident students to vacate the seven halls by 10 am today.

The EUCSU and hall union elections scheduled for today have been postponed and processions and rallies on the campus banned.

"It was unavoidable," Vice Chancellor of BUET Moha-

mmad Shahjahan told The Daily Star over telephone last night.

The decisions followed a day-long meeting of the VC with the teachers, provosts and officials.

Tension gripped the BUET campus for the last few days with the Jatiatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) supporting the holding of elections now, and the Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), JSD-backed BCL, Chhatra Front and Chhatra Federation opposing it.

There were sporadic clashes between the rival stu-

dent bodies, gunshots and cracker blasts on the campus in the last few days.

A BUET press release yesterday said "some unruly students are destroying the peace and atmosphere on the campus by hurling bombs and resorting to terrorists activities at different residential halls, the campus and near the teachers' residences over the EUCSU and hall elections."

"These students had been obstructing other students from attending classes by bringing out armed processions, damaging rooms of dif-

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Indian Opposition walks
back into Parliament

NEW DELHI, Aug 17: The Indian opposition ended its boycott of parliament today after the government backed down in a dispute over the nation's biggest financial scandal, reports Reuters.

Prime Minister PV Narasimha-Rao and members of his Congress party thumped their tables in welcome as the opposition walked back into the Lok Sabha (lower house) to end a boycott that lasted nearly three weeks.

The opposition walked out over what it alleged was a government cover-up. The government had partly rejected the recommendations of an all-party parliamentary committee on the securities scandal that surfaced in 1992.

The opposition returned after the government agreed to consider opposition criticism

and revise a document detailing action taken on the all-party report about the 1.28 billion dollar scandal.

Lok Sabha Speaker Shivraj Patil announced that the government had agreed to revise, modify and resubmit its documents, paving the way for the end of the boycott.

The opposition had originally demanded that the government totally withdraw its document, which rejected criticism in the joint parliamentary report of Finance Minister Manmohan Singh and several other ministers.

The points on which action is not taken, the points on which action is partly taken and the points on which objections have been raised by the opposition shall be reconsidered and a revised and, a modified report on those

points shall be submitted by the government as early as possible, Patil said.

Politicians said the Opposition was also expected to return to parliamentary committees which it had quit as part of the protest.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) report submitted last December criticised several ministers, including Manmohan Singh, architect of India's three-year economic reform programme.

"If they are modifying the report it means they are admitting to the deficiencies in the report," Marxist Lawmaker Somnath Chatterjee told Reuters.

"Of course they have to explain why their ministers have not resigned," he added.

"The substance of our de-

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Ex-Shantibahini leader tells newsmen
A handful of people prolonging
CHT issue for personal gains

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 17: A handful of ambitious people are active in prolonging the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) issue to serve their personal interests by keeping an entire community hostage, said a top Shantibahini leader — Nishu Dewan — who surrendered to the authorities last week.

Talking to newsmen this afternoon at Chittagong Press Club, Dewan said Shantibahini leaders always played a negative role when they had come forward to resolve the issue and even Shantibahini's armed struggle had no realistic and specific objectives.

When I understood the reality, I decided to return to my homeland to lead a normal life by shunning goal-less armed fight," he said with a smile.

Dewan is the first among the prominent leaders of Parbaty Chhattagram Jana Sangati Samity (PCJSS), parent organisation of Shantibahini, to

surrender to the government. He was a member of the information and publicity division, a very important wing of the PCJSS. He was also on the five member committee which had six rounds of inconclusive peace talks with the security forces under the past government.

A graduate from the Punjab university and aged over 40, Dewan said he had worked for PCJSS for 18 years since 1976. But whimsical activities of Shantibahini had made him frustrated, he added.

Dewan said the five-point demand placed by Shantibahini to the government was in contradiction with the country's Constitution.

Till the second round of dialogue held under the past government, Shantibahini leaders even had no idea about the Bangladesh Constitution though they bargained in support their demands, he pointed out.

Turning to the Chakma refugee issue, he said "It was a pre-planned creation of PCJSS leaders to internationalise the issue through a tense situation in the CHT."

"Now if the refugee camps are not guarded by Shantibahini men each and every one of the refugees would come back to their homeland leaving back the inhuman camp-life."

He said "Only India was providing them arms and ammunition and no other country."

Shantibahinimen were also enjoying support from some foreign private humanitarian organisations, he said.

Dewan said he had tactfully sent back his family to the CHT from across the border prior to his surrender. He said that his movement here was still not secure as he deserted the PCJSS. Because of this, police was posted in front of the press club while he was talking to the newsmen.

Prokrichi's 24-hr
strike today

By Staff Correspondent

Some 70 thousand members of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council will observe a full-day strike today protesting what it terms, "bureaucratic conspiracy" and "repression by the government."

The planned action coincides with a two-day strike by the members of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) that started yesterday.

Today's strike follows the recent suspension of 12 doctors. Issuance of a show cause notice on Javed Iqbal, secretary of the Krishibed institution, the retirement of Prokrichi secretary general M

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Law against
issuing false
cheques soon

By Special Correspondent

The government has decided to amend The Negotiable Instruments Acts of 1881, providing stiff punishment for the issuance of false cheques.

According to official sources, the government plans to incorporate a provision in the law stipulating a maximum punishment of three years' rigorous imprisonment, or realisation of a fine, at a rate double the amount mentioned of such cheques, for anyone issuing false instruments dishonoured by the banks.

Explaining the reasons for contemplating such stern action, an official of the Ministry of Finance said that cases of cheques, bouncing at the banks

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UN praises FP
efforts in
Bangladesh

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh was cited as a unique success story in the family planning efforts in terms of rising contraceptive use and declining fertility.

The latest UN report on the world population described Bangladesh's population programme as "a reproductive health and family planning revolution" taking place for the last 16 years.

The report, released yesterday at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka, prominently displayed the achievements of the Bangladesh government in the health and family planning sector. The role of the NGOs in this field was also appreciated.

Speaking on the occasion, UNFPA Country Director Dr SK Alok said Bangladesh has one of the five best family planning programmes in the world which combat the population growth with an intersectoral policy approach. Bangladesh's programmes also reflects the political sagacity as well as the survival instinct of its people, he added.

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Kumaratunga set to form govt
Opposition wins Lankan polls

COLOMBO, Aug 17: Sri Lanka's opposition claimed power today after victory in Tuesday's general election as the ruling party's bid for a coalition to extend its 17 years in office suffered a setback, reports Reuters.

Chandrika Kumaratunga, the People's Alliance (PA) choice for Prime Minister, wrote to President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga tonight claiming a parliamentary majority and the right to form a government, a party spokesman said.

The PA won 105 seats to the ruling United National Party's (UNP) 94 in the 225-seat parliament, the Election Commissioner's office said.

The PA's ally the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress got seven seats and an independent Tamil group standing in the north and allied to the ruling party won nine.

The PA spokesman said Kumaratunga held talks with two other Tamil parties, the Tamil United Liberation Front and the Democratic People's Liberation Front, and was confident of their support. They won five and three seats respectively.

An independent group won one seat and a fringe leftist group took another.

Ruling party officials, meanwhile, failed in an attempt to woo the Muslim Congress with the promise of three ministerial posts if it joined a loose coalition, party sources said.

And pressure was growing on Wijetunga, a UNP appointee, to accept the people's alliance victory.

Some Western embassies urged him to authorise a handover of power or risk damaging relations, political sources said.



Chandrika Kumaratunga

A group of influential priests and intellectuals planned to issue a statement tomorrow asking Wijetunga to invite Kumaratunga to form a government.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremasinghe favoured conceding defeat gracefully and had discussed this with the President, the source said.

Wijetunga said earlier in a televised address he would announce a government once party strengths were known. He said that under the Constitution, he would appoint as Prime Minister the person who in his opinion could command the confidence of parliament.

Kumaratunga, chief minister of the western provincial council and a 49-year-old mother of two, is untied on the national political stage.

She led the campaign because her mother Sirima Bandaranaike, the world's first woman Prime Minister and the leader of the PA, is recovering from foot surgery.

Kumaratunga's next problem after winning power would be exercising it under a UNP president with wide executive powers, analysts said.

But economists did not expect any PA government to

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Patients leave hospitals
as doctors strike work

By Staff Correspondent

Thousands of patients returned home without treatment from hospitals and clinics as the doctors began a 48-hour country-wide strike yesterday to press home their demands.

On the first day of the strike, the doctors abstained from their duties. They also reportedly stopped private practices.

Only a handful of patients were treated at the outdoors and emergency wards of the hospitals and clinics.

The doctors enforced the strike in protest against the

recent suspension of 12 members of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) and to realise their 21-point charter of demands.

According to the BMA, the national platform of the doctors, the strike was peaceful across the country.

However, reports said, misery of the patients mounted due to absence of doctors in the hospitals.

The nurses and hospital attendants, in their limited capacities, tried to alleviate the suffering of the patients.

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Khaleda to visit
Egypt, Malaysia

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will be undertaking two important foreign visits in the next two months, one to Cairo in September and the other to Kuala Lumpur in October.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to leave Dhaka for Cairo on a four-day visit on September 4, primarily to attend the International Conference on Population and Development in the Egyptian capital.

The 9-day conference will

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South Korean PM
due Sept 2

South Korean Prime Minister Lee Yung Duk's coming visit to Bangladesh is expected to usher in a new era of cooperation between Dhaka and Seoul particularly in trade and economic fields, reports UNB.

Lee is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on September two on a three-day goodwill visit.

This will be the first visit to Bangladesh by a top ranking leader of South Korea.

Lee will lead a 14-member delegation and hold an official talks with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

IBM Branch Office has Moved to
Pacific Center

Please Contact us
at
Our New Address

Old Address

IBM World Trade Corporation
122-124 Motijheel C/A
Chamber Building, 5th Floor
Dhaka-1000
Tel : 241133, 232845, 242598, 231831
Fax : 880-2-863511

New Address

IBM World Trade Corporation
14 Mohakhali C/A
Pacific Center, 6th Floor
Dhaka-1212
Tel : 889783, 889784, 889785, 889786
Fax : 880-2-889788