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The Daily Star

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12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 5.00

VOL. V NO. 215' REGD. NO. DA 781

BHADRA 14 1402 BS,

DHAKA TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1995

RABI-US-SANY 1, 1416 HIJRI

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 5.00

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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index: 773.08 (-0.01%)
Market capital Tk: 47.66 billion
Transactions in volume: 55437
Transactions in value Tk: 11.51 million

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



A return of Moghul Miniatures

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NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina goes to Dinajpur today

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka for Dinajpur this morning to visit the district town, party sources said.

She is scheduled to fly to Dinajpur in a Biman flight at 10 am and be back in the capital tomorrow.

Dinajpur SP transferred

The Superintendent of Police (SP) of Dinajpur Abdul Moteleb has been transferred to the Ministry of Home as a special officer-in-charge, an official handout said here last night. The SP of Jessore Sajjad Hussain has been transferred to Dinajpur to join in the same post, the handout said. Besides, the SP of Sunamganj Choudhury AAG Kabir has been transferred to Rajshahi as the commandant of RRF there, reports BSS.

One shot dead at Fatikchhari

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 28: A villager was shot dead by terrorists at Fatikchhari today. The victim was identified as Rafiqul Islam, 35. Police recovered the body and sent it for autopsy. Police said, Rafiq, a shopkeeper was killed by the terrorists as he had filed a case against them with Fatikchhari thana.

RU students' hunger strike

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 28: Rajshahi University Sadharan Chhatra-Chhatra Parishad (a committee of general students) will observe a day-long token hunger strike tomorrow in front of the VC's office to press its demand for immediate reopening of the university.

Protesters defy curfew Widespread violence across Dinajpur

Sunday's police firing in Dinajpur district headquarters triggered widespread violence across the district yesterday, reports UNB.

Thousands of protesters defied curfew in the town and went on rampage in thana headquarters, setting fire to or ransacking government offices, police stations and a newspaper office, local journalists said over telephone.

They said the angry demonstrators set ablaze the TNO and engineering office in Sadar thana, and the police stations in Kaharuli, Chhirit Bandar, Parbatipur, Fulbari, Pachaganj and Birothanas.

The mob also looted a godown of the Customs Department in the town and torched the local office of the Daily Inquilab.

Nearly a thousand people gheraoed the Sadar police station at night. Police fired more than a dozen blank shots to disperse the unruly mob.

At least two people, identified as Shahidul and Jahedul, were seriously injured in the melee. They were admitted to a local hospital in critical condition.

Police and BDR were patrolling the thoroughfares of the town.

The authorities yesterday decided to transfer en masse some 30 police officers from

the Dinajpur district headquarters as a step to defuse tension in the town where seven people were reportedly killed on Sunday in police firing.

The decision came after hours of joint meeting of the civil and police administrations, BDR and leaders of the all political parties, a highly placed source at Dinajpur said over telephone.

The meeting was convened by the Deputy Commissioner to discuss and contain the situation following Sunday's violence as angry mobs went on a rampage across the town and fought battles with police over the death of a teenage girl while

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Dhaka, Bamako joint communique

UNSC urged to lift arms embargo on Bosnia

Bangladesh and Mali yesterday expressed their "deep concern" at the deteriorating situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and called upon the UN Security Council to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia so that its people could exercise their right to self defence, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and the President of Mali Alpha Oumar Konare also stressed the need for strengthening the OIC efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the Bosnian brethren and to protect the independence and sovereignty of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

This was announced in a joint communique issued simultaneously from Dhaka and Bamako to mark the four-day

state visit to Bangladesh by President Konare which ended yesterday.

The communique said that President Konare welcomed the initiative of Prime Minister Begum Zia for holding an emergency OIC summit on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

At the official talks between Mali and Bangladesh, led respectively by President Konare and Prime Minister Begum Zia, the two sides discussed at length the need for cooperation between the two countries in all international fora especially in the Organisation of Islamic Conference and the LDC Forum.

The two sides, the communique said, expressed satisfaction at the signing of a

See Page 12 Col 4

37 killed as shells hit Sarajevo marketplace

SARAJEVO, Aug 28: Two shells struck Sarajevo's crowded central marketplace today, killing at least 37 people and wounding scores of others, the Bosnian Health Ministry said. The bloody attack threatened peace efforts resuming today in Paris.

The Bosnian government blamed Serbs ringing the hills around Sarajevo for the attack, which Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic described as a "massacre by the Serbian terrorists."

It was the deadliest attack within the city since Feb. 5, 1994, when 68 people were killed in the same area by a shell that wounded 200.

Today's shells - identified by the Bosnian army as 120 mm mortars fired from Serb positions south of downtown Sarajevo - landed when the marketplace was teeming with people in a spot less than 100 metres from last year's shell.

Silajdzic said the death toll likely would rise further.

The United Nations said its radar failed to trace the

shells and they could not immediately confirm who had fired those.

The Serbs denied firing the shell and accused the Muslim-led government army of targeting its own people to scuttle peace talks. Bosnian government suggested it may suspend meetings with American diplomats attempting to reactivate the peace process.

Manzur murder case

HC judgement on revision petition today

By SC Correspondent

The High Court Division today will pronounce the judgement on the criminal revisional application filed by former President H M Ershad challenging the proceedings taken by the Dhaka Sessions Judge on August 16 last in the Manzur murder case.

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Press Notes

'3 killed, 3 cops arrested at Dinajpur'

Three policemen were arrested for their alleged involvement in the killing of a teenage girl in Dinajpur and a case has been filed against them, according to a Press Note, issued yesterday, reports UNB.

The Press Note, issued by the Home Ministry, said the government is determined to punish the persons responsible for the killing of the girl after proper investigation and trial.

The government expects that in the greater interest of the country and the nation, everybody will play their due role to keep the law and order normal.

The Press Note put the

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'AL' indiscipline worries govt'

The government yesterday expressed deep concern over the violent activities of the indiscipline members of the Awami League in a bid to deteriorate law and order, reports BSS.

In a Home Ministry Press Note issued in connection with the press reports regarding the violent activities at Farmgate area in the city Sunday, it said the government is at the same time concerned at the loss of property of the common people in such destructive activities.

"The Awami League City committee organised a rally on August 27 afternoon at Panthapath. Another meeting under the auspices of Tejgaon Thana unit of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was organised at the same time in front of the Ananda Cinema at Farmgate."

"The Awami League brought out a militant procession after ending the rally at around 6:30 pm and was proceeding towards Farmgate to gherao the Election Commission."

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'Beijing confce affects every human being on earth'

BELJING, Aug 28: The United Nations raised its flag today for the World Women's Conference in China, which Secretary General Gertrude Mongella hailed as the most important UN meeting in history, reports Reuters.

As the pale blue UN flag fluttered above the Beijing International Convention Centre, site of the Conference, thousands of grassroots delegates from all over the world poured through the capital airport.

Today, we are at an important stage in our long road to the realisation of the place of the women in history, Mongella said after the flag raising.

This will be the biggest and I dare say most important UN conference in history, because it is not about one group or the other, she said. "This conference affects every human being on earth."

I think they come here with a level of excitement, a

level of frustration and a level of anger and determination that there will be change." Sumera Thobani, president of Canada's non-governmental National Action Committee on the Status of Women, said as she and colleagues pushed their luggage out of Beijing's international airport.

About 24,000 delegates

'They succeeded because of male relatives'

NEW DELHI, Aug 28: As South Asian nations gear up for the UN Conference on Women, many people wonder how a region governed for decades by leaders like Indira Gandhi and Benazir Bhutto could possibly complain of discrimination against women, reports Reuters.

"At first, people can't believe that a country ruled by a

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are expected to attend the women's Non-Governmental Organisations Forum that opens Wednesday, while about 6,000 are expected for the UN 4th World Conference on Women, which runs Sept 4-15.

Amnesty International (AI) secretary general Pierre Sane arrived here today to head the first ever delegate from the human rights watchdog to be allowed into China.

The UN conference will adopt a document calling on member governments to take action to abolish discrimination against women in education and work, end violence against them, develop programmes to alleviate female poverty and other steps.

The governments, participants and observers have all become a bit jaded and cautious in their expectations.

Some of the women arriving today said their real hopes are pinned not on the

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AL mourning procession in city

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League yesterday brought out a mourning procession in the city carrying the body of 'its worker' killed in Sunday's violence in the Farmgate area.

A 25-year-old young man, identified as Sheikh Badruddin Badu, son of Aftabuddin Munshi of Jurain in the city, was killed in a clash among Awami League, Pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and police during an AL demonstration against the Election Commission.

Awami League, however, claimed that another party worker - Abdur Rahman - was also killed in the clashes but his body was taken away by police.

Prior to the mourning procession, the Najma-e-Jannat of Badruddin, said to be a Juba League leader of Ward No 90, was held at Baitul Mukarram mosque

See Page 12 Col 6

3 JP MPs lose seats for floor crossing

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday announced that the parliamentary seats of three Jatiya Party (JP) MPs, who had joined BNP, now stood vacated.

Three JP MPs - Mahmudul Hasan from Tangail-5, Paritosh Chakrabarty from Rangpur-2 and Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury from Moulvibazar-1-joined BNP separately.

A Commission panel, comprising Chief Election Commissioner Justice AKM Sadeque and Election Commissioner Justice Jaill, gave the verdict in accordance with Article 70 (1) of the Constitution after hearing both the sides.

Article 70(1) of the Constitution reads: A person is elected as a member of Parliament at an election at which he was nominated as a candidate by a political party

shall vacate his seat if he resigns from the party or votes in Parliament against the party.

Acting Chairman of the JP Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury had informed the Speaker about the three JP MPs joining the BNP on April 18 and the Speaker sent a letter to the EC on May 14 to settle the issue.

The three MPs, in their submissions to the EC, said they had not joined the BNP and continued to be the members of the JP. Their joining was widely covered by the national dailies, news agencies and the state-run electronic media.

The commission said in its verdict although the petitioner failed to submit any evidence that the three MPs resigned from the JP, their joining the ruling party led to

See Page 12 Col 1



Awami League brought out a mourning procession in the city yesterday with the body of Badruddin Badu killed at Farmgate Sunday.

Hosts' crucial day today

Sports Reporter

A highly motivated Bangladesh team will take on Pakistan in the sixth boys' semi-final of the Sixth Commonwealth Youth Handball Championship at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium at 3 pm today.

The hosts, hot favourites to reach the final, made it to the semis as the unbeaten Group-A champions while their opponents came second behind Indian in Group-B.

India and Nigeria are to fight it out in the second semi-final which is also scheduled to be held today at 4:30 pm.

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Cabinet okays 3 draft Bills

The Cabinet in a meeting yesterday approved draft Bills for amending three laws, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presided over the meeting.

The three draft Bills are: The Special Security Force Ordinance 1986, The Mongla Port Authority Ordinance 1976 and The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh Ordinance 1978.

In the weekly meeting, the Cabinet also endorsed the draft Bill on The Ansar VDP Development Bank Act 1995.

College student shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent

A college student was shot dead at East Goran in the city yesterday.

Rashedul Islam Rashed, 22, son of Nurul Islam of 264 East Goran, was a B Com student of the Habibullah Bahar College.

Rashed received fatal bullet injuries in his left chest when a group of about eight unidentified people shot him at point blank, witnesses said.

Rashed succumbed to his injuries while being taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at about 7:30 pm.

The cause of the killing could not be known immediately.

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Child-lifting phobia

Another beaten to death in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 28: An unidentified man, beaten by a mob in the city yesterday as a suspected child-lifter, succumbed to his injuries at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) today, hospital sources and police said.

The man was rescued by police from mob beating at Fisheryghat and taken to hospital.

Meanwhile, Chittagong metropolitan police today warned the city dwellers through megaphone against beating of any person branding him as a suspected child-lifter. The people have been advised to inform police in case of any suspicion upon any person.

However, the child-lifting

See Page 12 Col 3

Farhad Mazhar released following HC order

By SC Correspondent

Farhad Mazhar was released from the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday following a High Court Division order declaring his 28-day detention as illegal.

The court ordered his immediate release.

Mazhar was arrested on July 30 last and was given 120 days' detention under The Special Powers Act, for writing a series of articles on the Ansars rebellion in the fortnightly 'Chinta', of which he is also the editor.

The division bench of the High Court comprising Justice Mohammad Moazzam Hoque and Justice Moha-

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Import trade up by 57 pc in '94-95

Country's import trade saw a sharp 57 per cent increase in 1994-95 fiscal year, according to the Bangladesh Bank, reports UNB.

A press release of the Bank yesterday said the value of Letters of Credit (LCs) opened during the year totalling Tk 27,228 crore.

This was an increase of nearly 57 per cent over the previous year (1993-94), the Bank said, but did not give any comparative figure.

The value of LCs in the pipeline was Tk 9,291 crore at the end of June, 1995.

Growth in import appears to have surpassed the growth achieved in export trade by a big margin. Government has claimed Bangladesh's export earnings in 1994-95 were 35 per cent more than that of the previous year.

According to the Bangladesh Bank press release, import bill for rice might be the highest among the importables in 1994-95 excepting textile fabrics imported for export-oriented garment

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AL should give proper reply to govt: Hasina

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked her party men to expedite the oust-government agitation for ensuring people's rights to vote and food through fresh election under a caretaker administration, reports UNB.

"There is no alternative to ouster of the government to give democracy an institution-

nal shape, she said, adding "We will not leave the street until our demand is realised."

Addressing an extended meeting of the Dhaka City Awami League at a local community centre here yesterday morning, Hasina said, "It is your (AL men) moral responsibility to give proper reply if the government fire indiscriminately on the people who are involved in the struggle of democracy."

Dhaka City AL president and Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif presided over it.

Hasina said: "If necessary you have to go to the street with shroud. Either survive or die as there is no place for us between the death and life."

"There will be no mercy to those who have taken the blood of my party men", Hasina warned. She called for taking revenge by ousting the government and establishing the people's rule.

Referring to the killing of seven people in Dinajpur on

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Nepal's SC restores parliament, cancels mid-term polls

KATHMANDU, Aug 28:

Nepal's Supreme Court reinstated the disbanded lower house of Parliament today and cancelled mid-term polls slated for November 23, a court source said, reports AFP.

King Birendra had disbanded the lower house on June 13 and announced mid-term polls at the request of Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikary.

Crowds and police in riot gear gathered outside Nepal's Supreme Court today, hours before the landmark judgement.

The 11-member bench met at 2 pm local (0815 GMT) to rule on whether Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikary acted within his rights in asking King Birendra to dissolve parliament and call fresh elections, officials said.

Opposition parties, who joined hands for a no-confidence vote in June that prompted Adhikary to ask for

fresh polls, said they were confident the court would restore parliament.

Sher Bahadur Deuba, a leader of the opposition Nepali Congress Party, said the party had already made power-sharing arrangements with others to form an alternative coalition government if parliament was restored and the censure motion introduced.

Deuba, seen by Analysts as

Shantibahini kills one in CHT

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 28: At least one person was killed and three others were injured when Shantibahini men opened fire indiscriminately on a tribal village under Bagaichari thana of Rangamati district last night.

The deceased was identified as Anga Panku, 27. The injured were admitted into the health complex.

a possible successor to Adhikary, told Reuters. "We'll prefer a coalition with other opposition parties in place of the communists."

The Nepali Congress and two other major parties opposing the government have 104 deputies among them in the 205-member Parliament, while the communist government has 87.

In elections held in 1991 after a pro-democracy movement swept through the Himalayan Kingdom, the Congress was voted to power.

The party limped from crisis to crisis and, in mid-term polls held last year, ceded power to the minority communist government, which drew on support from the Congress and other Opposition parties.

But in June, the Opposition parties withdrew their support from the coalition and called for a vote of no-confidence. Adhikary then urged the King to dissolve Parliament.