

Border trade with Myanmar Sept 5

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 30: The much-awaited Bangladesh-Myanmar border trade commences from September 5.

The governments of the two countries have already taken necessary preparations to start the border trade, which is expected to usher in a new era of economic cooperation between the two neighbouring countries.

This was stated at a meeting at the office of the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Cox's Bazar today. DC Sheikh Mohabbat Ullah, was in the chair.

According to official sources, the border trade was initially scheduled to commence from September 1. But the date was shifted considering the weekly holiday on September 1 and the call for hartal on September 2 and 3.

Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam will inaugurate the border trade on September 5. Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman and Myanmar's Minister for Commerce Lt Gen U Thun Khé will also attend the function, to be held on the bank of the Naf river.

The commerce ministers of Bangladesh and Myanmar signed the border trade

agreement in Dhaka on May 18 this year.

Under this agreement, Bangladesh will import rice, pulse, shrimp, cement, quality timber and bamboo from Myanmar while Myanmar will import a wide range of products from Bangladesh.

It is hoped the border trade between the two countries, which shared a common border across the Naf river, will significantly reduce smuggling across the Teknaf border.

JU students demand repeal of sunset rules

JU Correspondent

The Female students and various student bodies of Jahangir Nagar University at a rally yesterday demanded repeal of the sunset rules.

Organised by the students of the Fazilatun Nessa Hall, the rally was addressed by the leaders of the major student bodies and senior student representatives from the three female halls.

They demanded withdrawal of the show cause notices served on two female students.

Manzur Murder Case

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Judge, Dhaka held his court outside the Dhaka Judge Court premises in a building opposite to the Dhaka Central Jail.

The Session Judge on that day took cognizance of the offence under Section 302/109/201/34 of the Penal Code against the five accused refused a defence prayer to supply the statements of the accused made to the magistrates and their statements of retractions.

The Sessions Court also passed an order limiting the number of defence lawyers for each accused.

The court was established on August 16, but the Gazette Notification was published on August 28 in this regard.

Advocate Khondaker Mahbub Hossain submitted during hearing that there was no notification for establishing the Sessions Judge Court at the said building as required under Section 9(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

He also submitted that the Sessions Judge has no jurisdiction to limit the appointment of defence lawyers under Section 352 of the same code.

He further submitted that before framing charge the accused must be supplied with the copies of all papers and documents which will be used for framing charge as required under Section 265(B) and (C) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The HC heard both the parties on August 27, 28 and 29 and passed the order yesterday.

By the order the court gave findings that no retrospective effect has been given to the gazette notification published on August 28.

It was observed by the court that the prima facie case is that the Sessions Judge had passed the said order in this case from a place which was not a legally established place of Court of

Sessions under Section 9(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Inasmuch as Sessions Judge had no jurisdiction to hold his sitting on August 16 in the said building, the court said.

"On 16-8-95 that place and building cannot be treated as a place of Sessions Judge Court because necessary Gazette Notification was published on 28-8-95," the court observed.

Following the killing of late President Ziaur Rahman, Major General (ret'd) M A Manzur was murdered at Chittagong Cantonment on June 1, 1981.

Barrister Abul Mansur, brother of the deceased, lodged an FIR against Ershad, Major (ret'd) Kazi Emdadul Huq, Major Gen (ret'd) Abdul Latif, Lt Col (ret'd) Shamsur Rahman and Lt Col Kamaluddin Bhuiyan on February 28 last with Panchlaish Police Station, Chittagong.

After submission of the charge sheet the case was transferred from Chittagong to Dhaka Sessions Judge by a notification on August 3 last.

JP rally

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Hossain Manju said people's movement can never be suppressed. This government will not also be able to suppress the people's movement.

Amidst thunderous anti-government slogans, Manju said, "People will force the government out of power if it does not accept their demand for holding election under a neutral caretaker government." He called upon the people to intensify the ongoing movement and to make the 32-hour September 2-3 countrywide hartal successful.

After the rally, the JP activists marched through the Manik Mian Avenue towards the EC office at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

BNP: Loan defaulters

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that the issue should be settled on the basis of consensus by all parties.

The issue has, of late, gained ground with Awami League joining some small parties in demanding that bank loan defaulters be barred from contesting the next general election.

The Workers Party and the JSD (Inu) had earlier demanded that loan defaulters be barred from contesting the next general election.

Awami League general secretary Zillur Rahman, while contacted last night told The Daily Star that his party was very much sincere to the demand and expected that the EC would take necessary steps to implement it following their written submission to the commission in this regard.

The AL leader also claimed that there was no loan defaulter in his party and said the party would not nominate any loan defaulters in the next elections.

Jatiya Party secretary general Anwar Hossain Manju last night said it was not

easy to implement the demand. "The matter was very complicated from the legal point of view," he said.

Elaborating, he said, an individual may not be a loan defaulter but the enterprise he owns or holds share of may be a defaulting company. The JP government had passed the Bill barring loan defaulters from contesting local government elections, because a candidate in such polls might be a loan defaulter personally.

"Merely raising such a demand would not bring any fruit. All the major political parties would have to be unanimous on the issue first," Manju said.

Jamaat-e-Islami joint secretary Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid told this correspondent that his party had demanded this while the EC Bill was passed in the Parliament. "We still demand that the loan defaulters and plunderers of national wealth be barred from contesting any polls." "No such person would be even given party ticket in the coming general elections," he added.



People of Dinajpur residing in Dhaka brought out a procession yesterday protesting police atrocities in Dinajpur. — Star photo

Dinajpur calm

The overall situation in Dinajpur town returned to normalcy yesterday, official sources said, reports BSS.

The sources said, life is now normal in the district town and shops and business establishments remained open.

A senior district official said no untoward incident was reported from any part of the town.

PM urged to ensure action before leaving for Beijing

By Staff Correspondent

Nine women writers and intellectuals, in a joint statement yesterday, appealed the Prime Minister to initiate actions regarding protection of women's rights prior to her attending the Fourth World Women's Conference in the Chinese capital next week.

Referring to the death of a woman in police custody in Dinajpur on August 24, they said, "Just before the World Women's conference and during the rule of a woman Prime Minister, it is not acceptable that women are violated and humiliated in this manner."

"We expect earnestly that you will announce actions before you leave the country on 3rd September."

The signatories to the statement are: Poet Begum Sofia Kamal, Dr. Nilima Ibrahim, Salma Sobhan, Selina Hossain, Khushi Kabir, Farida Akhter, Rokeya Kabir, Aroma Gun and Showkat Ara Hossain.

DUTA

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association condemned the incidents of killings and reported rape and murder of a girl in Dinajpur, reports UNB.

DUTA demand judicial inquiry into the killing of the innocent woman. The demand came from an emergency meeting of the DUTA held yesterday with its President Prof ATM Zahurul Haq in the chair.

Handball

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The local girls, having lost by a narrow margin, can also hold their heads high for giving the nation a laurel that none imagined was possible before the tournament.

Among the Indian boys, Jas Karan and Kounta were in devastating form scoring seven goals each in the final.

Kalwinder was equally impressive nothing six to his credit.

For Bangladesh Nayan and Polash scored four goals each. Rashada of Bangladesh will not be alone when she celebrates for bagging the Highest Scorer Trophy. In all, she scored 26 goals in the tournament, including five in the final.

Shailla Parveen Shikha, custodian of Bangladesh girls team, was adjudged the best female player.

For the Indian girls, Preeti was the top scorer in the final with seven goals.

Jwala and Mini were also outstanding, putting five each to the back of the Bangladesh net.

Pakistan, who finished third, have another consolation being adjudged as the Best Player of the tournament. Zubayer scored 44 goals.

Earlier, Pakistan outdid Nigeria 30-27 in a close 3rd and 4th place play-off, also played yesterday.

The Indian boys earned 2,500 pounds sterling while the girls return home 1,500 pound sterling richer.

As runners-up, the Bangladesh boys pocketed, 1,500 and the girls 1,000 pound sterling.

The Pakistan boys were awarded 1,000 pound sterling for securing the 3rd place.

The British girls, the third participating team, took home 750 pound sterling for being placed the obvious third.

Underaged workers

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deraged workers from the factories, when the MOU gives an added advantage to them?"

Amirul Huq Amin of Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation alleged that the child workers from the garments factories are being terminated to show a lesser number of underaged workforce in the industry.

He said the sacking started in the wake of a survey to ascertain the actual number of child workers to design their rehabilitation programme.

Questioning the legitimacy of the MOU signed by BGMEA, UNICEF and ILO, he said, it had bypassed the interests of the workers and also has not been endorsed by them.

According to the MOU, "the programme of transition from work to school will proceed as rapidly as it is possible for the appropriate school programmes to be arranged by the UNICEF and ILO in co-operation with the government of Bangladesh. October 31, 1995 is the target date for all workers who have not attained 14 years of age to be terminated from employment and placed in school programmes to be funded by ILO and UNICEF, provided that the children will not be terminated until such programmes are ready to absorb them."

Raphel

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Fakhruddin Ahmed who now heads an organisation styled Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) on the day.

Raphel is also likely to exchange greetings with leaders of different political parties at a reception to be hosted by the American Ambassador.

On Wednesday, she will visit Khagrachhari to see the settlement of Chakma refugees who have returned to their homes from camps in South Tripura in India.

She is expected to have talks with the officials involved in the repatriation process of the refugees.

200 drown in Atlantic

LAGOS, Aug 30: About 200 people drowned in the Atlantic Ocean when their boat capsized off the Cameroon coast last Friday, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) said today, reports Reuter.

It quoted one survivor as saying in the southeastern coastal town of Oron that the Cameroon-bound boat was carrying more than 300 passengers, mostly Nigerian petty traders.

Massive NATO raids

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the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale, to the southeast. The sky over the northern suburb of Vogosca, home to a Bosnian Serb munitions factory, also glowed red with bright flashes and smoke could be seen billowing there after a series of explosions.

Detonation flashes also were seen to the south, and the rumble of artillery could be heard. The international rapid reaction force also opened up from Mount Igman, southwest of the city, sending more than 600 shells toward Serb positions between 4:45 am and 7:30 am (0245 and 0530 GMT), said Lt Col Pierre Briere, a UN spokesman.

He said a 'very important' ammunition depot was destroyed southwest of Sarajevo. Serb counter-fire was immediately returned, he said.

More than 60 NATO aircraft from several countries flew from bases in Italy and the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt to conduct this morning's strike, Theodorakidis said. There were no indications any allied planes had been hit by Serb air defences.

NATO targets initially included air defence sites, missile sites and communications facilities, he said.

Attacks were later extended to ammunition depots and local command posts.

President Clinton, vacationing in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, called the attack "an appropriate response to the shelling of Sarajevo." He predicted the show of force would not derail the delicate peace negotiations in the former Yugoslavia.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin denounced NATO's "cruel bombardment" of the Bosnian Serbs and all other acts of violence in former Yugoslavia. Itar-Tass news agency quoted Yeltsin's spokesman as saying today.

Body to probe Islamia Eye Hospital incident

A three-member committee has been formed to investigate the infection in the Islamia Eye Hospital with Director of Health Directorate Prof ABM Ahsanullah as its president, reports BSS.

According to an official handout last night, two other members of the committee are Prof Abduul Hadi Fakir of the National Ophthalmology Institute and Deputy Director of the Health Directorate Md Murid Ali.

The committee has been directed to conduct the investigation on an emergency basis and submit report within three days to the Director General of the Health Directorate.

Nepali parliament summoned Sept 5

KATHMANDU, 30: King Birendra has summoned the reinstated lower house of Parliament for a special session on September 5, the state-run radio said today, reports AFP.

The King took the decision after meeting the Speaker of the House of Representatives Ram Chandra Paudyal, it said. The two reviewed a Supreme Court verdict which reinstated the disbanded house on August 28.

They ignored a plea by Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari to convene Parliament after three weeks in view of his health condition.

Adhikari is in hospital following a helicopter accident on August 14.

The Supreme Court said the dissolution of the House by King Birendra on June 13 at the recommendation by Adhikari was "unconstitutional and therefore null and void."

LTTE hijacks ferry with 120 aboard

COLOMBO, Aug 30: Separatist Tamil guerrillas hijacked a state-run ferry carrying 120 people and used it to attack and sink two Sri Lankan navy boats killing 21 sailors on Tuesday, military sources said today, reports Reuter.

They said the Irish Mona, operated by the shipping and rehabilitation ministry with the assistance of the Eelam People's Democratic Party was hijacked after it left the eastern port of Trincomalee on Monday evening.

The sources said guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) boarded the ferry, before it could reach the northwest island of Karaitivu on Tuesday morning.

Shantibahini men attack security patrol

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 30: A security patrol was attacked by Shantibahini men at Lakkhichhari under Khagrachhari hill district this morning.

Two tribals—Gouri Chakma(30) and her son, Bhan Kumar Chakma (7)—received bullet wounds in the exchange of fire with the security personnel. They were admitted to the local health complex.

The armed rebels fled into the deep forest.

Rhone Poulenc VP lauds economic liberalisation

By Staff Correspondent

The Rhone Poulenc group, now with a strong presence in more than 140 countries, is celebrating its centenary, this year.

Rhone Poulenc Rorer Bangladesh Ltd, a member of the group having joint venture with the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) and operating in the country for 35 years, organised a reception at a city hotel followed by a press conference yesterday as part of the celebrations.

"Bangladesh market is attractive because of several factors like low inflation, skillful people and innovative drug policies," said Michael R Lienard, Vice President of the company, who is now in the country in connection with the celebration.

The press conference was also addressed by D Chopra, Vice Chairman of the company for India and AKM Shamsuddin, Managing Director for Bangladesh.

Lauding the government policy on multi-nationals, he said the liberalisation policy of the government has induced his company to increase its investment both in terms of capital and human resources development.

The Midnight File

US launches war games in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Aug 30: Around 1,400 US soldiers backed by tanks and field artillery today launched war games in the Kuwaiti desert near Iraq in a show of resolve against President Saddam Hussein, the army said. The troops arrived last week after the Pentagon moved up exercises planned for October to prevent "unusual" military movement in Iraq from turning into a new threat against the Emirate Baghdad invaded in 1990, reports AFP.

Beijing NGO Forum

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ment to affirm that the power, rights and contributions of women can no longer be denied." Gertrude Mongella, the conference's Secretary-General, said at the ceremony.

Mongella said that the power and force of the Non-Government Organizations is now recognised and the role they have played in reaching women and transforming their lives for the better.

She said that her expectation from the conference was that both the NGOs and government delegation will work together to produce a document of action, commitment and accountability which will take the advancement of women further.

"We all know we could not have arrived at this historic moment without the contribution, commitment and sacrifice of NGOs," said Mongella, a Tanzanian.

She ended the speech by saying that millions of women all over the world have placed their faith on us and we cannot let them down.

Irene Santiago told journalists, "It's the largest gathering of women in history."

The Bangladesh NGO Forum delegation led by Najma Chowdhury was proud to be a part of this historic and spectacular event and

joined the thousand others in the celebration.

AP adds: Thousands of activists from around the world missed the opening of the conference because they were unable to obtain Chinese visas.

Tibetan and Taiwanese separatists were rejected for obvious reasons — China considers both regions part of its territory and opposes any claims to their independence.

68.81 pc pass Dakhil exams

The results of Dakhil examinations of 1995 held under the Bangladesh Madrasah Shikha Board was published yesterday, said an official announcement, reports UNB.

A total of 46,728 out of 67,901 examinees became successful in the examinations. The percentage of pass is 68.81.

Among the successful students, 9,236 got 1st division, 27,606 2nd division and 9,886 3rd division.

Garments worker murder: One held

By Staff Correspondent

Detective police Tuesday night arrested a person accused of killing a garments worker at Khilgaon in the city.

The accused has been identified as Md Saiful Islam Siddique alias Uzzal, 23, of the BG Press Staff Quarters, Tejgaon.

An unidentified group of persons had shot dead Gannendra Nath Sarkar, 25, a worker of Shajib Knitwear Ltd., during an armed attack in the factory on August 17.

Police said, Saiful is also an accused in another murder case in Shabujbagh thana. The chargesheet of that case has already been submitted.

Wage-hike

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Since salaries of the executives and employees of the nationalised industrial units are covered under the national pay commission like the government officers and employees, their salaries have been increased at the rate of 10 per cent from January 1, 1995.

But since the workers of the nationalised industrial units are covered by wages productivity commission, they could not avail themselves of this financial benefits so long.

In order to remove the disparity between the officers and employees and the workers of the nationalised industrial units, the government decided to increase the wages of the industrial workers by 10 per cent of the basic wages of 1994.

Reception charms

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arrangements were near perfect with hundreds of pleasant smiling volunteers ready to help at every step.

The registration formalities were also carried out extremely efficiently. The delegation was charmed by the hospitality, efficiency and commitment of the organizing committee which has taken on a near impossible task of taking care of over 25,000 women and some men from all over the world.

The arrangements are excellent. Given the language barrier and the mix of people arriving, the hosts have achieved quite a feat, said delegates.

Container

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"Every year there has been an increase of container cargo by 30 per cent here" said a senior official of Chittagong Port. As a result, Chittagong Port always faces difficulty in handling container cargo due to shortage of equipment and yard space.

The port has a storage capacity of 8500 TEU containers while often around 12,000 TEU containers remain stockpiled at its jetty yards, causing congestion, he added.

Chittagong Port, in fiscal '94-95 handled 2,27,172 TEU containers as against 1,74,958 TEUs a year before, port officials said.

Opposition

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tive post-hartal rallies in the city September 3.

The ongoing agitation programmes of the parties, announced simultaneously on August 16, would culminate into a 32-hour countrywide hartal from the dawn of September 2.

The new programmes might include a 72-hour hartal in the middle of September, march towards Parliament early next month, sources in the Opposition indicated.

Meanwhile, the eight-party Left Democratic Front has called a hartal on September 18 and industrial workers are due to enforce a 96-hour road-rail barricade from September 17.