

Saifur cancels Ctg visit

From Page 1
Talking to this correspondent Nizam said "the finance minister was scheduled to visit our chamber house on September 12 to exchange views with its members and other business people to sort out some of their problems. But we had to cancel the programme in the face of threat of demonstrations. Mayor Mohiuddin directly

told me that he would launch agitation against Saifur Rahman to foil his visit."
"When I myself, as a president of the chamber conveyed this to the finance minister, he however, dropped his visit," Nizam said.
"Even, Mohiuddin threatened to demonstrate at the Chittagong Chamber if we hold a meeting there with the Finance Minister," Nizam added.

When contacted Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury said, "The Finance Minister did not come to Chittagong chamber when we became active to protest his visit as he made a funny comment in his speech that people of Chittagong were fortunate being hit by cyclone of 1991."

"By such comments, the Finance Minister wanted to mean that we became happy and lucky after getting stores of relief materials," Mohiuddin said adding "I am openly saying the people of Chittagong will not forgive him until and unless he repents for such utterance."

Our Staff Correspondent in Dhaka adds: Finance Minister Saifur Rahman was not available yesterday for his comments since he was out of the city.

Pubna: 17 held

From Page 1
Nur Ahmed Masum Baga, VP of Edward University College Students Union, and Mohammad Tuhin, a leader of Bangladesh Agricultural University, are among those arrested.

Six people, three of them children, have been killed during the recent factional fight of JCD activists — one group led by Tuhin and another by general secretary Mosabbir Hossain Sanju.



Border Security Forces (BSF) soldiers are perched on a jeep as it hurries past a bonfire during a prolonged encounter with Muslim militants in northern Kashmir. Two civilians and an Indian soldier were killed in a fierce gunbattle. — AFP/UNB photo

Stripping a stage-managed game: BCL

Chhatra League general secretary Ishaq Ali Khan Panna yesterday termed all lies and conspiratory the report that the incident of 'digambar' happened at his verbal instruction, reports UNB.

In a press statement, he said the 'digambar' incident during the 72-hour hartal was a sheer bluff and stage-managed game by the government to confuse people and divert current mass agitation.

Panna said already a lot of questions arose in public minds about the stripping incident but the government failed to give proper answer to the scepticism.

The incident took place near the position of BDR and police. He asked whether particular quarters were set to take the photographs of the assaulted man who was first publicised as a government official. Later, it was found that the man was not at all a government official.

Panna also pointed out that the incident perhaps happened around noon. But within four to five hours of the incident, a leaflet on this filthy incident was widely circulated in Dhaka city. "Now any conscious person can guess that it was a pre-planned and stage-managed incident."

The interested members of the public willing to take part in the "Save Dhaka, Clean Dhaka" campaign are requested to contact the following coordinators:

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17 hurt as rival groups clash

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 20: A clash between the two rival groups at Rahmatganj in this town today (Wednesday) left at least 17 people injured, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash between the rival groups erupted at about 10 am as a sequel to their Tuesday's quarrel. Both the groups today blasted several home-made bombs and used lethal weapons.

DUCSU

From Page 1
Another programme, recalling of past events and experiences of selected former DUCSU leaders and distinguished students will be held till 1 pm. They will also pay visit to their halls to which they were residents.

Later, a cultural programme will be held at 3 pm. Renowned artists of the country will take part in the programme.

Meanwhile, leaders of various student organisations at a meeting with the Vice Chancellor on Tuesday extended their cooperation to make the function a success.

Official sources said Dhaka University Teachers' Association in collaboration with the university authorities will hold another programme to mark the anniversary. But the date for the programme has not yet been set.

DCCI team off to Lahore

A 15-member team of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) led by its Director M Younus left here yesterday to attend an international business conference in Lahore, reports UNB.

Pakistan Business Forum will organise the three-day conference, beginning today (Thursday). The conference is aimed at economic development of Muslim Ummah by developing their business. It will also give an orientation on business and industrial opportunities in Pakistan.

Organisers expected some 400 delegates from Pakistan and 50 other countries will take part in the conference.

Constable stabbed

By DMCH Correspondent
A person stabbed a constable of Tejgaon thana while trying to snatch his rifle yesterday.

The constable, Altaf Hossain, 32, who received stab injuries in his hand, was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Tejgaon police said, two young men attacked Altaf from behind and tried to snatch his rifle. Altaf, on duty near the Nabisco factory at about 5 pm was stabbed when he resisted them.

RU classes resume

RU Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Sept 20: The classes of Rajshahi University resumed today. The university remained closed for about two months.

However, only a few classes were held today because of thin attendance. The fourteen residential halls were opened from yesterday.

Police have been deployed at various important points of the trouble-torn campus. All kinds of rallies and processions are banned on the campus from June 21, 1992.

The university was closed twice this year following violence between the activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir.

The first clash, which took place on February 12, left two students killed and many injured. As a consequence, the university remained closed for 106 days.

The last clash took place on July 22. It left over 50 injured.

Govt must realise Constitution can be amended: Mizan

By Staff Correspondent
Acting chief of Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury has said the government must realise that the Constitution can be amended according to the demand of time and requirements of the people.

In a statement yesterday, he said the Liberation War was not fought on the basis of the Constitution, rather the Constitution was framed after the victory in the war. "Whatever is not included in that document cannot be termed unconstitutional," he added.

The statement said "The JP may enter into a discussion with the government to formalise the electoral process and other aspects provided it resigned, Parliament was dissolved and publicly assured of holding general elections under a caretaker government before the Ramadan."

In another statement, party Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju demanded immediate release of party chief former president H M Ershad and criticised the government for 'lawlessness' in the country.

The Midnight File

Missiles fired at NATO plane over Bosnia

NAPLES, Italy, Sept 20: Two surface-to-air missiles were fired at a NATO plane over Bosnia-Herzegovina early today, but the aircraft managed to avoid being hit and did not return fire, the western alliance said here, reports AFP.

Export earnings up

From Page 1
Items, the quantity of frozen shrimp was 57.93 million pounds, fetching 260.70 million dollars.

According to the EPB data, the export of other types of fish also increased last year. The earnings from other types of fish stood at 44.98 million dollars and the quantity exported was 20.43 million pounds.

Although, the overall export earnings witnessed a sharp rise during the year, some sectors like agricultural goods, engineering goods, handicraft, petroleum goods, goods under crash programme and primary goods could not achieve their export targets last year.

Some sectors even recorded decline in export earnings in comparison with that of the previous year. Tea, petroleum by-products, handicraft and agricultural goods are the main items in these sectors.

Export earning from raw jute sector increased by 39.37 per cent last year. The earning stood at 79.47 million dollars, according to the EPB bulletin.

The total export earnings of the country stood at 3472.56 million dollars last year, increasing by 37.04 per cent over 2533.90 million dollars in the previous year. The earnings also crossed the target for the year — 3100 million dollars by 12.02 per cent.

About 34 per cent of the total exports from the country went to the US last year. Among the main items exported to the US were frozen shrimp worth 79.24 million dollars, garments 905.61 million dollars, knit wear 97.61 million dollars and jute yarn worth 12.13 million dollars.

The other major countries where Bangladeshi goods were exported are, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Iran, Japan, Singapore, India, China and Pakistan.

48 die in UP bus plunge

NEW DELHI, Sept 20: At least 48 people drowned today when a bus plunged into a river in India's northern state of Uttar Pradesh, the United News of India (UNI) reported, reports Reuter.

Narsingdi

From Page 1
Narsingdi Thana Health Complex and later shifted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical conditions.

Local people alleged that police reached the spot in the afternoon. A case was filed with the local police against 50 people.

Gabid meets PM

From Page 1
Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR) established by the OIC at Gazipur in the late 1970s has recently been upgraded and renamed as the Islamic Institute of Technology.

The Prime Minister emphasised that the OIC member countries should make their regular contribution to this institute for its expansion and modernisation.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister A N M Eusuf and Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan were present on the occasion.

Earlier on his arrival in the morning at Zia International Airport, the OIC Secretary General was received by Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, Pakistan High Commissioner in Bangladesh Karam Elahi was present.

Replying to a question, Al-Gabid indicated the possibility of a meeting of the heads of states or government of the OIC countries in New York during the current session of the UN General Assembly.

The OIC Secretary General said one of the objectives of his visit is to consult the Bangladesh government about a common stand of the OIC countries on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and other problems facing the Muslim Ummah, which will be taken up in the UNGA session.

Responding to a question, Al-Gabid outrightly rejected a remark that the OIC had been following a slow course in tackling the Bosnian issue. He said in unequivocal terms that the OIC has always been in the forefront since the beginning of the problem. The organisation is always in touch with the member countries in taking necessary measures, he added.

The OIC Secretary General will address a press conference at Padma at 4:00 pm today.

He will leave for Riyadh tomorrow.

DU student drowns

From Page 1
Sources said, he was the organising secretary of the JCD hall unit. According to sources, Mamun was swimming in the pond. It was raining at the time and at one stage he went under water.

A team of the Fire Service and Civil Defence rescued Mamun and took him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead. Further details were not immediately available.

Dinajpur: Faint hope

From Page 1
started to attack police outposts one after one. At about eleven am, the first outpost was burnt down. The policemen there, usually unarmed, ran for their lives. One by one all the outposts of the town were set ablaze by a vengeful mob. Mobs also attacked and destroyed five newspaper offices.

Armed riot police then moved into the town in presence of some magistrates and they faced tough resistance wherever they went. Witnesses said that one magistrate was held by the policemen at bayonet point. A bayonet was pointed just on his throat and he was forced to sign the firing order. Hundreds of gunshots were heard during the day. Seven people died and hundreds were injured before the police left the streets in the face of surging protests.

At the Dinajpur police line, hundreds of unarmed policemen now demanded opening of the arms and ammunition depot. According to sources there, some shouted slogans and broke through barriers to get hold of arms. "We will kill the officers," some policemen shouted inside the police line.

"The situation was somehow brought under control as news spread that BDR has been drafted in," said an officer in the police line on condition of anonymity.

By five in the afternoon the whole town was 'policeless.' BDR patrolled the streets. But waves of processions continued. The streets was resounding with slogans. Most dead bodies

were taken away by the police.

The SP could not decide whether to impose curfew. We heard him talking to higher officials somewhere. Then it was decided that an indefinite curfew would be imposed," said a magistrate.

By now, the BDR were announcing over loudspeakers that curfew had been imposed in the town. But people defied the order and kept vigil at every nook and corner of the town.

In the following days, the three policemen were arrested, the Police Super, the District Commissioner and two other police officers were removed and some national-level political leaders arrived in the town. The first political leader to arrive at Dinajpur after the violent incidents was Sheikh Hasina.

The ruling party, reportedly not finding anyone willing to go to Dinajpur, despatched a retired colonel turned minister to restore the damaged reputation. The minister, according to witnesses, publicly swore at the SP and the DC and promised that every victim of the incident would be compensated.

Seven days had passed by before the police, a whole new lot drafted in from other districts, could resume their duty in Dinajpur town. But during the policeless days, not a single incident of crime was reported in the town. The people kept vigil day and night.

Now the police is back to Dinajpur but according to a wide section of people there, it would take a long time to restore people's confidence in police.

Person wanted in 16 cases held