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The Daily Star

BHADRA 2, 1403 BS. DHAKA SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1996 RABIUS SAANI 2, 1417 HIJRI

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE

WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
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BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
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NEWS BRIEFS

**326 more Rohingyas
go home**

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 16: Another 326 Rohingya refugees of 57 families returned voluntarily to their homes in Myanmar on Thursday. With this, the number of repatriated Rohingya refugees rose to 2,03,942. Some 45,031 Rohingyas are still awaiting repatriation from five camps in Bangladesh, official sources said today, reports UNB.

**Arms recovered
in Ctg**

CHITTOGONG, Aug 16: Pan-Chitish police recovered one revolver, one light gun and two bullets from possession of two persons at Chatterway road here yesterday. According to a police press release tonight, a special team of the police led by officer-in-charge on suspicion challenged two persons and recovered the arms searching their bodies, reports BSS.

Body recovered

BRAHMANBARIA, Aug 16: Police recovered the decomposed body of a middle aged woman from a beel near Chandpur village in Sadar thana on Sunday, police said here today. On information, police rushed to the spot and found the body floating in the beel, reports UNB.

**30 die in Pak
bldg collapse**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 16: Rescue workers in a remote village in northwestern Pakistan sifted through the rubble of a three-story home on Friday searching for the bodies of at least 33 people missing and believed buried in the ruins, authorities said. The house in Toda, a tiny village about 250 kilometers (150 miles) northwest of the federal capital of Islamabad, collapsed Thursday but news of the disaster was delayed because of the remoteness of the village, reports AP.

**Japan to send polls
monitors to Bosnia**

TOKYO, Aug 16: Japan will send a team of election monitors to Bosnia-Herzegovina this month to help the country prepare and implement parliamentary and other polls in September, the Foreign Ministry said today, reports AFP.



TUNGIPARA: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placing wreath at the mazar of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara on Thursday. — PID photo



DHAKA: Thousands of people crowded in front of the Bangabandhu Museum in Dhanmudi Thursday to place wreath at the portrait of the Father of the Nation and visit the Museum. — Star photo

State honour for Bangabandhu after 21 years

By Staff Correspondent

The nation on Thursday paid homage to the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, marking the 21st anniversary of his assassination.

The National Mourning Day was observed officially for the first time since the Father of the Nation, along with most of his family members were killed in a military putsch on the fateful night of August 15 in 1975.

The day was a public holiday. The National flag was flown at half mast and black flags were hoisted atop all public and private buildings.

Special prayers were offered in mosques as well as other places of worship seeking peace for the departed souls of the victims of the August 15 incident.

The day's programme started with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placing wreath

at the portrait of Sheikh Mujib at the Bangabandhu Bhavan in the city, now made a memorial museum.

Sheikh Hasina, eldest daughter of Sheikh Mujib, later offered prayer and placed wreath at the Banani graves of the other victims of the August 15 incident.

She then flew to Tungipara to place wreath at the mazar of the Father of the Nation with full state honour. The army band played the last post as the premier placed wreath and offered *Fateha* there at 10:15 am amidst solemn silence. She returned to the capital and attended a *milad nahil* at the Bangabandhu Bhavan in the evening.

Bangabandhu's mazar premises at the front-yard of the late leader's ancestral home turned into a human sea on August 15, the last day of a three-day mourning pro-

gramme organised there, as mourners, in their thousands, streamed to pay respect to their beloved Bangabandhu.

In the capital, mourners in their thousands visited the Bangabandhu Bhavan throughout the day. The visitors from all strata of life irrespective of cast and creed, age and profession, garlanded Bangabandhu's portrait there. People were seen standing in long queue to enter into the house to have a glimpse of the last blood drops of Sheikh Mujib preserved there. Many were seen emotionally moved. Some children in their mothers' laps were seen shedding tears.

Dhaka took a look of mourners' city as people and Awami League units and its front organisations erected numerous arches and arranged destitute feeding and *milad nahils*.

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PM, envoys place wreaths at grave of Bangabandhu

From Our Correspondent

TUNGIPARA, Aug 16: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placed wreaths at the mazar here of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with full state honour on the National Mourning Day yesterday commemorating the 21st anniversary of his assassination.

Earlier Sheikh Hasina, the eldest daughter of Bangabandhu, arrived at Tungipara by helicopter.

After placing wreaths at 10:15 am she stood in solemn silence for some time to pay homage to the great leader, who led the nation to its independence in 1971.

A smartly turned-out contingent of three forces presented salute while the bugle played the last post. The national flag flew at halfmast. Sheikh Hasina burst into tears while offering *fateha* at the mazar.

Ministers, State Ministers, MPs and Dhaka-based diplomats of different countries also placed wreaths at the mazar.

Chiefs of the three services — Army Chief Lt Gen Mabbubur Rahman, Air Chief Air-Vice Marshal Jamaluddin Ahmed and Naval Chief Rear Admiral Nurul Islam — and other senior

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Finance ministry statistics '95-96 Net transfer of resources to urban areas

By R M Titumir and Inam Ahmed

The economy witnessed a net transfer of resources from the rural to the urban areas, a fall in agricultural credit, mismatch in the banks' deposit and credit programme and high percentage of private sector overdue loans, finance ministry statistics for fiscal 1995-96 reveals.

The statistics also belie claims that the public sector is the main factor as regards overdue bank loans and that savings rate in the rural sector is low, sources concerned pointed out.

Rather, figures also substantiate the contention that the repayment rate is high in case of agricultural credit, they added.

There has been a net siphoning of resources from the rural to the urban areas resulting in a slowdown of economic activities in the rural areas, said a finance ministry analysis of the performance of banks and financial institutions in 1995-96, made recently.

"An analysis of advances and deposits in the rural and urban areas show that there is a continuous dwindling of advances in the rural areas while deposits in the rural areas are on the rise," the report added.

"This probably indicates that economic activities in the rural areas are squeezing instead of rising," the report said.

According to the central bank, the flow of advance has significantly decreased in rural areas though the rate of deposit collection has increased.

The share of rural advance in total advance dropped to 19.71 per cent in 1995, which is 4.71 per cent lower than that of 1990, while the share of urban advance rose by 4.29 per cent during the same period and stood at 80.29 per cent in 1995, official sources noted.

On the contrary, the share of rural deposit in total deposit rose to 21.97 per cent which is 1.61 per cent higher from 1995-96, made recently.

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BNP leaders greeting party chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia on her 52nd birthday on Thursday. — Star photo

BNP leaders greet Khaleda on birthday

From Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia was greeted by party leaders and workers as well as relatives and well-wishers on the occasion of her 52nd birthday on Thursday, reports UNB.

Begum Zia stayed at her cantonment residence throughout the day and received guests, including party leaders, relatives and admirers, who went there to wish her a happy birthday.

The Leader of the Opposition went to her Minto Road official residence in the evening, where she was warmly received by several thousand party leaders and workers, journalists, teachers, lawyers, professionals and a cross section of people including women and children.

She cut her birthday cake in a simple ceremony in the

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JCD, BCL clash at BMC: 25 injured

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 16: At least 25 persons including a policeman were injured, 5 of them critically, in a gunfight between BCL and JCD activists at the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College last night.

Seventeen rooms of two students' hostels were ransacked and set on fire as the rival activists exchanged over 18 gunshots and exploded several hand-bombs during the clash.

Police deployed on the campus earlier to maintain peace, fired 10 rubber bullets and 10 teargas shells to quell the violence.

After the clashes three magistrates along with additional police forces raided the two hostels and arrested 4 activists and recovered a US-made revolver. The arrested student activists are, Musa, Mizanur Rahman, Mehedi and

Rubel. They were sent to the court today, police said.

Seriously injured Nasiruddin 25, Kakan 25, Amir 22, Kagal 22 and Mizan 24 were admitted to the medical college hospital last night, Kakan and Kagal were later sent to Dhaka.

When contacted, later principal Abdul Karim Mollah said the Academic Council of the college met today but no decision could be taken whether the college would be closed or not. The council will meet again at 10:30 AM tomorrow.

In another incident at least 30 persons were injured in a clash between the activists of BCL and JCD at the Sher-e-Bangla Degree College at Shikarpur nearly 20 kilometers away from Barisal town yesterday.

Unauthorised structures causing water-logging

By Morshed Ali Khan

Water-logging in many areas in the city is caused by unauthorised constructions at four places encroaching upon the Segunbagicha canal, one of the main outlets for storm water, according to sources in the Dhaka WASA.

The problem, occurs with the slightest rainfall, in Segunbagicha, Paltan, Shantinagar, Razarbagh, Motijheel, Fakirerpool and Secretariat areas.

The unauthorised structures that obstruct the normal flow of storm water and cause water-logging are a mosque near the Notre Dame College and another near the Fakirerpool bazar and two other structures at Bijoy Nagar and DIT Extension Road, the sources said.

They pointed out that the encroachments hampered the construction of storm sewerage under the ADB-aided Tk 159-crore Dhaka Integrated Flood Control Project and caused suffering to thousands of residents and commuters in those areas due to water-log-

ging.

The mosques were constructed occupying parts of the canal which belong to the government and the WASA management was now negotiating with the mosque authorities for resolving the problem.

"We have already reached a deal with the Eden mosque committee which has agreed to accept about Tk 2.5 lakh for the removal of part of the mosque, as required," said a senior engineer of the WASA.

"But the problem lies with the Fakirerpool mosque and the two other structures. The Fakirerpool mosque committee was asking for an exorbitant amount as compensation for the illegally occupied space," he added.

The WASA official, requesting anonymity, said that the two other encroachers went to court and injunctions were issued in this regard after WASA attempted to recover the lands last year.

"You understand how time-

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7 hurt as labourers, Ansars clash at Sadarghat

By Staff Correspondent

At least seven persons were injured during a clash between labourers and Ansar personnel at the Sadarghat launch terminal in the city yesterday afternoon.

Kotwali police picked up five Ansar personnel from the terminal following the incident, police sources said. They were identified as Humayun, Abul Bashar, Hannan, Nurul Huq and Moharaj. They were under police custody.

The on-duty Ansars fired some blank shots during the clash at about 5:30 pm, police sources said, without giving details.

The injured persons were taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

In another incident, Mollahmadpur thana police arrested a young man with a rifle from Sher Shah Suri road last night after exchange of shots with a gang of alleged terrorists. The alleged terrorists were roaming in the area when a police patrol team challenged them.

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Leading explorers may join Oct conferences in US, UK

By Sharier Khan

The government, in a bid to attract foreign investment in the country's energy sector, will organise two international investors' conferences in London and Houston in the first week of October, according to official sources.

Besides, a proposal for unsolicited bidding for hydrocarbon exploration now awaits approval of the Cabinet, they said.

The Power Cell of the Energy Ministry meanwhile, is preparing a private power generation policy, framework for power purchase agreement and other policy guidelines to facilitate private investment in the power sector.

The Power Cell is also organising a seminar in the city on August 20 to be attended by investors, businessmen and experts. Energy Minister Lt Gen (retd) Nooruddin Khan will inaugurate the seminar.

World's leading oil and hydrocarbon exploration companies have been invited to the

October conferences which would highlight the present situation in the energy sector of the country and prospects for investment.

The first such conference was organised in September, 1992, in Houston and it had resulted in the signing of at least 20 Memoranda of Understanding with different oil companies.

The conference was also followed by open negotiations for exploration of hydrocarbon reserves in 23 blocks in Bangladesh, determined by the Petrobranga. The negotiations produced five agreements for exploration in blocks 15 and 16 by British-Dutch joint venture Cairn Plc and Holland Sea Search and in blocks 12, 13 and 14 by US company Occidental.

The Cairn Plc and Holland Sea Search, now known as Cairn Plc, as the former bought the ownership of the latter, struck a gas reserve of over one trillion cubic feet in the

shallow waters of the Bay of Bengal.

The discovery generated much enthusiasm among leading gas and oil companies of the world, sources concerned noted.

The government closed the open negotiation offer in July last year.

Now, if the proposal for unsolicited bidding gets the approval of the Cabinet, international tender will be floated for 'block negotiations' through national and international media, the sources pointed out.

Bangladesh now has a proven gas reserve of nearly 11 trillion cubic feet. Since 1910, 56 wells were drilled in the country with a remarkable success ratio of 40 per cent, one source said.

As the country's power and fertiliser units heavily depend natural gas as their main raw material, exploration of fresh hydrocarbon reserves is being emphasised.

Justice Munim heads LRC

Star Report

Former Chief Justice Dr FKMA Munim has been appointed Chairman of the Law Reforms Commission (LRC), according to official sources.

Meanwhile, the LRC Bill, 1996, has already been placed in the Jatiya Sangsad. State Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru moved the bill on August 12.

Earlier, Justice Naimuddin was made a member of the three-member commission. Another member is yet to be appointed, the sources pointed out.

Justice Munim had joined the then East Pakistan High Court in 1951 as an advocate. He became Advocate General in 1970 and a judge of the High Court the same year.

After the independence, in 1972, Justice Munim was made secretary to the Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs and in 1973 he became a judge of the High Court division of the Supreme Court.

In 1976, he became a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. He became Chief Justice in 1982 and continued in the post for seven years.

Samad Azad leaves for Kuwait, Iran tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Foreign Minister, Abdus Samad Azad is due to leave Dhaka tomorrow on a 5-day official visit to Kuwait and Iran, according to diplomatic sources.

This would be the first trip abroad of the Foreign Minister after taking office this time.

It would be a good will trip to renew the friendly relations with the muslim countries and OIC states, established by late president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Some ex-army officials, others may be sued for 'conspiracy'

Star Report

The government is planning to file cases against some former army officials and some others for involvement in a 'conspiracy', highly placed official sources, said last night.

Three retired army officers — Col Farooq Rahman, Col Shahriar Rashid Khan and Major Khairuzzaman — were picked up by the police on suspicion from different areas in the city on Tuesday and were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail on 30-day detention under the Special Powers Act of 1974.

Some senior police officials said that they had information about the involvement of these former army officials along with some civilians in activities that could threaten the lives of some important persons and jeopardise the national security.

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Pak Foreign Secy in city

Pakistan Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Sheikh arrived in the city yesterday on a three-day visit to Bangladesh during which he will have talks with officials here on matters of bilateral and regional interest, reports BSS.

He was received at the airport by Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, Pakistan High Commissioner in Dhaka Karam Elahi, Director General in the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry, Shamim Ahmed and senior officials of the Pakistan embassy were also present.

Talking to BSS, Najmuddin Sheikh said that during his stay he will deliver a message to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from her Pakistani counterpart Benazir Bhutto.

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Women officers run DMP centre in city

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday opened its first investigation centre run by women police at Mirpur in the city.

With the opening of the centre, women will now get the scope to lodge complaints to women investigating officers. The centre started its activities with four female Sub-Inspectors, two female Assistant Sub-Inspectors and 10 female constables.

Inspector General (IG) of Police M. Azizul Huq inaugurated the centre while local MP Alhaj Kamil Ahmed Majumder, Commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Mohammad Salam and leaders of different women's organisations addressed the function, said a press release of DMP.

The inaugural function was also attended by additional IGPs, DIGs and senior officials of the DMP.