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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 1130.66 (+1.44%)
Market capital Tk 7016.77 cr
Transactions in volume 512339
Transactions in value Tk 9.81 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 469.73 (+0.38%)
Market capital Tk 4280.27 cr
Transactions in volume 24098
Transactions in value Tk 825490

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



It's A Smoky
Affair
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NEWS BRIEFS

Speaker elected CPA member

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury was elected member of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) at its meeting at Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Chowdhury was due to lead the Bangladesh Parliamentary delegation in the current CPA conference being held at Kuala Lumpur, but he could not attend it due to on-going budget discussion in Parliament, said a parliament secretary press release report UNB.

Minor boy shot dead in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 20: A gunman shot dead a minor boy at Pulchhari village under Banskhal thana this morning. According to police, Mamunur Rashid, 12, died when an unidentified gunman opened fire on his grandfather, Jaber Ahmed Ansari, through the window of their house at around 8 am. However Jaber escaped unhurt. The attack was a sequel to previous enmity, police said. However, the gunman has escaped.

Strike observed at RU

From RU Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Aug 20: A day-long strike was observed at Rajshahi University today at the call of Karmachari Oikya Parishad (KOP) protesting ad hoc appointment of officers. All offices remained closed during the strike.

Former GF leader joins AL

By Staff Correspondent.
A former central leader of the Gano Forum and freedom fighter Shoaib Ahmad Chowdhury joined the Awami League yesterday. Chowdhury met the AL chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and joined the party expressing his full support to her leadership, says a press release.

Vehicles damaged, shops ransacked Soccer fans go on rampage: One die

By Staff Correspondent

An unidentified young man was killed and at least 20 people including a woman were injured as soccer fans went on rampage in and around the National Stadium in the city last evening over a crucial premier division tie between the Mohammedans and the Brothers Union.

More than 50 vehicles were damaged and dozens of shops ransacked during the violence that lasted about an hour creating panic in the adjoining areas of the stadium.

The youth, aged about 24, sustained fatal cut injuries in his hand and body, from flying

glass pieces in the northern side of the stadium near the Bailul Mukarram electronics market at about 7:30 pm. He was immediately taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead, hospital sources said. Doctors suspected that the youth was stampeded but Motiheel police said he fell from the top of the SAF Torch as it collapsed due to overload of spectators taking shelter to save themselves from the soccer frenzy.

Five of the injured persons, identified as Lota, 20, a bus passenger, Badsha, 32, Saiful, 21,

Mujibor, 25, and Harun, 30, were admitted to the DMCH, sources added.

Witnesses said the trouble erupted at about 7:10 pm, nine minutes after the delayed kick-off of the crucial match between the title aspirants.

The match started at 7:02 pm, one hour behind schedule, because both the teams refused to play in the 'unplayable' ground of the stadium.

Both the teams also withdrew from the match to the disappointment of some 40,000 spectators, who burst into outrage.

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Police observing the situation at the Dhaka Stadium last evening when violence broke out in the galleries during football match yesterday. — Star photo

Tk 432 cr Japanese loan to upgrade Ctg airport

Bangladesh will receive a loan amounting to 10,943 million Yen, equivalent to about Tk 432 crore, from Japan of development and upgradation of the Chittagong airport, reports UNB.

A loan agreement for the Chittagong Airport Development Project was signed at the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund head office in Tokyo yesterday, according to a press release issued by the OECF's office in Dhaka.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Rashed Ahmed and OECF President Akira Nishigaki initiated the loan accord for the important infrastructural project on behalf of their respective governments.

The loan at a rate of 1 per cent interest is payable within 30 years, including a 10 year grace period. The terms and conditions are the most con-

cessional among the loans from the Japanese official lender.

The total outlay of Chittagong Airport Development Project is around Tk 541 crore. After completion of the project within next five years, the airport will be upgraded to an international one.

The signing of the loan agreement for the long standing project brings to the conclusion the 22nd Yen Loan package of 18 billion Yen equivalent to roughly Tk 800 crore.

As a result, the cumulative total of OECF loan commitments to Bangladesh now stands at 501,114 million Japanese Yen, the 9th largest among the OECF loan recipient countries.

Announcing the loan agreement, the OECF release said that Chittagong is the second largest city of Bangladesh.

See Page 12 Col 7

British Under Secy in city to boost up trade, investment

British Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Liam Fox MP yesterday said his current visit to Dhaka is aimed to boost up British trade and investment in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Talking to newsmen after his arrival at Jia International Airport on a four-day visit, Liam Fox said his visit is also aimed at strengthening Britain-Bangladesh ties.

The British minister said he will discuss with Bangladesh leaders the whole range of bilateral issues during the visit. The UK is committed to continue its good relations with Bangladesh, he said.

"I have come to know the new government and discuss how we could help strengthen democratic process in Bangladesh," he said.

Liam Fox said he will also

See Page 12 col 6

PM assures as Watanabe makes farewell call Human rights to be protected

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government would take necessary steps to protect and promote human rights and ensure women development in the country, reports UNB.

"We'll ensure human rights of all citizens, enshrined in the Constitution," Hasina said when UNDP resident representative Eimi Watanabe made a farewell call on her at the PM's office.

The out-going UNDP representative lauded the government initiative in bringing some changes in education sector and steps towards poverty alleviation. Steps for ensuring a transparent administrative system and maintaining law and order are also encouraging, she said.

Watanabe mentioned the UNDP's voters' education pro-

gramme undertaken during the tenure of the caretaker government.

The Prime Minister suggested that the programme be continued to create consciousness among the common people about their rights, particularly the franchise.

Referring to the huge turnout of voters in the June 12 election, particularly the women voters, Watanabe said it was a very good sign for democracy.

"Women community is an important force for political power transfer," she said suggesting that development of this section of the society be given priority.

Hasina said the government has undertaken various programmes for development of women community. It attaches top priority to women education which will help them cre-

ate jobs for themselves and become self-reliant, she said.

Watanabe requested the Leader of the House to pick up real people-oriented issues for discussion in Parliament.

The Prime Minister said facilities for parliament members are not adequate as they are not provided with secretarial service.

There are lack of logistic support for research and study facilities of the MPs. Hasina said seeking help from UNDP for enriching the Parliament library and making it a modern and updated one.

She also urged the UNDP to provide training facilities to parliament members of acquaint them with parliamentary system and practices of different countries.

The UNDP representative

See Page 12 Col 7

Disappearance of Tareq remains a mystery

Star Report

Mohammad Abul Kashem, the father of Tareq who has been missing, yesterday expressed surprise why his son could not be traced even after six days.

Moinuddin Kashem alias Tareq, a BBA student of North South University, went out of his Banani residence in the night of August 14 with his friend Rocky for a dinner. His father Mohammad Abul Kashem, chairman of South East Bank, had lodged a complaint with the Gazaria police

station alleging that his son was murdered by his friends.

"I wonder why the police could not trace him as yet. We went up to Chandpur through the river route from the ghat in search of my son's body," he said, questioning as to why the government machinery even after a lapse of almost a week could not trace his son.

According to Tareq's father his only son was scheduled to graduate from the university next year in July. He also wondered as to why the police failed

to interrogate the crew members of the vessel from which he is said to have jumped into the Meghna river.

During a day-long visit to the ghat area yesterday, the local people told The Daily Star Correspondents that three youths including a girl on board a private car had come to the river bank at about 5:30am on that day.

Billal Hossain, 20, who was working nearby at the time, said that at one stage the three youths climbed on a cargo ves-

sel anchored there. All on a sudden, one of the two young men took off his trousers, shirt and shoes and dived into the river, which is around 20 feet deep, he added.

Another labourer Alim, 25, who was present in the area, said that as soon as the young man jumped into the water, the other youngman started screaming, "save my brother, save my brother." The people working in the ghat area and from the nearby bazar rushed to

See Page 12 Col 1

DCC ultimatum to remove unauthorised structures

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday issued a seven-day ultimatum to remove offices of different political parties and clubs erected illegally at roadsides, on footpaths, in parks and market premises, reports BSS.

In an announcement, the Corporation expressed concern at the illegal construction of pucca or semi-pucca structures on the DCC land and requested all concerned to remove them with next seven days. Otherwise, the corporation will take actions as per legal provision of DCC, it warned.

Meanwhile, Mayor of Dhaka City Mohammad Hanif accompanied by Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Abdus Salam on Monday night visited different parts of the city to see for themselves traffic jam and encroachment on the city streets.

AL, BNP agree to discuss law & order, campus issues

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling Awami League and main opposition BNP yesterday agreed to discuss the law and order situation, particularly the atmosphere in educational institutions.

Following an unscheduled debate on the issue during yesterday's session of the Jatiya Sangsad, Deputy Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid remarked that, "if both sides are willing to I will be glad to listen to the discussion." However, no date was fixed for the purpose.

When the Chair was about to open floor for discussions on the proposed budget for fiscal 1996-97, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the House Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury rose on a point of order to seek the Deputy Speaker's cooperation in early disposal of the notices, particularly those submitted by BNP lawmakers drawing attentions on law and order.

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JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf

A ruling party lawmaker's deliberation in the typical style of addressing a public meeting yesterday in the Jatiya Sangsad led all the members to burst into laughter twice, for several minutes each time.

The Treasury bench member, Altaf Hossain Golandaz, in between his strongly worded sentences, pronounced "Bhayera Aamar" (by brothers) instead of the parliamentary practice of approaching the Chair.

As all the lawmakers started laughing, a visibly puzzled Golandaz gave a pause in his speech.

Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid said, "Honourable member. You can't say Bhayera Aamar. It's not allowed here (in the House)." See Page 12 Col 7

Tk 81 lakh spent for maintenance of Begum Zia's house, JS told

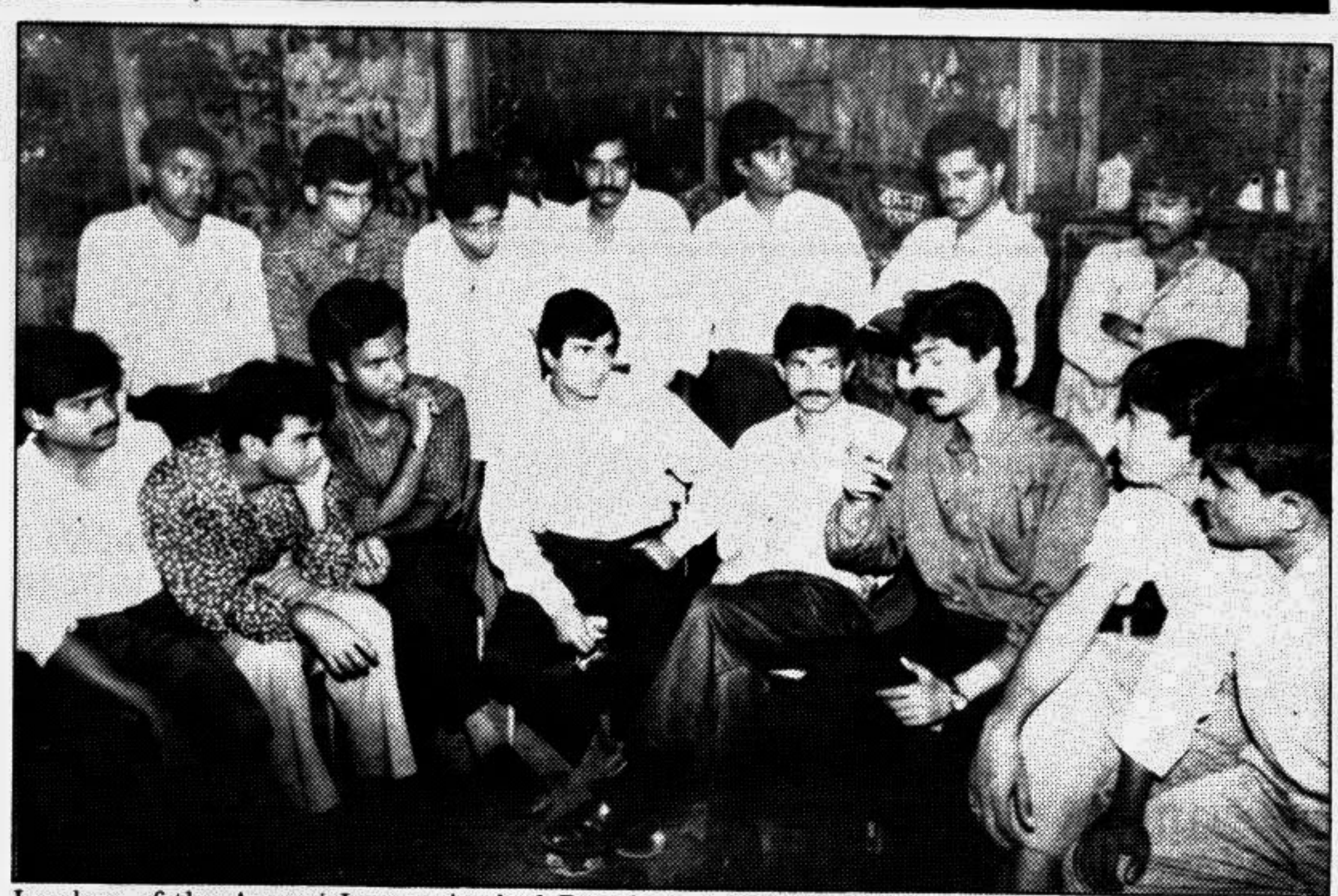
By Staff Correspondent

The government spent Tk 81.39 crore for maintenance of Begum Khaleda Zia's Dhaka Cantonment residence where she had stayed during her tenure as prime minister.

Minister of State for Housing and Works Alsaruddin Ahmed Khan said this in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday in response to a question from Awami League lawmaker Col. (ret'd) Shawkat Ali.

The head-wise expenditures are as follows: Tk 60.94 crore on decorations and electrical equipment which included eight air conditioners, 55 ceiling fans, 220 light fittings, 132 circuit breakers, one chandelier, one vacuum cleaner, two water heaters, one refrigerator, one alarm bell and one gas

See Page 12 Col 7



Leaders of the Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) held a meeting at the Madhu's Canteen yesterday and agreed to maintain peace on the Dhaka University campus. — Star photo

Tension prevails at DU although rivals agree to maintain peace

By DU Correspondent

Tension prevailed at the Dhaka University although the two rival student organisations, Chhatra League and Chhatra Dal, after an overnight clash, yesterday agreed to 'work together' to maintain peace on the violence-prone campus.

The agreement was reached at a meeting of the leaders of Awami League backed Chhatra League (BCL) and BNP backed Chhatra Dal at the Madhu's Canteen at noon.

The meeting also decided that the leaders and activists of the organisations will stay in their respective halls. The leaders further decided that neither the JCD nor the BCL would give shelter to the outsiders for the sake of maintaining a congenial atmosphere on the campus.

After the meeting, BCL president Enamul Haque Shamim and JCD president Shaheeduddin Chowdhury signed a written

agreement on behalf of their respective organisations. General secretaries and Dhaka University unit presidents and secretaries of both the students' organisations also put their signatures on the agreement.

After the decisions, a large number of JCD activists, who were forced to get out of their halls Monday night, returned to their respective dormitories yesterday afternoon. But at least three supporters of JCD were allegedly beaten up by BCL activists at F Rahman hall at 4:30 pm, JCD leaders claimed.

Sources in the hall said BCL activists sealed a number of rooms of F Rahman hall. The students who were beaten are Biplob, Ujjal and Zakir. They are resident students of the hall.

Earlier on Monday night, at least 10 rounds of gunshot were

See Page 12 Col 2

Dhaka can't afford to postpone reforms: WB

Achievement of an accelerated improvement in the living standards depends on completing the stalled economic reform programme, the World Bank says in a report on Bangladesh Annual Economic Update-Recent Economic Developments and Medium-term Reform Agenda, released in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

The report will be discussed by donors at the Bangladesh aid group meetings to be held in Paris on September 10 and 11, 1996.

Bangladesh cannot afford to postpone the unfinished economic and institutional reforms if it is to succeed in poverty reduction. Sustained commitment to reforms is needed to achieve rapid growth and poverty alleviation, Lorene Yap, division chief, Country Operations for

Bangladesh, said in the report.

Many of the key macroeconomic performance indicators showed encouraging trends in the early 1990s. According to the report, inflation remained very moderate, within the 1.3-5.2 per cent range, the budget deficit was kept below 6 per cent of the GDP, the external current account deficit averaged below 3 per cent of the GDP, and gross international reserves expanded from under one billion dollar equivalent to 3.3 months of imports in '91 to over three billion dollar (6.3 months of imports) in '95. Both the domestic and national savings rates almost doubled.

The report said much has been done to strengthen the economy's growth base. There has been considerable progress in reforming the import regime.

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Khaleda alleges in Khulna meeting BNP men being harassed in byelection areas

KHULNA, Aug 20: BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today hoped that the administration will remain neutral in discharging election duty during the September 5 by-polls, reports UNB.

She alleged that BNP workers were being harassed in different places, particularly in the 15 constituencies where the byelection will be held, implicating them in 'false cases' to prevent their participation in election campaign.

"The BNP is a people's party as it always stood by the side of the people. The party cannot be alienated from the masses by perpetrating repression and assault on it. It will always remain with the people," said Khaleda.

The BNP chairperson, now on an electioneering tour to

Khulna-1 and Bagerhat-1 constituencies, was addressing a big public meeting at Baintara Kharabat Collegiate School ground in Batiaghata thana of the district in the afternoon.

Former Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, former minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Khulna City Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman, BNP candidate in the constituency Gazi Abdul Bari, Mashur Rahman MP, city BNP president M Nurul Islam and secretary general Nazrul Islam Manju addressed the meeting among others. Local BNP leader Enamul Haq presided.

The former prime minister accused the present government of coming to power not through ballot, but by means of violence and rigging in the June 12 election.

See Page 12 Col 7

India vetoes draft CTBT

GENEVA, Aug 20: India formally vetoed today a draft treaty banning nuclear testing in a move that threatens to torpedo 31 months of arduous talks aimed at halting the development of nuclear weapons, reports AFP.

India's representative to the negotiations, Arundhati Ghose, formally registered her country's veto of the pact at a meeting of the 61 countries involved in marathon negotiations at the disarmament conference here.

"Our opposition to that text continues," said Ghose, referring to the draft text already agreed to by the five declared

nuclear powers of Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

"We would not therefore agree to it being forwarded to the UNGA (UN General Assembly) in any form by this conference,"

Ghose repeated that New Delhi opposed the project because it did not set out a timetable for scrapping the arsenals of the five nuclear powers.

New Delhi also objects to a clause stating that India, a nation on the nuclear threshold, had to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in order

See Page 12 col 8

Imports fall by 3.5 pc

Opening of letters of credit for import declined 3.42 per cent in 1995-96 financial year compared to previous fiscal, according to the central bank statistics, reports BSS.

A Bangladesh Bank release said, yesterday import LCs worth Tk 26,296.83 crore were opened by authorised dealer banks during the last fiscal, representing the fall in imports.

Import LCs remained outstanding to the tune of Tk 9,525.46 crore as on June 30 this year.

Textile fabrics and accessories for ready-made garments accounted for the highest amount of import LCs worth Tk 6164.12 crore with LCs valued at Tk 2,089.80 crore remaining outstanding.

LCs worth Tk 2313.75 crore were opened for importing machinery. Tk 1965.61 crore for POL (petroleum, oil and lubricant), Tk 1759.06 crore for rice, Tk 1735.50 crore for chemicals and chemical products, Tk 912.43 crore for raw cotton and synthetic fibre, Tk 836.56 crore for cement and Tk 823.17 crore for edible oil.

Home Ministry okays Farooq's remand

Criminal Investigation Department yesterday received the approval of the Home Ministry to take Col (ret'd) Syed Farooq Rahman on police remand, reports UNB.

In another development, police once again yesterday raided the residence of Farooq from where the self-confessed killer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was arrested early on August 13.

Following a prayer from CID on Monday Chief Metropolitan Magistrate granted a six-day remand for Col Farooq.

He is likely to be taken on remand today, police sources said.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Officials at the Home Ministry talking to The Daily Star last night however, told

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5 ex-army officers No response to dismissal notice

By Staff Correspondent

The five retired army officers, who were inducted into the foreign service and alleged to be connected with the August 15 killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family, did not respond to the government notice of dismissal from service.

The period of replying to the second notice will end today, according to official sources.

A notice was printed in national dailies on August 19 giving them three days time as to why they would not be dismissed from government service.

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Biman's 2nd airbus arrives today

The second Airbus A310-300 of the Biman Bangladesh Airlines will arrive at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) from Toulouse, France at 11:00 am today, reports UNB.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq will receive the new 221-seater aircraft at the airport, said a Biman press release yesterday.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Syed Ahmed and Secretary in-charge of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism Mohammad Ismail Hossain will be present.

The fuel efficient modern mid haul aircraft offers excellent passenger facilities with air show system, individual touch screen video in executive class and 12 channel seat audio choice for all the passengers.

The first Airbus A310-300 was inducted to Biman fleet on June 15, 1996, the press release said.