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Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdu Samad Azad (L) called on Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani (R) at the presidential palace in Tehran yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

**Samad Azad calls on Rafsanjani
Tehran ready for early implementation of MOUs**

Visiting Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdu Samad Azad called on Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani at the presidential palace in Tehran yesterday, according to an official message received here, reports BSS.

The Foreign Minister conveyed felicitations and greetings from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the Iranian President.

He also conveyed the Prime Minister and her government's desire to further consolidate and expand bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries.

Samad Azad said that after assumption of office as foreign minister, this was his first trip abroad and that "this fact attaches to the commitment of the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for further consolidation and diversification of our bilateral ties between the two brotherly countries."

He also expressed the government's readiness for full and early implementation of all MOUs signed during President Rafsanjani's visit to Dhaka as well as for identification of new areas for cooperation.

The Foreign Minister also briefed him on the policies of the new government. He also apprised the Iranian President of the steps the government has undertaken for early resolution of the Ganges water sharing and other issues with India as well as repatriation of stranded Pakistanis and other issues with Pakistan.

The minister also noted the need for institutional cooperation between the SAARC and ECO.

The Iranian President requested the Foreign Minister to convey his greetings and felicitations to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and recalled his "fruitful" meeting with her in Dhaka.

He emphasised the importance which Iran attaches to Bangladesh and expressed their readiness for early implementation of all MOUs and cooperation in new areas.

He requested the Foreign Minister to convey his sincere invitation to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to pay a visit to Iran and underscored the vast opportunities which exist for further bilateral cooperation.

In response to the Foreign Minister's comments, President Rafsanjani reiterated their offer to help Bangladesh in the resolution of its outstanding issues with India and Pakistan, the message said.

**Bogra incident
Mannan Bhuiyan demands judicial enquiry**

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday demanded a judicial enquiry into the killings, torture and arson in Bogra and exemplary punishment of the culprits, reports UNB.

In a statement, the BNP leader claimed that seven workers of the JCD were killed and several hundred injured by police in Bogra town.

Mannan Bhuiyan said three persons were killed yesterday as police opened fire on demonstrators protesting Friday's killing of four men. He condemned the police atrocities.

In another statement, the BNP Secretary General accused the student wing of the ruling Awami League of unleashing a reign of terror in the Dhaka University.

UNB adds: Foreign Minister Abdu Samad Azad on Friday visited Bandar-e-Anzali on the Caspian sea, the biggest port in northern Iran, which Bangladesh may use as transit for trade with Central Asian republics.

The Governor of Bandar-e-Anzali accompanied the Bangladesh Minister during his visit to the port. He also visited Shilat (Fisheries Department of Iran) Factory at Bandar-e-Anzali.

Azad reiterated Bangladesh' interest in trading with the Central Asian republics using transit route through Iran and Bandar-e-Anzali and other Iranian ports.

The FM urged Iran to import jute, jute products and tea on a large scale from Bangladesh for the mutual benefit of both the countries.

Parliament tidbits

From page 1

Aachar (mango pickle). Rabbi then promptly replied, "Not 'Aamer Aachar' but 'Tetuler Aachar' (tamarind pickle)."

The Deputy Speaker also caused laughter in the House by advising AL lawmaker Abdul Latif Mirza, who had broken voice, to take ginger.

BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury jumped out from the chair of HM Ershad and rushed to his own as soon as the Deputy Speaker all on a sudden pronounced, "where are you (sitting) Mr Salahuddin?"

On Ershad's return, Abdul Hamid told the JP leader, "Mr HM Ershad, your chair was going to be missing. I protected it."

Discussing the proposed budget, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury explained that he did not have any personal enmity with any of his political opponents, some of whom he also named. Pointing his finger to former president Ershad, he told Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, "At least you should know how much respect I have for him (Ershad)."

Both were once in Ershad's cabinet.

In her speech, Syeda Sajeda Choudhury of AL ridiculed the BNP for claiming different dates of its party chief Begum Khaleda Zia's birth. Quoting B. K. Zia's mother from a magazine, Sajeda said, "Her mother said Begum Zia was born on 5 September, 1945, the day the Second World War was over. The government issued life-sketch soon after Begum Zia became the Prime Minister mentioned the date as to be 19 August. But the BNP men are now celebrating her birthday on 15 August, the day father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was brutally murdered."

"On how many dates, one can be born. The mother should know the real date," he noted.

Representatives of donor agencies put different suggestions on economic measures and stressed the need for political stability for rapid development.

"Infrastructure and utilities are very essential for boosting investment," said the Finance Minister, adding that government has taken due measures in road communication, power and telecommunications sectors.

Donors' representatives expressed satisfaction on government's programmes declared. They assured continued supports for increasing growth rate in order to alleviate poverty, said an official hand-out.

Representatives of World Bank, IMF, ADB, UNDP, USAID, WFP, UNICEF, FAO, European Commission and ambassadors and high commissions of US, Japan, Sweden, Netherlands, UK, Canada, Switzerland, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, Australia, German and French attended the meeting.

Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Economic Resource Division Secretary, Finance Secretary, International Resources Secretary and Planning Commission members were present.

Kibria

From page 1

appropriate policies in this regard.

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Emajuddin

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the campus of armed hoodlums and also wanted to submit my resignation in case of the government's failure to improve the existing situation."

"As the situation remains unchanged," the VC said in an emotional voice adding, "I am left with no other option but to resign."

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University Teachers' Association declined to make any comment on the resignation of the VC. "We are yet to receive any formal notice of the resignation," a DUTA leader said.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University authorities yesterday extended the closure of classes and examinations till August 29 against the backdrop of prevailing volatile campus situation.

Course-system examinations to be held at Arts Faculty and Curzon Hall will remain suspended during the time, said a DU announcement yesterday.

The classes of the university are expected to resume next Saturday after a break of nine days.

The DU release said the dates of postponed course exams would be announced later on while other parts of the exam-schedule would remain unchanged.

The resignation letter submitted by the VC of the DU addressing the Chancellor through the Education Ministry would be placed before the Chancellor tomorrow for decision, official sources said last night.

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed assumed to the post of the Vice Chancellor of the DU of February, 1993 and he was scheduled to complete his tenure in February, 1994.

**Dhaka Metropolitan Govt
LGRD ministry studying
DCC proposal**

By Morshed Ali Khan

The proposal for formation of a Dhaka Metropolitan Government (DMG) is being examined by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD), sources concerned said.

The Prime Minister's office recently asked us for our opinion on the proposal and we are examining it," an official of the LGRD minister said.

He said that different organisations which would form the proposed Dhaka Metropolitan Government, had respective laws under which they operated. "It would be necessary to see if any of the laws would require amendments before the proposed Council is formed," the official said requesting anonymity.

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has sent the draft proposal of the Dhaka Metropolitan Government to the Prime Minister's office on July 14.

With the Mayor as its chief, the proposed DMG would enjoy control over the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and all service organisations in the city. Formation of the DMG would not only save valuable time and reduce sufferings of millions of city dwellers but also save funds wasted due to lack of proper coordination among the service organisations, a DCC source had earlier pointed out.

The LGRD official pointed out that some organisations which would form the Council had countrywide network. To bring only the Dhaka metropolitan portion of their network under the proposed body, we may have to change their respective laws," he said.

It was a big task for the Ministry to check all the laws, the official said. The policy-makers must decide the issue ethically because we need to have decision from them first," he said.

Some other DCC and LGRD officials however said that there were other obstacles in the way of formation of such a government. Every service organisation in the city, had a considerable amount set aside for development works in which hundreds of contractors and workers were involved, they observed.

The contractors who have been benefiting from the works under WASA, DESA, T&T Board, BRTA and other bodies are most likely to oppose the move as their livelihood might be threatened by its creation, opined some officials at the DCC and the ministry concerned.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a recent meeting with Mayor Mohammad Hanif reportedly gave her consent on creation of such a government, according to a highly-placed source.

An official of the DCC said that earlier several names were suggested for the proposed body, one being the Dhaka City Coordinating Council, but later the name, Dhaka Metropolitan Government has put in the proposal.

Budget discussion

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Opposition walkout over the Chair's refusal to entertain a BNP demand for discussion on the 'deteriorating law and order in the country, specially in the educational institutions and alleged police atrocities on students in Bogra town.'

The Chair promised a discussion on the law and order in the country.

During the debate on the proposed budget for the eighth day yesterday, ruling party president member Sajeda Chowdhury told the House that proper implementation of the budget would open the 'golden gate to prosperity.' She, however, stressed that a national consensus on some important issues was imperative for ensuring such prosperity.

Admitting that the finance minister had formulated the proposed budget in the light of the financial policies pursued by the previous government, Sajeda Chowdhury said: "It would have been very risky for the nation to make a major policy-shift in planning the budget."

Arrested students

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the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court after the end of a day's remand yesterday and the court rejected their prayers for bail.

Meanwhile, the Home Ministry has given 30 days detention against six of the arrested 29 persons.

Four cases under the Arms Act and the Explosive Substances Act have been lodged against them by Ramna police.

Col Farooq

From page 1

has directed the Press Information Department, Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar to help the law enforcing agency in investigating the jail killing incident.

Official sources said the directive was made when the minister had a meeting with the Principal Information Officer and heads of BTv and Betar in the city yesterday.

Earlier, the CID sought cooperation from the three government bodies to get copies to press release issued by then governments from August 1 to December 31 in 1975.

The investigating agency also requested PID, Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar to supply copies of news items based on official hand-outs despatched by them during the period.

JN varsity

From page 1

in panic. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

The clash between the two sides began when the JCD brought out a procession on the campus to protest the attack on its leaders at the Dhaka University last week.

JCD-BCL clash at DU

From page 1

the Dhaka University protesting what it called terrorism by BCL activists.

Earlier, the JCD had also called a day-long strike in all educational institutions across the country for today, following clashes with police on the DU campus on Wednesday.

The clashes at the university broke out between the BNP-backed JCD and Awami League-backed BCL when the JCD made an abortive attempt to "recapture" the Mohsin Hall at about 5:30 am, the witness said. The JCD activists were "ousted" from the Mohsin Hall by the BCL activists only two days back.

The JCD activists made their attempts from a place near the Institute of Education and Research. The rival activists changed shots freely when police, earlier deployed on the campus swung into action and dispersed the warring groups, firing teargas shells, the sources said. Bashir Ahmed was injured while the JCD activists were retreating, the sources added.

Tension prevailed on the campus after the JCD-BCL

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PHILIPS

Shamsur Rahman appointed chairman of Bangla Academy

By Staff Correspondent

The government has appointed renowned poet Shamsur Rahman as the chairman of the Bangla Academy for two years, a press release of the academy said yesterday.

The appointment was made under Section 5 (2) of the Bangla Academy Ordinance, 1978.

A renowned poet of the country, Shamsur Rahman was born in Dhaka on October 23, 1929. He has written more than 40 books. He received a number of prestigious awards, including Adamee and Bangla Academy awards.

Shamsur Rahman was the editor and chief editor of the Dainik Bangla, a vernacular daily.

BNP

From page 1

tally and completely failed to discharge his duties. He has no moral right to hold the post any longer," Prof Chowdhury said.

He wondered about the Home Minister's silence despite killing of students one after another and the rapid deterioration of law and order.

The deputy leader of the Opposition alleged that the Home Minister was yet to take any measure regarding the violent incidents at the Dhaka University and at Bogra.

He said: "We are astonished, witnessing with deep regret that the government has no concern about the law and order. Everyday we are trying to draw the attention of the government and discuss the situation in the House."

Referring to the continued deterioration of situation at the Dhaka University, the BNP leader said the pro-government student organisation unleashed a reign of terror and was evicting general students from the residential halls.

The armed terrorists were moving freely on the DU campus under the very nose of police and the Home Minister was enjoying it, Prof B Chowdhury alleged.

He said the DU Vice Chancellor resigned yesterday and a number of provisos and the proctor of the university also resigned protesting the volatile situation on the campus.

The VC of the Dhaka University had earlier threatened to resign if the campus was not freed of outsiders and terrorists within 48 hours, he said. "But the government did not take any action after the Vice Chancellor's ultimatum."

The deputy opposition leader strongly criticised the Education Minister for not taking any step to restore peace on the campus.

The Education Minister was yet to communicate with the DU authorities and had not made any statement in the House, he said. "Is there not the slightest responsibility of the education minister for restoring peace in DU?" he asked.

Khaleda

From page 1

Dhamsreni, Bamonerhat, Bogra, Kathbari, Tobodia and Pandul in Ulipur thana.

Former minister Jamiruddin Sircar, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, BNP candidate for byelection in Kurigram-3 constituency AKM Mayeedul Islam and some local leaders of the party also spoke at the meetings.

The BNP Chairperson sought votes for her party candidate for Kurigram-3 constituency, vacated by deposed president Ershad, saying, "We are interested in your development."

Begum Zia said, "People brought me to politics at the time of need of the nation. And I have dedicated my life to people's cause."

The BNP Chairperson, who arrived here from Rangpur on Friday night, said BNP government had completed 40 per cent works of the Jamuna multipurpose bridge and "it is we, who started exploiting coal and hardrocks in Dinajpur."

She regretted that the Opposition were not being allowed to speak at the floor of Parliament.

Termining BTv (Bangladesh Television) as ATV (Awami TV) or a "Family Box" Begum Zia said Hasina's government is using this media for her party and family propaganda.

5 die in separate city incidents

By DMC Correspondent

Three persons were killed in road accidents while two others were electrocuted in and around the city yesterday.

Sadhan, 10, a tempo helper, was killed in a road accident at Shyampur, Demra and Jalil, 22, died in another accident at Mirpur-1 early yesterday, sources at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) said.

One Babul, 20, died when a minibus ran over him at Hemayatpur in Savar at about 4 pm.

Nargis, 18, was electrocuted in East Jurain and Abul Kashem, 40, at Motijheel yesterday afternoon, DMCH sources said.

Meanwhile, Gulshan police recovered the body of Kabir Hossain, 25, a grocer, from his shop at Sataruk yesterday morning.

Further details of the death were not available immediately.

10 envoys to visit DEPZ today

Ten Ambassadors and High Commissioners along with 30 high officials of the diplomatic missions in Dhaka of different countries will visit the Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) at Savar today, reports UNB.

The envoys will go around different factories now in operation at the zone, says a PID hand-out.

At present, twenty industries are in operation at DEPZ producing various products including electrical and electronic items, garments, textile products, furniture and caps.

The foreign investors are showing keen interest in investment at the Export Processing Zones of the country, which prompted the decision to establish a new EPZ at Gazipur under the capital and to expand the existing DEPZ.

PM on modernising BAF

From page 1

and to provide it with modern technology and hardware under the economic reality, the government was committed to taking all steps for gradual advancement and modernisation of the force to project it as a symbol of pride of a self-esteem nation.

How much important a disciplined and patriotic defence force is for materialising the hopes and aspiration of a nation was proved in the War of Liberation, she added.

The Prime Minister said Bangladesh Air Force since its inception had been playing a praiseworthy role for serving the people and the nation. "You have worked relentlessly with the civil administration to serve the people during calamities," she told the airman.

Members of the air force, who joined the UN peacekeeping force, have gained glory and achieved a credit for the nation, which has boosted honour of the nation abroad, she said.

Hasina thanked them for their relentless and sincere efforts for upgrading the force to an international standard and hoped that they would bring more fame for the nation.

In performing the duties everyone should remember that "we are not lord of the people but the servant. Our distinction will be proved through service and wellbeing of the people, through all-out application of labour and creativity."

About all-out service to the nation, the Prime Minister said the duty of the government is the fixation of a target and proper planning and strategies for its achievement. "And your duty is to perform the institutional activities in your sphere, for attaining the national goal."

"As Prime Minister and the Minister for Defence, I want to say clearly that I'm fully aware of my duties," she told the BAF officers and troopers.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister recalled Bir Shrestha FI Lt Matiur Rahman and all those who laid down their lives for the independence of the country.

She also recalled the members of air force who joined the War of Liberation at the call of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Chief of Air staff Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

Air chief received Prime Minister on her arrival at the Air Headquarters. A smart contingent of BAF presented her with a guard of honour. She took salute and inspected the guard.

The Prime Minister went to the BAF tarmac at Kurmitola where she was received by Air Commodore M Manzoor Alam, Air Officer Commanding at the local Air Base.

She inspected there the display of various aircraft. She was shown cockpit of a jet fighter where she evinced keen interest.

130 RU teachers concerned at DU situation

RAJSHAHI, Aug 24: One hundred and thirty teachers of the Rajshahi University today expressed grave concern over the deteriorating situation on the Dhaka University campus and other educational institutions, reports BSS.

The teachers, in a joint statement, strongly condemned terrorist activities and police action in the educational institutions.

Schoolboy killed

From page 1

charged batons, lobbed at least 50 tear gas shells and fired unspecified number of shots while the unruly protesters pelted stones at the policemen.

The all-party student unity, enforced a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the town protesting the killings in last three days.

With today's casualties, the death toll from clashes between police and student-mob rose to five. The trouble was triggered by the death of a student of Azizul Haq Govt College in the town on Thursday.

A police constable was also killed on Thursday. Another student was found dead on Friday.

BDR reinforcements have been called in and deployed in the town to restore peace.

বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রঙানীকারক সমিতি
বয় চবন, ৭-৯ কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১১১৫

শিশু শমিক সংক্রান্ত জরুরী সভা

বিজিএমইএ'র সকল সদস্যকে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে বিজিএমইএ, ইউনিসেফ ও আইএলও এর মধ্যে স্বাক্ষরিত সমঝোতা স্মারক (এমওইউ) অনুসারে পোশাক শিল্প কারখানায় কর্মরত শিশু শ্রমিকদের বিষয় আলোচনার জন্য একটি জরুরী সভা আগামী ২৫ আগস্ট ১৯৯৬ তারিখে বিকাল ৪ ঘটিকায় হোটেল সোনারগাঁয়ে (বেল রুম) অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

পোশাক শিল্পকে বাঁচানোর লক্ষ্যে উক্ত সভায় বিজিএমইএ'র সকল সম্মানিত সদস্যকে যোগদান করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

ডায়রাখ সচিব