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DHAKA MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 1996

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Inside Today

Article

US-Bangladesh Economic Forum: PM Redeeming Commitment

Column: Enchiridion by Waliur Rahman

Page 4

Focus

Indemnity Ordinance: A rejoinder, and the Indian budget — a brief review

Page 5

International

Lanka plans to ban LTTE

Pakistan building missile factory with China's help

Page 8

Business

Govt firm to expand economic activities, Tofael tells commerce ministry officials

DSE index sets another record

Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET

DSE price index 1193.85
Market capital Tk 8211.63 cr
Transactions in volume 658137
Transactions in value Tk 11.61 cr

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



How not to Care about a Lake

Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Condition of Teresa improves slightly

CALCUTTA, Aug 25: The condition of Mother Teresa, in hospital with a weakening heart, has improved slightly, a spokeswoman for the 85-year-old Nobel Peace laureate's missionaries of charity order said today. The doctors say her general condition has improved slightly although she is not out of danger," Sister Priscilla told Reuters.

Chinese army team leaves Dhaka

The Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese Army's Liberation Army Lieutenant General Kui Fulin left Dhaka yesterday after a five-day goodwill visit to Bangladesh, an ISPR press release said. General Kui Fulin and members of his entourage were seen off at the Zia International Airport by Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mabbubur Rahman and other senior army officers, reports BSS.

Woman, 2 boys rescued from traffickers

AGARTALA, Aug 25: A Bangladeshi woman and two minor boys were rescued from the clutches of international racketeers here yesterday when they were being taken to Guwahati. The kidnapped were to be transported to Dubai via Delhi, police sources said. Three persons were arrested from the Motorstand area of the state capital. Some American currency and fake passports were recovered from their possession, reports PTI.

Sardar Ibrahim Azad Kashmir's president

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, Aug 25: A two-chamber parliament in Pakistani-ruled Azad (free) Kashmir elected an 81-year-old politician as the state's figurehead president today amid an opposition boycott. Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim, nominated by a coalition led by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), was the sole candidate. All 39 members present in the 55-seat House voted for him, reports Reuter.

Sadar OC, two SIs suspended

Stern action for police firing in Bogra: PM

BOGRA, Aug 25: The Prime Minister today said stern action would be taken against those involved in firing on the mob during police-peopple clashes in the town, which left several dead, reports UNB.

"Action will be taken after investigation of the incidents of firing," Sheikh Hasina said asking why fire was opened without permission of the magistrate.

She, however, alleged that a political party was provoking political unrest in the region.

Sheikh Hasina, the Awami League chief, perhaps made a veiled reference to the arch rival BNP of former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia which won all the seven JS seats in

Bogra district in the last general election.

The Prime Minister, during a tour of the troubled town, was addressing district administration and police officials, local elite, and leaders of different political parties, excluding the opposition BNP, and trade unions at Police Line.

She stayed at the Police Line on the outskirts of the town and didn't go to the Circuit House inside the town which was surrounded by a shutdown enforced by protesters.

Blasting her political opponents, Hasina said the townsmen raised their voice for restoring peace, but a certain party was giving instigation for destabilising the situation.

See Page 12 Col 3

BNP stages brief walkout

Fiery debate on DU, Bogra situation

Parliament heard a fiery debate last night on the law and order situation at Dhaka University and at Bogra, with the ruling party and the opposition blaming each other for it, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Jamaat-e-Islami members blasted the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for 'sharp deterioration of law and order in the country.'

Earlier in the afternoon Opposition BNP members walked out of the House alleging failure of Education and Home ministers in tackling situation in the Dhaka University.

As the debate began, the opposition MPs, in an unusual move, stood up and prayed for the same way the BKSAL did

See Page 12 Col 6

Khaleda demands resignation of Home Minister

From Reaz Ahmed BOGRA, Aug 25: BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today demanded immediate resignation of the Home Minister for his alleged failure in checking the deteriorating law and order throughout the country.

Referring to the last four days' incidents which took place in this northern district town, the Leader of the Opposition in parliament Begum Zia said "the Home Minister has totally failed to tackle the situation here."

Begum Zia was addressing a press conference at Bogra Circuit House tonight. In the last leg of her North Bengal electioneering tour the BNP chief came to Bogra early today. She canceled her campaign rallies at Gabtali thana and Bogra town which were earlier scheduled to be held today and tomorrow.

Begum Zia came down heavily on the ruling Awami League alleging that the government was trying to rule the country the same way the BKSAL did

See Page 12 Col 7

Draft bill for pvt EPZ may be okayed today

By R M Titumir

The cabinet in its meeting today is likely to approve the draft bill for setting up of Special Export Processing Zones (SEPs) by the private sector, according to official sources.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed earlier said that the government agreed in principle to the proposals of exclusive EPZs for Korean and Japanese investors.

For setting up of the proposed EPZs, the investors had sought from the government enactment of laws allowing private sector-managed EPZs, allotment of khas land to investors, availability of utility services, improved access roads to the EPZs and efficient port facilities.

The draft bill would give the sponsor company the authority and right to establish, develop, operate, manage and control the particular Special EPZ, official sources said.

It will allow the sponsor company to have the "perpetual succession and a common seal with power to acquire, hold and dispose of property both moveable and immovable for and within the zone and shall enter into any contract or agreement, sue and be sued by its name," the sources added.

The special EPZ authority would constitute a two tier set up, one to be known as Board of Governors and the other as the Executive Board. The Board of Governors would consist of the same persons who represent in the government owned EPZs.

The proposed Dhaka EPZ (DEPZ) extension, spreading over an area of 214 acres of land with an expenditure outlay of Tk 59.9 crore is also expected to be completed by this year, they added.

There shall be a SPEZ Cell for assisting the Board of Governors for the purpose of supervision, control and monitoring the activities of the SEPs.

See Page 12 Col 4

JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf

The opposition lawmakers apparently failed to use their new lighter plastic files for creating much noise while disrupting the Jatiya Sangsads proceedings through shouts yesterday.

Only a few of the agitated legislators were seen hitting their desks with the new files during disruptions in the House.

Some of the Opposition MPs were seen using their files in innovative ways. They held the files high and forcefully throwing them on the desk while others used extra papers with the encasing files.

Mashirul Rahman of the BNP, given the floor to discuss the "Bangladesh Rural Finance," the Bank observed that Bangladesh Krishibank (BKB) and Rajshahi Krishibank (RAKUB) were both currently making losses and were technically insolvent.

It said the immediate next step for the two banks is to undertake a comprehensive external portfolio audit, including an in-depth analysis of their management systems, accounting practices and corporate policies affecting the quality of their portfolio.

The next steps would have to be worked out based on the results of the audit, the report said. "If it is not possible for these institutions to become financially viable, drastic actions, including closure, would have to be considered."

But if financial viability after appropriate restructuring is possible, fundamental reforms would have to be undertaken to ensure that the risk of similar problems from re-surfacing in the future are minimised.

At the minimum, the report said, these reforms would have to address the issue of potential

Hartal observed, clashes with police in Bogra

From Staff Correspondent

BOGRA, Aug 25: A dawn-to-dusk hartal was observed in the town for the second day today protesting killings in police firing in last three days.

Agitated people clashed with police several times at Satmatha Crossing during hartal hours. Police lobbed teargas shells and resorted to lathicharge leaving over a dozen injured.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina could not hold her scheduled meeting at the Circuit House due to road barricade. She, however, addressed the members of the local administration and representatives of the political parties at Police Line.

About various demands of the townsmen, she said: "We have accepted the demands before their utterance, we have withdrawn the SP and the OC and declared compensation for those affected."

Meanwhile, Sadar thana OC Farooq Ahmed and two Sub-inspectors were suspended today in the wake of protracted demonstration against the killings.

Earlier in the morning a peace rally at Satmatha in the town ended up in a chaos as neither DC nor the new SP could give assurance of arresting the policemen of Kotwali Thana.

See Page 12 Col 6

6-hr raid on 11 DU halls: 37 arrested

By DU Correspondent

Halls alleged that police picked up some students from the halls even after they showed their identity cards. Some resident students who were in other halls during the raid were also arrested even after they showed identity cards of the their respective halls, they said.

Police were interrogating the arrested persons till filing of the report last night.

During the raids, Shamim Ahmed, reportedly a leader of the Faridpur faction of Chhatria League and BNP backed Jatiyatobadi Chhatri Dal in the last few days for gaining control of the residential halls.

During the six-hour raids from 8:30am, two cut-rifles, a foreign made knife, a sawed off barrel of a gun, one toy pistol, 16 bullets, and three cocktails were recovered, police said.

A laundry shop worker was arrested with a cut-rifle from Jagannath Hall. The other cut-rifle was found in an abandoned position on the campus.

Some residents of different

See Page 12 Col 6

UN SC seat Dhaka's dilemma over choosing contender

By M Anwarul Haq

Bangladesh would take more time to decide as to whom it would extend support for the Asian seat of non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), according to sources concerned.

India and Japan are contesting for the seat. Election to the seat will be held shortly after the UN General Assembly (UNGA) goes into session in the third week of September.

Philippines, which was also a contender, had already withdrawn from the contest.

Voting to the position like other non-permanent seats that are filled up for two years in the 15-member Security Council, would be held through secret ballot among the 185 member states of the United Nations.

Political and diplomatic observers in Dhaka feel that both the countries have laid strong

See Page 12 Col 3

Srimongal AL leader beaten to death

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Aug 25: A local leader of the Awami League (AL) was beaten to death by some criminals at Srimongal.

According to police, Tuta Miah, 43, a leader of the Srimongal thana AL and Chairman of the Mirjapur union parishad was going to Srimongal town by a tempo in the morning. All of a sudden, a group of 5 to 6 terrorists stopped the vehicle at Khilgaon bridge on the Srimongal-Mirjapur Road and attack him with weapons. The other passenger of the tempo sent him to Srimongal thana health complex immediately. As his condition worsened he was shifted to Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital where he breathed his last at 10:30 am.

JCD-BCL clash in Sylhet medical college: 40 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 25: About 40 students were injured in a clash between the activists of the Bangladesh Chhatri League (SPL) and the Jatiyatobadi Chhatri Dal (JCD) in three hostels of the Sylhet Osmani Medical College today.

Of them, three were admitted to the medical college hospital. Fifteen rooms were also ransacked during the clash.

Police later recovered 2 pipe-guns, 40 rounds of ammunition and some explosives from the hostels. They also arrested three JCD activists from Zia Hall.

According to UNB, the college authorities have set up a 4-member inquiry committee to find out the reasons behind violence on the campus.

Foreign missions invited to monitor by-polls

By Staff Correspondent

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is awaiting response from foreign observers and the diplomatic missions in Dhaka regarding monitoring the by-elections to 15 Jatiya Sangsads seats on September 5, official sources said yesterday.

Earlier, acting on the advice of the Election Commission, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs wrote to the foreign embassies in Dhaka and overseas missions that they could send observers to monitor the coming by-polls if they so desired. They were also informed that the foreign observers could monitor the polls as per the previous code of conduct outlined before the June 12 general elections.

WB suggests drastic action against BKB, RAKUB

By Nazmul Ashraf

Suggesting comprehensive reforms in the two agricultural banks, the World Bank has said that drastic actions, including closure, will have to be considered if they are not found to be financially viable, reports UNB.

In a recent report, titled "Bangladesh Rural Finance," the Bank observed that Bangladesh Krishibank (BKB) and Rajshahi