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PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE: Portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and late President Ziaur Rahman painted on the wall at the entrance of Surya Sen Hall of Dhaka University. — Star photo

EU sticks to its stance on GSP to garments export

European Commission stuck to its stance on cancelling the erroneous GSP certificates issued from 1993 to 1996 for any formal derogation of rules of origin for generalised system of preference to Bangladeshi garments export, reports UNB.

This response came from the member concerned of the EC, Mario Monti, in reply to the letter of Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed on July 29 requesting him to use his good offices to view the GSP issue with greater flexibility.

Monti said, "It is indispensable for the Commission to be able to ensure that the GSP system is applied correctly by your country, and that past situation is fully regularised prior to the acceptance of any formal derogation."

In his letter, the Commerce and Industries Minister requested Monti to find some ways and means, if necessary at a political level, to resolve the issue so that Bangladesh is not forced to take any action which will create legal disputes, social unrest and political difficulties.

In the reply received yesterday, Monti said, "Before arriving at its decision to ask your country to withdraw the erroneous certificates, the Commission weighed all the pros and cons of the effects which such a decision would have on your country."

Showing his eagerness to allow Bangladesh derogation from three-stage to two-stage local transformation in getting GSP, Monti said the Commission is very well aware of the problems that certain industries in Bangladesh must face to fully conform with rules of origin.

"This is the reason why, to allow the latter access to EU single market, the Commission is ready to accept, under certain conditions, a derogation from those rules."

Earlier on July 30, vice-president of the EC Manuel Marin Gonzalez, in a message to the Commerce Minister, also expressed similar view on GSP.

Myanmar urged

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be forwarded to the Myanmar authorities for clearance.

Some 2,57,000 Rohingyas fled from the Myanmar state of Arakan to Bangladesh in 1992 to escape alleged persecution and forced labour at home. The first batch of refugees went back home on September 22, 1992 and the last batch on July 22 this year.

Mentionably, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at a press conference last week, made it clear that Bangladesh would not allow the remaining Rohingyas to 'settle' in the country as proposed by some quarters and international organisations. He had said all refugees must go back home.

To pacify the agitating refugees, officials of the UNHCR, along with an inter-ministerial delegation, visited the camps last week and could convince refugees in one camp to accept their weekly ration. Refugees in the other camp is yet to accept their ration. They had stopped taking ration protesting repatriation.

Officials in the Foreign Ministry and the Disaster Management and Relief Ministry viewed that it would be difficult to meet the August-15 deadline as the process of "convincing and counselling" was still going on. A high-level meeting immediately between Bangladesh and Myanmar would help resolve the problem amicably, they added.

JCD activist shot in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 3: A JCD activist Shaheg Babu, was hit by bullet in an attack by some persons this evening near Kazir Dewri Bazar, police and party sources said.

He was admitted to Chittagong Medical Hospital.

JCD leaders blamed activists of Chhatra League for the attack. Shahed was shot when he was going by a rickshaw.

The incident created tension in the area.

Teesta

From page 1

Teesta near Kaliganj zero point between India's Par Meklhanj area and Dimla thana of Nilphamari district.

It decided to construct one-and-a-half kilometre long embankments on the two sides of the Teesta river crossing Indo-Bangla border.

"It was very fruitful," said an official of Water Development Board at a press briefing after the JRC meeting that lasted about four hours from 11 am.

At the meeting, a five-member Indian side was led by Chairman of North Bengal Flood Control Commission at Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal R S Mandal.

Chief Engineer of Teesta Embankment Project Aftab Alam Ansari led a five-member Bangladesh team.

The next round of talks of the JRC Standing Committee will be held August 10-12.

Ershad in UAE

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, who left Saudi Arabia yesterday afternoon, reached the United Arab Emirates last night, on way to the United Kingdom, reports UNB.

He will leave the UAE to night for a week-long trip to the UK, said a Jatiya Party press release quoting a telephone message from Saudi Arabia.

After the UK tour, Ershad will go to India to offer *fateha* at the *mazar* of Hazrat Khwaja Mainuddin Chishti (R) at Ajmeer Sharif and then return home by August 15.

Sec 144 at Rajbari Rly Eidgah ground

RAJBARI, Aug 3: The district administration has imposed Section 144 in and around the Railway Eidgah ground as two rival organisations convened public meetings at the same time and the same venue tomorrow, reports UNB.

Officials said the ban, imposed to avert any possible clash between the supporters of Mujahid Committee and All Party Liaison Council, will remain in force for 48 hours from 6 am tomorrow.

Mujahid Committee, a pro-Islamic group, has called a *waj mahfil*, scheduled to be addressed by Peer of Charnolia, at the Railway ground at 5 pm while All Party Liaison Council, an alliance of pro-liberation parties, convened a public meeting at the same place.

Accord with CPA

British firm to prepare master plan for ports

Chittagong Port Authority has signed an agreement with the British consulting firm Motmacdonald Limited for a project — Bangladesh port system development project: Master plan and trade facilitations study, reports BSS.

Under the project, signed on July 31, the British firm will prepare a 20-year coordinated master plan for Chittagong, Mongla and Dhaka ports suggesting development strategies.

Funded by the World Bank, the project begins in September and will be completed by October 1998.



Afghan elders line up aiming their weapons yesterday during a protest to show that they are ready to fight in case the Islamic Taliban comes back to their village, some 50 kilometres from the Kabul frontline. — AP/UNB photo

500 ayas at DMCH

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received no response from the DMCH authorities as yet, she said.

A senior official of DMCH, when contacted, denied receiving such applications. "Why should the authorities receive such application when there is no vacant post?" he asked. "We have over 250 midwives of our own at the hospital. The number is quite sufficient," he added.

When his attention was drawn to the fact that "unauthorised" ayas were working in female wards no 21, 19, and in the emergency section of the hospital, the official said, "They enter the premises identifying themselves as relatives of patients." They were removed from the wards a number of times but they come back, he said.

"I have been monitoring the intravenous saline injection of a patient admitted to the hospital last Thursday," Joygon said these correspondents. She is in the profession for the last 17 years.

"I can also operate other sophisticated medical equipment," she added. "For such type of job, we charge Tk 60 per day.

Our service is as good as that of a trained nurse. We have no conflicts with our colleagues who are regular employees of the hospital," she said.

Meanwhile, they have appealed to the Prime Minister for their absorption as regular employees. "During the Mujib government, about 200 of our colleagues were absorbed as regular midwives. We hope, his daughter, the present Prime Minister, will take similar measures and remove our sorrows," said Joygon.

Kulsum has been working as an *aya* at the DMCH since independence. She said "some of us were provided with 'passes' to enter the DMCH premises but those were withdrawn later."

"During the previous government, many, identifying themselves as officials of Health Ministry, had assured us of employment against cash payments in advance," Hasina added.

"A relative of an official took Tk 25,000 for giving jobs to 100 ayas. He fled with the money. We lost more than Tk one lakh in this way. Our sanity no more pays money for job," she said.

Sayeddi's appeal

From page 1

tions in three centres. The judgement was made on a petition filed by SS Halder who had lost to Sayeedi only by 280 controversial votes in the 1996 parliamentary polls.

Sayeddi filed an appeal on June 5 in the High Court challenging the judgement of the Election Tribunal of Pirojpur-1 and the bench passed an ad-interim stay order.

When the rule was issued, Halder, a candidate of the Awami League in the June last general election opposed the rule and the stay order and said the High Court had no jurisdiction to stay the operation of the judgement of the election Tribunal of Pirojpur-1.

After hearing both the sides, the High Court division bench rejected Halder's prayer and upheld the stay order granted earlier till disposal of the appeal filed by Sayeedi.

Senior Advocate Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed with Barrister Abdur Razzaq appeared for Sayeedi.

Barrister M Amir-ul Islam appeared for Halder.

PGA seeks UN help to restore democracy in Cambodia

Dr Moyeen Khan, MP and President of the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), called on United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan at the latter's office in New York on Friday, reports UNB.

They discussed wide-ranging issues including the recently concluded UNDP Conference on Good Governance and Sustainable Growth, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

The unstable democratic scenario in Cambodia also came up for discussion.

PGA is a New York-based organisation of nearly 1,400 Parliamentarians from 96 countries.

Dr Khan led a PGA delegation which included parliamentarians from the UK, New Zealand, Sweden, Tunisia and Namibia.

He apprised the UN Secretary General of his involvement in the democratisation process in Cambodia during the UNTAC operations and appealed to the Secretary General for UN intervention in Cambodia.

The delegation also handed over to the Secretary General a Restoration of Democracy in Cambodia signed by nearly 100 members of parliaments from all over the world.

Dr Moyeen thanked the Secretary General for UNDP's continued support to Bangladesh towards institutionalisation of the democratic process and development of a support system for the parliamentarians in Bangladesh.

Fed Cup

From page 1

the margin for Mohammedans. In the second semifinal, Arambagh pulled off a stunning 3-0 win over Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra on their way to any major tournament final.

Senegalese Yousufa gave Arambagh a 44th minute lead before Idyut and Jahangir shared the other two goals in the second session to complete the rout.

The final will take place tomorrow at same venue. Bangladesh Television and Betar will cover the match from 5 pm.

(Details on page 10)

More depressions over Bay likely this month

A couple of depressions may form over the Bay during this month and parts of the country are likely to experience floods, reports UNB.

A long-range Met Office forecast said this yesterday.

Earlier last month, two monsoon depressions formed in the northern Bay.

The weather office predicted moderate flood in the Ganges basin during the last half of this month.

The south-west monsoon may activate at least twice during the period, the forecast said.

The Meteorologists say Chittagong division is likely to experience the highest 530-580 mm rain against normal 537 mm.

Sylhet division may have 450-500mm rain against normal 460 mm, Barisal 430-480mm against normal 453mm, Rajshahi 380-430 mm against normal 389 mm, Khulna 270-320mm against normal 284mm and Dhaka division 280-330mm rain against normal 300 mm.

Vehicles stranded at Aricha ghat

MANIKGANJ, Aug 3: Hundreds of vehicles remained stranded at Aricha ghat and near Falsatia bridge on Dhaka-Aricha highway due to a leak in a platoon of the ghat and partial collapse of the bridge on Friday, reports UNB.

Sources said a platoon at the Aricha ghat went out of order as water poured into it through a crack during the last few days, hampering ferry services.

Fire brigade personnel today started to pump out the water from the platoon.

A large number of vehicles were waiting in queues on both sides of the Falsatia bridge.

An alternative arrangement has been made for movement of vehicles, but it was too inadequate to ease the jam.

9 BNP, JCD leaders released in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 3: Nine BNP and JCD leaders were released here from jail this afternoon following an order by the High Court.

They were arrested on July 3 on charge of assaulting policemen during hartal hours.

Local BNP and JCD leaders received them at the jail gate.

Sarbaharaman arrested

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 3: Police today arrested one Abdul Motaleb, 30, believed to be a member of the outlawed Sarbahara party from a house at Ranigram area in the town.

Motaleb had been wanted by police in several murder and dacoity cases.

20 injured as schoolboys clash in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 3: Twenty students were injured, five critically, in a clash between two groups of school students near Victoria School in the town today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash erupted at noon when the students of Victoria School refused to join the procession brought out by a group of students of different schools protesting the possible change in the coming SSC examination schedule.

Critically injured, Rahim, 14, Samir, 13, and Rafique, 17, were admitted to Ibne Sina Clinic while Babu, 16, and Baten, 14, were rushed to Sirajganj General Hospital.

Petroleum

From page 1

stricted the movement of heavy vehicles on the bridge.

Acute crisis of fuel oil in different thanas has also been reported. In some areas kerosene oil is being sold at Tk 25 per litre.

Supply from the Sylhet depot of Padma Oil had been totally stopped. Only the depot of Meghna Oil at Srimangal supplied 66,500 litres yesterday. It is only 22 per cent of the daily demand.

While talking to this correspondent, Mohsinur Rashid Chowdhury and Jubair Ahmed Chowdhury, President and General Secretary of the Sylhet Division Petroleum Dealers Association respectively, said that at a meeting in Dhaka on July 27 they informed the chairman of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation of the possibility of such a crisis. But no step had been taken, they alleged. They demanded transportation of petroleum products through waterway by barge to Chhatak and for restoration of ferry services at Shaistaganj.

Meanwhile, Director (Operator) of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation visited Sylhet and talked to the petroleum dealers and officials.

Blender with mill



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Let's make things better

PHILIPS

Bank money looted in Pabna

PABNA, Aug 3: Miscreants looted Tk 5.50 lakh in a swoop on treasury chalan in front of Rupali Bank main branch here today, reports UNB.

Police said some five to six youths attacked two guards of the Rupali Bank who were carrying Taka 1.50 crore in a trunk for depositing in the nearby Sonali Bank treasury branch at about 11 in the morning.

The attackers snatched Tk 5.50 lakh from them and fled away.

A case was filed with Sadar thana. However none was arrested so far.

Kibria: Sick units

From page 1

go. "For every debt forgiven, there is a liability created," he said and informed that henceforth, the borrowers who pay regularly would be rewarded by way of rebate.

Mentioning the ongoing banking reforms, he said the banking operation could be done on "new ground rules" if the current reform programmes continued for the next four to five years.

In this connection, he said the work ethics needs to be changed. He pointed out that changes took place in many developing countries and hoped it would happen in Bangladesh also.

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB), jointly organised the seminar titled Estimation and Policy Implication of the Underground Economy: The Case for Bangladesh.

The Finance Minister called the underground economy a "very dark gray area" and said nobody knows much despite the fact that a lot of tax is not paid while smuggling taking place.

He pointed out that a number of people are not paying tax and it is not considered a violation of law. He said society here is soft and the people see such tax evasion softly.

"Laws are not as vigorously applied here as in other countries," he said, noting that the country has come across a "major distortion" because of the tax evasion.

He said it is not a policy decision, but a result of a gradual negligence in enforcing laws. In this regard, he gave the example of the state-owned enterprises and said the rules were being violated for them from the day one.

"It's a managerial failure," Kibria said.

Referring to the government decision to allow untaxed money in the industrial sector without any question, he said the decision is designed to attract resources in the industry.

He called upon all to invest untaxed money in the industrial sector, if they have any.

DCCI President ASM Quasem and CDRB Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly also spoke.

1919 massacre of Indian civilians: Queen Elizabeth asked to apologise

LUDHIANA, (India), Aug 3: A proposed visit by Britain's Queen Elizabeth to India has sparked demands from the nephew of an executed Indian revolutionary that she apologise for a British massacre of unarmed civilians in 1919, reports Reuter.

"If Japan can apologise to Korea for excesses committed against Korean women who were used for the pleasure of Japanese soldiers, why should the British not for this massacre," said Jagmohan Singh, a professor at Punjab Agricultural University in the northern city of Ludhiana.

On the harvest festival of Baisakhi in April 1919, British troops opened fire on thousands of Indians gathered peacefully within a walled ground after blocking the only exit.

Indians say thousands of people died in the shooting and the ensuing stampede in Jallianwala Bagh in the city of Amritsar but official British figures say 379 were killed as they tried to flee. The massacre quickly became a symbol of colonial cruelty.

India will celebrate its 50th anniversary of freedom from British colonial rule on August 15.

The Queen is due to start a visit to India around October 12, but a British High Commission spokeswoman in New Delhi said the itinerary had not been finalised.

Bank Co Act

From page 1

According to existing laws, a person is a defaulter from the moment his loan is overdue. But bankers now say, it is not always the loanee's problem not to pay in time. Sometimes, it is the bank which takes time to register repayment of loans.

Moreover, a company can witness ups and downs in business and therefore, may miss one instalment for which it should be termed as a defaulter, they say.

The bankers are now proposing that a loanee should be termed defaulter from the day loans are included in the classification list. A loan becomes 'classified' after six months of expiry of repayment date when it can be said for sure that it was a case of wilful defaulting, they say.

IDA loan

From page 1

ing the proposed infrastructure investment facilitation centre.

A maximum of forty per cent of the IDA loan will be spent through private entrepreneurs for financing the approved projects in infrastructural sectors including power, gas, highways, port, telecommunications and waste management.

Shima rape case

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rated by medical evidence and she also identified the accused in the Test Identification Parade (TIP) parade.

It has been argued in the memo of appeal that the burden of proof lies upon the accused to prove that they are innocent of committing rape which led to death of Shima in judicial custody.

It has further been argued that since the accused are police personnel the investigation by the police is not tenable.

"Shima's statement under Section 164 of the CrPC might have been considered as a dying declaration as required under Section 32 of the Evidence Act", the memo of appeal argued.

Attorney General K S Nabi will move the case on Wednesday next.

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh
8, DIT Avenue, Dhaka

Notice

Sub: Dividends on ICB Mutual Funds for the Year 1996-97 & Notice of Book Closure

The Board of Directors of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh in its meeting held on 31st July, 1997 approved Dividends on ICB Mutual Funds for the year ended 30th June, 1997 as follows:

Sl No	Name of Fund	Rate of Dividend per Certificate of Tk 100 each
01.	First ICB Mutual Fund	Tk 70.00
02.	Second ICB Mutual Fund	Tk 45.00
03.	Third ICB Mutual Fund	Tk 38.00
04.	Fourth ICB Mutual Fund	Tk 45.00
05.	Fifth ICB Mutual Fund	Tk 35.00
06.	Sixth ICB Mutual Fund	Tk 24.00
07.	Seventh ICB Mutual Fund	Tk 21.00
08.	Eighth ICB Mutual Fund	Tk 18.00

Dividends would be paid to the certificate holders whose names would appear in the Register of Certificate Holders as on 21st August, 1997.

The Register of Transfer of Certificates of all Mutual Funds will remain closed from 22nd August, 1997 to 31st August, 1997 (both days inclusive).

By order of the Board
Md Fayezuzzaman
Secretary

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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