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Cocktail blast in Ctg kills one as BNP brings out procession

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 21: An unidentified rickshawpuller (27) was killed in a cocktail blast at Dewanhat crossing today when a BNP procession, brought out to protest the fuel price increase was passing by, police said.

Three persons were arrested from the spot, police also resorted to lathicharge to disperse the agitators who damaged some vehicles.

Police said, series of cocktails were exploded and a number of vehicles damaged by some agitators both at Dewanhat Crossing and New Market Crossing.

The rickshawpuller who received serious injury from the cocktail blast at Dewanhat was taken to Chittagong Medical

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PCJSS for holding next round of talks Sept 7

KHAGRACHARI, Aug 21: Parbartya Chattagram Jano Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), the political wing of Shantibahini, has proposed to hold the next round of peace talks with the government in the capital on September 7, reports UNB.

The Samity conveyed its proposal to the government through the *Jogajog* (liaison) Committee, seeking a reply by August 31.

The last and fifth round of peace talks between the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts and the PCJSS for reaching a permanent solution to the CHT problems was held in Dhaka July 14-19.

Liaison Committee convenor Hangsadwaj Chakma told the news agency here yesterday that he had sent the PCJSS proposal to the National Committee on CHT.

"A permanent agreement may be signed in the coming meeting if both sides reach and understanding", he said.

Rows of chairs on the road in front of the Jatiya Press Club blocked traffic as Sramik League arranged a discussion meeting there yesterday in observance of the National Mourning Day. — Star photo

DB to investigate Zia murder case

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Aug 21: The Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) has handed over investigation into the Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman murder case to the Detective Branch.

The move was taken after the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court recently ordered police investigation into the case while it remained hanging for the last 16 years. This is the first time that the court passed such an order.

CMP Commissioner Asraful Huda today told this correspondent that steps were being taken to locate the then investigation officer of the case, Abdul Hakim Khan, who has retired from police service.

"Besides, we are trying to find out the necessary documents and relevant papers of the case which were missing so far" he said, adding that the case was handed over to the Detective Branch for thorough investigation.

The Zia murder case was filed with Kotwali police station in Chittagong by the then Assistant Police Commissioner of Detective Branch, Mokarram Hossain, on June 1, 1981 after President Zia was assassinated by a group of military rebels in a predawn attack on May 31, at the Chittagong circuit house.

"If required the criminal investigation department (CID) also might be involved to complete the investigation," the commissioner said.

He informed that the CMM's court allowed three months time to complete the investigation following a prayer from Kotwali police on August 10 this year.

Police also appealed for supplying the copies of the case records which the court allowed.

Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali police station Fazlul Kabir said that relevant papers and evidences of the case were missing

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Shahbazpur field

Lifting of gas on trial basis in 2 months likely

BARISAL, Aug 21: The lifting of natural gas at the Shahbazpur field under Borhanuddin thana of Bhola district will begin experimentally within the next two months, official sources said, reports BSS.

According to the sources, the director of the US-based company Unicol, K Scott, told district administration officials that the lifting of gas would primarily be on an experimental basis and it would later be supplied commercially in Bhola district within the next two years.

A six-member team Unicol led by Scott disclosed this while visiting the gasfield at Shahbazpur.

Scott said this high quality of reserved natural gas would be used up for setting up industries as well as for household purposes in the near future.

Cabinet body reviews GSP issue

The cabinet committee on GSP issue held its first meeting yesterday with Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed various aspects on the GSP issues elaborately to reach an acceptable solution keeping in view the interests of the country, exporters and also the relations between Bangladesh and the European countries.

The committee was formed to make recommendations for resolving the GSP problem.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru and State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Satish Chandra Roy attended the meeting.

Commerce Secretary Sayed Alamgir Farouk Chowdhury, Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Foreign Secretary Farouque Sobhan, NBR chairman Shah Abdul Hannan and EPB Director General of the export BMM Mazharul Huq were present.

The meeting also reviewed

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Govt sees no negative impact on economy

BNP urged to call off strike, take up fuel issue in JS

By Staff Correspondent

The ministers for Commerce and Industries, Finance and Energy said yesterday that the government was compelled to enhance the prices of petroleum products and that it would hardly have any negative impact on the national economy.

Addressing a press conference at the Energy Ministry, the three ministers called upon the people to accept the price hike of petroleum products, specially of petrol, in the greater interest of the country. They also urged the opposition BNP to call off its planned hartal on the issue and take it up in the Jatiya Sangsad.

The three ministers — Tofael Ahmed, SAMS Kibria and Noor Uddin Khan — said that the government had the intention to reduce the price of fuel in future if it declined in the international market.

Price hike of fuel in the international market from January last had caused the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) to incur a loss of Tk 450 crore till July, they pointed out.

The ministers further said that only a small section of petroleum product consumers, who were better off economically, would bear the bulk of the price hike.

Nooruddin said, "Our approximate annual consumption of diesel is 16 lakh tons and kerosene 4.5 lakh tons, For diesel and kerosene, our government increased the price by Tk 0.25 per litre. The consumption of petrol is about two lakh

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Tk 2259 cr excess liquidity till Aug 18: Kibria

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria said yesterday that the banks had Tk 2258.99 crore excess liquidity till August 18.

Addressing a press conference at the Energy Ministry, the minister said that there was no basis of fears about the liquidity situation.

He regretted that responsible chamber leaders, who meet cabinet members at least once a month, stated such a baseless fact which had a wider negative political implication.

"Normally we require a liquidity level of Tk 1400 crore. Therefore, those who are saying that there is not enough liquidity are not saying it on the basis of facts."

Giving a breakdown of the liquidity status, Kibria said that the nationalised commercial banks currently had Tk

See Page 12 Col 8

WB questions rationale for some ADP projects

By Inam Ahmed

The World Bank has questioned the rationale for a number of 'development' projects in the fiscal 1997-98 ADP including the construction of residential housing for the Speaker and Deputy Speaker, which will cost about Tk four crore.

Half of the amount to be spent this year for the residences to be built in the premises of the Parliament. The project has not been approved by the ECNEC.

On the other hand, it has pointed out that the widely-publicised Social Security Programme for Distressed and Elderly People has only Tk 50 lakh allocation in this year's ADP as against Tk 50 crore mentioned in the parliament.

Another unapproved project, construction of a new National Secretariat building at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar has also been questioned by the World Bank. This project is estimated to cost Tk 1400 crore.

"The rationale of this costly project is questionable in a context where rightsizing the government is an important policy priority," said the World Bank in a report sent to the government recently.

Other unapproved projects that have been questioned by the Bank are building of public schools and colleges for girls at Rajendrapur, Mymensingh and Sylhet cantonments, and establishment of a girls cadet college at Feni.

These unapproved projects would cost Tk 75 crore.

"Only the privileged people

See Page 12 Col 2

IOJ permitted to hold rally at Manik Miah Avenue

The Home Ministry has given permission to Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) for holding its proposed rally today at Manik Miah Avenue as per rule, a Home Ministry press release said here yesterday.

It said the Muktijoddha Sanghati Parishad and its front organisations have agreed to

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Beach tragedy

No trace yet of three missing BUET students

By BUET Correspondent

The Navy, Army and BDR are helping a search in the Bay to locate three students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology who have been missing since Wednesday after four of them went for a swim at the beach in Cox's Bazar during low tide.

But the search failed to locate them till yesterday evening according to information received by the BUET authorities from Cox's Bazar.

Police later recovered the body of Maruf Rahman, a third year student of Mechanical Engineering, returning ashore during high tide. But Abdul Mukit Choudhury, Mohammad Shahajalal and Mozammel Hossain remained untraced.

Local people reportedly saw Abdul Mukit Choudhury drowning in the Bay.

The local administration

See Page 12 Col 1

7 boys missing from Khilgaon-Taltala

Seven boys aged between nine and 13 have been missing from Khilgaon-Taltala of Sabujbagh thana in the city since Wednesday afternoon, police said, reports UNB.

Their parents and police launched a massive search, but could not trace them as yet. It could not be known whether they were abducted by any organised group.

Police have kept watch at the exit points of the city — Kamalapur railway station, Sadarghat launch terminal and three bus terminals at Sayedabad, Gabtoli and Mohakhali. Border check-posts have also been kept alert.

Most of the boys are from low-income group families. So far, police could collect photographs of four of them only.

Of the missing boys, one is a student of Khilgaon High School, one of Khilgaon Govt High School, four of Khilgaon Primary School and another do not study. They are Jony, 10, Nasir, 11, Russel, 12, Sumon, 10, Mostafa, 13, Hannan, 9, and Sohel Ahmed, 12 — all residents of Khilgaon-Taltola.

Family sources said after returning from schools on Wednesday morning, they went out for playing games at about 12 noon and remained missing since then.

Police, however, came to know that the boys also had a short boat journey at the local *jheel*. They also bought nuts and coconuts at two points.

When contacted, OC of Sabujbagh thana, Kamruzzaman told UNB that they were yet to know if the children went on an adventurous mission. The possibility of a foul play also could not be ruled out, he added.

Following are the addresses of the missing boys: Jony, S/O Iqbal Hossain, 277/B Khilgaon, Taltala; Nasir, S/O Saiful Islam, 277/B Khilgaon; Russel, S/O Akram Hossain, 298/B Khil-

See Page 12 col 6

Showcause on Khaleda

By Special Correspondent

An Assistant District Judge yesterday ordered BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia to show cause within seven days why a temporary injunction would not be issued restraining her from celebrating birthday on August 15.

Asst District Judge for Nawabganj, Dhaka, A K M Abul Kashem passed the order upon a petition filed on Wednesday by Advocate Mohammad Suhrawardy, an Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP). The APP said

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BNP holds rallies in city

Opposition BNP as part of its four-day street programmes held a series of rallies and brought out processions in different parts of the city yesterday, reports UNB.

According to a party press release, Sutrapur, Ramna, Pallabi, Mirpur, Gulshan, Demra, Tejgaon, Kotwali, Dhanmondi thana units of BNP brought out

See Page 12 Col 1

Malaysia stops recruiting foreign workers

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 21: Malaysia has stopped recruiting all foreign workers with immediate effect to reduce its rising dependence on them, Deputy Home Minister Tajol Rosli Ghazali was quoted as saying by local newspapers today, reports Reuter.

"We have to do this because it seems that employers feel that they have the right to recruit foreign workers," Tajol was quoted as saying by the New Straits Times daily.

"Employers get angry if we are late in processing applications of foreign workers. Worse, foreign workers have adopted the attitude that they have a right to work in Malaysia," he told reporters after attending the launching of a book about former prime minister Tun Abdul Razak.

Malaysia, with a population of 20 million, depends on some two million foreign workers.

Most are employed at construction sites, in agricultural estates and in hotels. Others work as cleaners and domestic help.

"The freeze will be in force until the situation improves. There are too many now and we have to act in order to control the situation," Tajol was quoted as saying by The Star Daily.

Facing complaints from local workers that employers prefer

See Page 12 Col 1

Samira denies allegation of killing Salman

Samira, widow of film star Salman Shah, categorically denied the allegation of "killing" the heart-throb hero during an interrogation by CID, reports UNB.

Criminal Investigation Department yesterday interrogated Samira and three others in connection with Salman's death.

The three are Samira's mother Latifa Haq Lusi, aunt Maleka Afroza Haq and Abul, who had worked at Salman's house.

CID official SSP Abdul Hannan Khan, Additional SP Subodh Chandra Chanda and investigation officer and ASP Khalequzzaman interrogated them separately from 11 am to 7:15 pm.

Sources close to the investi-

See Page 12 Col 2

190 healthcare centres to be built in four city corpns

By Morshed Ali Khan

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will build 190 urban primary healthcare centres in four city corporations at a cost of Tk 263.13 crore, sources concerned said.

The Dhaka city will have 120, Chittagong 40, Khulna 20 and Rajshahi city 10 healthcare centres.

"The primary aim of opening these centres is to ease pressure on the outpatient wings of city hospitals," a DCC official said. In Dhaka city hospitals alone, more than 5,000 outpatients are treated everyday, he said. Once the centres are opened, hospital authorities will be able to divert their outpatient wing staff to attend emergency and other patients, he added.

In Dhaka, every Ward will have at least one such centre and in areas with a higher concentration of slums, the number will be more. Each centre will cater to the needs of 50,000 people, the official said.

Work on the five-year project is scheduled to start in 1998. During the first year two storied buildings will be built. The healthcare centre will be on the first floor while the ground floor will be used for commercial purpose to recover costs.

Out of the total project cost, Tk 188.13 crore will be available in local currency while Tk 74.99 crore will come in foreign currency. Sources said the Project Director is now in Manila to negotiate loan terms with the Asian Development Bank.

After construction of the centres, DCC will hand over the charge of running the centers to local NGOs for four years. Each NGO will run ten centers and it will receive funds for staff salaries and free medicines, equipment and furniture.

"We have already advertised for recruitment of survey teams to monitor the day-to-day running of the centers," the DCC official said. He said all essential services will be provided in the centres. These will include family planning extended programme of immunisation, gen-

See Page 12 col 6

FEMA recommendations for electoral reform

Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) has prepared a draft recommendation for the reform of electoral laws, reports UNB.

The synopsis of the 32-page draft recommendation, which was submitted to the Election Commission and the President, was released to the press yesterday.

A Task Force formed by FEMA proposed the recommendation on five aspects — empowerment of election commission, transparency and enhanced participations in elections, removal of ambiguity and inconsistencies in the law, and insertion of new provisions in the law.

FEMA officials told a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club that they would hold seminars and discussions to mobilise public opinion in favour of the recommendation.

It recommended that when the country is under party government, the appointment of election commissioners should be made by the President in consultation with the leader of the opposition and under the caretaker government in consultation with leaders of major political parties.

The power of declaring results of election should be vested on the election commission instead of the returning officer, it said.

In order to ensure transparency and enhanced participation in elections, non-partisan organisations and groups should be allowed to lawfully observe the poll.

To remove ambiguity and inconsistency in the law, the FEMA recommended for making provision to entertain appeal against the order of acceptance of a nomination paper, to make code of conduct of the political parties a part of the law, to determine the expenses of a candidate by the number of voters.

It also recommended increase of the parliamentary constituencies in view of the increased population.

Recommending insertion of new provisions in the law, FEMA called for assigning permanent officers of the Elec-

See Page 12 Col 7

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
National Board of Revenue
Dhaka

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Self Assessment System for Private Limited Company

In view of easy assessment of taxes, self assessment system has been introduced also for private limited companies with effect from 1997-98 tax year. From now on, if any private limited company—

(a) submits return showing income over minimum 10% of the last assessed income and clears tax accordingly, or

(b) shows income ratio paying 10% of total paid up capital or 2.5% of total turnover as tax,

then the return will be accepted as final by the Tax Department and without any question assessment of tax will be completed accepting the return income. However, in this case the minimum tax amount will be Tk 25,000/= (twenty five thousand).

The income where it accrues more among the terms as described should be shown in the return and the tax should be cleared prior to submission of return.

This being more easy & attractive in comparison with any other system, the National Board of Revenue hopes that private limited companies will spontaneously come forward to submit return in this system.

In case of any query in this regard, you may contact Tax Consultation Centre (133, New Baily Road, Phone: 417833) or the Tax Commissioner concerned.

DFP-18904-19/8
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National Board of Revenue

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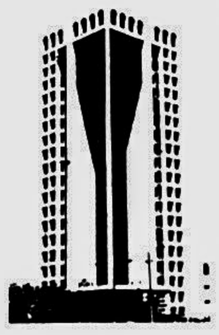

CLEANING SERVICES REQUIRED

Proposal with sealed price quotations are invited from the established bonafide firms for providing cleaning services of IDB Bhaban - a prestigious 20 storied office-cum-shopping complex located at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka, by deploying well trained and suitable personnel.

The interested firms are requested to submit their proposals to the undersigned on or before 12.00 noon of August 30, 1997. The proposal shall contain the followings :

- company profile with organisational details
- details experience both past and present
- work plan in respect of providing cleaning services of IDB Bhaban.
- financial proposal.

Interested cleaning firms can visit the IDB Bhaban physically and submit the proposal

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