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Teachers and students of biological science departments of Dhaka University brought out a silent procession on the campus yesterday to press their various demands. — Star photo

Processions protesting fuel price hike

By Staff Correspondent

The city witnessed numerous processions yesterday in demand for withdrawal of the enhanced prices of petroleum products.

BNP thana units in the capital brought out the processions after holding protest rallies in their respective areas.

The programmes were part of BNP's demonstrations in all the divisional headquarters to press for its demands that also include release of the arrested party members.

Addressing the gatherings, the local BNP leaders demanded of the government to withdraw the increased fuel prices and warned of tougher street agitations if it was not done. They also demanded release of the arrested party members.

A joint meeting of BNP's party organisations at the party central office Wednesday chalked out the programmes to be observed across the country.

The programmes include hoisting of the national and the party flags, visiting the *mazar* of the founder and Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman at Shere Bangla Nagar at 9 am and a discussion meeting at the Engineers' Institution auditorium in the city on September 1.

A cultural session will be held at the BNP central office at 3 pm on September 2 and a colourful procession will be brought out from the party office at 4 pm the following day.

From September 4 to 30, the party will organise various countrywide programmes to celebrate the anniversary.

Programmes to mark BNP's 19th founding anniversary

By Staff Correspondent

A month-long programme has been drawn up to celebrate the 19th founding anniversary of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman founded the BNP on September 1, 1978.

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ULFA men

From Page 1

ceived by us regarding the issue of Bangladesh passports to two suspect ULFA terrorists.

"We asked for information relating to the circumstances under which these passports had been issued," he said.

Talmeez Ahmed said, "We asked for revocation of the passports and requested that information relating to revocation be conveyed to the Swiss government."

There is no question of issuing a stern warning to Bangladesh which is a close friend of India or even of issuing a formal protest, the spokesman added.

He recalled that when the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and India met each other in New Delhi in December last year, they jointly committed that they would not allow their territory to be used for any activity that might harm the interest of the other country.

Both the countries were continuing to stand by this solemn commitment, Talmeez Ahmed said.

When contacted, a Bangladesh High Commission source confirmed the Indian request and said urgent actions were being taken to check the veracity of the report.

He said discussions between the Indian government and the Bangladesh High Commission were held frequently for mutual interest and those were characterised by friendship and cooperation.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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No talks with Clinton on Indo-Pak ties: Gujral

NEW DELHI, Aug 28: Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral warned the United States here today he would only meet President Bill Clinton next month if Indo-Pak ties were left off the agenda, reports AFP.

"Once this message is received and responded to, I will accept the invitation," Gujral told parliament during a special debate.

"If the visit or the meeting with Clinton is in the context of bilateral relationship, it is welcome."

SC divisions go on vacation

By SC Correspondent

Both the divisions of the Supreme Court yesterday went on Autumn vacation, the longest vacation of the year.

The Supreme Court will reopen on October 19.

However, three vacation benches and the Supreme Court office will function during the vacation.

Cancellation of exams: Retained HSC examinees gherao RB

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 28: Several hundred HSC examinees gheraoed the Rajshahi Education Board and staged a sit-in demonstration today to protest the decision to cancel examinations of more than 10,000 retained HSC examinees.

Earlier, they brought out a procession that paraded the main thoroughfares of the city.

The authorities earlier cancelled the examinations of more than 10,000 retained HSC examinees for violating rules of the Board.

New US envoy

From Page 1

Embassy and the Foreign Ministry and dean of the diplomatic corps Palestinian Ambassador Mohammad Shahta Zarab were present at the airport to receive him.

He was accompanied by his wife, Kim, and daughter, Alexandra.

Holzman served as the Deputy Chief of Mission at the US Embassy in Pakistan from 1994-97. He also served as the Director of the Office of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh Affairs at the US State Department in Washington DC from 1992-94, said a USIS press release.

Bad day for Majoli

From Page 1

At an outside court, a full contingent of Japanese — old and young — goaded All Sugiyama against Karina Hubudova of Slovakia put in vein. The sturdy Slovak won the gruelling three-setter in 2 hours and 25 minutes 5-7, 6-3, 7-5.

Another seed to tumble was the indefatigable but not very popular Thomas Muster of Austria. The fifth seed was pitted against the frail Tim Henman of Britain at the Arthur Ashe Stadium. But, behold what surprise was in store for the small number of spectators present at the 22,500 capacity tennis facility. Muster was all humour and good spirit. He thrilled the crowd by his antics and horseplay which took everyone by surprise. Commented a middleaged regular: "Either he is heading for the lunatic asylum or he is going to retire." At 29, Muster may well consider the second option but not before he took the third set from Tim before bowing out sportingly 3-6, 6-7, 6-4, 4-6.

But the climax to the day's fixture was to come at night. An angry Spirlea of Romania shattered the dreams of the youngsters at the main stadium

Diplomatic passports

From Page 1

given to the Passport and Immigration Office.

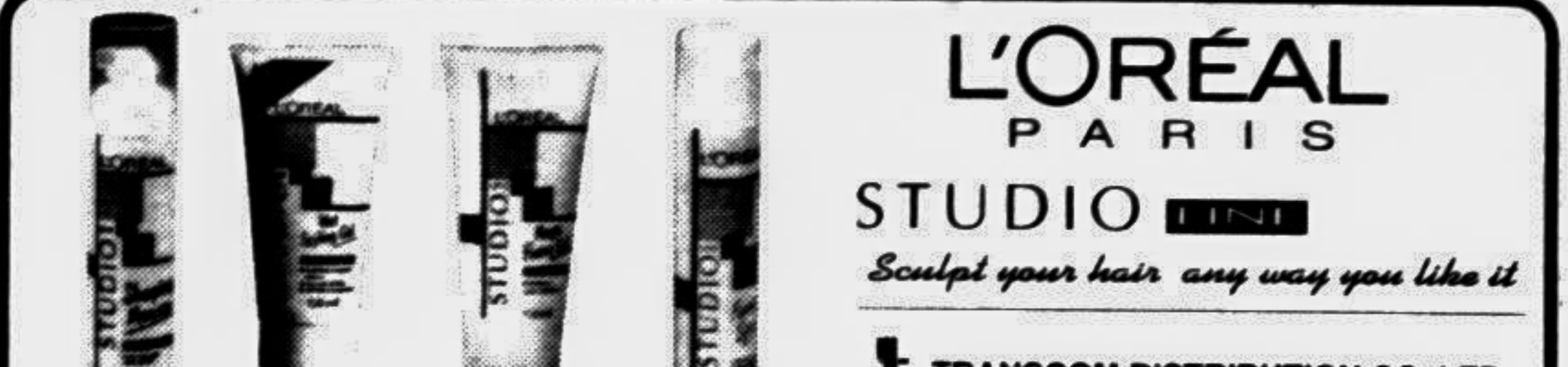
Any person who is eligible to receive a diplomatic passport can normally get it by applying in a three-page form, furnish the required details asked for. However, the application normally has to be attested by some other official certifying the good character and vouching the authenticity of information.

The red passport issuing authority does not verify the particulars. "They are distinguished persons. We act on their particulars," said an official on condition of anonymity.

The members of the Parliament are normally required to forward their application through the Parliament secretary. However, through a recent circular, the MPs have been advised to apply directly to the Consular section. But since such a waiver has met with complaints of delay in issuance, Parliamentary sources said, they are thinking of reviving the old order, but no such decision has been taken as yet.

According to sources, who would not like to be quoted, 243 MPs of the Fifth Parliament and 115 of the (current) Seventh Sangsad, have returned their 'green' passports either at the time of taking delivery of their red passports or at a later date.

How is it that in clear violation of existing passport rules,



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10pc cut in BTTB overseas phone call charge

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) has reduced the overseas telephone call charge by 10 per cent, reports BSS.

The reduced rate will be effective from September 1, 1997.

The timing for peak and off-peak hours will also be changed from the same day. The morning schedule for peak hours will be from 8.30 am to 11 pm while the off-peak hours will be from 11 pm to 8.30 am, said a BTTB press release.

The reduced call charges up to 25 per cent in the weekend (Fridays and Saturdays) and the government holidays will remain unchanged.

As per new rates, telephone call charge from Bangladesh to the United States will be Tk 72 per minute instead of Tk 80 and for calls from Bangladesh to the United Kingdom, it will be Tk 51 instead of Tk 65.

On every weekend and official holiday, the per minute call charge for the USA will be Tk 54 while it will be Tk 44 for the UK.

The BTTB has also increased the number of international telecommunication circuits.

Arms recovered, 9 held in Feni

FENI, Aug 28: Police today recovered an LG and a pipegun from Kazirbagh area and arrested nine persons from different parts of the town in connection with Tuesday's violence that left one person dead, reports UNB.

Ruling Awami League blamed BNP for the attack in which some of its workers and leaders were injured. BNP, however, denied any involvement in the attack.

Police could not recover the body of BCL leader Nazrul Islam as yet.

Akteruzzaman Babu granted ad-interim bail

The High Court yesterday granted ad-interim bail to former Awami League MP Akteruzzaman Babu, who is in police custody in connection with the Humayun Zahir murder case, reports UNB.

A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice AM Mahmudur Rahman and Mohammad Nurul Islam, after hearing a bail petition for Akteruzzaman Babu, issued a rule calling upon the state as to why he should not be enlarged on bail.

The Court has issued an order of ad-interim bail for accused Akteruzzaman Babu till disposal of the rule.

Barrister Rafiqul Haq, pressing the bail petition for Babu, submitted to the court that his client voluntarily surrendered in the trial court and after that he became seriously ill due to heart disease and have been shifted to the Cardiovascular Institute at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar under police custody.

Strike at JU demanding hall on Pritilata

By JU Correspondent

No classes were held at Jahangirnagar University (JU) for the second day yesterday as an indefinite strike began on Wednesday at the call of "General Students' Unity" and supported by three student bodies.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-P), Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front have supported the strike in demand for naming of women's residential hall number four after Pritilata Waddekar.

Student leaders, at a meeting with the Vice Chancellor at his office yesterday, expressed determination to continue the strike until the demand is accepted.

The VC, Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, advised them to withdraw the agitation programme.

Rocket launcher Kaiyum sent to jail

Kaiyum, arrested in connection with rocket launcher recovery, was sent to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday, a day before end of his remand, reports UNB.

He was scheduled to be sent to jail today on completion of his three-day remand. But he was sent earlier as he fell sick.

Detective Branch officials said people had beaten Kaiyum up mercilessly before Motijheel police arrested him from in front of Notre Dame College on Sunday night.

He became sick owing to the mass beating injury and for this he has been sent to jail. DB sources said he would be brought on remand again after recovery.

Bablu killing

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Witnesses said vehicles stayed off the road and shops and business establishments, educational institutions and even *katcha* bazaars were closed during the hartal. However, production in Khalishpur Jute Mills was normal.

PM: Habib

From Page 1

UNB adds: BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan also visited Habib at the CMH yesterday.

Bhuiyan enquired about the condition and treatment of Habib and wished his speedy recovery. He also talked to his wife and relatives.

Passage to launch ghat at Aricha neglected

By Naimul Haq

About 20,000 inter-district bus passengers suffer as the passage between the bus stoppage and launch ghat at Aricha is too narrow and a kutchra one.

The launch ghat is a vital point for road communication between the capital and the entire south and south-western districts. In the absence of a bridge over the river, passengers are ferried across it to Daulatdia ghat by launches.

"Bus owners contribute substantial amounts to the revenue earning of BIWTA but the passage at the ghat was not developed," a bus owner regretted.

The narrow, muddy and sloping passage leading to the ghat causes sufferings to the passengers, particularly women, children and the aged. It has no stairs and the hard soil becomes slippery during the rainy season, even causing minor mishaps.

"It is impossible to move about when passengers to and from the buses and launches are crossing the passage," a frustrated passenger said.

No step has been taken to improve the situation. It is the same old thing I have been seeing for the past one decade," added another passenger.

"It is a very important route but the BIWTA failed to give due importance to this ghat," said Abdul Gafur, General Secretary of Bangladesh Bus Truck Owners Association.

"We have filed several complaints with the BIWTA at different high level meetings but there has been no response as yet," Gafur said.

BIWTA officials, when contacted, said they did not have enough funds to develop the passage. "The problem at the launch ghat, out of 131 across the country, has been virtually neglected," an official said.

Khaleda visited Pakistan to hatch conspiracy: Ershad

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad has alleged that Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia visited Pakistan for hatching conspiracy as she has no confidence in herself and on the countrymen, reports UNB.

There were two *razakars* in her entourage," he said addressing huge public meeting at Pirgachha High School ground in Rangpur district yesterday afternoon.

The former president said Jatiya Party is not the party of the present government. "We are in opposition... We'll support the government's good works and criticise its bad decisions."

Criticising the government for the recent price-hike of petrol, he said the government should have discussed the issue in parliament.

JS team leaves for Delhi today

A 12-member parliamentary delegation leaves Dhaka today for New Delhi to attend a Public Account Committee conference of the SAARC countries, reports UNB.

The three-day conference begins in the Indian capital tomorrow.

Chairman of the Jatiya Sangsad Public Account Committee SM Akram will lead the Bangladesh delegation at the conference.

Other members of the delegation are MPs Shawkat Ali, MK Anwar, Whip Mohammad Abdus Shaheed, Abul Kalam Azad, Mostafizur Rahman, Khandaker Asaduzzaman, Engineer Mosharrar Hossain, Hafiz Uddin Ahmed Bir Bikram, Abdul Mannan and AHM Mustafa Kamal.

Depression

From Page 1

The low lying areas of Noakhali, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar are likely to be inundated by surges up to three feet above normal tide.

The Met Office also advised all trawlers and fishing boats to take shelter. The maritime ports of Chittagong, Mongla and Cox's Bazar were advised to raise cautionary signal number three.

The depression triggering heavy rains are likely to end an unusual dry spell that raised the temperature soaring up to 37.8 degree Celsius in Bogra on Wednesday, the highest in several years in August. In the capital it was 37.5 degree Celsius.

Sajedur Rahman, Director of Meteorological Department, told The Daily Star that the country had less than normal average rainfall during August so far as two seasonal depressions changed course and roared away towards central India.

Pak denial

From Page 1

High Commission yesterday categorically said that none of the self-confessed killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be allowed to visit Pakistan or stay in Pakistan.

Responding to some local press reports about the alleged presence in Pakistan of some of the self-confessed killers, it said, "These reports are totally unfounded and unsubstantiated."

On Wednesday, Pakistan High Commissioner in the city Karam Elahi was reportedly summoned to the Bangladesh Foreign Office to express the government's concern over the "presence of some of the killers" of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Pakistan.

Govt creating impediment

From Page 1

Begum Zia told the US envoy that for the sake of democracy, the BNP accepted the election results of June 12, 1996 and decided to sit in the opposition to give democracy a chance to function despite the fact that the ruling party in connivance with the forces involved in the electioneering process massively rigged the elections.

She said BNP had never tried to destabilise the situation and went for only two hartals to protest the atrocities of the ruling party against BNP workers.

Begum Zia said the statistics showed that the Awami League, when it was in the opposition, resorted to 57 hartals, in the first year of the BNP rule.

The BNP Richardson congratulated Bill Richardson on his being appointed as the permanent representative of the US to the United Nations and sought his cooperation to develop the country as a true independent state.

Iqbal Reza said UN Secretary General Kofi Annan was out of the country and as such he came to express his good wishes to Begum Zia.

He said the Secretary General is scheduled to visit Bangladesh and Pakistan next year.

Begum Zia left here for Los Angeles today.