

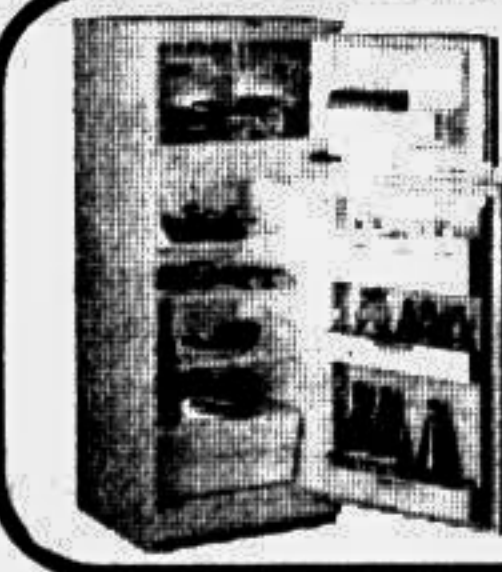
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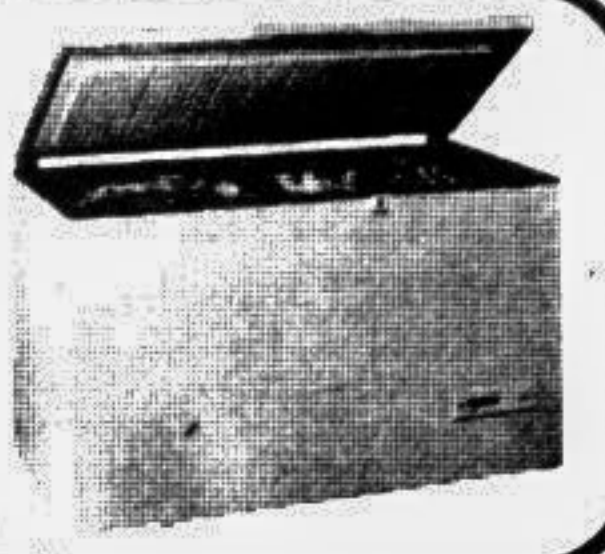


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Security tightened in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 8: The administration is beefing up security in Chittagong and its surrounding areas from tomorrow in view of the long march programme of BNP and its allies, official sources said.

Several thousand of policemen, mostly in riot gear, aided by a large number of BDR personnel, are being deployed to ensure law and order here during the long march, they said.

Special patrol teams are being posted at all strategic points to maintain security.

Intelligence teams have already started keeping "a serious watch" on movement of some local political leaders and activists of both BNP and Awami League.

Meanwhile, the situation remained calm in the city today BNP has completed all preparations to welcome the long-marchers from Dhaka tomorrow evening, party sources said.

Arrangements have been made for BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia to stay overnight at Chittagong circuit house, they said.

The long march led by Begum Khaleda Zia will start for Khagrachhari at 7 am on June 10, party leaders said.

BNP today stepped up its campaign in support of the long march.

Abacha dead

WASHINGTON, Jun 8: Nigerian President Sani Abacha has died of cardiac arrest, according to friends and family. CNN reported today, says AFP.

Security forces were earlier seen surrounding the junta leader's headquarters, and journalists were barred from entering the premises, CNN reported.

Khagrachhari

From Page 1

newsmen that they are very worried as the administration is resorting to arrest of their workers and trying to obstruct people in joining the programme.

Addressing a press conference, the committee convener Belayet Hossain Bhuiyan said their workers and leaders were not staying at home to avoid arrest. They are barred from sticking posters in favour of the march.

The district administration has requested the long-march organisers to ensure peace in the hills. The administration has advised all to park their motor-vehicles outside the town to avoid traffic congestion.

The security has been beefed up and 12 magistrates have been deployed in the sensitive spots in the district, district administration sources said.

Jamuna Bridge

From Page 1

Parbatipur. The officials were also not sure how the train passengers would travel to Dhaka from Bangabandhu Bridge East Station.

"The rail link would eventually be extended by 85-km up to Joydevpur as part of the Tk 514 crore project for Sirajganj-Joydevpur line," said the General Manager. The Railway had already submitted another project proposal involving about Tk 60 crore to link Joydevpur with Dhaka and beyond.

Project officials said since the contract was signed with a Korean firm in December 1997 for constructing the 'dual gauge' rail lines (one broad gauge and one metre gauge lines), the progress on the work was well. They said more than 97 per cent rail line work on the bridge and its approaches has been completed.

Construction of Bangabandhu Bridge East Station was going on with scaffolding seen to hold just erected roof. Nearby, heavy bulldozers and earth removers were levelling the earth for construction of tracks. Officials said the contractors were highly well-equipped and efficient.

Although to some of you, the remaining work may look too big to complete within the day one deadline, but don't worry these people have the most modern technology," said Project Director Iqbaluddin Chowdhury.

On the Bangabandhu Bridge, where visitors were now restricted, workers were seen giving final touches to the structure.

Talking about the speed limit and load on the bridge, project officials said trains on the broad gauge line would be allowed a maximum speed of 40-km per hour and a maximum load of 43.7 kilo newton per metre. In the context of Bangladesh, the permitted load and the speed would not pose any problem.

But there are some concrete barriers on the bridge. If those are removed, the load capacity of the bridge would be higher," said the General Manager, adding that the matter was now under consideration.

The city unit of Awami League held a rally in front of the district council market this afternoon and brought out a peace procession.

UNB adds: Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury today urged the 'long marchers' to refrain from creating any chaos and anarchy.

Jamaluddin Quader sent to jail

By Staff Correspondent

Jamaluddin Quader Chowdhury, youngest brother of Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, MP, was sent to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

Jamaluddin was arrested by the Special Branch of police Sunday morning from his Gulshan residence under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Police yesterday produced him before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court and prayed for a 5-day remand for further interrogation. Rejecting the prayer, the court sent Jamaluddin to the central jail, our court correspondent reported.

A bail petition was moved on behalf of Jamaluddin which was also rejected by the court.

After arresting Jamaluddin on Sunday the SB took him to its Mahibag office and interrogated him, police sources said.

WC: Platini

From Page 1

the interview. Platini said it had cost 50 million francs (8.3 million US dollars) to organize festivities on Tuesday night (June 9) 'Day One' featuring huge processions and concerts around the capital.

The tournament kicks off the next day with the opening match between Brazil and Scotland at Stade de France stadium in the Paris suburb of Saint-Denis.

The World Cup, with 32 nations competing in the biggest-ever final field, has already been undermined by a strike by Air France pilots, threatening to disrupt travel during the month-long tournament.

Platini said France could win the World Cup for the first time and that 10 teams were in the running.

"I think France can," he predicted in the interview. "Never has a World Cup been so open. Ten teams stand a chance of winning."

But France's greatest player and former national coach said there was a laissez-faire attitude toward the tournament in general in France.

"Not everybody feels concerned by this event. For example the Culture Ministry doesn't give a damn. We have no links with them," he was quoted. "So, in many areas nothing has been planned."

Preparations at many of the 10 venues depended solely "on the personality of the (local) mayor," he was quoted saying.

Sepp Blatter

From Page 1

had been the front-runner but Blatter pulled the strings he has woven in 17 years as FIFA's top administrator to turn the tide.

Blatter succeeds the 82-year-old Havelange, who had been FIFA president since 1974, as FIFA's eighth president since 1994.

'Long march' towards CHT

From Page 1

there. At 9 am tomorrow, she will start for Khagrachhari and address a public rally there at 10 am. She will be back to Chittagong circuit house at noon and start for Dhaka at 1 pm to reach at 7 pm.

Official security personnel and the staff members will accompany the Leader of the Opposition during her two-day trip, said a circular issued by her personal secretary.

Copies of the circular were also sent to different government offices including those of the Cabinet Secretary, Home Secretary, IGP, Chairman of BIWTC, DCs and SPs of the districts concerned and the Speaker's office.

BNP's preparations for the long march started a week ago and top leaders of the party met last night to discuss the latest developments. Party workers brought out processions in different parts of the city yesterday to drum up support for the march.

Meanwhile, the BNP Standing Committee at a meeting last night warned the government against any attempt to obstruct the long march. The government will be held responsible for any consequence of obstruction, said a resolution of the meeting chaired by Begum Zia and held at her official residence in the city.

The meeting termed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's statement about the programme 'provocative and motivated'. The PM said at a public rally in the city on Sunday that if



(Left) Chhatra League brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting BNP's long march. (Right) Trucks requisitioned by police on the eve of BNP's long march are kept at the Rajarbagh Police Lines.

BCL brings out 'peace procession' in city

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of the ruling Awami League, brought out a 'peace procession' yesterday in the city.

The procession started from the Dhaka University campus at around 12:30 pm. Prior to the procession, BCL organised a 'peace rally' on the campus.

Dr Jinnah asked to surrender before court

The Appellate Division of Bangladesh Supreme Court yesterday directed Dr Jinnah, an accused in a rape case, to surrender before the lower court in conformity with the order of the High Court division, reports BSS.

The Appellate Division, comprising Justice Latifur Rahman, Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf and Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury, yesterday adjourned the hearing of Dr Jinnah's petition for stay of the High Court order till June 14.

Vajpayee

From Page 1

Nawaz Sharif during the summit, their first interaction after the nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan.

The meeting will take place in the backdrop of Vajpayee expressing New Delhi's willingness to resume the dialogue process with Islamabad to address all outstanding issues, including Kashmir.

PM's visit

From Page 1

the Prime Minister to the two capitals to help ease tension following the nuclear tests and discuss 'other issues'. Dhaka's High Commissioner to Islamabad QAMA Rahim is already in the capital for consultations while Shafi Sami, envoy to Delhi may be coming 'anytime'.

The foreign ministry was also learnt to be in touch with the High Commissions of the two countries in Dhaka.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in a letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina late Saturday said, 'I would be happy to receive you very shortly'.

Vajpayee wrote to Hasina in response to a letter sent by her last month.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister wrote identical letters to both Indian and Pakistan prime ministers following the nuclear tests.

any untoward incident took place centring the long march, it would be due to inner conflict of BNP.

"There is no conflict in BNP. All the leaders, workers and well-wishers of the party are preparing for the long march together," the party standing committee said.

Time will say if the PM made the comment because her party had an 'evil design to attack the long march', the resolution said, warning against any such action.

The meeting also accused the government of attempting to foil the long march through provocation and by creating obstacles to collecting vehicles for the purpose. It expressed concern at the ruling party's plan for peace procession on the day.

UNB adds: BNP leaders and workers from far flung districts started arriving in the capital last night in buses and trucks to join the long march.

Party sources said motor processions from Rajshahi, Barisal and Khulna divisions, and the greater Mymensingh district already reached the city.

The activists of Rajshahi division were staying at the Minto Road official residence of Leader of the Opposition, of Barisal at Nayabazar city office, of Khulna at Darus Salam in Mirpur and of Mymensingh at Shyamoli.

After a brief rally at Ramna Green, Jamaat-e-Islami will start for Rangamati at

Loadshedding to be minimised during WC: PDB

By Staff Correspondent

As the World Cup football tournament begins tomorrow, the government has started a motivation campaign to reduce wastage of electricity and is trying to increase power generation.

Officials of the Power Development Board (PDB) said yesterday that power generation is expected to increase by 210 mw before the World Cup starts.

Work is going on to restore the 210 mw capacity power plant at Ghorashal on 'top priority' basis. Special attention will be given to minimise loadshedding across the country when the World Cup matches will be played, they said.

The amount of loadshedding in the country was 530 mw yesterday. Total power generation was 1760 mw on the day against a demand for 2290 mw, they said.

A circular has also been issued for owners of shops, welding workshops and industries to keep their shutters down from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm. BST when 32 out of the 64 matches will be played, they said.

Following issuance of the circular and its enforcement on welding workshop, the DESA is saving 25 mw electricity in Dhaka city everyday, they said.

Land occupied

From Page 1

The Assistant Commissioner (Land) Sylhet Sadar in a written memo to the Deputy Commissioner today sought approval for evicting the illegal occupants from the government-owned land, an official said last night.

Meanwhile, the Tahsildar of Khadimpara has filed a case with Sylhet Kotwali thana accusing 51 people including the 11 thana commanders of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad on charge of illegally occupying the government land.

Anarchists

From Page 1

condemned the 'false, motivated and fabricated' statements of the BNP chief about the CHT peace accord. As in the past, the conscious people of the country will again refuse them, he said.

He called upon all democratic and patriotic citizens irrespective of party and opinion to 'resist those trying to disrupt peace and stability of the country by resorting to anarchy.'

7:30 am. Five smaller parties of the 7-party alliance will go to Bandarban.

The Jamaat long marchers will stay at Parade Ground near Chittagong College tomorrow night and resume the journey from Reserve Bazar Wednesday morning for Rangamati.

A high-level meeting of the law enforcing agencies yesterday decided to ensure highest security during the long march on the Chittagong-Khagrachhari highway.

Some 20,000 law enforcers will be deployed on the road while special teams of army, BDR and police will stand guard on the bridges against any subversive acts.

Another report says, unidentified people removed the fish-plates of a Bailey bridge on Chittagong-Rangamati highway yesterday.

Chittagong district Police Super said the miscreants in the dark of the night removed five fish-plates of the bridge near Isa Khan Bazar at Hathazari disrupting traffic on the road for about four hours.

Meanwhile, in a move to keep the participants of the long march away from the Bangabandhu Bridge, nearly 300 armed police have been kept on alert.

Logs have been put up at five vulnerable points on Sirajganj road to prevent the marchers from using the bridge. The points are Hatkumal in Ullapara thana, Nakla in Royganj thana, Koddarnor in Sadar, Belkuchi Railgate in the town and Soidab area.

3 JCD leaders held in city

Plainclothes police last night arrested three leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal who were carrying Tk 100,000 with them, reports UNB.

When interrogated by the City Special Branch, they reportedly told that the money was given to them by BNP leaders to mobilise people for the long march toward CHT.

A special team of the SB picked up the JCD leaders from Maghbazar Crossing at about 9:30 pm while they were travelling in a private car.

The three arrested were identified as Benazir Ahmed Tito, Kamruzzaman and Rafiqul Azam Biplob.

Tk 1 cr heroin seized in city

By Staff Correspondent

Police recovered heroin worth about Tk one crore from one person at Rokeya Sharani in the city yesterday and arrested him.

The arrested was identified as Mohammad Ali. About 1.5 kg of heroin was recovered from his bag, kept in 20 separate packs.

No transport on Dhaka-Ctg highway today

Public transports and trucks will refrain from plying on Dhaka-Chittagong highway today in view of opposition's long march programme.

Sources at Sayedabad and Chittagong bus terminals told UNB that no transports will go out today on security reason. Truckers also said they will not move to Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Shohag Paribahan which has a fleet of luxury buses on Dhaka-Chittagong route confirmed that none of their vehicles will ply on this highway today because of security reason.

BNP and its allies who are organising the Long March have also urged transport owners to refrain from plying on Dhaka-Chittagong route on June 9 and 10.

Meanwhile, police yesterday requisitioned scores of buses plying in the city and on long routes.

"The requisition was made in a bid to foil the opposition long march," said Kazi Zafar Ahmed, a leader of seven-party alliance and chairman of Jatiya Party (Z-M).

FM: Diplomats

From Page 1

obstacle on their way, bullets will flow like rain from the licensed arms of the marchers.

"This is a violation of our law. One cannot join a 'march' even with licensed arms," Azad said in his written statement read out to the diplomats.

Pointing to the reported factional feuds in BNP itself, the Foreign Minister said the feuds may encourage some leaders of BNP to deliberately create a situation in which one faction will attack the other.

He said that in Chittagong, BNP is almost equally divided with two powerful leaders heading two rival factions and Chittagong is an important place for their march. There are similar factions in BNP in most of the districts along the route of the long march.

Azad said BNP wants us to abrogate the peace accord and go back to the old days of death, destruction and blood.

"They are trying to destabilise the Chittagong Hill Tracts in all possible manner. They do not want peace to prevail in that area," he said, adding that the long march is the latest in the series of their plan to disturb peace and harmony in the region.

The Foreign Minister sought continued support from Bangladesh's friends and development partners to the progress and prosperity of the people of the hill tracts.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury was also present during the briefing.

BUET strike

From Page 1

presided over by Prof Abdur Razzak Akand, president of the association. Of them, 168 were for suspension of the indefinite strike while two backed its withdrawal when the issue was put up for voting, a BUETTA press release said.

The meeting sought an assurance from the Chancellor of implementing BUETTA's demands.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the Chancellor of BUET. Earlier, BUETTA handed over a memorandum containing the demands at the Prime Minister's office on May 26.

Rejoinder

Sri Lankan High Commissioner S B Atugoda yesterday issued a rejoinder to the news item headlined 'Lankan Minister says N-tests won't affect Colombo summit,' published in The Daily Star on June 8.

The report, credited by UNB news agency had said, 'The Sri Lankan Minister said that he had several rounds of talks with Atal Behari Vajpayee...'

The rejoinder said that Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar at a press briefing in Dhaka on Sunday did not say that he had several rounds of talks with the Indian Prime Minister. "What he did say was that there were messages exchanged between the leadership of the two countries," it said.

The rejoinder also referred to another news item on Page 12 headlined, 'Lankan Foreign Minister says CHT accord a tremendous achievement.' The report said that the foreign minister had referred to the 1971 Liberation War and Pakistan.

The High Commissioner said in the rejoinder, "I categorically deny that the Honourable Minister referred to the 1971 Liberation War and our neighbour Pakistan, during his speech."

Flash flood

From Page 1

Bazar, adjacent to the thana headquarters, was under knee-deep water this afternoon.

The flash floods has also caused extensive damage to croplands in Jakiganj thana. More than 10,000 acres have been inundated while more than 500 dwelling houses were totally damaged.

Officials of Water Development Board, when contacted, said that the river Surma was flowing 140 centimetres above danger-level at Kanaighat while it was flowing 9 centimetres above the danger-level at Amolsid of Jakiganj.

When contacted, the District Relief and Rehabilitation officer said last night that, four metric tonnes of rice and Tk 7,000 in cash had been sanctioned for the three badly affected thanas.

Bekanntmachung für Deutsche zur Wahl zum Deutschen Bundestag

Am 27. September 1998 findet die Wahl zum Deutschen Bundestag statt.

Deutsche, die außerhalb der Bundesrepublik Deutschland leben und hier keine Wohnung mehr innehaben, können bei Vorliegen der sonstigen wahlrechtlichen Voraussetzungen an der Wahl teilnehmen.

Für ihre Wahlteilnahme ist u. a. Voraussetzung, daß sie

1. nach dem 23. Mai 1949 und vor ihrem Fortzug aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland ¹⁾ mindestens drei Monate ununterbrochen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland ¹⁾ gewohnt oder sich dort sonst gewöhnlich aufgehalten haben;
2. a. in Gebieten der übrigen Mitgliedstaaten des Europarates leben oder
b. in anderen Gebieten leben und am Wahltag seit ihrem Fortzug aus der Bundesrepublik Deutschland ¹⁾ nicht mehr als 25 Jahre verstrichen sind;
3. in ein Wählerverzeichnis in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland eingetragen sind. Die Eintragung erfolgt nur auf Antrag. Der Antrag ist auf einem Formblatt zu stellen; er soll bald nach dieser Bekanntmachung abgesandt werden. Einem Antrag, der erst am 7. September 1998 oder später bei der zuständigen Gemeindebehörde eingeht, kann nicht mehr entsprochen werden (§ 18 Abs. 1 der Bundeswahlordnung).

Antragsvordrucke (Formblätter) sowie informierende Merkblätter können

- von den diplomatischen und berufskonsularischen Vertretungen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland,
- vom Bundeswahlleiter, Statistisches Bundesamt, D-65180 Wiesbaden,
- von den Kreiswahlleitern in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland

angefordert werden. Weitere Auskünfte erteilen die Botschaften und berufskonsularischen Vertretungen der Bundesrepublik Deutschland.

Dhaka, den 9. Juni 1998
Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
Dhaka

178 Gulshan Ave.
Gulshan, Dhaka
Tel. 02 - 88 47 34 - 7
Öffnungszeiten: So, Di bis Do: 10.00 bis 12.30 Uhr

¹⁾ Zu berücksichtigen ist auch eine frühere Wohnung oder ein früherer Aufenthalt in dem in Artikel 3 des Einigungsvertrages genannten Gebiet (Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt und Thüringen zuzüglich des Gebietes des früheren Berlin(Ost)).

Editor: Mahfuz Anam