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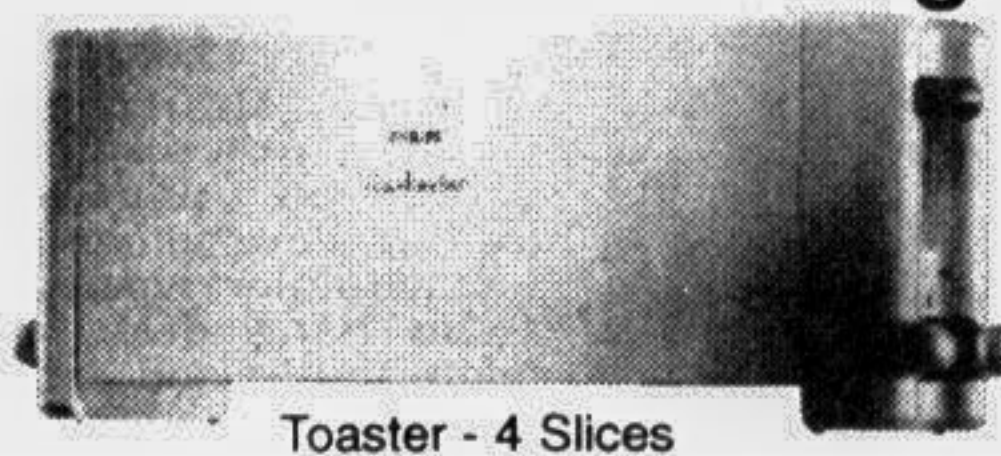
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PHILIPS



PM opens Fisheries Week

'Follow EU guidelines to boost export'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the exporters to boost export of frozen fish by strictly adhering to the European Union (EU) guidelines, reports UNB.

"You must remain alert to uphold the country's image while exporting frozen fish, including shrimps, by strictly maintaining the international standard," she told the exporters while inaugurating the Fisheries Week at the Krishibid Institution premises at Farmgate in the afternoon.

Hasina hoped that the exporters would maintain quality of their processed fish so that the export sector did not face any further obstacle in future.

We've restored confidence of the EU importers of frozen fish that was lost for the negligence of the former government and for not maintaining the standard," she said.

"Frozen fish export to other countries was about to be stopped," the Prime Minister said.

But the government, under a crash programme, extended Tk 40 lakh bank loan facility to the processing units to improve

the quality of the processed fish through modernisation, she added.

She said the country earned Tk 1.156 crore during the first eight months of the last fiscal although there were obstacles on exports.

Hasina said the government had already announced the National Fish Policy.

On the basis of the new policy, she said, a national committee on fish and shrimp has also been constituted with representatives from all concerned for an integrated development of the fisheries sector.

She said the government will spend more than Tk 586 crore by the year 2002 to develop the fisheries sector with a target of earning about Tk 3805 crore from export of fish and fish products.

Earlier the Prime Minister distributed medals to the recipients for their contribution to increasing fish production.

Later, she inaugurated the "fish exhibition" at the Krishibid Institution premises and released fish fry at the Sangsad Bhavan lake.



A photo exhibition on the life and contributions of late Tajuddin Ahmed, first prime minister of Bangladesh, was organised by Muktijuddha Jadughar in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Strike at DU protesting raise in tuition fees

By DU Correspondent

All administrative and academic activities of the Dhaka University remained suspended yesterday due to a day-long strike called by Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) protesting raise in the tuition fees and other charges of the students.

All examinations scheduled for yesterday were earlier postponed by the university authorities. The transport facilities also remained inoperative due to the strike.

Meanwhile, GCO has announced a fresh strike programme on July 26 and 27 in a rally held in front of the DUCSU building on the day.

Speakers at the rally urged the university authorities to withdraw the decision to raise tuition fees.

Bangladesh Chhatra Federation also has called a strike with the same demand on July 26.

Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and later held a rally on the campus in support of the demands of the general students.

A section of general students under the banner of the Committee for Resisting Increase of Tuition Fees have also called a two day strike on the campus on July 26 and 27.

Tajuddin's leadership

From Page 1

think this should be followed by all of us."

The President said, to intensify every progressive movement of the Bengali nationalism, starting from Language Movement of 1952 till the Liberation War, Tajuddin was among those who played the active role.

Recalling the tragic death of this great leader, President Shahabuddin said the portraits of four national leaders, who were killed in the jail, were hung at the Bangabhaban last year as a mark of respect to them.

Most speakers, however, observed that late Tajuddin Ahmed was not given due place in the national history.

Zillur Rahman said the place of Tajuddin Ahmed is just after Bangabandhu, adding the late leader was the man of great principle.

"The place of Bangabandhu is unquestionable, Tajuddin Ahmed was next to Bangabandhu," Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam said.

"None will be undermined if

Hartal observed in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 23: Normal life was paralysed in the district due to dawn-to-dusk hartal today called by the Greater Khulna Development Action Committee to press its demand for construction of a bridge over the Rupsha river and its completion before the end of the year 2000.

The hartal call was supported by all political parties including the ruling AL, different socio-cultural and professional organisations.

A big procession, participated by over five thousand people from all walks of life and all political parties, were brought out during the hartal hour.

La Nina

From Page 1

has also been swamped with some 30 of its 64 districts already inundated.

So far the rains have claimed 48 lives and caused extensive damage to crops and property.

But in Southeast Asia, farmers and meteorologists are looking forward to the onset of La Nina.

Large swathes of the region have been devastated by droughts caused by El Nino, with thousands dying of famine in parts of Indonesia and the Philippines after crops shrivelled in the fields.

LDP chooses new party chief today

Obuchi far ahead of rivals

TOKYO, July 23: The three candidates fighting to succeed resigning Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto made their final public appeals in nationally televised speeches today, all vowing to pull Japan out of its deepest recession since the end of World War II, reports AP.

Japan's ruling Liberal Democrat Party convenes tomorrow to choose a new party president. The winner is virtually certain of being elected prime minister in a later vote by Parliament because the LDP commands a comfortable majority in the powerful lower house.

Today's speeches came as media surveys of the 414 voting LDP members showed party establishment favourite Keizo Obuchi closing in on the majority needed to win on a first ballot. If no candidate wins a majority, a second ballot will be held immediately.

A survey of party members by Kyodo News released late Wednesday showed Obuchi with almost 200 votes — far away

from his two rivals and within striking distance of the 207 needed to sweep the election in a first ballot.

A poll in a major newspaper today also showed the LDP's approval ratings at an all-time low as anger rises over the government's failure to remedy the sagging economy — and the party's apparent failure to come up with a reformist leader.

As they have in the past week of campaigning, the candidates offered similar solutions to Japan's problems.

Obuchi, 61, foreign minister under Hashimoto and a party stalwart backed by the LDP old guard, vowed today to fix the economy by first cleaning up the bad debt plaguing banks, then cutting taxes and boosting public spending.

The other candidates — former Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiuro Kajiyama, 72, and Health Minister Junichiro Koizumi, 54 — have offered much the same proposals, though Obuchi has offered the most detailed ideas.

He reiterated pledges for an income tax cut worth 6 trillion yen (42.6 billion dollars) and 10 trillion yen (70.9 billion dollar) in new spending to kickstart economic growth.

The first priority is resolving the bad loans. But the problem is that may not be enough to ensure the economy will pick up," said Obuchi.

Kajiyama said his "top priority is restoring economic growth" aiming at a target of 3 per cent annually. He vowed to give the rest of his 30-year career to restoring health to Japan's once-vibrant economy.

"I may stumble along the way but I will devote my life to economic recovery," the 72-year-old Kajiyama said.

For his part, the outspoken Koizumi — who has played the role of maverick reformer in the race — vowed to implement drastic reforms of the political system, including cutting by almost half the number of Parliament members and government bureaucrats.

Pak condition for signing CTBT

Kashmir dispute must be addressed meaningfully

ISLAMABAD, July 23: Two days of talks between Pakistan and the United States on the prickly nuclear issue ended today with a promise to meet again in August in Washington, reports AP.

US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott left the final round of talks with Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Shamsheer Ahmed saying "the foreign secretary and I have been dealing with very, very tough issues that go to the very core of Pakistan's most vital national security interest."

Neither side would elaborate on the talks, although government sources here said Pakistan pressed for international

mediation on the Kashmir dispute with neighbouring India. The United States, meanwhile, urged Pakistan to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

In a brief statement on the steps of Pakistan's Foreign Ministry building, Talbott said that the test ban treaty figured in negotiations, but neither he, nor Ahmed, would elaborate.

"It is not in the interest of our objectives... to give you a box score every time we meet," Talbott told reporters.

He said the fact that the two sides are meeting again is a clear sign that "we're not finished."

AFP adds: Pakistan has told the United States it will accede

to the CTBT only when vital security concerns are safeguarded. "Unless the Kashmir dispute is addressed meaningfully, purposefully, we believe that the cause of peace and security in this part of the world will remain totally elusive," Ahmed told reporters.

Ahmed assured 'the United States had assured 'the share our concerns' and Washington was 'convinced' the Kashmir dispute has to be addressed.

He said President Bill Clinton said in a letter to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that Pakistan and India should resume dialogue and 'Washington will use its influence' towards progress in settling the Kashmir issue.

Khaleda asks partymen to stand against govt repression

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday criticised the government for its failure to mitigate the sufferings of the people and asked the party workers to stand against the repression on political opponents, reports UNB.

The government has resorted to repression on opposition workers and leaders," Begum Zia said while addressing a group of party workers at her official residence in the evening, Nasiruddin Patwari who was freed from jail recently led the party workers.

Recalling the peaceful half-day hartal in the capital on July 16 demanding solution to power-water-gas crisis and improvement of law and order, Begum Zia said that the ruling party terrorists had resorted to attack on the BNP activists during the hartal hours.

Pointing to the flood situation she said the ruling party leaders are busy with attending civic receptions when the most part of country is engulfed by devastating flood.

"The real character of Awami League has again been exposed by its activities", she added.

Two shot as BCL, Shibir activists clash at IU

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 23: Two persons received bullet wounds when activists of the BCL and Chhatra Shibir clashed on the Islamic University campus today.

Witnesses said the clash began when gunshots were fired at a BCL procession near Administrative Building.

Both sides traded over 100 rounds of gunshots during the hour-long clash.

BCL activists Akhter and Ahmed Ali, a mason working in the campus, received bullet wounds.

Both the injured were admitted to the Kushtia General Hospital.

A large contingent of police rushed to the campus and brought the situation under control.

WB: Budget

From Page 1

parency. The Update pointed out.

The Bank also questioned continuation of the 25 per cent cash incentive provided to the knitwear industry. "If there are policy distortions which are adversely affecting this sector, the solution is to address them rather than pay subsidies from scarce fiscal resources," the Bank said.

The Bank said "certain expenditure allocations are steps in the wrong direction."

These allocations include the Tk 1.3 billion fund to support production of jute goods both in the public and the private sectors, the Tk 60 crore allocation for sick industries and the increase in defence expenditure.

About the fund for sick industries, it said this sends wrong signals to healthy enterprises and creates a moral hazard as sick industries should be asked to seek redress under the Bankruptcy Act.

BNP MPs

From Page 1

liamentary standing committees.

Student beaten to death

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young man had only a pair of jeans, without shoes and shirts. A hospital official said the dead body was not registered.

The doctors and other witnesses said there were no injury marks on the body.

"We cannot say anything about the cause of the death before autopsy," said a doctor. A nurse added that the young man looked as if he was in a slumber.

A DMCH source quoting a relative said Shamim was picked up by a group of plainclothesmen in front of his house on Siddeswar Road at 4-30 p.m. They dragged him inside a vehicle, kicking and punching him indiscriminately.

Neighbours told The Daily Star that Shamim was brought back to his neighbourhood at around 7:30 pm and beaten up in public. They claimed that some 100-150 people, including Shamim's relatives, gathered and tried to persuade police not to beat whom they called an "innocent boy".

The witnesses also said police were asking Shamim to say that he had illegal arms in his possession.

Reached over telephone, DB officials at Minto Road declined to give any detail other than that one Shamim had been taken to their office.

Three plainclothesmen who took the lifeless body of the young man to the DMCH told the doctors that his details would be given by others who, they said, were on way to hospital.

TUs split

From Page 1

President of Dock Jatiya Sramik League Abdul Khaleque Chowdhury is heading the 51-member committee.

On the other hand, 22 trade union bodies at the port formed a coalition protesting the installation of the private container terminal and demanded cancellation of the project.

The coalition consisting of both the pro-AL CBA and BNP-backed trade union bodies have threatened to launch a movement from August 5 if the project is not scrapped by July 31.

But "the others" did not come and they wanted to take the body away from the hospital. The on-duty DMCH officials decided to keep the body at the dead room of the hospital under lock and key, hospital sources said.

At 12:15am, Daily Star reporters saw a number of plainclothesmen loitering around the DMCH and a number of police vans and unmarked vehicles parked in front of the emergency gate.

Late last night, DB officials were allegedly trying to "reach a compromise" with Shamim's family. Neighbours quoted family members to say that some police officials were using strong languages at Ramna police station where they went to lodge a complaint. DB Assistant Commissioner Akram Hossain and Havatul Islam Thakur were present there. Thakur was the one who picked up Shamim.

Ershad goes to Rangpur today

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad is going to Rangpur today to visit the flood affected areas of his home district, reports UNB.

Flood

From Page 1

The overall flood situation in Comilla district deteriorated further with heavy shower and onrush of hilly waters which engulfed more areas at Sadar, Chouddogram and Laksham thanas. The Bijoypur section of Comilla-Chandpur highway went under water today while thousands of people remained marooned.

Our Netrokona correspondent said road communication between Netrokona and Durgapur Sadar remained snarled for the second day today as a large portion of the road went under swirling flood waters at Gujakhali point.

Meanwhile, official reports received here yesterday said flood situation in Dhaka, Myensingh, Manikganj, Narayanganj, Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Munshiganj, Gaiabandha, Sirajganj, Kurigram, Bogra, Feni and Chandpur districts had deteriorated.

শামসুন নাহার হল
রজত জয়ন্তী উৎসব '৯৮
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
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Bangladesh Rice Research Institute
Gazipur
ANNOUNCEMENT
BRRI-DAE Workshop Postponed
The BRRI-DAE Workshop on "experiences with modern rice cultivation" scheduled to be held on 26-28 July, 1998 has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. The next date and schedule will be informed in due time. The BRRI authority regrets to announce this postponement.
Dr M A Hamid Miah
Director General

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