



Dhaka University teachers, students, officers, employees, BNCC cadets, Rover Scouts and Rangers under the supervision of Dhaka University Central Relief Committee leaving for the flood-hit areas of Kamrangchhar and Badda to distribute relief materials.

Rural health centre to be set up in each union during this fiscal

CHITTAGONG, Aug 8: State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr M Amanullah today said the government has undertaken an integrated health service master plan to provide better health services to the common people, reports BSS.

"As part of the master plan, a rural health centre with an MBBS doctor for six thousand people will be set up in each union during the current fiscal year," Dr M Amanullah said while addressing a public rally at Noapara under Raajan thana here.

The minister said the government is pledge bound to decentralise the health system for promoting health services. In this context, he underscored the importance of turning the country's vast population into human resources to face the challenges of the forthcoming century.

Presided over by local Union Parishad Chairman Deederul Alam, the meeting was addressed by Awami League leader ABM Fazley Karim Chowdhury.

Dr Amanullah also visited the Raajan Health Complex and talked to the patients.

Later he went to the residence of Awami League leader Omar Farooque and expressed deep shock at the death of his father Dr Shamsul Huq Chowdhury.

Iran asks Pakistan to save diplomats held by Taliban

TEHRAN Aug 8: Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharazi asked Pakistan today to help save the lives of Iranian diplomats held captive by the Taliban Islamic militia in northern Afghanistan, Iran's official Irna news agency reported, reports AFP.

"We want Pakistan and the Taliban officials to assure the health and security of our diplomats in Mazar-i-Sharif, a city in northern Afghanistan which fell to the militia today, Kharazi said.

"We have conveyed this to Islamabad."

The militia stormed into Mazar-i-Sharif, stronghold of the Iranian-backed opposition forces, after smashing through enemy lines in a massive dawn attack, independent sources in Afghanistan said.

BFUJ demands special labour court for newspaper industry

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) has urged the government to constitute a special labour court for the newspaper industry to help implement compulsory wage board award as per the 1974 act, reports BSS.

A meeting of the executive committee of BFUJ held in the city recently, with its president Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury in the chair, also announced a 10-point charter of demands including implementation of the Fifth Wage Board Award in all newspapers and news agencies of the country, and an agitation programme, a BFUJ press release said yesterday.

The agitation programme includes holding of rallies and demonstrations at Dinajpur on Aug 19, Bogra on Aug 20, Rajshahi on Aug 21, Jessore on Aug 30, Khulna on Aug 31, Mymensingh on Sept 7, Chittagong on Sept 12 and Dhaka on Sept 9.

Three alleged snatchers held in city

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested three alleged snatchers and recovered arms and ammunition from their possession from Shantibagh under Motijheel thana in the city Friday night.

They were identified as Sohel Rana, Salahuddin and Shamsul Huq. Police said the three were members of an organised gang.

Acting on a tip-off, team of Motijheel police raided Shantibagh area and nabbed the three from beside Shantibagh Primary School.

A gun, a Chinese axe, four bullets and two toy pistols were also recovered from their possession.

A case was lodged with Motijheel thana in this regard.

HERE and THERE

BIIT

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Choudhury yesterday said the time had now come to look at own problems in an analytical way and explore possibilities to solve them with an open mind, reports BSS.

"We need to have greater cohesiveness and sense of direction towards what we should do for ourselves," he said while addressing the opening session of a seminar on "Political development in Muslim countries — an analysis of current trends," at a city hotel yesterday.

Bangladesh Institute of Islamic Thoughts (BIIT) organised the day-long seminar. Prof UAB Razia Akhter Banu of Dhaka University presented the keynote paper.

Adviser to BIIT Shah Abdul Hannan, Dr M Shahiduzzaman of Dhaka University, journalist Sadeq Khan, Brig Kalam Shahab, Dr Mumtaz Ahmad of Hampton University, USA, and Zahurul Islam and Anwar Kamal of BIIT took part in a discussion on the paper. Chairman of BIIT Dr M Shamsheer Ali presided.

CENCE

Centre for Human Excellence (CENCE), a non-profit think tank of young professionals, organised a dialogue on "Peace in South Asia: Lesson From Japan", in cooperation with Embassy of Japan and Bangladesh Chapter of Aiesec, at its Dhanmondi office yesterday, says a press release.

The event marking Hiroshima Day was participated by 10 AIESEC exchange students from Japan, France and the Netherlands along with stu-

Relief distributed

Central Flood Relief Committee of Dhaka University distributed relief materials among city's flood-hit people for the 3rd consecutive day yesterday, reports UNB.

The committee will collect relief materials from the DU students, teachers, officers and employees till August 12 and distribute the materials among the flood-hit people of Kamrangchhar and Badda.

A current account (number-3030) has also been opened with Janata Bank TSC branch to collect donations for the flood victims and the committee requested all to extend their help for the affected people.

Stock of medicine adequate to check menace of diarrhoea: Yusuf

GAZARIA, Aug 8: Minister for Health and Family Welfare Salahuddin Yusuf said here today that medical teams were working round the clock across the country to render their services to the diarrhoea patients, reports BSS.

The minister was distributing relief goods among the flood affected people at Bhaberchar Health Centre under Gazaria thana.

Yusuf said there was adequate stock of medicine to check the menace of diarrhoea.

The minister also distributed relief materials among the flood victims in Baomia village under the thana.

Yusuf visited the patients now undergoing treatment at Bhaberchar Hospital and enquired about their condition.

He directed the attending physicians and nurses to provide them proper treatment.

A total of 90 medical teams are working round the clock in the different flood-hit areas of Munshiganj district, officials said. They said 900 metric tons of relief materials and a cash of Taka ten lakh have so far been distributed among the flood affected people in the district.

The minister was accompanied, among others, by president member of Awami League Syeda Zohra Tajuddin and assistant secretary Nurul Fazal Bulbul.

Press Council

Members of Bangladesh Press Council (BPC) yesterday accorded a farewell reception to the chairman of the council Justice Sultan Hussein Khan, reports BSS.

Advocate Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder presided over the function held at the VIP Lounge of the National Press Club.

M Anisuzzaman, the Chief Editor and Managing Director of the national news agency, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Editor of The Bangladesh Observer, Bazul Rahman, Acting Editor of The Daily Sangbad, Khondoker Tajuddin Ahmed, Joint secretary of the Ministry of Information (press affairs), Mohammad Zakaria Khan, Editor of The Daily Banglabazar Patrika, Nurul Islam Nahid, a parliamentarian and member of Bangladesh Press Council and Aziz Misir, executive editor of the Daily Manav Zamin, among others, addressed the reception.

The speakers lauded Justice Sultan Hussein Khan for upholding the dignity of the journalist community along with his contributions in the field of freedom of the press during his six-year tenure in the council.

Zillur visits some flood-hit areas of city outskirts

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday visited the flood-hit areas of Keraniganj, East Aganagar, Birbagair, Suvaidda, Kunda and Doleshwar in the city outskirts, reports UNB.

He distributed 60 metric tons of rice, 15 metric tons of pulses, cash money, saree, lungi, biscuits, dry food, water purification tablets and medicine among the flood victims.

Speaking at gatherings, Zillur Rahman, who is also the general secretary of ruling Awami League, said Awami League relief committees are providing assistance to the flood-hit people in every unions of the affected districts.

He called upon the voluntary organisations to come forward to aid the government efforts to check breakout of diarrhoea.

Expressing government's firm conviction to face the calamity, Zillur said none will suffer from starvation.

The Minister also called upon the affluent section of the society to come forward to serve the flood-hit people.

UNESCO photo exhibition begins in city today

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in collaboration with UNESCO National Commission for UNESCO is putting on show the 19th Travelling Photo Exhibition organised by the Asian Cultural Centre for UNESCO in Tokyo, titled 'Children at Play' at the Shilpakala Academy Gallery in the city from today, says a press release.

Obaidul Quader, State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs, will inaugurate the exhibition at 5 pm today.

The exhibition will remain open from 2 pm to 8 pm till August 16. It will remain closed on Aug 15.

Some 109 prize-winning photographs from 24 Asia and Pacific countries, including Bangladesh, will be exhibited.

Bomb blast in Pak Kashmir leaves 4 dead

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, Aug 8: A bomb blast in border village in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir killed four people, including three women, police said Saturday, reports AP.

The bomb attached to a time device ripped through house in the village of Hattian Bala, 52 kilometres from the Kashmir capital, Muzaffarabad. Two others were wounded in the Friday night blast.

No group has claimed responsibility.

Police said investigations continued.

The blast occurred after two days of relative calm between Pakistani and Indian troops in the disputed Kashmir valley. The two sides blamed each other for starting an exchange of heavy artillery fire for nine straight days in which more than 100 people were killed, hundreds wounded and thousands displaced on both sides of the border.

Ranariddh not interested to work with Hun Sen

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia, Aug 8: Opposition leader Prince Norodom Ranariddh said Saturday that he cannot work with strongman Hun Sen, winner of recent parliamentary elections, when a new government is formed next month, reports AP.

But Ranariddh left open the door to a coalition between his royalist FUNCINPEC and Hun Sen's ruling Cambodian People's Party, saying he would not stand in the way if his party votes for a partnership.

Ranariddh, speaking to 500 supporters at FUNCINPEC headquarters, said he did not trust the man who ousted him as co-premier in a bloody coup a year ago and was declared victor in July 26 elections the opposition said were marred by fraud.

"In my heart, I do not want FUNCINPEC to join a coalition

PCJSS set to become country's first regional political party?

KHAGRACHHARI, Aug 8: Parbatyia Chhatragram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), which fought for over two decades seeking autonomy for the three hill districts, is now poised to emerge as the country's first regional political party, reports UNB.

After signing the CHT peace deal with the government last year, the PCJSS is taking the democratic course through conventional political line.

Drumming up support in favour of the peace accord and for amity between tribal people and Bangalee settlers from the plains, the PCJSS leadership has gone all out to expand party activities to the grass-root level in the three hill districts.

The emergence of PCJSS as the regional political party in the CHT not only poses a threat to the mainstream parties in the region, but it may also weaken the power base of the local unit of ruling Awami League, which has long been a dominant political force in the area.

Moreover, the PCJSS is also currently active in bringing the Bangalee settlers under its umbrella.

Within a short time, the PCJSS has managed to expand its organisational network to most of the unions in Rangamati and Khagrachhari.

Laxmi Prasad Chakma, Sadhu Roy Tripura and Tatin-dra Lal Chakma alias Major

Pele have been given the responsibility of organising the party in Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari districts.

The PCJSS has also engaged some of its top-ranking leaders in monitoring the fresh organisational activities and give feedback to the party high command.

A major objective of the exercise is to involve the new generation in the PCJSS initiative for peace and cooperation between the feuding groups in the region.

Opening up of PCJSS as a political party has, however, helped the government to defuse the growing agitation against the CHT peace accord by a large number of Bangalee settlers

having the backing of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami.

Growing divisions in the local leadership of BNP, particularly in Bandarban and Khagrachhari, has caused the anti-peace accord agitation to lose much of its clout.

A top leader of the PCJSS said, "Detaching ourselves from the armed movement, we've now chosen the democratic way to establish our rights."

In view of the post-accord situation, the PCJSS has been emphasising on a harmonious relationship between the tribal and non-tribal people, he said.

"We have also taken up a plan to politically resist those tribal elements who are opposing the peace accord," he added.

HYDERABAD, India, Aug 8: Twenty-two Maoist rebels fighting police to set up communist rule in southern India surrendered on Saturday and received the reward money that had been offered for their capture, officials said, reports AP.

The surrender of the militants of the People's War Group was the latest success in the new strategy to win over militants, who are engaged in a 15-year-old rebellion, said Andhra Pradesh state police chief H J Dora.

The militants who surrendered will get land to build a house, government loan and other help for their rehabilitation, Dora told a news conference. In addition, they received the reward money, which ranged from 10,000 rupees and 50,000 rupees (dhs 235 and dhs 1,175).

The militants were allegedly involved in several killings and attempts to murder, Dora said. Nearly 300 people, including 22 policemen, have died this year in PWG-related violence, police said.

The rebels, who are called naxalites in India, mostly target rich land owners, accusing them of exploiting landless farm hands. They often seize farm fields of the rich and give the land to peasants.

The rebels also attack police and administration officials, accusing them of colluding with the land owners to deny agricultural workers their rights.

Dora said the new police campaign set aside 120 million rupees (dhs 2.9 million) for the

arrest of 1,700 people wanted for alleged links with the PWG. More than 150 rebels have surrendered so far this year, Dora said.

The PWG wants to create a communist state comprising tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh and parts of three neighbouring states. In the last 15 years, more than 5,500 people have died in the violence between the rebels and the police.

Heated debate in parliament over Arafat's new cabinet

RAMALLAH, West Bank, Aug 8: Palestinian legislators nearly came to blows Saturday in a heated debate over whether to approve Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's new Cabinet, reports AP.

The deputies had been scheduled to vote on the new Cabinet, but there were so many requests to speak — mostly by critics of Arafat's appointments — that the session was continued until Sunday.

Arafat announced his new Cabinet last week, a year after legislators demanded the old one be dissolved because of widespread corruption. But his roster left in place most of the former ministers, including those accused of corruption, and added 10 more.

Cabinet ministers Hanan Ashrawi and Abdel Jawad Saleh quit last week in protest.

"We have to respect ourselves. We have to make tough decisions," Ashrawi said Saturday, urging her colleagues to vote down the new Cabinet.

"We need much more than adding people to the Cabinet, we need a change in methodology," said independent legislator Ziad Abu Amr, head of the council's political affairs committee. "I cannot give this government a vote of confidence with a clear conscience."

More than a dozen of the 88 council members took the podium to criticise Arafat's administration and proposed Cabinet. However only one of the critics was from Arafat's Fatah faction, which has a 68 per cent majority in the council.

Although legislators have frequently rebuked Arafat in the past, they have so far failed to make good on threats of a no-confidence vote against his gov-

22 Maoist rebels surrender in India

CHONGGIN, Aug 8: Forty-one people have died, 41 are missing and 156 have sustained injuries resulting from rainstorms which ravaged the southwestern section of Chongging, an industrial centre in southwest China, from Thursday evening to Friday morning, reports Xinhua.

The storms, with dropped precipitation ranging from 150 to 300 millimetres, hit Qijiang, Jiangning and Wansheng and caused mudflows and rock slides which disrupted traffic on the Chongging-Guiyang railway and the Chongging-Guiyang and Chongging-Changsha highways.

A total of 5.1 million local people were adversely affected by the storm, which killed 20,000 head of livestock and damaged crops on 215,000 hectares.

41 killed in rainstorms in SW China

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Qulqhwani

Qulqhwani of Prof Muhammad Irshadullah, former principal of Jagannath College and founder principal of Titumeer College, will be held at his residence at House No-74, Road No-7/A, Dhanmondi, after Asr prayers today, reports UNB.

Prof Irshadullah died Thursday of a heart ailment at the age of 81.

Irshadullah was a teacher of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Islamia College (Maulana Abul Kalam Azad College) in 1942.



Prof Dr Iqbal Mahmud, Vice-Chancellor, BUET, distributing certificates and prizes among the meritorious students of the Chemical Engineering Department at a function organised by the Chemical Engineering Alumni Association yesterday at the seminar room of Civil Engineering building, Richard Heaton, General Manager, Cairn Energy, Bangladesh was present as special guest.

Darul Ihsan varsity holiday Aug 15-17

Darul Ihsan University has announced a three-day holiday beginning Saturday to mourn the death of its founder-Vice Chancellor Prof Syed Ali Ashraf, reports UNB.

Prof Ashraf died in Cambridge, UK on August 6. His body will be flown to Dhaka tomorrow morning, and his namaz-e-janaza will be held at Dhanmondi Old Eidgah at 11 am. He will be buried on the university campus at Savar after a second janaza there.

The university held a condolence meeting yesterday with acting Vice Chancellor and elder brother of the deceased Prof Syed Ali Ahsan in the chair, teachers, students, officers and employees of the university attended the meeting.

His qulqhwani will be held at his residence at House No-21, Road No-9/A (New), Dhanmondi in the city at 5:30 pm on Aug 11, said a press release.

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