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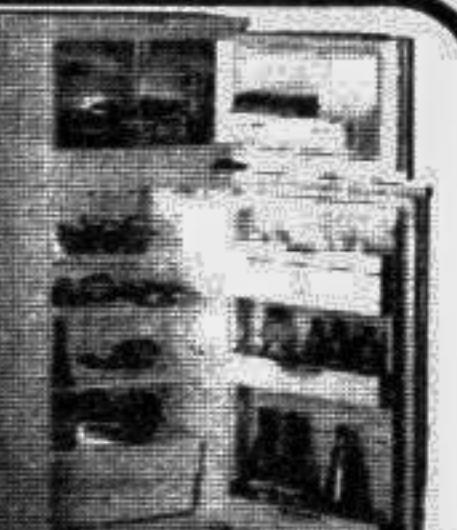
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New China-led economic bloc in the offing

and Myanmar.

The main areas of cooperation are industry, agriculture, tourism, and finance.

It will also examine the possibility of constructing communication channels and networks among the members as infrastructure for the economic cooperation among the Asian nations.

The conference will discuss and form the framework for regional cooperation among the nations after evaluating all the policies related to trade and investment climate in China, India, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The conference, thus, is not just an academic exercise, but also an action plan," says the Yunnan Academy of Social Sciences of China, the host of the meet.

Kapna-I well

Pre-production tests begin today

From Iqbal Siddique

SYLHET, Aug 9: US company Unocal with its associate Occidental will start pre-production tests at the well 'Kapna-I' in the newly developed Kapna Gasfield in Sylhet from tomorrow, said an official this evening.

Meanwhile, Anti-Communal Student Forum (ACSF), an alliance of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) called an indefinite class boycott from tomorrow.

ACSF also brought out a procession today demanding resumption of bus service.

Classes and examination could not be held today due to the agitation programmes.

Shibir also called for a rally on the campus tomorrow and indefinite term class boycott from August 11.

Yeltsin sacks PM again

MOSCOW, Aug 9: President Boris Yeltsin sacked Prime Minister Sergei Stepanishin along with the entire Cabinet today, touching off a fresh political crisis as the country prepares for two key elections in coming months, reports AP.

Yeltsin's unexpected move marked the fourth time in 17 months he has fired the government, and critics said the President's unpredictable behavior made him unfit to govern.

"It's hard to explain madness," Boris Nemtsov, a former deputy prime minister, told the Echo of Moscow radio station.

The people have grown tired of watching an ill leader who is not capable of doing his job."

The President immediately named acting prime minister, Vladimir Putin, the head of the Federal Security Service, the main successor to the KGB. Putin, 46, has spent most of his career in the country's security services, and has little experience with political or economic issues.

Rubel's father cross examined

By Court Correspondent

Father of Rubel was cross examined by a defence lawyer for more than two hours at the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court yesterday.

Ten of the fourteen charged accused, including AC Akram and Mukuli Begum, were produced before the court yesterday at about 2 pm. The rest four — SI Nurul Alam, constables — Mong She Oen, Abul Kalam Azad and Zakir Hossain — have been absconding since the killing of Rubel.

30 hurt at Ctg as transport workers clash

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: At least 30 people, including a photo-journalist and a police official were injured in a clash that took place at Barik Building Crossing when some transport workers tried to enforce strike here today, witnesses said.

Police and witnesses said, two rival groups of transport workers today locked in a clash and blasted a huge number of cocktails.

Police rushed to the spot and fired teargas shells to disperse the clashing workers. Police also resorted to lathicharge to disperse the clashing groups.

At that time the agitating workers pelted stones and threw cocktails at the police injuring the officer-in-charge of port thana, Zafarullah, police and witnesses said. Photojournalist Debu Prashad of Bangladesh Observer was allegedly beaten by police during the incident.

Shibir enforces strike at CU

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: The Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) unit at Chittagong University today enforced a day-long strike on the campus to press its three point demand including resumption of bus service.

Meanwhile, Anti-Communal Student Forum (ACSF), an alliance of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) called an indefinite class boycott from tomorrow.

The main topic of the conference will be of practical and strategic significance for the regional cooperation among the four countries bound by historic linkages.

However, it will study the feasibility of interaction in the economic, trade and technological fields among China (Yunnan), India, Bangladesh



Tribals staged a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding constitutional recognition.

—Star photo



Ami with his mother at the press conference yesterday.

—Star photo

Case against Prothom Alo publisher, editor stayed

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court yesterday stayed the proceedings of the criminal case filed by Barrister Rafiq-ul-Haq against the editor of Prothom Alo, its publisher and special correspondent for eight weeks.

The High Court also asked Huq to explain within six weeks why the case should not be quashed.

The High Court Division orders came Sunday following an appeal made by Prothom Alo Publisher Mahfuz Anam, Editor Mattur Rahman and Special Correspondent Sanaullah. The appeal was heard by a Bench comprising Justice Sirajul Islam and Justice M M Ruhul Amin.

Barrister Rukonuddin Mahmud appeared for the petitioners. He was assisted by Murad Reza, Mubina A Rahman and Sheikh Hasan Arif.

Army, navy to be withdrawn from Ctg port Thursday

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: Stage is set for pulling out Army and Navy personnel from Chittagong port on Thursday, port security sources said.

The withdrawal follows the decision taken by the defence ministry, they said. About 500 Army and Navy personnel were deployed at Chittagong port.

In the first phase army personnel were deployed under the food cell of Chittagong port to expedite and supervise the discharge of foodgrains and other food items on September 17 last year.

Meanwhile, Chittagong port authority requested the government to keep some Army personnel at the port to provide security service at the jetty gates, port official said. But any response in this regard was yet to be received, they said. On the other hand, port users opposed the move for withdrawal of Army. He said that appeal would be made to the government to keep Army at Chittagong port for security reasons.

President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry and convenor of Port Users' Forum Kamal Uddin Ahmed talking to this correspondent said that a meeting of the forum would be held tomorrow here to protest the move for withdrawal of Army. He said that appeal would be made to the government to keep Army at Chittagong port for security reasons.

Noori Mosque Another skull, 26 more bones recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Excavators yesterday recovered another skull, 46 bones, one bangle and a chain from around the Noori Mosque area as excavation work continued for the 10th day yesterday.

The Liberation War Museum (LWM) started digging from July 31 on receiving information that the Noori Mosque committee had found skull and bones while digging the well and its adjoining areas for renovation work.

The excavation work is being carried out by the Liberation War Museum with the help of Ekator Smriti Parishad, mosque authorities and local people.

Ailing Ami leaves for London today

By Special Correspondent

A seven-year-old student of Udayan School in the city, Ahad Hossain Ami, who was injured in a road accident, is leaving for London today for treatment after people responding to a call for help donated Tk 13 lakh and 12 thousand to pay for it.

Bikrampuri told newsmen yesterday at the Jatiya Press Club that he helped raise the funds as Ami's parents sought his help after spending over Tk 10 lakh for treatment of their son. He thanked all for helping Ami get necessary treatment.

The boy was injured in a road accident in April last year.

Parents of Ami were present at the press conference. They also thanked people for the help.

More slums, illegal shops removed

By Staff Correspondent

More than three thousand shanties, shops and illegal establishments on both sides of rail lines starting from Shamibagh to Jaura in Shatrupur thana were evicted in presence of police personnel yesterday.

The drive was carried out from morning till evening in presence of a railway magistrate. The slums evicted yesterday were Sayedabad rail crossing, Guntighar and Nama Dayganj Jurail rail crossing.

Witnesses said that thousands of people became homeless as slums and shops were evicted from both sides of the rail lines stretching for about four kilometres.

The recent police drive to remove slums was carried after a police constable was shot dead inside a police camp at Gopibagh, Friday night.

Three slums at Balurmath, Barrack and TT Para were evicted on Sunday in presence of more than a thousand police personnel and para-military border forces.

According to police officials more slums in the different areas of the city will be evicted gradually.

A slum dweller at Sayedabad rail crossing alleged that several slum dwellers were killed at different times following conflict among feuding groups of illegal drug traders but police did not take any action about it.

Nasim firm to remove slums

Star Report

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday said all slums in Dhaka city will be evicted, as those have become dens for criminals.

The Home Minister in an interview with BBC said that if we allow slums to grow on government land then the whole of Dhaka city will turn into a big slum.

He said evicted people will return to their respective village homes and some will be rehabilitated under the government's rehabilitation programme.

Thousands of phenidyl bottles, bombs and arms were recovered during the slum eviction programme, the minister informed.

But this time police are reacting severely as one their colleagues was shot dead by the illegal drug traders.

Meanwhile, panic gripped the slum dwellers following the recent drive by the police. It was learnt that several people from Gopibagh area rushed to the BNP colony at Agargaon area while a senior police official said that they are planning to continue their drive to the BNP colony very soon.

We have a lot of time to assess the existing private projects," commented a source. "Right now, it will be wise for us to pursue power projects under suppliers' credit and streamline financial matters in PDB-DESA.

"Since we already have a lot of private power projects in hand, it should be our last option now to pursue any more project," the source pointed out.

We should concentrate on maintaining the schedules of the present projects which will be bearing fruits in the next couple of years."

Meghnaghat

From Page 1

The Ministry further noted that since AES already had the First Phase Meghnaghat Project in hand with a total generation capacity of 810 MW, it would not be wise to award it a third project.

However, official sources said that the whole idea contradicted World Bank recommendations regarding private sector power generation in the country.

The WB says the government should not pursue private sector power projects beyond a total generation capacity of 1330 MW (which are already in the pipeline).

The WB further says the government must first assess the economic implications of these private projects so that payments for power do not create any 'debae'.

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Bacher is leading a 15-member ICC team to Nairobi to assess the game's facilities and infrastructure. A decision on whether Kenya and Bangladesh qualify automatically for the 2003 World Cup will be made in London next June.

Bacher said recommendations had been made for Zimbabwe and Kenya to host some 2003 World Cup matches.

Bacher said automatic qualification for Kenya and Bangladesh would see 14 teams, instead of 12, competing in 2003.

Dates of Manzoor murder trial shifted

The First Additional District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, yesterday shifted the dates to August 22, 23 and 24 for passing the order of cancellation of bail of all the accused including Jatiya party Chairman and former president HM Ershad in Major General Manzoor murder case, reports BSS.

The agreement was signed at the end of the two days' hectic meeting with the government representatives at the Communications Ministry.

ICC seeks WC place for Bangladesh

NAIROBI, Aug 9: The International Cricket Council (ICC) recommended today that Kenya and Bangladesh qualify automatically for the 2003 World Cup in South Africa, reports Reuters.

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Transport strike called off

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