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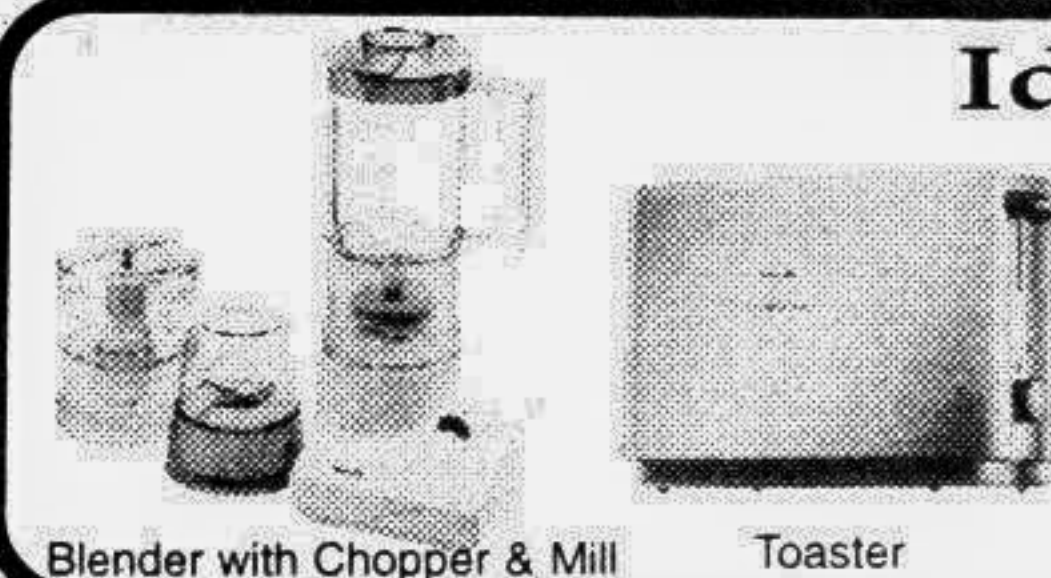
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Deployment of int'l force in East Timor may be delayed

DILI, East Timor, Sept 18: Hundreds of militias and Indonesian policemen were Saturday heading in convoys away from the East Timor capital Dili towards the border, as the arrival of a multinational force here looked set to be delayed, reports AFP.

Scores of trucks and other vehicles carrying the militia-men as well as 28 trucks packed with members of the elite Brimob police force were heading for West Timor, ahead of the planned deployment, travellers said.

Major General Peter Cosgrove, the commander of the multinational contingent, had been expected to arrive here Saturday with an advance party for talks with Indonesia's martial law commander.

But an Australian Defence Force spokesman said the trip had been delayed to Sunday, giving no reason for the change of plans.

A report in the Jakarta Post cited the Indonesian military

(TNI) as saying the visit had been postponed by the Australians.

"The transfer of mandate to restore peace and order in East Timor from TNI to the multinational force remains hanging in the balance," martial law Commander Major General Kiki Syahnakri told the newspaper.

Further delays in the multinational force's deployment could prove disastrous for the estimated 125,000 to 190,000 refugees, many sick and starving, believed to have fled into East Timor's mountains and jungles.

They were escaping a brutal backlash waged by pro-Jakarta militias against the August 30 UN-sponsored vote for independence from Indonesia, which invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 and annexed it a year later.

On Saturday, columns of smoke hung over parts of Dili, which appeared to have been deserted.

Some 2,000 refugees still packed Dili's harbour hoping for passage on a navy ship bound for Kupang, the main city in neighbouring West Timor.

Australia has said it expects a contingent of about 2,000 soldiers to depart from Darwin for East Timor on Sunday or Monday.

They will be the first wave of a 7,000 strong International Force for East Timor (Interfet).

But the Indonesian military command in East Timor said the change in Cosgrove's plans could delay the troops' arrival.

"If the meeting scheduled for Saturday has been cancelled, naturally there can be as yet no troop arrivals on Monday," spokesman Captain Gig Sipatuta told the Antara news agency.

Syahnakri said Friday that Indonesia was ready for the arrival of the foreign peacekeepers, after withdrawing 8,000 East Timor-raised troops and police into neighbouring West Timor.

Restructure UN

From page 1
tions flag high in difficult and trying circumstances.

The prime minister expressed her satisfaction over the adoption of Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace by the UN General Assembly Monday, Bangladesh, she said, played a pioneering role in the adoption of this landmark document, which would bring together all actors for promoting a culture of peace worldwide.

Referring to micro-credit programme, she said: "At our initiative more than fifty Ambassadors and permanent representatives have come together in New York to form the Friends of Micro-credit at the United Nations."

Underlining the importance of reforms of the UN body, she said Bangladesh's constructive engagement in restructuring and revitalisation of the United Nations in economic, social and other related fields earned praise from the entire UN membership.

The prime minister also stressed the need for paying UN dues, saying that despite resource constraints

Bangladesh's balance for all UN dues are regular, which is "another manifestation of our commitment to the United Nations in full".

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, UNDP Administrator Mari Malloch Brown, Under Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Sergio Viera de Mello, Warburg Professor of International Relations and former Under Secretary General of UN Erik Jensen, Assistant Secretary General for Peacekeeping Operation Yong Jin Choi and Deputy Head of UN Relief Operation in Bangladesh Dr Nicky Renedick also spoke on the occasion.

Later, the prime minister presented to the UN Secretary General an 8th century terracotta artifact and a big replica of commemorative stamp released on the occasion of the Silver jubilee.

A photograph of Bangabandhu was hung at the tastefully decorated podium of the ECOSOC.

Shantu Larma to join PM in Paris

Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC) Jyotindra Boddhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma will attend the Paris ceremony where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will receive the UNESCO Peace Prize.

Shantu Larma told BSS that he would be leaving for Paris on September 22 to join the ceremony scheduled for September 24. He returned home Friday from Calcutta after treatment there.

Larma could not accompany the Prime Minister to New York as he had gone to Calcutta for medical check-up, one of his aides said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was awarded the UNESCO Peace Prize 1998 for signing the CHT peace accord in December 1997 which ended the two-decade long bush war waged by tribal insurgents in three hill districts of the CHT.

The Prime Minister, presently at New York to attend the 54th General Assembly of the United Nations, will make a stopover at Paris on her way back home to receive the UNESCO award.

Schoolboy

From page 1
not identify the hall or even the abductors, the family sources added.

Quoting the victim, the sources said that the abductors, numbering eight, took him at gunpoint to the dormitory by a microbus. Later they telephoned his father and demanded Tk 150,000 as ransom.

Accordingly, the father paid the money and found his son in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital at around 7:30pm.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, uncle of the victim Prof. Sadrul Amin, teacher of the Department of English and former Proctor of the university, said: "I informed the matter to Proctor and I will formally inform the authorities (about the matter)."

Asked if he had lodged any case, he said: "Why should I file a case with police as a number of police personnel are deployed on the campus for security?"

However, Prof. Amin declined to disclose the identity of the victim and his family for the sake of their security.

When contacted, Proctor Prof. AKM Nur-un-Nabi said: "I've already informed the police and SB about the incident and they are looking into the matter."

Find the 'missing' girl : SNS

By Staff Correspondent

Sammilita Nari Samaj (SNS), a conglomerate of some women's rights organizations, has demanded of the government information about the girl who is missing from Bhupur, Tangail after being abducted by a policeman on September 15.

Though the policeman, Walir Rahman, was arrested for abducting the 14-year girl, no case has yet been filed against him, SNS said in a statement here yesterday. Local people suspect that the girl was raped and killed, SNS said.

The local police administration is trying to save the rapist, as in other incidents of rape by police elsewhere earlier, the SNS alleged.

AL-BNP clash in Jessore: 20 hurt

JESSORE, Sept 18: At least 20 people were injured in a clash between ruling Awami League and opposition BNP at Monirampur Bazar in Monirampur thana here today, reports UNB.

Local people said the clash erupted at about 2 pm over Thursday's election of Khedapara Kadombaria Madrasah committee. Some 40 handmade bombs were exploded during the clash that continued for three hours.

Of the injured, Nister Faruk and Amjad Hossain were rushed to the district general hospital in critical condition while others to the thana health complexes.

About 100 vehicles, including buses and trucks, remained stranded during the clash, disrupting communication in the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the area.

Oil mill manager killed by dacoits at Feni

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Sept 18: Dacoits killed a manager of an oil mill in the town last night.

The victim was identified as Arabinda Bikash Saha, 60, manager of Luxminarayan Oil Mill.

Police said, a gang of dacoits entered the mill by breaking open the door of the mill and slung manager Arabinda. The gang then broke open the cash box and decamped with Tk 32,000.

Police recovered the body this morning and sent it to Feni Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

None was arrested in this connection till filing of this report at 7 pm today.

Jyotsna

From page 1

accumulated huge wealth through evil means.

At one stage, Ershad began to consider Teko Aziz as his rival and an obstacle to his business. According to Noor-e-Alam, Aziz was shot dead by Ershad and his accomplices on May 9, 1996 and the body was dumped in the river Bhairab with the help of 'cake cement'.

Following the murder, Beauty, claiming herself the wife of Ershad, filed a case against some other 'terrorists' who were opponents of Ershad. But Jyotsna told this correspondent that Ershad and his accomplices killed her husband.

She demanded exemplary punishment to the real culprits.

Ershad Shikdar

From page 1

leader Moslemuddin Khan. Moslem was murdered allegedly by Ershad on February 25, 1995 at Lower Jessore Road under Kotwali thana.

In another development, investigation has been started against the police officials and politicians who were financially benefited by Ershad for concealing his criminal acts since 1982, the year he joined Jatiya Party.



East Timorese women walk in front of a building which was burned by pro-Jakarta militias on the main street of Dili yesterday. —AFP photo

Pakistan 222 for 5

TORONTO, Sept 18: A century by Yousuf Youhana and a half-century from Abdul Razzaq lifted Pakistan to 222 for five in the second of three one-day matches against the West Indies, reports AFP.

Youhana and Razzaq put on 149 after Pakistan, who lead the series 1-0, had made a sluggish start after opting to make first use of a placed wicket.

The duo battered the West Indies attack for 100 off the final 10 overs.

West Indies captain Brian Lara used a surprise tactic by starting with off-spinner Christopher Gayle, instead of a pace bowler as is the West Indies' normal practice.

The gamble in using the relatively inexperienced Gayle,

combined with veteran pace bowler Courtney Walsh, appeared to pay off early in the innings with Pakistan getting off to a very slow start.

After 10 overs, the Pakistanis had scored just 23.

With the pitch favouring the bowlers early in the game and Lara mixing the speedsters and spinners, Pakistan were restricted to around three an over. However, the turning point in the innings came in the 38th over when Youhana and Razzaq hit nine runs off Walsh, at that stage the highest score in one over.

The scoring then gathered momentum with Youhana and Razzaq notching up their 100 partnership in the 44th over.

Indian polls: 42 killed

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for Baramulla, the only constituency in Kashmir that voted Saturday. Balloting in a second district was cancelled after the assassination of a candidate last week.

Police and other sources said three people were killed and four were injured when troops from the army's Rashtriya Rifles corps opened fire at residents who refused to come out of their homes to vote in Baramulla.

In the village of Hygam, residents said security forces shot a young man, Altaf Hassan Mir, when he refused to leave his home to vote. Villagers demonstrated and paraded the body.

The state government, which has banned anti-election rallies, was accused in the earlier voting phases of using security forces to force a higher turnout. The vote count on Sept. 3 was less than 11 per cent, according to the Election Commission.

Fifty leaders of the All Hurriyat Party Conference, which called for the boycott, were in custody.

A grenade was rolled into one polling station and a bomb exploded near the bus yard in Baramulla, causing no injuries. A bomb also exploded at a polling booth there, seriously injuring the driver of a vehicle that had brought security forces to guard the site, the Press Trust of India reported.

In Muthura in Uttar Pradesh,

desh, where Hindus and Muslims have clashed over sites that are holy to each, Muslim women in black veils went to the polls as did Hindu monks in saffron-colored robes and beads.

Fifty-one per cent of the voters cast ballots in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous heartland state, and one man was shot to death outside a polling booth in Farrukhabad by a neighbour who supported a different party, election officials said.

Uttar Pradesh is considered crucial because of the large number of seats it has in the 545-member Lok Sabha, or lower house of parliament.

Prime Minister Vajpayee and Sonia Gandhi are both seeking parliament seats in the state, although their constituencies vote on Oct 3, the last polling day.

Voting was postponed in two constituencies in Madhya Pradesh state because flooding of the Narmada River disrupted communication and kept election officials from reaching the polling stations. The turnout there was 45 per cent.

The election was called after Vajpayee lost a confidence motion by one vote in April and no other party was able to form a government.

Ballot counting starts Oct. 6 and a new government is expected to be seated in mid-October.

Housewife drowns in pond at Uttara

A newly wed housewife drowned while taking bath in a pond at Debudia in Uttara thana on Friday, reports UNB.

Family sources said Minara, 22, wife of Suruj Mia drowned in their family pond while she was taking bath in the morning.

Daughter of Shamsul Huq of village Kharamura of Sriabardi thana of Sherpur district, Minara married Suruj Miah 22 days back.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. A UD case was filed.

BSF returns bodies of 2 Bangladeshis

THAKURGAON, Sept 18: The bodies of two Bangladeshi nationals killed by Indian border security force (BSF) were returned after a flag meeting with BDR Friday evening, reports UNB.

Officials said Pashiruddin, 45, and Saidur Rahman, 27, of Updail in Pirganj thana were shot dead by BSF early Thursday morning at Suagram, on Bangladesh territory near the barbed wire fence on the border put up by India.

The victims were buried at Suagram.

Govt urged to take action against illegal fuel business

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Petroleum dealers, distributors, agent and petroleum pump owners association yesterday, condemned illegal fuel business, extortion and hooliganism and appealed for immediate deployment of Army and BDR at all key oil depots.

A press release of the association urged the government to take necessary action against illegal fuel business in the country.

They also demanded a probe committee to investigate the matter.

Khaleda

From page 1

Bangladesh would always welcome aid and grants from abroad given for the benefit of the commonman, Begum Zia noted.

She claimed that the country achieved tremendous development during BNP's three terms. During the meeting which lasted about one hour, they discussed the political situation and that in social, education and health sectors.

The BNP chief alleged that the government was obstructing BNP and other opposition parties in their peaceful and democratic agitation programmes.

She blamed the ruling party for making the parliament 'ineffective'. Lockwood was quoted as saying he was aware that the parliament was not being made effective and that all should continue their efforts to make it effective for the sake of democracy.

Begum Zia also referred to the recent eviction of slum dwellers and sex workers and termed the government action 'inhuman'.

David Lockwood said that he was transferred to UNDP headquarters in New York, where he would look after the Asian desk. He will leave Dhaka on September 23.

He assured continued UNDP help for the people of Bangladesh.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and party chairperson's Advisers M Moshed Khan, MM Rezaul Karim and Reaz Rahman were present on the occasion.

DB policeman beaten up in city

By Staff Correspondent

A constable of Detective Branch (DB) of police was seriously beaten up by two youths in front of the DB office in the city's Minato Road area yesterday evening.

Abdul Huq, 24, an assistant of Public Relation (PR) officer was coming to his office by a bicycle at around 5 pm, police said. Huq reportedly rebuked the youths who were on board a car. The youths, Rony and Manik, then beat up Huq, police added.

The DB personnel, who were present in front of the office, rescued their colleague and took the youths to DB custody.

DB police also seized the car. Later the youths were released.

BCS (Gen) Assoc threatens work abstention

By DU Correspondent

The BCS General Education Association (BGEA) yesterday announced that government college teachers would wear black badge on October 15 and observe a day-long work abstention on November 1, if their demands were not met by October 15, said a press release.

It was announced at a meeting at the Dhaka College teachers' lounge on Friday with BGEA president Prof Jahannara Begum in the chair.

The demands include earned leave and promotion procedure for the teachers in government colleges, and selection grade for the lecturers and professors.

Riverine transport owners threaten strike from Sept 30

By Staff Correspondent

Different associations of the riverine transport owners have threatened an indefinite strike from September 30 if their demands are not met immediately.

Six associations in a joint statement released to the press yesterday said that they would stop plying of all modes of riverine transports from September 30.

The demands include, withdrawal of 15 per cent value added tax and other taxes on riverine transports, lowering of tax rate on five-year old transports, and removal of other anomalies regarding pre-survey tax, survey fee, and registration fee.

The associations are Bangladesh Passenger Launch Owners' Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Launch Owners' Association, Bangladesh Oil Tanker Owners Association, Bangladesh Cargo Owners Association, Bangladesh Ship Builders Association and Bangladesh Coastal Ship Owners Association.

Jaipuri dead

From page 1

as a lyricist in Raj Kapur's 'Barsaat' in 1950.

The movie made headlines as a box-office hit and it became a springboard of an eventual career in films for him.

Hasrat's association with R K Banner and popular composer duo Shankar-Jaikishan, culminated in the most fruitful combination with his melodious songs set to lilting music becoming a rage among cinegoers.

The success of his songs in several Raj Kapur films including 'Awara', 'Shri 420', 'Sangam', 'Ram Teri Ganga Maili' and 'Henna' made him the most sought after lyricist.

Disease

From page 1

He regretted that the country lacks facilities for such tests. "There is only one virology department in the country and that is at BSMMU. Unfortunately, we are disabled in many ways."

Asked about the death of three persons, some other experts however said that those might even be cases of parasitic cerebral malaria, which also attacks the brain and is caused by mosquito bite. The disease is prevalent in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and some other 'endemic zones' in the country, they mentioned.

"There are four types of mosquitoes that can cause malaria. The type scientifically termed as Phalciparum mosquito causes parasitic cerebral malaria," a senior physician engaged in research in this field told this correspondent.

He also said, "The victim infected with cerebral malaria can escape death if medication starts in time. The common drug to fight such parasitic attack is chloroquine and Nivaquin. There are several other drugs available in tablet, liquid and injection forms."

The doctors said the best thing for a sick person would be to test blood to detect presence of any virus. They also advised not to delay diagnosis even if more than normal temperature persists for a day.

A high official of the health ministry, when contacted, said, "The government is yet to initiate any move to ascertain the causes of the three deaths in a row."

5 hurt as BCL factions clash in Chittagong

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 18: At least five people, including a pedestrian were injured during a clash between two rival groups of BCL Chittagong Commerce College Unit today.

The trouble broke out at around 3 pm when the supporters of Kader Group reportedly hurled bombs on a procession of Naser Group at Phantholi area in the city.

Naser group brought the procession after a rally at Kodantali and was marching toward Agrabad Choumahani Crossing.

Both the groups exchanged fire and exploded cocktails during the clash.

Tk 7.60 lakh snatched in Ctg

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 18: About Tk 7.60 lakh was snatched away in two incidents of mugging in the city today.

In the first incident, mugger took away about Tk 6 lakh from three employees of a foreign company in CEC crossing area under Kotwali thana this afternoon.

Police and witnesses said, the employees of Rhone Poulenc came under attack at around 12-30 pm when they were going to Dampara Branch of Grindlays Bank in a microbus to deposit Tk 5.9 lakh with the branch.

The muggers boarding another microbus intercepted the vehicle and snatched the money from the staff at gunpoint. The muggers fled the scene firing blank shots.

The second incident occurred at Patharghata under Kotwali thana at night. Muggers snatched over Tk two lakh from the cashier of Ranson Knitting Factory when he was returning to the factory after drawing the amount from Islami Bank Patharghata Branch at around 12 noon.

The muggers snatched a bag from the cashier containing Tk 2.9 lakh at gunpoint and fled away.

Pollution

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for Hearing and Speech (NCHS) Dr Manash Ranjan Chakraborty presented the keynote paper.

Manash Ranjan said: "We are not aware of the adverse consequences of noise pollution but the level of noise pollution is much above the permissible level of the World Health Organisation (WHO)."

Noise pollution in the capital city was obvious and deafening, he said adding the government has already imposed ban on use of hydraulic horns in motor vehicles, earmarked silent zones mainly around the hospitals, educational institutions and residential areas.

In his keynote paper Dr Manash termed the noise pollution as hidden health hazard and emphasised the need for formulation of an integrated approach for changing behaviour-pattern of the people.

A recent study, conducted by Dr Manash at 24 important points of the city, found that those places are extremely vulnerable for physical disorder which would cause from high-level of noise pollution.

The highest level of the noise pollution as recorded by him was 106.2 decibel at Sayedabad bus terminal followed by Bangla Motor crossing 106 decibel and SAARC Fountain square 104.3 decibel.

The survey recorded 81 decibel in between the Diabetic Hospital (BIRDEM) and Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University that is treated as one of the silent zone of the