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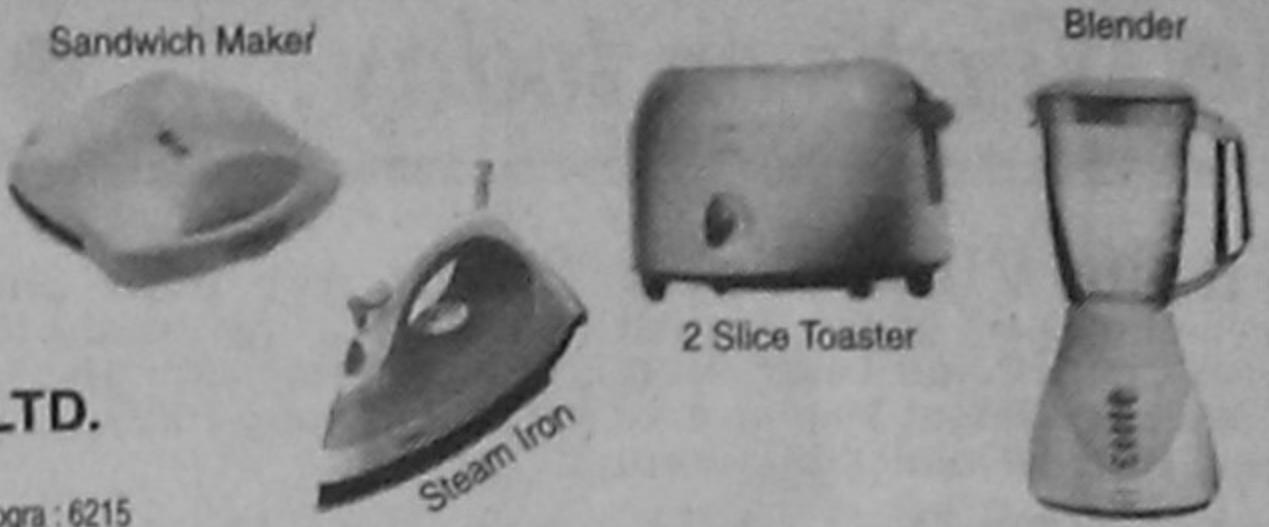
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BFTA leaders to hold meeting with SKOP today

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of Bangladesh Federation of Teachers' Association (BFTA) will hold a meeting with the leaders of Sramiki Karmachari Okya Parishad (SKOP) today to discuss the latest situation of the non-government teachers' strike.

Teachers and employees of non-government teachers continued their strike for the 13th day yesterday to press home their demands for 100 per cent salary from the government exchequer.

The BFTA leaders will hold separate meetings with leaders of the two factions of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists' (BFUJ) tomorrow (Monday).

They will also hold a series of meeting with professional bodies like Bangladesh Supreme Court Lawyers Association, Prokrich, Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) and other professional bodies.

The teachers will stage demonstration at district headquarters across the country on July 25 protesting Thursday's 'police attack' on school and college teachers at Tangail and Rajshahi.

The teachers will gherao the Education Directorate on July 26 to press home their demands.

3 Shibir activists, 4 snatchers held at Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, July 22: Police have arrested seven young men, including three Shibir activists, reports UNB.

Sagar, 23, Jaynal, 24, and Alam, 22, were arrested from a Chittagong-bound coach at Ramu on Friday night. Police identified them as Shibir cadres.

Police said the arrested are accused in a number of cases under the Public Safety Act (PSA).

Security men of Parjatan Corporation caught four snatchers while they were fleeing with purse and ornaments of a couple at the sea beach this morning. They were handed over to the police.

Sharif

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He inveighed against the military regime for waging a campaign of revenge through the courts.

"This is personal vendetta. This verdict was expected," he told reporters.

The laws are being tailor made to punish me. The judge had said there is no case of corruption or kickbacks but even then he has convicted me."

He said he would consult his lawyers about appealing the decision.

According to the prosecution, the helicopter was obtained on a wet lease at 550 dollars per flying hour.

Sharif later purchased it for 800,000 dollars and spent 1.3 million dollars on maintenance and operating costs until it crashed in 1997.

The prosecution said Sharif's expenditures were "disproportionate" to his income.

Sharif, who personified Pakistani politics for the past 16 years, is now languishing in a high-security prison outside the capital. His executive offices there remained empty since last October's coup.

The meteoric career of the 53-year-old industrialist crashed when he sacked then army chief General Pervez Musharraf on October 12. Within hours he was in prison, his government was finished and Musharraf was in power.

In April, Sharif was sentenced to two life terms for hijacking and terrorism related to events on the night of the coup.

And today's verdict is not the last of his troubles. The military regime has launched two other corruption cases against him and his powerful family.

Meghnaghat

From page 1

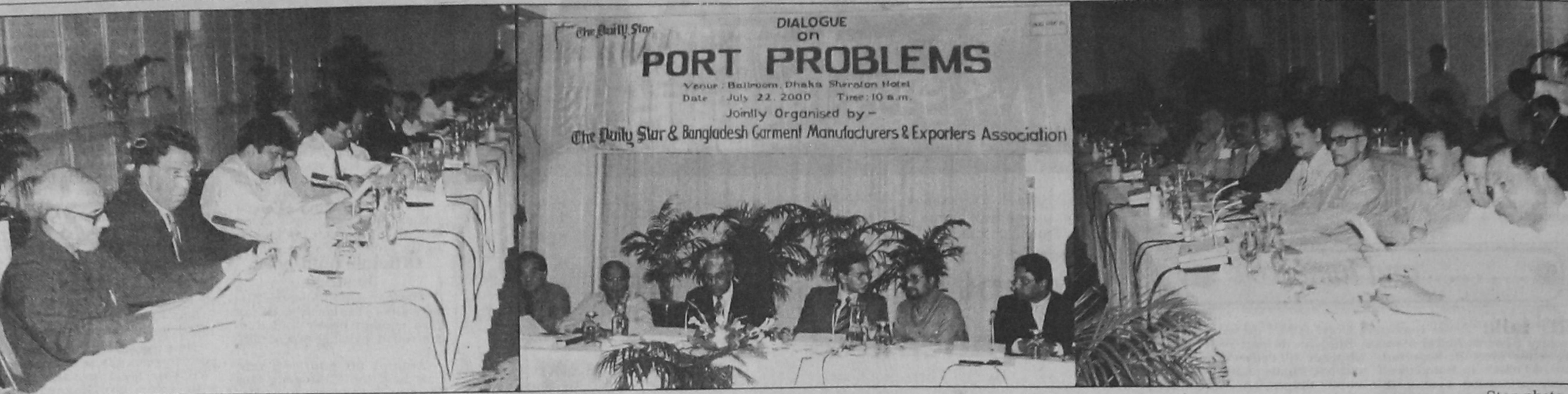
commercial operation.

The government is pursuing the 450 MW Meghnaghat project since early 1996 and AES was selected the best bidder as it offered a 20-year levelised power tariff of 2.79 cents (or around Tk 1.4) per kilowatt last year.

The AES-PDB dispute gradually intensified over the Meghnaghat land site development project-- a Tk 141 crore scheme which was awarded to Chinese company CWHEC after two rounds of bidding. The PDB even threatened to cancel the contracts.

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— Star photo

Dengue scare: More & more people seek blood test

By staff correspondent

Amid a dengue scare, more people turned up at different hospitals and diagnostic centers in the city for blood test yesterday.

At least 150 people sought blood test on the day, according to sources concerned.

However, as most of the hospitals and diagnostic centers ran out of reagents for dengue virus test, majority of the people returned without having the test.

As a result, the number of dengue patients -- suspected and confirmed-- could not be known yesterday and the day before from the hospitals and diagnostic centres.

The only government laboratory, Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), offering such test made special arrangements yesterday to test blood to detect dengue virus (using date-expired reagents). It, however, remained closed on Friday.

The death toll from dengue fever in the city is 10 so far. Another person reportedly died on Friday but it could not be confirmed.

Patients with suspected dengue fever were also coming to the capital from various districts for treatment. Four patients arrived in the city yesterday and the day before. Of them, one came from Jessore, one from Thakurgaon, one from Bogra and one from Narsingdi, sources said. Details could not be known.

Ctg Commercial Instt reopens

CHITTAGONG, July 22: The Government Commercial Institute reopened today after the July 12 incident that left eight people, including six BCL activists killed, reports UNB.

Attendance of students was very thin and a large contingent of police was seen patrolling in and outside the Institute.

Ruling party backed BCL and Jamaat backed Chhatri clashed over domination of the campus on the opening day of the Institute on July 8.

Two terrorists held with arms at Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, July 22: Narsingdi Sadar police arrested two terrorists and recovered a single barrel gun from their possession yesterday, reports BSS.

Acting on a tip-off, police encircled the house of one Harun, son of Abul Kashem, in Banalchak area of the town and arrested him.

Police also arrested Mohabbar an accomplice of Harun from the same house.

A case was filed with Narsingdi Sadar police.

PM: Life threat

From page 1

mother and brothers -- were killed. So I am not afraid of death.

Amidst slogans by party workers, Hasina said, Allah has kept her alive to continue the service for the people.

She said her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had sacrificed his life for the people and if needed she would also sacrifice her life for the cause of the country.

About Kotalpara Pourasava Water Supply Project, the PM said the government is working to ensure all services to the people and trying to develop all neglected areas of the country.

The new project completed at a cost of Tk 3.96 crore will serve 7000 people of the municipality. Initially 500 lines will be given from the project to supply pure drinking water to the people.

Later, the prime minister laid the foundation of a 250-bed General Hospital at Gopalganj.

She said the present government was working relentlessly to meet the basic needs of the people, including health care services.

Qatar Airbus

From page 1

left engine that resulted in smoke," he said.

It was the third incident involving the Qatar Airways this month. Earlier two flights of the airways were affected by birds getting into their engines.

One shot as rival groups clash at Sayedabad

By Staff Correspondent

One person was shot during a clash between two rival groups of local miscreants in front of Sayedabad Darbar in the city yesterday evening.

Gulzar, 25, was shot in his waist while he was passing the area, hospital sources said quoting the victim.

Police could not confirm the reason behind the clash. The victim was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Demra police could not confirm whether the victim was an innocent or member of one of the two groups. They said that none came to the police station to file any complain in this regard.

In another incident, an alleged extortionist was caught by mob at Abhoy Das Lane under Sutrapur thana in the city yesterday morning.

Jainal Abedin, 22, went to a local hotel at about 10:30 am yesterday and demanded toll from the manager. As manager refused to give him money, he started ransacking the hotel.

In the face of resistance by the hotel employees, Jainal came out of the hotel and tried to flee the scene. But the hotel employees, with the help of local people, caught Jainal and beat him mercilessly.

Later, they handed him over to the police.

AL brings out lathi procession at Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 22: Law enforcers today barred a procession by Awami League and its front organisations from entering the area where offices of Jamaat, Shibir and BNP are situated.

Led by all top ranking leaders of Awami League, the processionists raised provocative slogans while Jibto League and Chhatri League supporters created high tension among business houses. Shutters were pulled down confining the buyers in the shops for over half an hour.

All vehicles went off the roads and pedestrians ran to safer places seeing 'wooden lathis' in the hands of AL activists.

Unprecedented security measures were taken with deployment of armed police battalion, riot police and security armed forces (SAF) during the protest.

Top ranking police officials were seen trying to prevent processionists from entering the areas where Jamaat and Shibir activists were holding rallies against the ruling party.

Privatisation Minister, Biman TUs hold talks today

By Special Correspondent

Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mosharraf Hosain will hold talks with leaders of trade unions including the Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) of Bangladesh Biman to day on the issue of privatisation of the national airlines.

The talks will be held at the Biman headquarters — Balaka — at 3 pm, Biman sources said yesterday.

Employees have vowed to resist conversion of the Biman, a government owned corporation, into a Public Limited Company (PLC) to off-load 49 per cent shares. Nine per cent of the shares would go to employees and 40 percent to a strategic partner.

The CBA and other unions say conversion of Biman into a PLC would lead to job losses in

the airlines having 13 aircraft and 5,550 employees and officers.

The Biman authorities holding unofficial talks with the union leaders in the past few days tried to allay their fears that there would job cuts. Any redundancy in jobs due to privatisation would be absorbed into other projects of the Biman, the authorities said.

Officials of the Biman held talks with CBA leaders yesterday in preparation for today's talks with the minister, the sources said.

The discord with the employees began when consultants appointed by Biman under a World Bank aided project submitted their preliminary report to the authorities earlier this month.

India, China to expedite demarcation of border

NEW DELHI, July 22: India and China today agreed to expedite demarcation of their land border that remains disputed since their 1962 war, reports AP.

A beginning has to be made to speed up the pace of negotiations with India on the clarification of the Line of Actual Control that separates the two nations, said visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan.

Tang was talking to reporters after meeting with his Indian counterpart Jaswant Singh in New Delhi.

An experts group set up by the two countries in 1993 to demarcate the boundary will meet as frequently as necessary instead of once a year. It will take up the middle sector of the ceasefire line stretching from Himachal Pradesh to Uttar Pradesh states in northern India, United News of India news agency said.

All vehicles went off the roads and pedestrians ran to safer places seeing 'wooden lathis' in the hands of AL activists.

Tang also met with Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Sonia Gandhi, leader of the main opposition Congress party, later Saturday.

India and China signed

agreements in 1993 and 1996 committing themselves to respecting the existing ceasefire line, pending an eventual solution to the boundary dispute.

The two countries fought a 21-day war in 1962 and have been holding talks since 1988 to settle the boundary dispute.

India says China illegally occupies 14,500 square miles that it seized in the war in the northwest, a barren Himalayan region adjoining India's Kashmir state.

Beijing says India is holding 36,000 square miles of Chinese territory in what is now India's eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh.

India also is concerned about the transfer of missile technology from China to Pakistan.

But the Chinese foreign minister said on Saturday that his country enjoyed a "normal kind of military relationship" with Pakistan and it was not directed against any third country, especially India.

Tang's visit follows the weeklong tour of Indian President Kocheril Raman Narayanan to China in June.

Tang flies Saturday night to Karachi, Pakistan.

Two-way trade between India and China is valued at dlrs two billion a year.

India and China signed

as saying.

Before the summit, the G-8 met with the officials from their three-day summit, the G-8 agreed to create a task force to pool their efforts to boost Internet access and lower its costs in developing nations.

"Countries that succeed in harnessing IT's potential will look forward to leapfrogging conventional obstacles in infrastructure development," said a charter signed by the G-8 members: the United States, Japan, Italy, Britain, Germany, France, Canada and Russia.

Everyone should be able to enjoy access to information and communications networks, the