HC RULE ON GOVT

Explain why

appointment

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to

explain why the appointment of

deputy commissioners (DC) of

Barguna and Chapainawabgani as

district magistrate on May 18 should not be declared illegal.

weeks, came upon a public interest

litigation writ petition filed by AKM

Khademul Islam, commander of 34

Ansar Battalion, challenging the

The petitioner submitted that the

action was illegal as the government

did not take approval of the

Supreme Court in appointing DCs

division bench of the HC issued the

After hearing the petitioner, a

legality of the appointment.

as district magistrates

The rule, returnable in three

of two DCs

not illegal

UNB, Dhaka

BSF returns

bodies of 2

Bss, Rangpur

Bangladeshis

in Thakurgaon

Border Security Force (BSF) of India returned bodies of two

Bangladeshi young farmers

through a Company Commander

level flag meeting held on

Dharmagarh border under

Ranishankoil upazila of Thakurgaon district on Saturday

Earlier, BSF troops illegally

intruded into the Bangladesh

territory in the early hours on

Saturday and shot the farmers

dead while they were irrigating

their drought hit T-Aman fields near

pillar no 373/2S, close to

Dharmagarh outpost of

After killing the Bangladeshi

farmers, BSF troops immediately

took away their bodies into the

Indian Territory, the officials added.

outpost rushed to the spot and

lodged a strong protest against the

unprovoked killings of

Bangladeshis and asked BSF for

returning the bodies immediately

through a company commander level flag meeting. BDR also sent a

BSF agreed to return the bodies

and brought those to the zero line

at about 7:00pm on Saturday when

a Company Commander level flag

meeting was held between BSF

and BDR there. Satvita Company

Commander of BSF and Paria

Company Commander of BDR led

their respective sides in the half an

The BSF side apologised during

the meeting as BDR had raised a

strong protest against such unpro-

voked killings of innocent

Bangladeshis and assured BDR

that such incidents would not be

The BDR side categorically

asked BSF not to kill any innocent

Bangladeshis anytime in future in

the greater interest of maintaining

law and order and friendly relations

Later, Indian Police handed

between the two neighbouring

over the bodies, of Abu Taleb, 20,

son of Bohiuddin of frontier village

Chikni Chakma and Azmal

Hossain, 24, son of Kabir Hossain

of the same village under

Ranishankoil upazila to an official

of Ranisonkoil Police Station in

presence of BSF and BDR officials

Ranishankoil police later

handed over the bodies to their

parents after completing some

legal formalities. They were laid to

eternal rest at their respective

family graveyards that night, the

protest letter to BSF.

hour-long meeting.

repeated in future.

border quards.

at about 7:45pm.

BDR jawans of Dharmagarh

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR).

night, officials said yesterday.

Incidents like Phulbari to continue if 4-party govt remains in power

Say 14-party leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Awami League (AL) led 14-party opposition combine yesterday said unfortunate incidents, such as Phulbari killings where police shot seven people dead, will continue across the country as long as BNP-Jamaat alliance government remains

Blasting the BNP-led four-party alliance government for the Phulbari killings, they said the police and BDR opened fire on the demonstrators at Phulbari in Dinajpur according to the blueprint of the alliance government.

"Mass killing at Phulbari was not an isolated incident. Khaleda-Nizami government orchestrated

MISSING OF HOUSEWIFE Family members for transfer of

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

case to DB

Family members of a housewife, believed to be killed or under unlawful confinement by her husband's family, yesterday called for transferring the case to detective branch (DB) of police. "We do not have any information

about Rubina Yasmin for the last one year, we want our sister back either live or dead," they said at a press conference Md Harun Hazari, brother of

Rubina, said her sister was married to Md Shafiul Hug (Babu) in 2000. but within six months of her marriage Rubina found that Babu was drug addicted.

He created pressure on Rubina to bring money from her family. "At one stage she left her husband and started living with us." said

A few months later, Babu took Rubina back to his family seeking apology for his previous misdeeds.

"Since then we do not know the whereabouts of our sister." he added. Harun alleged that Kafrul police

is dilly-dallying with the case. Besides, the prime accused Babu has been threatening their

family members to withdraw the case, he said. "We are therefore requesting

police high-ups to shift the case to DB," he added.

All other brothers and sisters of Rubina were present at the press conference.

this killing to satisfy the Asia Energy, a US-based company, as leaders of the alliance government want to gobble up crores of money from the company," said AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil, while addressing a protest rally in front of the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.

He urged the people to strengthen movement against the government and cast votes for 14-party in the next general election for safeguarding the nation from the grip of the alliance

"BNP-Jamaat leaders became certain that they cannot come to power in the next general election and that's why ministers, legislators

and leaders are now desperate to grab money from all sectors even by killing people," AL Joint Secretary Obaidul Kader.

Dhaka City unit of 14-party organised the rally protesting Phulbari

Dhaka City AL General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya presided over the rally where AL presidium members Amir Hossain Amu. Motia Chowdhury and other leaders of 14-party also spoke.

After the rally, they brought out a protest procession that marched different streets of the city.

SUICIDE OF SCHOOL GIRL Parents seek justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parents of a school going girl yesterday appealed to the authorities concerned for the trial of those who forced their daughter to commit suicide on June 9.

"We have lost our daughter Shakila but we want exemplary punishment of the gang so that no body dares to commit such crime again and no parents lose their daughter in this manner." said father Shafiq Uddin at a press conference at Crime Reporters' Association office in the city. He said Shakila, a student of

class nine of Waziuddin School at Kamrangirchar, committed suicide due to repeated teasing and harassment by a group of local miscreants on her way to school and whenever she went out of her

Shafiq alleged that no charge sheet has been framed against the members of the gang although a case was filed with Kamrangirchar Police Station three months back.

"Since then the guardians of the accused kept on threatening us to withdraw the case," he

"In the face of their continuous threats I had to file a general diary (GD) with Kamrangirchar Police Station." Shafig said

Shamsunnahar, mother of the victim, said, " The guardians of the accused had been threaten-



Shakila

ing us saying if we do not withdraw the case, they would file a counter case against our only son to force us to withdraw the case to save him from being imprisoned."

She also questioned the sincerity of police in arresting and submitting the charge sheet against the accused.

Meanwhile, the High Court (HC) yesterday granted anticipatory bail to all the seven accused in the case till the submission of the charge sheet.

When contacted, Investigation Officer of the case Sub- Inspector Farid said, "I tried my best to arrest the accused, but if the HC grants bail what I can do. Still, I would try to submit the charge sheet as early as possible."

Regional meet on trauma victims begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The inaugural session of a four-day regional meeting of International Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims (IRCT), started in the city yesterday aiming at making a powerful regional strategy in Asia for developing law and justice process at national level.

Bangladesh Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma Victims (BRCT) and IRCT jointly organised the meeting at a city hotel.

Barrister Rokan Uddin Mahmud inaugurated the meeting and spoke on Article-2 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Representatives of 12 countries took part in the meeting. Akram Hossain Chowdhury, founder general secretary of BRCT, performed as the main resource person on behalf of Bangladesh.

He presented a survey-based report titled 'Challenges, problems and prospects' on the first day.

Basil Fernando of AHRC Hong Kong, Miriam Annkathrin Wernicke of IRCT, Copenhagen Denmark and Dr S D Singh of TOP India Trust spoke at the meeting.

Strike in all educational instts today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Pragotishil Chhatra Jote, a combine of left-leaning student organisations, yesterday called a student strike in all educational institutions across the country for today.

The combine called the strike to protest the killing of innocent people by law enforcement agencies at Phulbari in Dinajpur district on August 26. The Chhatra Jote also took out a

procession and held a rally on the DU campus.

At least seven people were killed and about 300 others injured as police and BDR opened fire on the demonstrators who were proceeding towards the office of Asia Energy Corporation (Bangladesh) Pvt Ltd in Dinaipur to protest its extraction of coal through open-pit mining.



Home Secretary Safar Raj Hossain and his Indian counterpart VK Duggal exchange documents after signing an agreement to examine the possibility of quickly instituting a bilateral mechanism for combating terrorism at a home secretary-level meeting at State Guest House Meghna yesterday.

PHULBARI INCIDENT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

'Militants issue

death threats

under govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventeen eminent personalities of

the country have strongly con-

demned the death threats to Prof

Hasan Azizul Haque of Rajshahi

University (RU) and Dr Muhammad

Zafar Iqbal of Shahjalal University of

In a joint statement yesterday they

said although such threats against

educationists are unthinkable in a

democratic country, these are taking

place as the militants are getting

The eminent citizens urged the

authorities concerned to take imme-

diate measures to ensure the secu-

rity of the litterateurs, intellectuals

and teachers who are the target of

They demanded of the govern-

The signatories to the statement

ment to take stern action against the

are Kabir Chowdhury, Khan Sarwar

Murshid, Sarder Fazlul Karim,

Foyez Ahmed, Zillur Rahman

Siddique, Wahidul Haque, Serajul

Islam Chowdhury, Anisuzzaman,

Qaium Chowdhury, Murtoza Bashir,

Syed Shamsul Haque, Rizia

Rahman, Bibi Rasel, Rafiqun Nabi,

Ramendu Majumder, Mafidul

In a separate statement, Sheikh

Shahidul Islam, secretary general of

Jatiya Party (JP-Monju) condemned

Our Raishahi University corre-

spondent adds: Progressive

took out a procession on the campus protesting the death threat to eminent

litterateur Prof Hassan Azizul Haque by the activists of Islamic Chhatra

They also condemned the death threat to Muhammad Zafar Iqbal of

Several hundred teachers, stu-

dents, cultural activists and journal-

ists took part in the procession that

of the Senate building where the

speakers said the fundamentalist

forces have made a 'blueprint' to

suppress the secular movement

and kill democratic-minded intellec-

tuals progressive teachers and

Blaming the RU authorities for

not taking any action against those

who gave the threat to Prof Hague,

they demanded immediate arrest

and exemplary punishment of the

Shibir activities and measures to

Mahmudur Rahman told the press

following a meeting with Gary Lye at the energy ministry, "These people

are using innocent locals and Asia

Energy as guinea pigs to strengthen

He said those who are engaged in

misleading Phulbari people by making

unnecessary and provocative com-

ments, should take the responsibility

The energy adviser said he could

not understand why the national

committee on protecting oil and gas

resources held such a programme

as the government is yet to 'initiate

He added that whether Asia

Energy will be given the licence to

develop the coalmine depends on

the coal policy and the negotiation

"There is no relation of yester-

day's event with that," he noted. He

said foreign investors might get a

negative signal due to this occur-

not think that the opposition 14-

party alliance is involved in the

incident. "But it is very sad that this

alliance is now supporting the

committee's programme declared

Talking to the press, Gary Lye

vesterday." he added.

The adviser pointed out he did

any negotiation with Asia Energy'.

for yesterday's killings.

with that company.

their position in national politics."

ensure security of the teachers.

The PTS also held a rally in front

paraded the campus roads.

litterateurs one by one.

FROM PAGE 1

the threats to university teachers.

. Teachers' Society (PTS)

Shibir on August 24.

Haque and Nasiruddin Yusuf.

militants who issued the threats.

shelter from the government.

the militants.

Science and Technology (SUST).

shelter'

Different organisations yesterday condemned police attacks on Saturday's National Committee to Protect Oil and Gas rally in Dinajpur that left seven killed and 300 injured. They also urged the government to cancel the Phulbari Coalmine Project deal in Dinajpur with Asia Energy Corporation (Bangladesh) Pvt Ltd.

Political activists, NGOs, environmentalists, labourers, women and students' organisations yesterday held protest rallies at different places in the city and asked to compensate the families of the dead and injured victims.

The demonstrators asked people to make the countrywide half-day hartal on August 30 a success, while different student bodies have called strike in all educational institutions today.

The parties that staged demonstrations are Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Workers' Party, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, 5 left parties, Gono Mukti Andolon and Parbatya Chattagram Jonosanghati Samity.

Other organisations who protested the attack are Supreme Court Bar Association, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, Green Voice, Sammilita Sanskritik Jote, Ain o Salish Kendra, Odhikar, Nagorik Udyog, Chattagram Bandar Rakkha Sangram Parishad Bangladesh Khetmojur Samity,

The inaugural session of the regional

training programme on 'Role of local

government in delivery of services and

poverty reduction', organised by Centre

on Integrated Rural Development for

Asia and the Pacific (Cirdap) will be

held. Venue: Cirdap headquarters.

Bangladesh Adivashi Odhikar Andolon

organises a seminar titled 'Movements

to ensure the rights of indigenous

people in Bangladesh' to mark the

1110th anniversary of Munda Upheaval.

Venue: National Press Club. Time:

Energy adviser blames it on left parties

expressed deep sympathies to the

families of the victims of Phulbari

coalmine site and also thanked the

authorities for trying to keep the

Lye told the press, "I can't imag-

ine a situation getting any worse for

the local community and for the

authorities that had to manage the

this is not for us to say. The govern-

ment has to look into why this hap-

pened, exactly what happened. It's

up to the government, but it would

appear to us that the unforgivable

events and the needless loss of life

and suffering that took place in

Phulbari are entirely the fault of the

organisers," the Asia Energy chief

"We thank the authorities for

protecting our personnel. Asia

Energy has operated in peace and

harmony with the communities of

Phulhari and the surrounding

unazilas over several years, and we

have always felt welcomed," he

the security of 40 Asia Energy's people and their families. "The

situation is also intimidating them

and it's not fair, not fair to anybody,"

"Think of the people who lost their

He expressed his concerns over

"I also say who is responsible for

situation under control

situation."

Training

Time: 10:00am

Seminar

Gono-Sanskriti Front, Gono Sanghati Andolon, Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree, Bangladesh Students' Union, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Campaign for Good Governance and Bangladesh Nari Mukti Sangsad.

RU Correspondent adds: Different organisations yesterday staged demonstrations on Rajshahi University (RU) campus, condemning the killing of seven people, including a RU student, by police and BDR during a protest rally at Phulbari in Dinajpur. Expressing solidarity with the

agitators, they demanded proper investigation into the incident, immediate trial of the culprits, compensation to the victims' families and proper treatment of the injured.

They also conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members of Tariqul Islam, the RU student who died in the incident.

The organisations that staged demonstrations are Greater Dinajpur Students' Association (GDSA). National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas. Mineral Resources. Power and Port, and Progressive Students' Alliance (PSA).

Progressive Teachers' Society and Anti-Imperialism Teachers' Forum in separate statements also condemned the attack and demanded compensation to the victims and injured family members.

Workshop

Time: 10:00am.

Democracywatch will organise a

workshop on participation of the UPs in

budget making. Venue:

Democracywatch auditorium. Time:

An extended meeting of Dhaka branch

of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh will be

held. Venue: 170/a Bara Maghbazar.

Rupantar will organise a daylong

grassroots drama festival. Venue:

Shishu Academy auditorium. Time:

young kids ... they are not going to be

around to enjoy the benefits of this

wonderful project. And that is a real

the project site now; we are giving a

water supply system to a village as a

trial so that everyone can see a tap

with running water. We wanted to

see how that works. We have given

those contracts to local contractors.

We wanted to see how they do their

jobs because we are going to be

doing lots of those during the life of

Earlier, Australian High

Commissioner to Bangladesh

Douglas Foskett met the energy

adviser expressing his concerns

over the Phulbari incident saying it

will send 'wrong signals to foreign

Mahmudur told the press the

high commissioner also expressed

concerns about the well-being of the

establishment and officials of

Phulbari adding that a number of

Australian investors were keen on

investing in Bangladesh but the

incident might discourage them.

the project," he pointed out.

investors'.

"We are doing two other things at

tragedy." Lve added

Drama festival

Extended meeting

Cop action condemned

One suspect arrested

CHOWBARI KILLINGS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

The three-member committee comprising Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and Detective Branch (DB) yesterday started investigation into Chowbaria five murder case taking in consideration the outlaws' motive for a revenge against crossfire killings and BNP's internal feud.

"The primary investigation has so far provided two motives--the outlaws took revenge of the killings of their party leaders in crossfire and they have links with a previously killed BNP leader," said Shahidar Rahman, officer-in-charge of Manda Police Station in Naogaon.

Purbo Banglar Communist Party outlaws slaughtered four policemen and shot dead a BNP leader at a crowded cattle market at Chowbaria of Manda upazila in Naogaon on Friday. The killers also looted the arms of the policemen

The police are yet to trace the looted arms but arrested a suspect named Golam

DU examinations postponed

DU CORRESPONDENT

All academic activities including examinations and classes of Dhaka University (DU) scheduled for today have been postponed due to

unavoidable circumstances. The fresh date of the postponed examinations will be announced soon, says a DU press release



Chevening Society executives

Afifa Raihana, coordinator of Knowledge Centre of SEDF, IFC World Bank Group, has been elected president and Abu Naser Rajib, lecturer of Media and Communication at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), general secretary of Chevening Society of Bangladesh (CSB) for the next two years, says a press

The CSB is a forum of Bangladeshi scholars who studied in the United Kingdom in different disciplines under Chevening scholarships provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK. Members of the new executive committee were selected amicably and unanimously at a meeting recently held at a city hotel.

Other office-bearers are Vice-President: Fazle Rabbi, Deputy Commissioner of Gazipur, Assistant General Secretary: Mia Mahmudur Rahim, Senior Assistant Registrar of Bangladesh Supreme Court, and reasurer: Barrister Abdul Halim.

Members of the executive committee are M Asiuzzaman, assistant professor of Journalism and Media Studies at University of Liberal Arts and Huraera Jabeen, lecturer of Environmental Science at Brac University.

Death anniversary



27th death anniversary of Aminul Islam Khan, second son of late **Belayet Hossain** Khan of Kushtia, says a press release. A doa mahfil will be held at his

daughter's residence at Dhanmondi in the city after Zohr prayers today. Relatives, friends and admirers

are requested to attend the doa mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Convener of Jativa Oikya Mancha Dr Kamal Hossain distributes leaflets among the people at Kakrail in the city yesterday as part of his party's mass contact campaign.

President condoles death of peacekeepers

Bss, Dhaka

President Dr lajuddin Ahmed yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of six Bangladeshi peacekeepers in a road accident in Ivory Coast.

In a condolence message, the President said the Bangladesh Army has a glorious role in international peacekeeping. The sad demises of the Bangladeshi UN peacekeepers in Ivory Coast will be remembered forever at home and abroad, he said

"The countrymen will also remember them with deep respect for their sacrifices to brighten the image and reputation of the country in the international arena" the President added.

He prayed for peace of the departed souls and conveyed deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved families.



WEATHER

Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Raishahi. Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places during the period,

Met Office said in a forecast. Country's highest temperature 35.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundu and lowest 24.8 degree Celsius at Rangamati. The sun sets in the capital at 6:21pm today and rises at 5:39am

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: Humidity in

Temperature

	in Ċelsius		percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.5	27.3	78	56
Chittagong	33.4	26.2	75	89
Rajshahi	33.3	26.4	90	85
Khulna	34.6	26.8	81	74
Barisal	33.2	26.6	76	84
Sylhet	35.0	25.5	73	64
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.7	72	80

