The Midnight File

Croatian seeks firing of two

army commanders

the federal presidency to fire two top army commanders accused of planning a crackdown on Yugoslavia's two breakaway

Civilian control of the army, dominated by a Serbian offi-

cers' corps, has been in question since federal troops inter-

vened last month in Slovenia and opened fire Sunday in

Five more killed in S Africa

political violence in South Africa's Natal Province, police said

today. The deaths on Wednesday in the Port Shepstone area

South of Durban took the death toll in political violence this

More SSC exams of

JOHANNESBURG, July 11: Five blacks have been killed in

Croatia to quell ethnic fighting, reports AP.

BELGRADE, July 11: Croatia's president on Thursday asked

Shopkeepers prepare for battle

By Khalilur Rahman

Wholesalers at market have decided to form anti-terrorism squads with members from among the traders of the area. In each section of the vast market place 21 hockey sticks will be kept ready for every squad.

The traders are also preparing a memorandum to be submitted to the authorities demanding appropriate measures against organised acts of crime continuing unabated there for a long time.

The Chemists and Druggists Association, Raw Chemical Traders Association and Perfumery Traders Association jointly held a rally at Babu Bazar July 3 and resolved to take these steps against the hooligans, popularly known as 'mastans', who extort money from the businessmen as subscriptions.

Addressing the meeting, Sadegur Rahman, President of the Bangladesh Chemists and Druggists Association, said the mastans were threatening to kill anyone refusing to pay tolls. Transaction of normal business has become almost impossible in the wholesale market at Badamtali. Mitford, Chawk Bazar and Maulvi Bazar. The wholesale rice market is located at Badamtali, drugs at Mitford and for other goods at Chawk-Maulvi Bazar. The gangs operating in these areas are wellknown to the traders and they continue their operation with impunity. The gang members openly carry weapons in course of collecting tolls or checking trucks loaded with goods or other transports kept parked for hiring.

The Daily Star correspondent Inam Ahmed visited all these wholesale markets, interviewed traders and members of the law-enforcing agencies last week to know the problems that the business community has been facing. One interesting aspect revealed in course of investigation by the Star correspondent suggests that public resistance against organised crimes can be effective in near future. The steps contemplated by the traders have greatly discouraged the 'mastans' to visit the shops during the last one week for collecting tolls. But it is

From Page 1 Col. 4

"The second house went

The Beechcraft C-99, a 14

seat twin engine plane, was on

a flight from Mobile, Alabama,

to Birmingham when it

small two-year-old regional

airline called L' Express.

which flies commuter flights

in Louisiana, Alabama and

17 killed in Peru

commercial airliner in north-

western Peru, killing all 17

people aboard, because they

thought it belonged to drug

traffickers, authorities re-

The twin-engine Turboprop

plane belonging to Aerochasqui

airlines was shot down

Tuesday shortly after it took off

from the jungle town of

Bellavista, 800 kilometres

(500 miles) northeast of Lima.

tainside, three kilometers (two

miles) from the town, authori-

kilometers (320 miles) north-

west of Lima, where the plane

was headed, initially said 15

people had been killed, but

two children were later found

Brother dies

while saving

sister

By Staff Correspondent

drowned after saving his sister

who fell into a lake near

dent of Jagannath University

College and his sister were out

on a boat cruise when she fell

from the boat. Badal immedi-

ately plunged and managed to

put her on the boat but himself

recovered the body after a pro-

longed search in the "jheel"

behind the Mohakhali TB gate.

The body was handed over to

Divers of the Fire Service

Badal, 22, a third-year stu-

Mehakhali on Thursday.

failed to get back.

the parents.

college student was

The plane fell on a moun-

Sources in Puclipa, 500

ported Wednesday.

ties said.

Police shot down a small

The plane was owned by a

crashed, official said.

one house and hit a second

into flames with the plane."

premature to comment that the thugs have been subdued by the traders' resistance. Of course the businessmen are continuously receiving warning calls over telephones or through individuals from the mastans to be ready for the

Gangsterism in the wholesale market is another serious problem faced by the businessmen coming from mofussil areas with cash. Most often the snatching takes place at dawn or in the evening. Last week a businessman from outside Dhaka was robbed off Taka 75.000 at Badamtali-Mitford

Some traders at Mitford told the Star that snatchers reside in the area and are known to many people there. The shop owners said that the activities of 'mastans' were previously guided by their leader, Buddha. Buddha's father was a dom of Mitford hospital. He was arrested in connection with murder about two years ago. Buddha is now in jail. The places around Red Crescent Market at Mitford are hazardous for the people carry-Several businessmen told

the Star that a very influential

man was now leading the gang of 'mastans' in all these wholesale markets. On July 2 the gang members forcibly took away Mr Mozammel, a drug trader and a member of the Executive Committee of the Chemists and Druggists Association from his shop to a place at Naya Bazar. The 'mastans' demanded a ransom of Taka five lakh for his release. Later, the demand was revised to Taka three lakh. Mr Mozammel somehow managed to escape and reported the incident to the association. The druggists' association decided not to pay the money. Narrating the incident to the Star, some members of the association said that non-payment of ransom has angered the 'mastans' who are regularly threatening them with dire consequences. The traders admitted that they were afraid of filing cases with the police station for fear of reprisals. No case was filed with the police

in this incident. About two months ago the

in their mothers' arms raising

mistaken the plane for one of

many aircraft used by cocaine

turned into 'a medley of trail-

ers, ambulances, fire brigades,

cars... They are trying to put

out the flames and pick up the

was leased from a Canadian

airline to Ghana's national air-

line and was being used by

Nigerian Airways to help re-

Accra, Ghana on Wednesday

and was on the last trip before

18 killed in US

in a residential neighbourhood

in Birmingham, Alabama

Wednesday, killing 14 persons

aboard and four on the

Upazila system

From Page 1 Col. 3

to the demolition of the demo-

support of the JP to the de-

mands put forward by

a historic, timely and revolu-

tionary reform initiated by

former president Ershad to

tion, Moudud Ahmed said it

was the responsibility of the

upazila system was the fulfil-

ment of a long- cherished

dream of the people, Moudud

veloped into an institution to

put administration and devel-

opment activities under

elected representatives of the

people. It might not be a per-

fect system, but it could be de-

veloped through trial and er-

Front election of 1954.

ror, he added.

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He said that upazila was de-

Establishment of the

government to protect it.

decentralise the administra-

Moudud expressed total

Terming the upazila system

cratic structure and values.

Chairmen of upazilas.

ground, a federal official said.

A commuter plane crashed

the lease expired, they said.

The plane arrived from

Other sources said the DC-8

Authorities said police had

the death toll to 17.

traffickers in the area.

remains of the bodies."

turn its pilgrims.

264 killed

'mastans' demanded a huge sum of money as toll from Rahman and Sons, another drug store. A case was filed with the Kotwali police station in this connection.

There is no uniform rate of

tolls demanded by the 'mastans'. Nor is there any specific period of collection. On special occasions, particularly big festivals, the rate is higher. On other occasions when big profits are earned by a trader, heavy amount is charged which may range from Taka 5,000 to Taka 50,000. If the amount is not paid as per instruction, the mastans hold up loaded truck of that particular shop and check the items like a customs inspector and even examine the relevant papers of the vehicle just like a traffic policeman. Any slightest fault, if detected by 'mastans' during checking raise the rate of toll. Besides, the trucks carrying motor parts, medicine or other items entering the zone of wholesale markets are subjected to regular checking by the 'mastans', As the 'mastans' operate under very influential quarters, complaints against them hardly bear any fruit, many traders resented. But is not so difficult for the members of the law-enforcing agency to apprehend the criminals as they are identified criminals in the locality, they

A police official told the Star that in the absence of specific complaints it is diffi cult to take action. But utmost care is taken in case of a complaint. Recently the police arrested nine toll collectors from Wise Ghat, he added

But there has been a positive development recently in the field of curbing criminal activities in the metropolis. The Detective Branch of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has asked all the 14 police stations in the city to prepare list of criminals in respective areas with their photographs. The photographs of criminals with their back ground will be hung on the walls in public places so that they can be apprehended

anti-social elements. 'mastans' included, will be in



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating a seminar on "Environment and Population" at the Osmany Memorial auditorium on the occasion of World Population Day - PID photo Thursday.

Population control

From Page 1 Col. 8 those programmes had accelerated the country's develop-

ment efforts. The Prime Minister said the population increase has been leading to deforestation. accelerating the process of desertification, river erosion and disrupting ecological balance.

Begum Zia underlined the need for ensuring good health and education for the people to make themselves aware of the disastrous consequence of the population boom.

She said two elements were directly related to population control — one is mass literacy and another is reduction of child and mother mortality rate. Couples will be interested in family planning if the mother and child mortality rate could be reduced.

She urged all involved in the family planning activities to duly perform their duties and stressed on utilising all resources and techniques of family planning motivation.

Begum Zia also called for involving those who can influence public opinion in the family planning activities.

The Prime Minister said her government was determined to ensure the basic needs of food, clothing, education, medicare and shelter. But the objectives of the government can not be achieved without controlling the population boom, she said

In his speech Kamal Yousuf stressed on coordinated efforts of all quarters to check the population boom to eradicate poverty and revert the nation to progress.

UNPF representative Charles H Larsimont said the purpose of the observance of the World Health Day is to focus the present world population figure and the subsequent rise over the next ten years.

He said the efforts of the government should be to secure a better future for mankind.

Larsimont presented Begum

Khaleda Zia a population clock. Earlier, a big procession was organised by the Family Planning Directorate. The procession started from the Engineers Institute dispersed ear the Osmany Memorial

Health Minister Kamal Ibne Yusuf led the procession.

See also an editorial Another PM story on Page 6 Indian army chief

From Page 1 Col. 6

Mr Krishna Srinivasan and other High Commission officials were also present at the

Earlier, the Indian Army Chief of Staff General Rodrigues and Mrs Rodrigues visited the Kumudini Handicraft Centre at Nar-ayangan Thursday morning. On their arrival at Narayanganj the distinguished guests were received by the Deputy Commissioner of Narayanganj.

Amendment bills From Page 1 Col. 4

called for facilitating its introduction on the next private members' day (Thursday).

Tofael Ahmed of the same party spoke in support of the demand pointing out that the November 19 Joint Declaration of the three alliances called for separation of the judiciary from the executive.

Ganatantri Party member Suranjit Sengupta said neither the Government bills nor the Opposition bills introduced so far provided for independence of the judiciary in keeping with the spirit of the Joint Declaration which, he said, was an important constitutional document. He called for incorporating this provision in the bill that will be put before the House, by the Select Committee on Constitution amendment bills, for consider-

State Minister for Food Nazmul Huda pointed that the Select Committee on constitu tion amendment bills had scopes for discussing all amendments proposed by members of parliament.

Shahjahan Straj of JSD suggested that all amendments put forward by MPs to the Constitution amendment bills introduced so far should also be referred to the Select Committee for consideration.

Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, emphasised the need for ensuring full implementation of the Joint Declaration of the three alliances and called for ensuring an early introduction of all amendment bills in the House.

cludes trying to deal effectively

with any attempts to weaken

United Nations, the ambas-

sador expressed hope that the

strength and clarity of purpose

demonstrated during the Gulf

crisis could set a precedent for

a more active role for the

Afghanistan, Pickering noted

that the United States' posi-

tion on Afghan leader

Najibullah remains unchanged.

"Our view" he said, "remains

that President Najibullah does

not enjoy legitimacy, would not

survive an election (and)

should leave in the course of a

settlement to that conflict."

Kashmir

Pickering also touched

briefly on the situation in

Kashmir, reiterating the US

position in support of peaceful

negotiations. "We believe now

in the end of the Cold War pe-

riod(that) there could be

further encouragement of the

parties in the dispute to try to

find a way to bring the issues

to a head, to bring the issues

together and work out an ef-

fective settlement," he said.

Turning to the situation in

Turning to the future of the

or divide it.

world body.

Comilla Board scrapped be leaked out, the press note

The government has announced the cancellation of English, Mathematics and all other subsequent subjects of the on-going SSC examinations under Comilla Board and said the relevant law is being amended to award minimum 10 years of rigorous imprisonment and maximum life term for leakage of question

month to 35, reports Reuter.

republics.

papers, reports BSS. The Ministry of Education, in a press note issued in Dhaka Thursday night, said the government is determined to arrest the persons responsible for leakage of question papers and punish them. It also announced a prize of cash Taka one lakh for those who will help with information leading to arrest and conviction of the culprits.

The press note said the government has observed with deep concern that question papers of the on-going SSC examinations have been leaked out. Examinations of both the papers of English and Mathematics have been cancelled in the meantime, it said

Allegations have been received that subsequent question papers have been leaked out and it is apprehended that question papers of the subjects - the examination of which

DUCSU polls

From Page 1 Col. 5 nounced their election pledges

at the rallies. BNP backed Jatiyatabadi

Chhatra Dal (JCD), Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (A-A), BKSAL backed Jatiya Chhatra League (JCL), JSD(Inu) backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (N-S) and United Communist League supported Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree (BCM) held

The JCD rally held at the DUCSU building premises was addressed by DUCSU General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon, DUCSU Assistant General Secretary Nazimuddin Alam, Ali Akkas Nadim and Habibul Islam.

Speakers recalled the role of the DUCSU in toppling the autocratic Ershad government and committed that if JCD is elected again it would root out terrorism from the Dhaka University Campus.

Most on the DUC9U leaders are from JCD.

They accused BCL (A-A) for terrorist activities on the campus and called upon the students to boycott them.

The rally also demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon, Mahbubur Rahman and Arif.

The BCL (A-A) rally held at the foot of "Aparajeo Bangla" monument was addressed by Quamruzzaman Ansari, General Secretary of its Dhaka University Unit.

He described BCL's (A-A) election pledges a 'to fight for realising 10-point demands of the student community.

The rally observed that the present campus situation was not suitable for holding a peaceful election' and accused the law enforcing agencies for not arresting the "real culprits".

BCL (N-S) rally held at the Madhu's canteen premises was addressed by Mokhlesur Rahman Muktadir and Roknuzzaman Rokon.

They demanded immediate arrest of the armed hoodlums including the killers of their

leader Mahbubur Rahman. The JCL and BCM also held separate rallies in Modhu's

canteen premises where the speakers also called for containing the trouble makers on the campus for a peaceful election.

Campus From Page 1 Col. 4

All these happenings in the educational institutions caused concern among the people and the government.

The government seems to have responded by convening this meeting of the political leaders.

It is expected that the political leaders will reach a consensus in bringing back an academic atmosphere by ending violence, session jams and all other irregularities.

are yet to be held - may also

In view of the situation, the government has cancelled English, Mathematics and the subsequent examinations that have been held and those scheduled to be held, the press note said.

A high powered committee has already been constituted headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court to enquire into the leakage of question papers, the press note said adding that the government has already engaged the Detective Branch of Police to find out the culprits.

Over 300 garment workers join AL

By Staff Correspondent Over 300 members of the

Combined Garment Workers' Alliance Thursday toined Awami League. Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in

the Parliament Sheikh Hasina congratulated the new workers of her party while they called on her at Bangabandhu Bhaban Pay Commission

came out on the street to fight against autocracy and they had a great contribution in the democratic movement.

Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury also requested the withdrawal of the resolution, but its mover Md Abdus Shahid regretted.

Bank

From Page 1 Col. 3

have effected shipment of goods against export LCs which were not opened by any offices of the BCCI but received by the BCCI in Bangladesh and the Bank has not yet negotiated the relevant export documents, to arrange amending the export LCs for negotiation of the documents by Agrani Bank.

This arrangement will also apply to back-to-back Letters of Credit, the central bank

In cases where the 'mother export LCs' have been received but import LCs have not yet been opened for backto-back LC operations, the concerned importers have been instructed to have the principal export LCs cancelled and get new export LCs opened through another bank.

Bangladesh Bank has asked the clients of the BCCI involved in export and import operations to contact the head office of Agrani Bank for any further clarification or follow-

up action. According to the central bank, the new arrangements will not prejudice the interests of the BCCI in Bangladesh. "On the other hand, it is ex-

pected that these arrangements will help alleviate the problems now faced by the traders", it said. The Bangladesh Bank reiterated on Thursday that the authorities in Bangladesh "are determined to ensure that

banking services in general and trade and commerce in particular are not hampered because of temporary setbacks to the operations of a particular bank."

It said: Temporary suspension of the business has not caused any adverse impact on the operations of other scheduled banks in Bangladesh and they are all operating normally.

While noting that the clients of the BCCI are naturally facing difficulties because of suspension of busi-

ness in Bangladesh', Bangladesh Bank pointed out in its press release that the BCCI's operations have been closed in all international financial centres by respective regulatory authorities. Any instructions regarding

international transactions of the BCCI will not therefore be effective. *Consequently the BCCI is

totally incapable now of carrying out any international transactions. One or two countries allowing the BCCI to carry out business locally on a very limited scale have also completely suspended the BCCI's international transactions", Bangladesh Bank added.

Iraq continues to disregard

WASHINGTON, July 11: Irag's recent revelations concerning its nuclear programme are "serious and worrying" in that they reveal a continued pattern of disregard for international agreements and the rule of law, said the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations Thomas R Pickering on Wednesday in a Worldnet Dialogue.

Ambassador Pickering was held on Wednesday linking participants in Dhaka, Permanent Representative to role of the United Nations, as regional conflicts.

were SM Ali, Editor Daily Star; Research Fellow, Bangladesh Strategic Studies (BIISS) and Syed Ahmad Hossain. Secretary General, United Nations Association of

Bangladesh (UNAB). SM Ali, Ambassador Pickering pointed out that under the initiative of President George Bush, the just-completed Paris meeting of the representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council has reached a general agreement on ridding the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction, and also on restricting their own supply of conventional weapons to that Replying to another ques-

tion from Ali, Ambassador Pickering said that the time has not yet come for the US to return to UNESCO, as the reforms demanded by the US in that UN body have not been implemented. *

destruction, where those efforts are compatible with world security in general.

United Nations, which also in-

New phase of contact

From Page 1 Col. 8 Bangladesh Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman to his country has opened a new phase of greater bilateral interaction, reports BSS.

"The visit has opened up a new phase of bilateral understanding and this contact needs to be maintained at regular basis," he said.

The Soviet Foreign Minister said his talks with the Bangladesh Foreign Minister covered wide areas - all

We have agreed to develop political relations between the two countries in addition to strengthening the areas of cooperation, Bessmertnykh said. He laid particular emphasis

on Moscow's destre to further

develop ties with the third

world countries and said

Dhaka occupied an important

place because of its continued

airing of the views of the third world and LDC nations. The Soviet Foreign Minister

who is now busy in visiting many countries to participate in different kinds of dialogue in the broader context of the wind of change blowing across the world said his country stressed particular importance to furthering ties with the democratic governments.

In this context, the Soviet Foreign Minister recalled the formation of new government in Bangladesh following general elections and said this augured well for a more closer Moscow-Dhaka relationship. Bessmertnykh said he felt

high political level contacts be-

tween Moscow and Dhaka should be maintained at a thorities. regular basis and added that he had accepted an invitation extended to him by the Bangladesh Foreign Minister to visit Bangladesh. others.

From Page 1 Col. 5

ties will collapse", they said.

Central Students presided over the rally.

APSU leaders Nazmul Karim

Their other demands in-

He said that decentraliza-The sources said that the aspects of bilateral issues, retion of administration was a Awami League government gional and international matmajor demand made by all pochanged the Constitution in litical parties since the United

It is unlikely that the BNP and the Jamaat will concede to the Awami League's pressure. The Select Committee held

Left students

From Page 1 Col. 5 (JCD) and pro-Awami League Chhatra League (A-A), both

Students Unity (APSU), were out of the realignment. Campus sources said the crisis occurred as JCD and the Awami Chhatra League refused to go for movement against the

components of the All-Party

murder cases going on trial on July 14. The student fronts of BNP and also of Awami League declined to take part in movement because no member from the two organisations had been

sued by Shibir. The components of the new student combine are Chhatra Moitry, pro-JSD (Inu), Chhatra League (N-S), pro-CPB Chhatra Union, BKSAL-backed Jatiya Chhatra League, Chhatra League (BSD), Samajtantrik

Chhatra Front and Chhatra Samity. Chhatra Oikya Parishad is launching movement on fivepoint demands which include withdrawal of cases against 60 students, publication of Dainik Barta, filling one lakh vacant posts in government service

and other problems of the uni-The 60 students will face trial on charge of their alleged involvement in the killing of four Islami Chhatra Shibir

worker in campus violence at Meanwhile, the Parishad announced its action programme, including protest procession on the campus on June 13, press conference on June 16, meeting with the University authority on July 18

and rally on July 20. AL pressure

From Page 1 Col. 2

of a fundamental nature. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Jamaat-e-Islami are reportedly opposing the repeal of Article 142.

BNP and Jamaat sources

told The Daily Star that the referendum was made mandatory for any fundamental change to avoid recurrence of a 'parliamentary coup'.

1975 merely with the strength of a brute majority in Parliament keeping the people in complete darkness.

three meetings till yesterday to complete its work within the stipulated time, July 14.

Worldnet Dialogue with Ambassador Pickering

international law: US

The Worldnet Dialogue satellite teleconference on "The US and the UN" with Kathmandu. New Delhi. Karachi and Colombo. The US the UN discussed the situation in Iraq, addressed the future

well as the status of several Bangladesh participants Dr Iftekharuzzaman, Senior Institute of International and

In reply to a question from

Answering a question from lftekharuzzaman. Ambassador Pickering asserted that it has always been the US policy and posture to encourage the states of any region to get together, particularly to deal with weapons of mass

Replying to a question from Syed Ahmad Hossain, Ambassador Pickering assured that the United States is committed to supporting the

CU probe report

that the one-man probe body report was "biased" and favoured a particular students organisation of the university. They demanded constitution of a fresh probe body with more than one member to investigate into the December 22 incident and other matters to bring back normalcy on the campus. "Otherwise all activi-

clude arrest of Faruk's mur-

Nazimuddin, Vice-President of Chittagong University Union.

derers and expulsion of Islami Chhatra Shibir activists who were earlier served with show cause notices by the CU au-

Dulal, Mokaddes Alt Majumder, Joyjid Barua and Kamrul Islam addressed the rally among