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# The Daily Star

SHRABAN 16, 1398 BS, DHAKA THURSDAY AUGUST 1, 1991 MOHARRAM 19, 1412 HIJRI

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**STARTING today**, The Daily Star becomes a regular 12-page issue, providing increased space for news and features from all over the world—and from within our country.  
**In raising the number of pages to 12**, we have added one page each to Business and Sports, which will carry the latest news, commentaries and photographs.  
**So our readers and patrons have more to read in a bigger and better The Daily Star.**  
 —Editor

**Inside Today International**



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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Taraghat bridge toll from Aug 2**  
 The government has decided to collect toll from the vehicles crossing the Taraghat bridge on the Dhaka-Aricha Road from August 2 this year. Taka 15 will be collected from each truck, lorry and bus while Taka 10 from each of the other small vehicles, reports BSS.

**Tk 22 lakh goods seized**  
 From Our Correspondent CHUADANGA, July 31: Goods worth over Taka 22 lakhs were seized Monday morning from Jibannagar upazila headquarters by the BDR personnel. According to concerned authorities, the seized goods were brought from Dhaka by a truck for smuggling to India.

## AL tags indemnity bill to passage of 12th amendment bill

**Star Report**  
 The Awami League has made it a bargaining point that its Indemnity (repeal) Bill be introduced on the private members' day today before the passage of the Constitution 11th and 12th amendment bills.  
 "The AL insistence in this regard will delay the passage of the two bills."  
 The AL bill which seeks to repeal the law blocking trial of the killers of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, may be introduced by the Awami League today.  
 The Law Ministry worked the whole day Wednesday to clear the Indemnity Bill. But the Business Advisory Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad could not fix up a date for voting for the passage of the two Constitution amendment bills.  
 The Awami League deferred its decision on the voting date on a plea that the Indemnity Bill should be introduced first.  
 Awami League sources told The Daily Star that the party members may vote for the Constitution amendment bills after the Indemnity Bill is moved in the House today.  
 Ruling party sources indicated on Wednesday that the bills may be passed on Sunday.  
 The sources further said that the Awami League topnotchers had softened their stand on tagging the Indemnity Bill with the passage of See Page 12 Col. 3



Resident Students of Dhaka University are leaving their halls Wednesday morning under police surveillance. The university has been closed indefinitely after Tuesday's hours-long gunbattle. — Star photo

## Crack down on criminals, PM tells admn officials

**COMILLA, July 31:** Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Wednesday asked the administration and law-enforcing agencies to crack down on "criminals" to improve law and order situation, reports UNB.  
 She also called for involving people in all programmes to ensure their success.  
 "Go all out to round up law-breakers and punish them who and however powerful they may be", the Prime Minister directed at a meeting of the Divisional Commissioner, the DIG, Deputy Commissioners, SPs, BDR sector commanders and customs officials of Chittagong Division.  
 The Prime Minister observed the criminals might have links with high quarters and asked the officials to discharge their duties dauntlessly without fear or favour.  
 "The hooligans do not belong to any party..... they have their own party..... they must be punished duly", she said.  
 The meeting held in the conference room of the DC was organised to review law and order, smuggling and market situation in the division.  
 Commerce Minister MK Anwar, State Minister for Labour and Manpower Rafiqul Islam Miah and State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Dr. Khandaker Musharraf Hossain, Cabinet Secretary and Home Secretary also addressed the meeting, which lasted about three hours.  
 The Prime Minister said all are equal in the eyes of law, none would be spared if found indulged in acts of crime.  
 No request or directives favouring the criminals from any level would be honoured in dealing with offences.  
 Begum Zia stressed the need for activating the district committees on law and order and better coordination among the officials of district and See Page 12 Col. 8

## Violent students of Dhaka College damage 7 vehicles

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Processionists demanding release of Awami League-backed Chhatra League (S-A) leader, Sayedul Islam Khan Paul of Dhaka College damaged seven vehicles near the college Wednesday.  
 The protesters set two vehicles ablaze and damaged over a dozen others soon after Paul was arrested from Elephant Road Tuesday evening.  
 The protesters belonging to Chhatra League (S-A) went violent after the metropolitan magistrate rejected Paul's bail petition Wednesday morning and held rallies on the Dhaka College campus and in New Market and Elephant Road areas leading to traffic jam.  
 Addressing the rallies, Chhatra League (S-A) leaders condemned the arrest of Paul and demanded his unconditional release.  
 See Page 12 Col. 7

## Strong steps against campus violence urged DU students vacate residential halls

**By DU Correspondent**  
 Dhaka University wore a desolate look Wednesday as resident students left their halls following closure of the university for an indefinite period.  
 The Dhaka University Syndicate declared the university closed sine die and directed the resident students to vacate the halls by 8 am Wednesday following three-hour gunbattle between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (S-A) Tuesday that left five students and a passer-by injured.  
 Tuesday's clash was a sequel to their previous rivalry to have supremacy on the campus.  
 Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mantruzzaman Miah and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Wakil Ahmed discharged their official duties from the residence of the Vice-Chancellor while other administrative functions continued normally.  
 The offices of the VC and the Pro-VC were ransacked by a group of violent students, during Tuesday's clash.  
 Although most of the halls were vacated, campus sources said some students were still staying in Jagannath Hall violating the authorities' directive.  
 Police and BDR troops were seen patrolling the deserted campus.  
 The vacation order put the resident students in an abrupt uncertain situation. Out from halls, all could not leave Dhaka for their home districts. Some were found looking for alternative accommodation.  
 See Page 12 Col. 1

## Hasina demands reopening of all closed educational institutions

Sheikh Hasina Wednesday demanded reopening of all closed educational institutions including Dhaka and Rajshahi Universities after taking effective non-partisan measures ensuring normal academic atmosphere, reports UNB.  
 The Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition, in a statement, expressed grave concern over the indefinite closure of Dhaka University after continued terrorism "directly or indirectly backed by the ruling party".  
 The Opposition Leader said after the fall of the autocratic regime of Ershad, the people and the students expected violence-free healthy academic atmosphere in educational institutions. But people's aspiration was dashed when they witnessed large scale terrorism patronised, she said. See Page 12 Col. 1



US President George Bush (L) and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev exchange documents after signing the historic START treaty slashing their long-range nuclear weapons by a third. — AFP photo

## Bush, Gorbachev sign treaty to reduce nuclear arsenals

**MOSCOW, July 31:** Presidents George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev signed a treaty Wednesday reducing the superpower arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons, a landmark conclusion to summit talks that focused on the Soviet Union's economic woes and the search for peace in the Middle East, report agencies.  
 At a Kremlin ceremony using pens made from scrapped medium-range nuclear missiles the two leaders put their names to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START).  
 The document, about 700 pages long, took nine years to negotiate. It lays down stringent conditions for checking and verifying the destruction of about one-third of the superpowers' strategic nuclear arsenals.  
 "By reducing arms we reverse a half-century of steadily growing strategic arsenals," Bush said in remarks prepared for the treaty ceremony. "But more than that, we take a significant step forward in dispelling a half century of mistrust."  
 The United States and Soviet Union are to try and convene a Middle East peace conference in October, President Bush said today.  
 US Secretary of State James Baker is being sent back to the region to try and coax Israel into attending, he told a news conference after his two-day summit with President Gorbachev.  
 Bush said Baker would return to Israel tomorrow.  
 He acknowledged that the Jewish state had not yet accepted the US proposals for the first direct Arab-Israeli talks in four decades of conflict.  
 Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh told reporters at a separate briefing he would visit Israel soon and take with him documents See Page 12 Col. 8

## Doctors call off strike

## Appointment of National Professor withdrawn

**By SSMC Correspondent**  
 The government on Tuesday decided to withdraw the appointment of Maj General (Retd) Mahmudur Rahman Chowdhury as National Professor.  
 Following the government decision the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) withdrew its call for a two-hour token strike daily in protest against the appointment, according to a BMA statement.  
 See Page 12 Col. 7

## Trial adjourned till Aug 4 Ershad promises not to make clandestine communication

Former president H M Ershad has promised to refrain from making 'clandestine communication' including the writing of unauthorised letters from jail cell, his chief Defence Counsel Serajul Haq said here Wednesday, reports BSS.  
 Talking to reporters after adjournment of the court trying Ershad on charges of corruption, Haq said the former president gave the undertaking in the presence of the Attorney General.  
 Ershad on Saturday can- See Page 12 Col. 6

## Lankan troops close in on Elephant Pass

**COLOMBO, July 31:** Troops were poised to break a three-week-old siege on a army camp in northern Sri Lanka after advancing three kilometers (nearly two miles) through rebel-held territory, officials said here today, reports agencies.  
 Heavy fighting around the camp has cost more than 1,000 rebels lives, according to official sources, and five more soldiers and 18 guerrillas died Tuesday as troops broke through rebel defences near the Elephant Pass camp, a military spokesman said.  
 "There were two swift operations during which we overran two LTTE positions and advanced another 3000 meters. The soldiers can see the camp now," the spokesman said.  
 Meanwhile a minor leftist party alleged that a curfew imposed in the north to prevent supplies and reinforcements reaching the rebels was blocking the food supply to civilians and prompting widespread famine.  
 The Elephant Pass camp lies at the neck of the Jaffna Peninsula, a Tamil stronghold inhabited by about 800,000 people.  
 More than 4,000 troops backed by air cover have been advancing from a beachhead eight kilometers ( five miles) from the army camp since July 14 in an attempt to break the siege launched by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) four days earlier.  
 The army had lost 148 men and the LTTE 1,136 in bitter fighting which has slowed the advance, according to officials.  
 "After we broke through there was sheer panic among the Tigers. A large number of them fled with the injured," the spokesman said. The bodies of 18 guerrillas were recovered, he added.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
**জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড**  
**ঢাকা**  
**মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট)**  
**সম্পর্কে**  
**বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

- আপের বিক্রয় কর ও আবগারী কর ব্যবস্থার পরিবর্তে ১লা জুলাই, ১৯৯১ থেকে মূল্য সংযোজন কর (ভ্যাট) ব্যবস্থা চালু হয়েছে।
- এ কর নিত্য-ব্যবহার্য খাদ্যদ্রব্য যেমন চাল, গম, ডাল, আটা, ময়দা, পেঁয়াজ, মরিচ, আদা, বেগুন, হলুদ, মাছ, মাংস, আলু ও অন্যান্য ভরিতরকারী, শাক-সব্জীর উপর আরোপ করা হয়নি। তেমনিভাবে শাড়ী, লুঙ্গিহল দেশে তৈরী সকল প্রকার কাপড়চোপড়ের উপর ভ্যাট নাই। তদুপরি বহু কুটিরশিল্পকে ভ্যাটের আওতার বাইরে রাখা হয়েছে। ফলে নিম্ন ও মধ্যবিত্তের ব্যবহার্য আরো শত শত পণ্যের ক্ষেত্রে ভ্যাট নাই। পাইকারী ও খুচরা ব্যবসায়ের উপরও কোন প্রকার ভ্যাট আরোপ করা হয়নি। অতএব ভ্যাট প্রবর্তনের ফলে বাজারে পণ্য মূল্য বেড়ে যাওয়ার প্রসূই উঠে না।
- ভ্যাট চালু হওয়ার ফলে শতকরা ১০ তাল পণ্য যেমন আমদানিকৃত সয়াবিন তেল, মসলা, পুরাতন কাপড়, সুপারি, ছাপার কাগি এবং দেশে উৎপাদিত অধিকাংশ পণ্যের উপর করের মোট পরিমাণ আপের বিক্রয় কর ও আবগারী করের তুলনায় কমে গেছে। ফলে এসব পণ্যের মূল্য বরং কমা উচিত।
- তত্ত্ব ও দুর্ভোগের সাথে লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, ভ্যাটের দোহাই দিয়ে বেশ কিছু পণ্যের ক্ষেত্রে মূল্য বাড়ানোর অপপ্রয়াস চলছে। কতিপয় স্বার্থান্বেষী মহলের সুযোগ গ্রহণই এর প্রধান কারণ। ভ্যাট ব্যবস্থার কর ফাঁকির সুযোগ অনেক কম থাকার এর বিক্রমে কোন কোন মহল অপচ্যার চলাচ্ছেন।
- বাংলাদেশ একটি উন্নয়নশীল দেশ। দেশকে উন্নত করার জন্য রাজস্ব-ঘাট, পুল, কুল, কলেজ, মাদ্রাসা, হাসপাতাল, টিউবওয়েল, বিদ্যুৎ, কৃষি সরঞ্জামের সরবরাহ, সেচ সুবিধা প্রদান ও টেলিযোগাযোগ, বন্যা নিয়ন্ত্রণ, কলকারখানা ইত্যাদি স্থাপন ও নির্মাণ করতে হবে।
- সুদৃ পণ্যতন্ত্র, আইনের শাসন ও মানবাধিকার প্রতিষ্ঠা করা বর্তমান সরকারের অঙ্গীকার। পণ্যতন্ত্র ও আইনের শাসনের পূর্বশর্ত হল অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়ন, যার জন্য প্রচুর অর্থের প্রয়োজন। উপরন্তু দেশের সার্বভৌমত্ব অক্ষুণ্ণ রাখার জন্য আমাদের পরনির্ভরশীলতা কমাতে হবে। কেননা কোন আত্মমর্যাদা সম্পন্ন জাতির পক্ষে চিরকাল পরনির্ভরশীল থাকা বাঞ্ছনীয় নয়। এ জন্যই পুরানো কর ব্যবস্থার পরিবর্তে ভ্যাটের মত একটি আধুনিক ও গতিশীল কর ব্যবস্থা চালু করা হয়েছে।
- পশ্চিম ইউরোপের উন্নত দেশসমূহসহ প্রায় সকল উন্নত দেশে এ প্রণতিশীল কর ব্যবস্থা চালু রয়েছে। আমাদের পাশ্চাত্য ভারত, পাকিস্তান, ইন্দোনেশিয়া, ফিলিপাইন, থাইল্যান্ডসহ প্রায় ৬০ টি উন্নয়নশীল দেশেও এই ব্যবস্থা চালু আছে। এ ব্যবস্থা কোনক্রমেই পণ্যবর্ধের বিরোধী হতে পারে না। যদি তা হত, তাহলে পণ্যতাত্ত্বিক দেশসমূহে এই ব্যবস্থা চালু করা সম্ভব হত না।
- সুভারঙ্গ জনগণের ভাগ্যোন্নয়নে এবং জাতির সার্বিক উন্নয়নের স্বার্থে সরকার এই প্রণতিশীল কর ব্যবস্থার সফল বাস্তবায়নে আপনাদের আন্তরিক সহযোগিতা কামনা করছে।

ডিএফপি(জি)-১৭৫৫-৩১/৭  
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**জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড**