

Come to CHITTAGONG Come to
BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT
The House of Peace & Rest, The Place of High Class.
We Cordially Invite you to try our Beautifully
prepared and Beautifully presented authentic
THAI CUISINE and **SEAFOOD** in the cosy
atmosphere of a **LOVELY HOUSE**.
1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY ROAD, NASIRABAD,
CHITTAGONG. RSVP CALL TEL: 226803

The Daily Star

NAKSHI KANSHA KENDRA
The Skill Development Centre for Underprivileged
Women, House-35, Road-11 (New), Dhanmondi,
Dhaka.
NOW PRESENTS
Household linen, Canopies, Room dividers, Door
drapes, and unique custom-made sarees, shawls,
shalwar kameez.

VOL. 1 NO. 176 REGD. NO. DA 781

SHRABAN 3, 1398 BS,

DHAKA FRIDAY JULY 19, 1991

MOHARRAM 6, 1412 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 3.00

Inside Today Magazine

Features on The
Maldives: Paradise
on Earth, coinciding
the visit of Presi-
dent Gayoom to
Bangladesh
today
Page 10

Sport



Three pages of sports
news, including a two-
page Daily Star Spe-
cial on the 10th
Asian Club Cup
soccer which
begins in the
city today
Page 6, 7 & 8

International

Two new political
parties have emerged
in the Soviet Union
sensing a split in the
Communist Party
Page 5

Article

'Affiliating university'
not need of
the hour
Page 4

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



With his innova-
tion hardly noticed
Moniruddin Talukder
has gone bankrupt
with all hopes
nearly lost
Page 3

Business

BCCI backed Israeli
arms sale to Iran
for CIA, says
French paper
Page 9

NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina indisposed

By Staff Correspondent
Awami League chief and
Leader of the Opposition in
Parliament Sheikh Hasina was
confined to bed on Thursday as
she was attacked by influenza.

BNPPP meet tomorrow

A meeting of BNP's
Parliamentary Party will be
held at the Number 1
Committee Room of the Jatiya
Sangsad at 4 pm on Saturday.
Leader of the House and Prime
Minister Begum Khaleda Zia
will preside over the meet-
ing, reports BSS.

HSC exams begin Aug 22

The Higher Secondary
Certificate examinations of
Dhaka, Rajshahi and Jessore
education boards will begin on
August 22, according to an offi-
cial handout here yesterday.
The HSC examinations of
Comilla Education Board will
begin on September 12.

RU students' threat

RAJSHAH, July 18: Chhatra
Otkya Parishad today threat-
ened to disrupt the normal
functioning of Rajshahi
University if the murder cases
against 60 student leaders
were not withdrawn by July
27.

Flood situation in six districts further deteriorates Thousands marooned



Flood waters poised for entering the city: Kamrangir Char like other low-lying areas on the outskirts of Dhaka has already been inundated and many families are facing the threat of being rendered homeless. —Star photo

Overall flood situation in Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Faridpur, Bogra, Gaibandha and Pabna deteriorated Thursday with more areas going under water. Sherpur, Kurigram and Mymensingh endured under unchanged condition although the mighty Brahmaputra and Jamuna showed slight fall at places but their tributaries swelled. The Jamuna fell by 12

City low-lying areas go under water

By Staff Correspondent

Most of the low-lying areas in and around Dhaka city were inundated by flood water Thursday. Vast areas of Kamrangirchar, Jatrabari, Badda, Gulshan, Maniknagar, Mohakhali, Rampura and Mirpur went under the down flowing waters from the up-stream of mayor rivers in the northern region.

A Daily Star correspondent while visiting Kamrangirchar Thursday found people at places on roof tops and machans erected above flood waters that submerged houses and small and cottage industries in the area. As the hand tubewells were submerged, shortage of drinking water became acute.

It is apprehended that more areas in the around the city will be submerged as the water of Buriganga has been rising gradually. Buriganga, which rose by about 9 cm Thursday, is likely to rise further today. However, the river was flowing much below danger level.

cm during the last 24 hours.

The death toll rose to 15 with drowning of one person in Belkuchi and one in Ullahpara under Sirajganj district and another in Tangail, according to report from our correspondents.

The monsoon flood that carpeted most areas of the ten northern districts have left at least 30 lakh people in agony, thousands marooned and rendering as much homeless; sweeping habitats bridges and culverts, disrupting communications and destroying over 3 lakh acres of crop lands.

Diarrhoeal diseases have been reported from Bogra and Tangail.

Flood situation in Jamalpur deteriorated further with inundation if more six unions due to more breaches of Brahmaputra embankment at Harindara in Islampur. Educational institutions were closed in char areas where law and order has also deteriorated.

Dacoits on board mechanised boats rob localities there almost every night. The district administration has not started rescuing the marooned people in the char areas and no relief material sent.

Vast areas of Faridpur Sadar, Bhanga and Charbhadrahan upzilas of the district have been inundated with the increase of flood water and erosion in the river Padma and Ariakhan. Vast areas of "Decree Char," "Char Madhabpur," "North Channel" and "Ishangopalpur" have been submerged after the Padma burst its banks. Few hundred families living outside the flood control embankment have been affected and have

See Page 12 Col. 6

VAT leading to confrontation

By Moazzem Hossain

The growing discontent in trade and industry circles over the Value Added Tax (VAT) is fast taking a confrontation course.

Representatives of over 20 trade and industry associations, mostly small and medium scale business enterprises, met Thursday at the conference room of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) to thrash out an action programme to force the withdrawal of VAT.

They threatened to go for an "all-out movement" against VAT by July 25, a deadline set by them for a firm decision of the government on VAT in the light of their representations.

Over 30 trade and industry associations, representing diverse business interests, have so far made appeals to the government calling for VAT withdrawal or exemptions. More representations showing how

the VAT would cause adverse effect on prices of the related goods and seriously affect business operations, are under preparation, according to trade and industry circles.

At yesterday's meeting at the FBCCI, 'aggrieved' business and industrial associations pointed out that the VAT had not merely replaced sales tax on imports and excise duty on domestic manufacturing sectors and services. The VAT has been extended to areas where there were no excise duty or sales tax earlier. The net impact of VAT on prices of goods and services would be higher now than the previous rates of sales tax and excise duty because of increased customs duty, high tariff value and depreciation of Taka, they pointed out. VAT is imposed on duty-paid value of goods at import stage, they said.

The 'aggrieved' trade and industry circles are

See Page 12 Col. 7

Gayoom arrives today

By Staff Correspondent

President of the Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom arrives today from Nepal, on a two-day visit. President Gayoom will be accompanied by Madam Nasrina Gayoom and a delegate of high officials. They will be received by both the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the Zia International Airport.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will call on President Gayoom today. And later the Maldivian President will call on Acting President Justice Shahabuddin. The official visit will last for

See Page 12 Col. 3

BNP trying to establish parliamentary autocracy: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has reiterated her call for greater unity of the progressive, nationalist and democratic forces of the country to overcome the crisis in the national life.

She was addressing a function at the Bangabandhu Bhaban welcoming more than 300 workers of pro-BKSal

See Page 12 Col. 3

Rain bars Khaleda's plane from landing in Chittagong

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 18: The plane carrying the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia could not land at the airport here today due to heavy rain-fall.

The Prime Minister wanted to visit the cyclone-hit areas of Chittagong division and different offshore islands. The visit was scheduled earlier.

The Chittagong district today witnessed the country's highest downpour. The rainfall was recorded at 106 mm.

Govt counters move to storm strategic garrison

200 Tigers killed in 2 days

COLOMBO, July 18: At least 19 soldiers were killed in continuing battles between troops and Tamil Guerrillas storming a military garrison in the north, military officials said Thursday.

As many as 200 Tiger rebels also were killed in the fighting at Elephant Pass since Wednesday, claimed the officials at the Joint Operations Command in Colombo. There was no confirmation of the killings from the Tigers.

The Elephant Pass camp—the most strategic of four major military bases spread over the embattled north—links the mainland of Sri Lanka with the rebel-held northern Jaffna Peninsula.

The camp, 300 kilometers

(185 miles) north of Colombo, is defended by more than 1,000 soldiers, and has been under siege for the past nine days by Tiger guerrillas operating from the dense jungles.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, who control most of the Tamil-majority northern region, have long wanted to drive out the military from Elephant Pass to have free access to the Jaffna Peninsula.

The government rushed at least 1,000 soldiers by ship Sunday night to help troops beat back the Tigers. Fresh troops were strongly needed because most of the soldiers were forced to fight sniping guerrillas from inside the camp. At least 63 soldiers and

more than 500 rebels have been killed so far, according to the government. Forty-one soldiers have been killed and 147 injured in fighting since the amphibious troops landed on a beach near the village of Wettilaikkeni, six kilometers (four miles) from the camp.

The Tigers attacked the reinforcements in a bid to prevent them from reaching the Elephant Pass.

Independent confirmation of the death tolls have been impossible because of bad communications. Also, there have been few or no witnesses to the fighting.

At least 18,000 people have been killed since Tiger rebels started their violent campaign for an independent homeland.

Tk 854.18 cr foreign investment

Foreign capital worth Taka 854.18 crore has been invested in 87 industries in the country, Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan told the Jatiya Sangsad Thursday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Sheikh Harunur Rashid Mia (AL-Khulna), the minister said a cellular telephone set factory with an investment of Taka

Another bill to amend Constitution

By Staff Correspondent

A new constitution amendment bill seeking to ensure independence of the judiciary was introduced in Parliament by Awami League member Salahuddin Yusuf.

Parliament, however, refused permission to Independent member Major (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed to introduce another amendment bill which sought to amend Article 33 of the Constitution to make the fundamental rights of the people secure.

Land near PG hospital: Ershad chargesheeted

The Anti-Corruption Bureau has submitted chargesheet against five persons including the former President Lt Gen (Ret'd) H M Ershad for giving order to allocate 3.82 acres of land of the then DIT located north of the PG hospital at a price below the fixed rate to a

See Page 12 Col. 7

BKSAL to merge with AL

Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League (BKSAL) has decided to merge with the Awami League soon.

BKSAL General Secretary Abdur Razzak confirmed the decision.

The final decision would be taken at the next council session to be held in August, he added.

The Awami League Secretary General Begum Sajeda Chowdhury said that there was no bar to BKSAL's joining the Awami League as a call was given by the party chief Sheikh Hasina in this regard.

She said that the doors of the Awami League were always open to the followers of Sheikh Mujib and in the case of Mohiuddin Ahmed and

Moinuddin Naser Abdur Razzak also, there would be no bar to their staging a come back.

The BKSAL under the leadership of Mohiuddin Ahmed and Abdur Razzak had split after the presidential election 1981 in which Dr. Kamal Hussain contested against late President Abdus Sattar.

The issue leading to the split was apparently ideological.

When Abdur Razzak the General Secretary of the party insisted on the party leaders' accepting the programme of second revolution as the main issue, most of the presidium members opposed it.

Later Abdur Razzak, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Abdul Malek Ukil and many other leaders of the Awami League

came out of the AL and formed BKSAL.

However, after a few months Abdul Malek Ukil and many other leaders returned to the Awami League.

Since then several initiatives had been taken by both the Awami League and the BKSAL to negotiate the touchy political issues between them. But the efforts could not materialise due to the reservation of a section of the Awami Leaguers to welcome Mohiuddin Ahmed and Abdur Razzak in the party and pace them properly in the party caucus.

The rapid development over the merger issue emanated after the defeat of the Awami League in the February

See Page 12 Col. 1

Gorbachev's aid drive gains speed

LONDON, July 18: Mikhail Gorbachev gained momentum Thursday in his drive for economic help, winning Canadian agreement to thaw a 130 million dollars credit. Also Thursday two Western firms announced big deals with Soviet partners, reports AP.

Gorbachev, who looked downcast after meeting Wednesday with the Group of Seven leaders, said Thursday the session was "the most important step yet" in welding the Soviet Union into the world economy.

"A major part of our plan is

the development of new contacts and cooperation with the West," Gorbachev said in an interview with the British Broadcast Corporation. I think that this is why at home what has happened here can be judged as positive.

Besides the economic deals, Gorbachev also reached agreement the US President Bush to cut superpower nuclear arsenals by 30 per cent. Bush plans to go to Moscow July 30-31 to sign the pact, the most complex arms control treaty ever.

Canadian Prime Minister

Brian Mulroney met separately with Gorbachev on Thursday, and said he was freeing a 130 million dollars credit that he froze during the Baltic crack-down last winter. Moscow could use the money to buy Canadian food.

After the meeting, Mulroney told US television that Gorbachev was satisfied with the reception he had received from the world's industrialised giants.

Gorbachev "felt the package that had been put forward was very constructive and very helpful," Mulroney said on

"CBS Morning News." Gorbachev also met Thursday with British Prime Minister John Major, who said Wednesday he would travel to Moscow later this year to assess the Soviet reforms on behalf of Western leaders.

And the Soviet President met with Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, who said he thought "Gorbachev was satisfied" with his visit to London.

Major called Gorbachev's visit "an historic occasion."

Related stories on pages 7, 9

Best wishes to the participants of the
10th Asian Club Cup Championship
May the best team win

... with the great
chocolatey taste.

MILO Packed with vitamins.
Packed with energy.
Packed with taste.

