

## Report on Dhaka flood control project soon

The first meeting of the re-constituted National Committee on Flood Control was held in the city on Saturday under the chairmanship of M Majid-ul-Haq, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Water Development and Flood Control, reports BSS.

Haq is also the Convener of the Committee.

Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman, Minister for Communication Oli Ahmed, State Minister for Land Jamiruddin Sirar, State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Lutfar Rahman Khan, and secretaries and head of the concerned ministries and projects were present in the meeting.

The meeting was apprised of the background of the just completed phase of the Greater Dhaka Flood Action Plan and proposed further ac-

tion under the new phase to be founded by Asian Development Bank as a component of the Flood Control Plan.

The meeting took a number of decisions on the proposed phase of the project relating to its processing and implementation. It was agreed in the meeting that the Ministry of Irrigation may proceed with appraisal of the project by the Asian Development Bank and take all necessary steps for commencement of the project.

Ministry of Irrigation would prepare a comprehensive report on the earlier phase of the project funded through its own resources. It was also decided that further expansion of the project including eastern part of Dhaka city will be considered by the Committee on receipt of economic and financial feasibility reports of the project.



Chinese special envoy Madame Chen Muhua called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her residence yesterday. She is leading a Chinese delegation who will attend the Shambhuganj bridge opening ceremony today. — PID photo

## Cooperation with Beijing

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Zia at her residence on Saturday.

Madame Chen is here as a special envoy to represent the Chinese government at the inaugural ceremony of Shambhuganj Bridge, also known as Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge 2. Begum Zia will formally open the bridge for traffic today.

During the call-on, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh Chen Songlu and member of Madame Chen's entourage were present.

She said friendship between China and Bangladesh was traditional but the present stage of closer relationship between the two countries was initiated during the time of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

Madame Chen said China was ready to support Bangladesh in all possible ways

in its development efforts.

She expressed the hope that the development programmes of the present government would be implemented successfully a peaceful and stable atmosphere.

Earlier Madame Chen arrived on a four-day visit.

"It is really a matter of great gratification that tomorrow the second bridge built with Chinese assistance will be inaugurated in Bangladesh," Madame Chen told newsmen upon arrival.

Madame Chen, who heads a 11-member delegation, described the Shambhuganj Bridge as a symbol of growing Bangladesh-China economic and technological cooperation and said the bridge would stand as another landmark of deep friendship.

She said the Shambhuganj Bridge was the culmination of the work of Chinese and Bangladeshi engineers.

Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed received the Chinese special envoy at the airport.

Madame Muhua said China and Bangladesh were close neighbours and were pledged-bound to help each other in different fields.

She recalled the sympathy shown by the government and people of Bangladesh during recent floods in China and said medicine by Bangladesh bore the testimony of the bond of friendship.

Replying to a question, the Chinese Special Envoy said her country extended assistance to construction of bridges on two rivers while another bridge on river Mahananda was on the progress.

Further Chinese assistance on similar project would continue depending on the needs and capabilities of two countries, she said.



Government employees holding a rally inside the Secretariat during their 4-hour work stoppage yesterday demanding pay like and revised office timing. — Star photo

## Two hurt as govt employees clash

By Staff Correspondent

Two groups of government employees yesterday clashed in the secretariat during a four-hour work stoppage in support of their demands including implementation of the Pay Commission report.

Two persons were injured in the clash.

The groups belonging to Government Employees Solidarity Council confronted each other as a result of some infighting in the organisation.

The injured persons were Sheikh Saidur Rahman and Syed Ataur Rahman, expelled from the Council on August 15 along with two others for their alleged anti-organisation activities.

The expelled leaders and their supporters were chased by the opponents when they were mobilising in the secretariat premises near the second gate. At a stage in the scuffles, Ataur and Saidur were assaulted by some employees.

The injured persons were rescued by police and taken to the secretariat clinic.

After the incident, Syed Mohiuddin, Secretary General of the Council told newsmen that the expelled persons

brought some outsiders into the secretariat with a motive to attack the leaders of the organisation. But the attempt was foiled by the employees, he added.

of the government employees also announced similar programmes of work stoppage to realise the demands.

## CU strike

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lost one of his eyes that was hit by a bullet, was still fighting for life.

No classes were held and all university functioning were disrupted due to the strike. The university-bound transports could not ferry the teachers from the town to the campus.

Chhatra Shibir organised rallies and processions on the campus demanding immediate arrest of those involved in Wednesday's incident.

Meanwhile, the All-Party Students Unity (APSU) gave an ultimatum of 24 hours to the authorities on Friday to flush out terrorists from the campus. The ultimatum expired today.

UNB adds: Nomination papers for the Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) election could not be submitted today, the last day.

Sadharan Shikkhak Parishad alleged the Election Commission didn't supply nomination papers in time and also didn't publish final voters' list. They further alleged the present CUTA leadership, whose term expired last December, was trying to foil the election.

Election Commissioner Dr Mahfuzul Hoque denied the charges, saying the administration could not function properly due to campus turmoil, which hampered election work including publication of the voters' list.

The last date for nomination filing had been rescheduled for August 20 instead of today, after consultation with the Sadharan Shikkhak Parishad, Dr Hoque told UNB.

The CUTA election will, however, be held on August 29 or schedule.

The pro-VC teachers are said to be united under the banner of "Sadharan Shikkhak Parishad" after the present CUTA leaders had led an anti-VC campaign.

## Farmers burn unsold jute in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Aug 17: More than 500 jute cultivators and businessmen demonstrated here Saturday protesting closure of purchase centres and burnt their unsold 'golden fibre', reports UNB.

Some jute was put on fire in front of the local purchase centre of the Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC) as they could not sell their produce, witnesses said.

Corporation officials said the agitating jute growers tried to set ablaze the BJC godown, but the attempt was foiled by police.

The protesters in a procession paraded different roads in the town and submitted memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner and the Whip of Jatiya Sangsad, Advocate M A Karim.

In the memorandum, they demanded fixation of minimum jute price at Taka 500 and immediate opening of government jute purchasing centres.

The Whip assured that the jute purchase centres would be opened soon.

Al-haj Haluzzudin, President of the local jute traders association, said the businessmen had outstanding dues of Taka 13 lakh with BJC and Taka 50 lakh with the Adamjee Jute Mills.

The businessmen will not purchase jute until they are paid the overdue money.

## DU students

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Education Action Committee (DUEAC) as part of its ten-day action programme to press reopening of the university.

Today's programme was a 'taken' one and was observed peacefully. The students, split in groups, entered the Ziaur Rahman, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Jasimuddin, Suryasen, Mohsin, Zahurul Hoq, Shahidullah and Jagannath halls and staged 'sit-in' inside from 12 noon to 5 pm.

But they did not try to go to their respective rooms at the request of hall provosts.

The DUEAC earlier gave an ultimatum to the authorities to reopen the university by August 19 and threatened forced entry to residential halls for non-compliance.

But the Provosts Committee said on Friday (Aug 16) that they had not received any instruction from authorities and the question of reopening of halls did not arise.

Earlier the DUEAC held a rally at the foot of the 'Aparajito Bangla' before the 'march-to-hall' expedition.

Speakers at the rally threatened the university authorities that the DUEAC would go for a greater action programme if the authorities fail to announce the reopening date before August 19.

The Academic Council of Dhaka University will hold a meeting today (Sunday) to discuss the situation.

## The Midnight File

### Sharif to trace Zia's 'murderers'

ISLAMABAD, Aug 17: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif vowed today to trace and destroy the "murderers" of late military President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq. He was speaking to thousands of people assembled at General Zia's grave outside Islamabad's large Faisal Mosque to mark the third anniversary of his death in an unexplained plane crash near the Punjab province town of Bahawalpur, reports Reuter.

### Gunman kills 7, then self

SYDNEY, Aug 17: A gunman armed with an AK-47 automatic rifle and a machete went berserk in a crowded shopping plaza Saturday, killing at least seven people and wounding several others before shooting himself to death. The sniper opened fire from an upper level car park at the west-end Stathfield Plaza shopping centre, which was crowded with mid-afternoon shoppers. "Then he came down, taking shots at people as he went out," the police spokesman said. "He then turned the gun on himself and shot himself," reports AP.

## BNP, AL candidates

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None of the parties completed nomination of candidates in all the 11 vacant seats of the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) on Sunday.

A BNP source said the party has finalised nominations in all but a couple of constituencies. Nomination of candidates in a couple of seats is likely to be completed today.

Similarly the Awami League has almost finalised nominations in eight of the 11 seats, while the JP has finalised nomination in six seats.

Matiur Rahman, Ashiqur Rahman and Anisul Huq Chowdhury are the likely AL candidates in three out of four Rangpur constituencies. Nomination against the Gangachara constituency was not finalised on Saturday.

In the Chittagong-8 constituency Ataur Rahman Kaiser or Ishaque will be the AL candidate.

Shahjahan Khan (former JSD leader who recently joined the AL) is the probable AL candidate from Madaripur-2 constituency vacated by Abdul Razzak Anwarul Islam is expected to contest from Bhola-2 on the AL ticket.

Sirajul Islam Bhuiyan alias Bachhu and Siddiqur Rahman are the JP candidates in Madaripur-2 and Bhola-2 constituencies.

Jatiya Party has nominated Al-haj Karimuddin Mia in the Rangpur-1 constituency. Jatiya Party is expected to complete nomination in three other

Rangpur constituencies today (Sunday).

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, a former Prime Minister, and Begum Roushan Ershad are two likely candidates.

JP is finding it difficult to put up a candidate in Chittagong-8 constituency reportedly due to an inner party difference.

In Bogra-7 constituency the JP candidate is Md Abdur Razzak Millat, sources said.

Out of the 11 Jatiya Sangsad seats where bye-elections are due on September 11, four each were vacated by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and former President H M Ershad, and one each by AL MPs Abdur Razzak and Tofael Ahmed. Another seat fell vacant due to the death of AL MP Ilyas Ahmed Chowdhury.

### Yugoslav jets

From Page 1 Col. 4

at least two members of their forces were killed on Friday when Serbian guerrillas fired mortar bombs at Okucani in Western Slavonia, a hitherto peaceful area.

The Croatian government called for the presidency election "because of aggression on Okucani," Tanjug said.

A federal army convoy of armoured vehicles, trucks and vans arrived in Okucani on Saturday afternoon, it said.

More than 200 people have been killed in clashes between Croatian forces and Serbian guerrillas since Croatia declared independence on June 25.

Croatia accuses the federal army of aiding the guerrillas.

### US House

From Page 1 Col. 8

despite some undemocratic provisions in it.

She hoped the passage of the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill would facilitate the democratic process. Her party would continue struggle for institutionalising democracy for overall development of the country, she added.

Abdus Samad Azad, Sajeda Choudhury, Tofael Ahmed, Shudhanshu Shekhar Halder, Amir Hossain Anu, M A Jali and Mofizur Rahman were present.

## Financial accords

From Page 1 Col. 8  
H Mahmud Ali will accompany him.

The officials attach great importance to the FM's visit being considered as "a vital diplomatic move" for Bangladesh to find just and acceptable solution to her long-standing disputes with the closest neighbour.

Bangladesh High Commissioner to New Delhi Faruque Ahmed Chowdhury is now in the capital for necessary consultations.

It will be the first political-level meeting between the two countries since the newly-elected governments assumed power in both Dhaka and New Delhi.

Diplomatic circles believe the ensuing Dhaka-Delhi ministerial meeting will provide "an excellent opportunity to resolve bilateral disputes through dialogue".

They also hope it may help restore an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding recreated during late President Ziaur Rahman's time which facilitated the two countries

conclude a five-year agreement on the Ganges water sharing in 1979, which expired in 1983.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia made her first trip abroad attending the funeral of assassinated former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Mustafiz has, meanwhile, indicated he was going to the Indian capital with "open mind" and sought sincerity of India toward finding honourable solution to all bilateral problems.

The sharing of 54 common river waters including the Ganges, transfer of the Tin Bigha corridor, determination of the ownership of the South Talpatty island, Chakma refugee problem and demarcation of land and maritime boundary are considered as main irritants in the relation between the two neighbours.

Bangladesh, showing sincere gesture for reaching just and equitable solutions of all the problems, is likely to put stress at the Delhi meet on resolving the issues in a spirit of good neighbourhood and understanding.

## Corporation budget

From Page 1 Col. 3

DCC executives accompanied the Mayor and assisted him in replying to questions by a large number of reporters.

Mirza Abbas while presenting his statement in the press conference opined that the budget for the current fiscal was meagre in meeting the huge expenses for providing the citizens a comfortable life at the present moment.

The Mayor demanded of the government to sanction the DCC Taka 75 crore to turn the corporation into a self-reliant and dignified institution.

In this context, he sought the cooperation of all concerned to help realise Taka 29 crore in outstanding taxes from various government, semi-government and autonomous bodies and from the taxpayers.

Replying to a reporter, the Mayor said a White-Paper on the DCC is now being prepared and it will be made public by next month.

Replying to another questioner, he said that the DCC has no plans at present to put

new sodium bulbs in the city streets as the corporation is unable to afford the high costs of such arrangements. He however said that such steps may be taken in future.

Commenting on the street bulbs, now out of order in different parts of the city, the Mayor told reporters that steps have been taken to repair all the bulbs by September 15.

About the demand by the enlisted contractors of the DCC to pay their arrear bills, Mirza Abbas said Taka one crore was paid in the last two months.

Besides, the DCC was examining the remaining outstanding bills. He said that the contractors have demanded bills totalling Taka 40 crore. But the DCC accounts put the figure at Taka 28 crore, he added.

During the autocratic regime, most of these contractors managed to get contracts for DCC work by collaborating with the autocratic rulers. Now backed by a certain political party, they are trying to destabilise the present government, the Mayor alleged. He did not name the political party.

In reply to a number of questions, the city Mayor said that repairing of the dilapidated city roads will be started soon after the rainy season ends. Because, he said, no repairing of the roads during the rainy season will be fruitful.

### Khaleda

From Page 1 Col. 4

Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman to attain self-sufficiency in food.

She said the past autocratic regime had scrapped all the people and production-oriented programmes of the BNP government and turned Bangladesh's economy virtually into an import-based one.

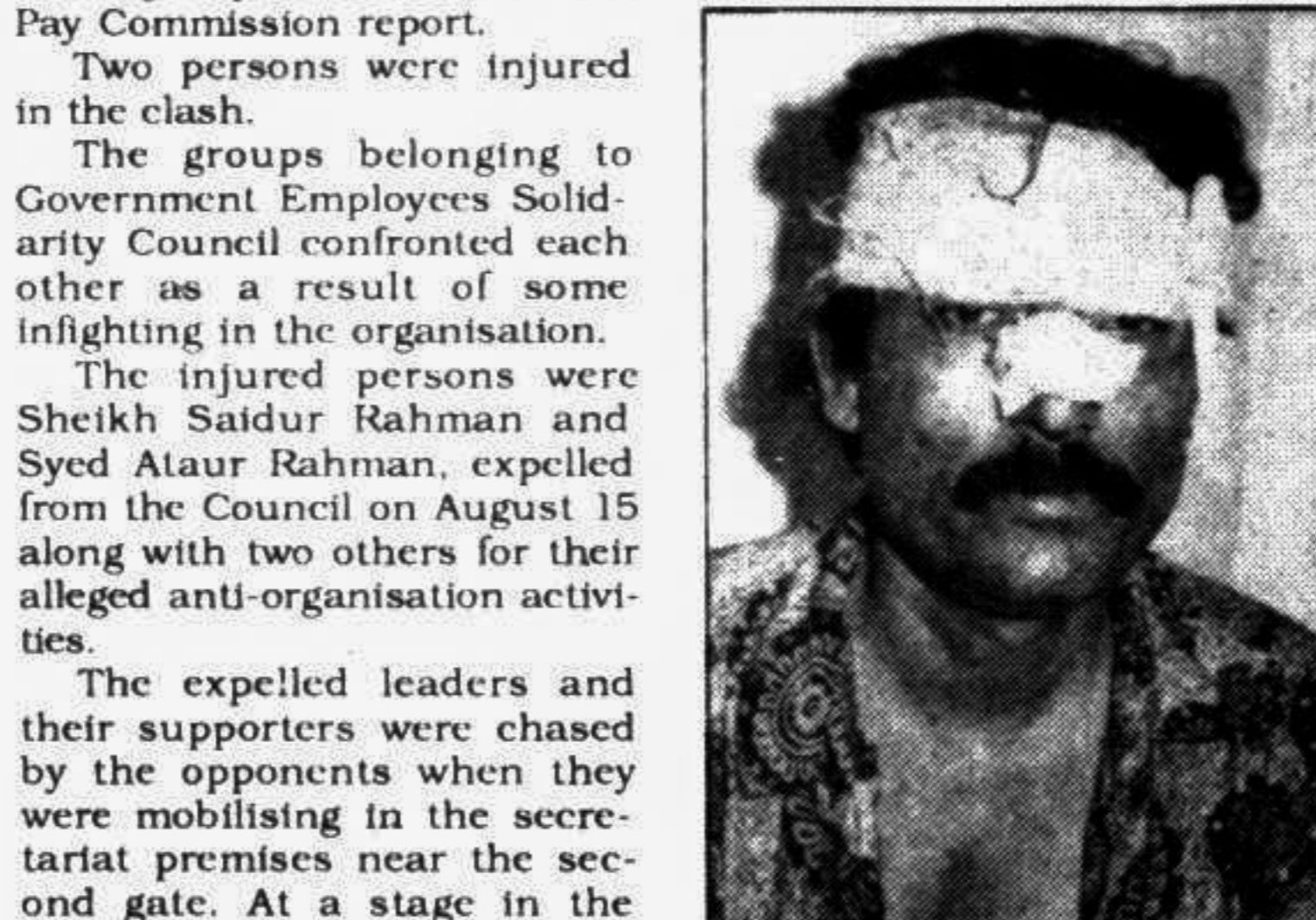
Amid thunderous applause, the Prime Minister announced that Savar would be made pousasabha to meet the long-felt demand of the people of the area.

She also announced a grant of Taka 15 lakh for a madrasa and 40 schools of the area.

Referring to the demand of the local people to nationalise the Savar College, the Prime Minister said the government would announce the policy in this regard and the college would get priority in the list for nationalisation.

In this connection, Begum Zia referred to the commissioning of the 600-line automatic telephone exchange in Savar today and said the people of this area would now be able to make distant calls.

Earlier Begum Zia visited the Bengal Fine Ceramic Industry here. She went round various sections of the industry and evinced keen interest on the products.



One of the government employees injured in a factional clash yesterday. — Star photo

Mohiuddin alleged that the four expelled persons were conspiring with the government to foil the movement of the employees for which the Council took action against them.

Meanwhile, Ataur Rahman and Saidur Rahman alleged that they were attacked in the secretariat canteen by supporters of Syed Mohiuddin.

A case has been filed at Ramna Police Station for this attack. A large contingent of riot police was posted inside the secretariat after the incident.

The Employees Solidarity Council will continue its two-hour work stoppage everyday till August 20 in support of its demand.

The employees will go for full-day work stoppage on August 21 and 22.

The council leaders said that the government employees all over the country will participate in this programme.

"Pay Commission Report Implementation and Office Time Changing Action Committee", another organisa-

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### Special Disconnection Drive

With a view to realise arrear Gas bills, a special disconnection drive has been launched.

Programme for disconnecting DOMESTIC GAS CONNECTIONS of defaulting customers in the Dhaka Metropolitan Area is as follows :

- (a) 24-8-91 to 29-8-91 Dhanmondi and adjacent areas (Zone - 3).
- (b) 31-8-91 to 5-9-91 Gulshan, Banani & adjacent areas (Zone - 4).
- (c) 7-9-91 to 12-9-91 Mirpur and adjacent areas (Zone-5).
- (d) 14-9-91 to 19-9-91 Jatrabari & adjacent areas (Zone - 1).
- (e) 21-9-91 to 26-9-91 Motijheel, Old Dhaka and adjacent areas (Zone - 2).

Our valued customers are requested to clear their outstanding dues immediately and keep the receipt at the place of use to be produced before the disconnecting team. All members of the team carry valid identity cards.

Our respected customers are also being reminded that ALL PAYMENTS BE MADE THROUGH DESIGNATED BANKS ONLY. NO PERSON IS AUTHORISED TO COLLECT CASH ON ANY PRETEXT WHATSOEVER.

For any query/clarification regarding gas bills please contact Manager (Revenue) over telephone 323546 or your local zone office.

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