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# The Daily Star

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- NEWS BRIEFS**  
**RUCSU polls postponed**  
RAJSHAHI, Aug 18: Rajshahi University authorities have postponed the elections to the University's Central Students' Union (RUCSU) and 12 hall unions due to 'unavoidable circumstances'. The elections were scheduled for September 15. A circular issued by the Chief Returning Officer also postponed the election of five students' representatives to the University Senate scheduled to be held on the same day, reports UNB.
- Hartal call in Sherpur**  
SHERPUR, Aug 18: Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangad district unit today called for an eight-hour hartal in the town tomorrow demanding withdrawal of a government order transferring the Deputy Commissioner.
- Ganges erodes Daulatpur**  
KUSHTIA, Aug 18: About 200 families were rendered homeless as a vast area in Daulatpur Upazila of the district was affected by erosion of the river Ganges, now in spate.

**Second Friendship bridge opens**

## PM's call to identify proper development perspective

MYMENSINGH, Aug 18: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today called upon all patriotic forces to identify current development perspective to salvage country's ruined economy, reports UNB.

Begum Zia said this while inaugurating the second Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge at Shambhuganj in Mymensingh on Sunday.

The bridge over the Old Brahmaputra has been constructed at a cost of Tk 78 crore, including Tk 44 crore provided by China. The construction work on the 463.80-meter long and 14.40-metre wide bridge started in December 1989 and completed five months ahead of schedule.

According to local people, the commissioning of the bridge would make easier the communication of Kishoreganj, Netrakona and Sherpur districts with Mymensingh town and Dhaka.

The first Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge was constructed over river Buriganga. Work on the third Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge over the Mahananda in Chapainawabganj is expected to begin by the end of this year.

Chinese special envoy



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating the second Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge (Shambhuganj bridge) over the Old Brahmaputra in Mymensingh on Sunday.

### College lecturers call off strike after Govt decision

By Staff Correspondent

Lecturers of government colleges under Dhaka, Jessore and Rajshahi boards will call off their strike from Wednesday but those under Comilla board will continue.

Bangladesh Government College Lecturers Association in a press release Sunday said the decision was taken in view of HSC examinations under the three boards commencing from Thursday. The lecturers of colleges under the Comilla board will continue the indefinite strike since the examinations under it are still far away, scheduled from September 12.

The press release, signed by Kamal Ataur Rahman and Omar Faruq President and

### New SSC exam system dropped

By Staff Correspondent

The pass mark for each paper in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations will be 33 calculated in a combined way, not separately for objective and narrative parts.

Education Minister Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said on Sunday the government had accepted the three-point demand of the agitating school students and there would be no objective questions in mathematics, both compulsory and elective papers.

Addressing a news conference at the National Academy for Educational Management he clarified that first and second division marks would remain unchanged — 600 and 450 respectively.

The Education Minister said the government had accepted the demands in the interest of peace and discipline and called upon students to go back to their schools.

Students of schools of Dhaka city were agitating since August 14 to press home their demands that the pass mark for each paper should be 33, not 36 (20 for narrative and 16 for objective questions), that pass marks should be determined as a whole not separately, and that there should be no objective part in question papers of mathematics, both compulsory and elective papers.

During the past three days, students in some areas of the city went violent disrupting road traffic and damaging a large number of vehicles.

BSS adds: Prof Badruddoza

### Mizan, Shah Moazzem to contest from Rangpur

By Staff Correspondent

Former Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzem Hossain have been nominated as Jatiya Party candidates in Rangpur 5 and 6 constituencies in the September 11 by-election.

Nurul Huda Sultan of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and Ashkur Rahman of Awami League will

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### No ULFA base in Bangladesh

Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan Sunday categorically denied existence of any base of the United Liberation Forces of Assam (ULFA) in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

When his attention was drawn to an AIR report quoting M. N. Jacob, Indian Union Minister of State for Home, Ahsan dismissed it as "baseless and without any foundation."

Jacob was Saturday reported to have said ULFA forces have base inside Bangladesh.

Ahsan made it clear that Bangladesh never allows any forces to use its territory for launching unlawful and subversive activities against India and other countries.

### Kader Siddiky demands trial of betrayers along with Mujib killers

By Staff Correspondent

Valiant freedom fighter Kader Siddiky Sunday vowed that he would never compromise with those who betrayed Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and continue his struggle for trial of the killers



Kader Siddiky with his wife waving to the crowd after his release from the prison ward of PG Hospital on Sunday.

of Bangabandhu.

He was addressing a spontaneous gathering of a large number of Awami League workers and supporters in the Central Shaheed Minar premises soon after his release from the prison ward of P G Hospital following a Supreme Court order. The gathering accompanied him from the hospital to the Shaheed Minar.

"If I demand trial of the killers of Bangabandhu, I also demand trial of those who miserably failed to protest the killing of Bangabandhu at that time. If I demand trial of Khondaker Mustaque, I also demand trial of those who ganged up with him leaving Bangabandhu in a pool of blood. If I demand trial of Faruq, Rashid and Dalim, I also demand trial of those who failed to live up to the ideals of Bangabandhu, no matter whether they were Awami Leaguers or not. I cannot sit beside them in the party," Siddiky told his audience.

Referring to the Indemnity Repeal Bill he said though the bill had come up after 16 years of the assassination of Bangabandhu.

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### Recovered property, cash incompatible with Ershad's sources of income : AG

By Staff Correspondent

Attorney General Aminul Haque said on Sunday that the property and cash totalling Taka 2.20 crore found in deposited President Ershad's possession was incompatible with his known sources of income.

The prosecution in Ershad's wealth amassing case in the Special Judge Court yesterday gave an account of the total income of the accused since 1952 when he joined service.

Attorney General Aminul Haque said that Ershad's total income from all known sources was Taka 73,21,527 including his salary and other benefits from his job amounting to Taka 25, 63, 947. His income also included house rent received from his two houses in Rangpur and his paternal property.

On the other hand the total value of his assets, property and cash in hand has been calculated at Taka 2,94,86,765.

In the Court of Special Judge Mohammad Ali Khan

four more prosecution witnesses deposed yesterday, while two of the witnesses who deposed earlier were recalled.

The prosecution also produced 31 gift items including monograms of different historical monuments, ivory decorative pieces, a samurai sword, woodwork art pieces, Rukminti Murti recovered from the Sena Bhavan and found to be his personal belongings.

The two prosecution witnesses recalled were the Senior Officer of the Janata Bank Motalib Ali and the Senior Officer of the Agrani Bank Ayub Ali Miah. They gave witness on the limitations of a bank regarding the amount of money to be kept in a branch at a time.

Ayub Ali Miah said that an 'A' grade branch of a bank can preserve Taka 20 lakh at a time, while a 'B' grade branch Taka 10 lakh, 'C' grade Taka 5 lakh and 'D' grade Taka 2 lakh.

If any depositor wants to

### 3 killed as police opens fire in self-defence in Sitakunda

By Staff Correspondent

Three persons were killed and six others injured when the police opened fire in self-defence at Choto Darogahat in Sitakunda thana of Chittagong district early Sunday morning, according to a press note issued by the Home Ministry, reports BSS.

The press note said that a mobile police force found a gang of dacoits engaged in committing dacoity by putting barricade on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at 2 O'clock Saturday night. At a later stage suspicion crept into the minds of the local people about the activities of the police and they caught hold of one police constable with rifle. When the officer in charge of the thana went to the spot at 6 a. m. Sunday along with a police force after receiving the report they were intercepted by the local people. The police were compelled to open fire in self-defence. As a result, three persons were killed and six others

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### Repeal of Indemnity Ordinance vital to establish law: Sajeda

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury said Sunday that the repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance was necessary for establishing rule of law, a basic pre-condition of a democratic system.

She was speaking at a seminar organised by the Mahila Awami League at the Awami League central office to observe the 16th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Eminent educationist Dr Mosharraf Hossain, Awami League president member Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Acting Editor of the daily Sangbad

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### Syndicate to fix date of DU opening after consultations

By DU Correspondent

Dhaka University Syndicate has decided on Sunday to re-open the university as early as possible.

The Syndicate will fix the date after consultations with all concerned including the Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) and the date of reopening the residential halls after consultations with the provosts.

The decisions were taken at an emergency meeting of the Syndicate held Sunday at the residence of the Vice-Chancellor with Prof Mani

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### APSU plans march toward CU campus

CHITTAGONG, Aug 18: Shibir activists today called for a 72-hour strike at the volatile Chittagong University beginning tomorrow when APSU in a counteraction will launch a march toward the campus to flush out "terrorists," reports UNB.

Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed Sangrami Chhatra Oikya gave the strike call at a rally held in front of the Chittagong Press Club this afternoon to protest last Wednesday's attack on Shibir supporters and demanding removal of Vice-Chancellor Alamgir Mohammad Strajuddin.

Classes and administrative function of the university have

already remained paralysed for the last five days since the latest violence followed by two-day strike called by Shibir.

The Shibir-enforced 48-hour strike ends at Sunday midnight, giving start to the 72-hour shutdown in the name of Sangrami Chhatra Oikya.

The All-Party Student Unity (APSU), excluding JCD, is also observing a two-day anti-Shibir action programmes which will culminate in the march toward the volatile campus.

A Shibir activist, Mofizur Rahman of Physics Department of the varsity, was allegedly beaten up by rivals at the gate-1 of the campus this afternoon.

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### Boro Pukuria coal mine viable, say Chinese experts

A Chinese experts' team has commented the coal mine of Boro Pukuria is economically viable and the extraction process will be easier and economical, reports UNB.

The eight-member team of China National Machinery Import and Export and Design Institute led by Jung Ju said this Sunday at a technical meeting of Petro Bangla after visiting the proposed Boro Pukuria coal mine area.

The meeting was presided over by Chairman of Petro Bangla (Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation-BOGMC) M A Lutful Matin. Directors and other officials of the Corporation attended the meeting.

The Chinese experts said coal could be extracted from the proposed area for 40 to 50 years and expressed optimism about economic and technical aspects of the mine.

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### Iran wants pressure on Israel for Palestinian hostages' release

TEHRAN, Aug 18: Israel must be pressured to free Palestinian and Lebanese captives, but there is a positive trend in efforts to resolve the hostages-prisoner issue, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said today, reports agencies.

Velayati, who was speaking to members of the European Parliament, said, "Something positive is happening for the settlement of this affair and now Israel must be put under pressure to free Lebanese and Palestinian hostages."

Velayati, quoted by Tehran Radio, said he hoped that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's involvement in the issue attains "positive results."

Israeli hostage negotiators said Sunday in Jerusalem they do not expect an immediate breakthrough on the hostage issue despite a frenzy of diplomatic activity last week after an American and British hostage were freed.

The hard-line and sole surviving son of Iran's late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in remarks carried by Tehran Radio, suggested Israel also should release thousands of Palestinians arrested in a crackdown on the uprising in the occupied territories.

"If Westerners are really defenders of human rights, they must put pressure on the Zionist regime so that thousands of Muslim hostages are

released from that country's prisons," said Khomeini.

His reference to thousands instead of hundreds of prisoners clearly meant he included Palestinians arrested on the West Bank.

Israel has repeatedly said its 8,000 Palestinian prisoners will not be part of any package deal on hostages and its missing servicemen. Hostage talks have focused on exchanging 300-400 mostly Shi'ite Lebanese detainees under Israeli control for seven missing Israeli servicemen, or their remains, and the Western hostages.

"On the issue of the release of the hostages, the Westerners are, as on all other

matters, making their interests and demands the fundamental issue," Khomeini said on Tehran Radio.

He said the West must pressure Israel to free Sheik Abdul-Karim Obeid if it wants its hostages in Lebanon released soon.

Obeid, 33, a prominent Shi'ite cleric, was kidnapped by airborne Israeli commandos from his home in south Lebanon in July 1989.

Palestinian leaders from Israeli-held territories met secretly in London this weekend with the PLO for talks which may determine whether they will attend a superpower-sponsored Middle East peace conference.

Palestinian Nationalists Faisal Al-Husseni, Hanan Ashrawi and Zakaria Al-Agha conferred with Palestine Liberation Organisation officials and academics, including an expert on international law.

The Palestine committee, whose composition was approved by the PLO executive, has been discussing guarantees sought by Palestinians of the United States ahead of a peace conference which Washington and Moscow want to convene in October.

They are trying to resolve the issue of who will represent Palestinians in the face of Israeli objections to participation by the PLO and by Palestinians from East Jerusalem.

Israel has said it would attend the conference on condition the question of Palestinian representation is decided first.

The London Committee has been joined by a top PLO official carrying PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's instructions from Tunis and it will put its recommendations to the PLO for endorsement.

The source said Arafat's instructions included a call that the goal of the peace conference should be to ensure Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in the 1967 Middle East war including East Jerusalem. He also wants assurances of a halt to Israeli settlements in occupied Arab

### Sirajul Hossain quits JP

By Staff Correspondent

Sirajul Hossain Khan, a Vice chairman of Jatiya Party, on Sunday quit the party in protest against its present policies.

In a statement, he announced his resignation from his JP posts of vice-chairman, member of the presidium and also from primary membership of the party.

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