

Inside Today

Article

**Improving
Pisciculture and
Fishermen's Lot**
Column: Along My
Way
by S B Chaudhuri
Page 4

International

**Fate of Cong-I gov't
hinges on minor
parties**



"Cheney considered
firing Schwarzkopf"
Page 5

Feature

Development
World Bank
Programme Ought to
be Homegrown; Trade,
Price Policy and
Emerging Trends; The
Politics of Statistics
Page 8

Business

IMF-World Bank
break havoc on
Third World
US-Europe ties need a
fresh thrust, study
report says
Pages 6, 7

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Ecstasy in Economic
Lines
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina shocked

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and chief of the Bangladesh Awami League Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her deep shock at the death of Saudi Prince Saad bin Abdul Aziz. In a condolence message to the Saudi King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, Sheikh Hasina said, "I on behalf of the people of Bangladesh and my party Bangladesh Awami League, express deep shock at the death of Prince Saad bin Abdul Aziz," reports BSS.

Money rates

Money rates in the call money market ranged from 4.25 to 8.50 per cent during the week that ended on July 21. Interest rates offered by the banks on certificate of deposits varied from 6 to 10.25 per cent during the period, said a press release of the Bangladesh Bank yesterday. The bank rate, however, remained unchanged at 6.50 per cent, reports UNB.

**Saifur's July 29
meet postponed**

By Staff Correspondent
Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman's meeting with top industrialists of the country, bankers, insurance company executives and other scheduled to be held on July 29 will now take place on August 1 at 11.30 am at the MCCI conference hall. The meeting, organised by MCCI, Dhaka, would discuss ways and means of further activating the economy.

Seminar on CHT

A national seminar on "Peace Talks and Success of Hill Tracts Problem" will be held in the city in the third week of August, reports UNB.

Situation improves in 12 districts

Flood hits mid-region

By Staff Correspondent

The flood situation in the north-eastern districts remained static while fresh areas in the mid-region of the country have been inundated Sunday, according to reports received in Dhaka.

However, reports of further deterioration of the situation have been received from Netrokona, Brahmanbaria, Comilla and Feni districts.

Fresh inundation was reported from Tangail, Manikganj, Faridpur, Madaripur and Shariatpur, according to our correspondents.

A total of 108 people have lost their lives in the floods

which affected 55 lakh 41 thousand and 49 people, the Relief Secretary told newsmen Sunday.

Twenty-four fresh deaths were reported from the flood hit areas Sunday.

The flood water inundated a total of 1255 unions and 12 municipalities of the country, he said.

Standing crops on 3,87,183 acres of land were damaged, he added.

According to Our Correspondents and district control room officials of the affected areas, the overall flood situation improved in 12 districts in the

northern and south-eastern regions.

It remained static in Gaibandha, Bogra, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Sylhet and Habiganj districts.

All the rivers of the Ganges and the Brahmaputra basins have begun to recede further easing the pressure of the water in the northern region.

Rivers in the Meghna basin continued to swell with the Surma, the Kushtiya, the Manu, the Gumti and the upper Meghna flowing over danger levels.

The Halda in the south

See Page 12 Col 3

Relief worth Tk 18 cr for flood victims

The government has so far allocated relief worth about Tk 18 crore in cash and kind among the flood victims in 28 affected districts, a top official at the Relief Ministry yesterday said, reports UNB.

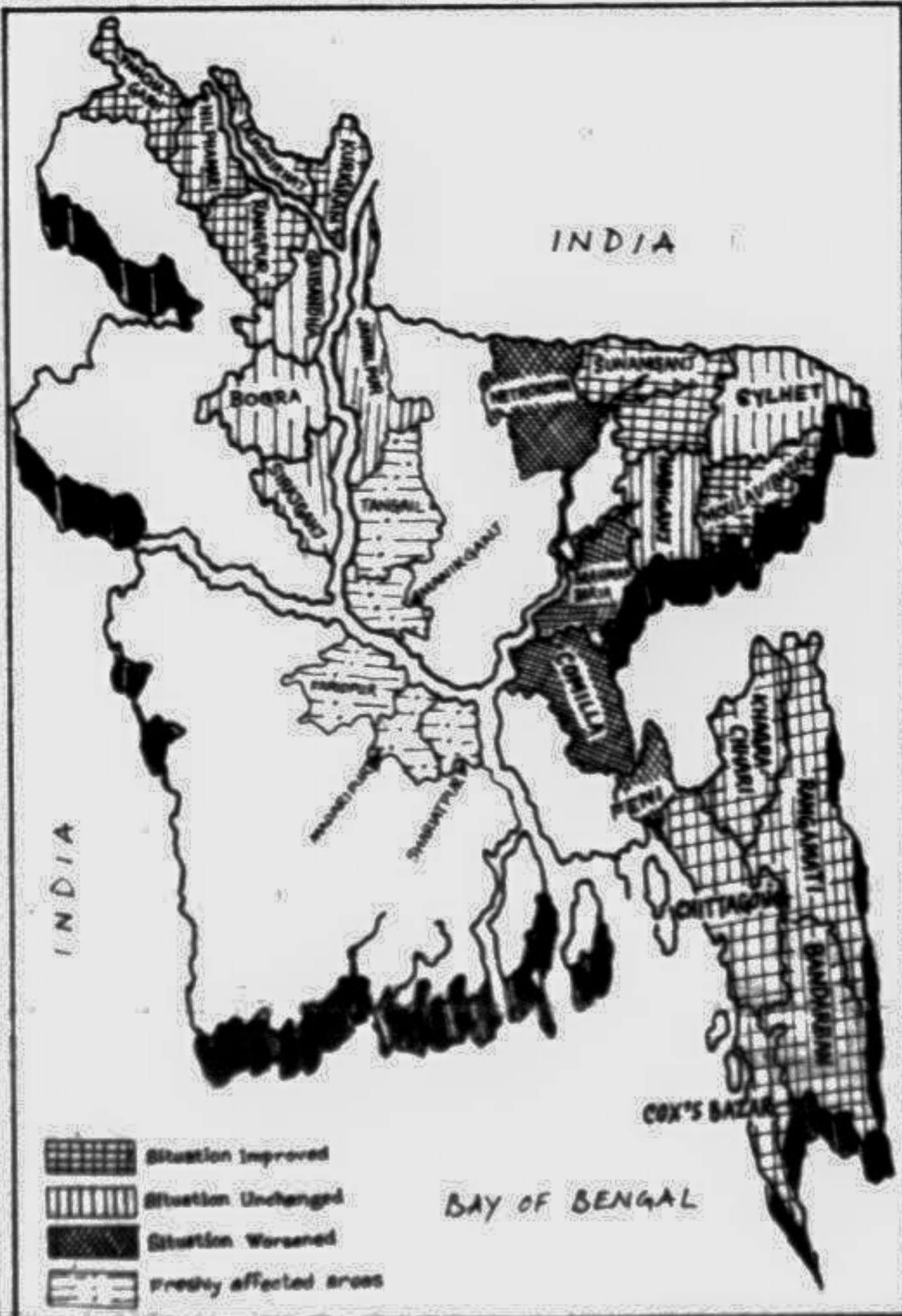
"The situation is not alarming," Relief and Rehabilitation Secretary MA Hakim said while briefing journalists at his office last evening. The administration in the affected districts are capable of tackling the present situation.

The Secretary said flood situation in most of the affected districts are improving with the recession of water, excepting in nine northern and eastern districts where the condition remains either static or deteriorating.

The nine districts are: Maulvibazar, Habiganj, Sylhet, Sunamganj, Brahmanbaria, Rangamati, Bogra, Gaibandha and Netrokona.

He said 1,255 unions under 171 thanas of 28 districts were hit by the current spate of flood.

Giving a breakup of damages, Hakim said crops on 3,87,183 acres had been completely and on 3,84,884 acres partially damaged. Besides, 1,07,898 dwellings were fully and 3,13,781 partially destroyed by the floods.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting flood-affected areas of Feni district by speed-boat yesterday. — PID photo

Khaleda tells flood-hit people of Comilla, Feni Face calamity with courage

COMILLA, July 25: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, accompanied by four cabinet colleagues, today visited a number of flood-hit areas in Comilla and Feni, reports UNB.

During the day-long tour, she gave some on-the-spot instructions to the local administration to gear up relief operations as well as rehabilitation of the flood affected people.

Begum Zia drove the long 200 kilometers from the capital to see for herself the extent of damages caused by the current spate of floods, stopping at places to talk to the people and sympathise with them.

She was accompanied by Social Welfare Minister Tariqul Islam, Works Minister Barister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Textiles Maj (Retd) Abdul Mannan, Whip Mahbubul Alam Tara, local MPs, Red Crescent Chairman Syed Shahidul Huq Jamal, MP, and PSO to the PM Maj Gen Subed Ali Bhuiyan.

"I have come to see you and be at your side at the time of your distress... don't be afraid and face the calamity with courage and fortitude," the

Prime Minister told a spontaneous gathering at Jamaddar Bazar in Chhagalnaiya of Feni district.

She said the government will do all possible to rehabilitate the people affected by the onslaughts of the current flood. "New seeds will be distributed to help you to sow again as soon as the water recedes," Begum Zia assured the flood victims.

The Prime Minister also assured the people that directives had already been issued to the district administration to do whatever required to face the calamity.

She also advised the local people to drink tubewell water or use water-purifying tablets to avoid water-borne diseases which usually break out after the floods.

Begum Zia, during her day-long tour of the two districts, also visited Lemua Bazar, Fazelpur and Nijkonjura in Feni and Burichang, Debidwar and Brahmanpara thanas of Comilla district.

In Feni, the Prime Minister took a speedboat to go further afield to see the sufferings of the flood victims in remote villages.

Later, the Prime Minister also addressed the district officials at the Deputy Commissioners' offices at Feni and Comilla. She instructed them to work with dedication to alleviate sufferings of the people during the calamity.

Local district officials gave detailed accounts of the flood damages as well as measures taken so far to mitigate the people's sufferings.

The Prime Minister was informed that nearly 4,15,000 people had been affected in Chhagalnaiya, Sadar and Fulgazi thanas of Feni. Standing crops on 3,880 hectares and about 10,000 kutchas houses were damaged by the floods in the area.

Relief Ministry has allocated Tk two lakh in cash and 100 metric tons of rice for the flood victims. The district administration has sanctioned 200 maunds of chira, 40 maunds of mollases, Tk 15,000 in cash and 15 metric tons of rice. The Red Crescent has sent 1000 sarees, 1000 lungis and 100 maunds of rice to Feni.

In Comilla, eight relief shelters have been opened at different parts of the district

**BNP Council
Sept 1-2**

National Council of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party will be held September 1-2. BNP announced yesterday, reports UNB.

As part of the preparation for smooth holding of the two-day conference, an advisory council, headed by BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, was constituted Sunday. It comprises all members of the party National Standing Committee.

Eleven sub-committees were also formed yesterday for making the upcoming council, being held in Dhaka after more than four years, a success. The last council was held March 8-9 in 1989.

Earlier, a high-power preparatory committee had been formed with party Vice-Chairman Chowdhury Tanvir. See Page 12 Col 3

**Myanmar yet to
set date for
Ogata's visit**

Star Report
The date for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata's visit to Myanmar is yet to be finalised, according to a UN agency source Sunday.

"The UNHCR is still waiting for a date to be finalised by the Myanmar government," a UN official said on condition of anonymity. He expressed his surprise at news agency reports that Ogata is likely to visit Yangon later this month.

Earlier in May, the Myanmar government had extended an invitation to Ogata to visit the country after the UNHCR expressed concern over the repatriation situation of the 2,60,000 Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh.

The invitation was conveyed through a UN mission which visited Myanmar earlier this year. The UN mission also included a UNHCR official as an observer, the source said.

**Minister arrives
'Lanka following
Grameen Bank
model'**

Shri Lankan Minister for Food, Cooperatives and Janasaviya Weerasinghe Mallimaratchi arrived here yesterday on a six-day visit to study agricultural development activities in Bangladesh, particularly the operation of Grameen Bank, reports UNB.

"I first ever came here... This good will visit will further cement the ties between the two countries," he told newsmen on arrival at the Zia International Airport yesterday afternoon.

Food Minister M Shamsul Islam received his Lankan counterpart at the airport. The Lankan Minister is accompanied by his wife Madam P Mallimaratchi and Food Commissioner of the island-country NB Liyanarachchi.

Mallimaratchi said his country was following the model of Grameen Bank for poverty alleviation... I want to see it more closely."

He will also observe people's development activities in the villages, visit BRAC project in Manikganj, Agricultural Cooperatives Society at Jaypur and Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARAD) in Comilla.

**'Black Box' decoded
British expert to
help investigate
DC-10 crash**

By Asiuzzaman
A British expert is due in Dhaka early next month to examine the tyres of the damaged DC-10, while the Civil Aviation authorities received the final report of the 'black box' yesterday. Bitman sources said.

"We have received the final report of the black box today (Sunday) and a British expert is coming early next month for aqua-planting," an official told. The Daily Star requesting anonymity.

Aqua-planting or hydro-planting is a test for aircraft tyres to ascertain the possible causes of an accident while landing on wet surface.

Bitman's one of the four DC-10 aircraft on a flight from Jeddah skidded off the runway on May 18 at the Zia International Airport.

A seven-member probe body. See Page 12 Col 6

Supreme Court vacates stay on Azam's citizenship

By Staff Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court Sunday vacated the stay order issued earlier on a High Court verdict restoring the citizenship of Prof Golam Azam.

The Court, however, allowed a government adjournment petition for hearing an appeal on the verdict on August 23.

Hearing of the appeal on the June 22 High Court verdict was scheduled to begin yesterday in the Appellate Division comprising Justice Habibur Rahman, Justice A T M Afzal, Justice Mustafa Kamal and Justice Latifur Rahman.

The Court granted an adjournment application of Attorney General Aminul Huq seeking four weeks time citing personal health reasons.

With the stay order having

been vacated, the Jamaat leader is now citizen of Bangladesh as per the declaration of the High Court, observed Barrister A R Yusuf, counsel for Azam, immediately after the Appellate Division order.

"Today is the first day that Prof Golam Azam can say that he is a citizen of Bangladesh," he added.

Deputy Attorney General B Hossain moved the petition for adjournment. He, however, did not press for extension of the stay order on the High Court decision.

Earlier in June, a single-bench of the High Court Division comprising Justice Anwarul Huq Choudhury restored the citizenship of Azam while declaring the government notification disqualifying him from

being a citizen of Bangladesh issued in 1973 as illegal and issued without lawful authority. The judgement came in the backdrop of a split-decision verdict given by a Division-bench of the High Court last year.

On July 14, another Division-bench of the High Court comprising Justice Md Abdul Jalil and Justice Md Ruhul Amin also declared the government detention order of the Jamaat leader under the Foreigners' Act as illegal and issued without lawful authority. The Court ordered his immediate release unless wanted in connection with any other case.

Golam Azam was released from the Central Jail on July 15 after being detained for 16 months.



Munir likely to be hanged tonight

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka Jail authorities are likely to execute the verdict today (Monday) on Munir Hossain Suruj who was sentenced to death for murdering his wife Sharmin Sultana Rima.

"So far the decision is unchanged. He will be hanged tomorrow midnight if no major change." See Page 12 Col 7

Opposition announces month-long programme

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League-led 15-party coalition yesterday announced a month-long demonstration programme across the country to press for Jamaat chief Golam Azam's trial as 'war criminal' in a special tribunal.

Announcing the programme, in his presidential speech at a public meeting in the capital, AL presidium member Abdus Samad Azad also called for unity of all pro-independence forces to compel the government to fulfil the popular demand.

During the next one month, members of the coalition would organise rallies and processions all over the country to drum up mass support for the demand.

The meeting, at Bangabandhu Avenue, was arranged in observance of the coalition's nationwide 'Demand Day' yesterday.

In his speech, Samad Azad

alleged that Golam Azam and his party were still conspiring against the country's independence and sovereignty with the patronisation of the ruling party.

"The BNP government is doing all to protect Golam Azam and his party for his party's support," he said.

The government had failed to keep its pre-election pledges and its agreement in Parliament regarding the trial of Golam Azam only to please the 'rajakars', Samad Azad remarked.

He also urged the people to join the Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Samannayya Committee-called rally in the city on July 28.

The AL leader reiterated his party's accusation that the government was indifferent to the worsening flood situation.

Addressing the meeting, See Page 12 Col 3

Interim govt orders sweeping changes in Pak admn

ISLAMABAD, July 25: One week after a major political shake-up in Pakistan, the interim government has ordered sweeping changes in the country's administrative set up to ensure free polls in October, reports AFP.

The government said today that the decision to sideline senior bureaucrats, appointed by the rival federal and provincial governments during the bitter six-month power struggle at the top, was taken at a marathon meeting here overnight.

The high-level meeting chaired by Interim Premier Moeen Qureshi was attended by acting governors and provincial chief ministers as well as a six-member caretaker cabinet of ex-army officers, bureaucrats and technocrats installed Friday.

The meeting reviewed steps to maintain the law and order in the country and discussed a strategy to create an environment that would facilitate the holding of free elections to the

national assembly on October 6 and the legislatures in the four provinces on October 9, an official statement said.

"The people are looking up to us in expectation and we must spare no effort to justify the confidence that has been re-

Editorial on Page 4

posed in us," Qureshi told the participants.

Qureshi, a former World Bank senior Vice President, was invited to return home from abroad to become Interim Prime Minister under a settlement of the political crisis negotiated by powerful Army Chief General Abdul Wahed.

Under the package deal the two political adversaries, President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, jointly stepped down July 18, paving way for the new elections, 28 months ahead of schedule.

Senate Chairman Wasim

Sajjad, 52, was elevated to Acting President until the election of the new head of state in December.

"The interim government would leave a good legacy for the next representative government," Qureshi said assuring "complete neutrality" of the administration.

Stressing that his government's primary objective was to ensure peaceful and impartial elections, he urged the officials to "employ your experience and resources" to ensure clean elections.

Rival leaders had accused that shortly before relinquishing power, Sharif and his opponents in the provinces had posted and transferred key officers in the police and administration to powerful positions of influence ahead of the new elections.

The high level meeting has decided to change all the provincial police chiefs and also. See Page 12 Col 8

Amendments to BCS recruitment rules challenged

By Staff Correspondent

A writ petition has been filed with the Supreme Court yesterday challenging certain amendments to the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Recruitment Rules, 1981 that had relaxed a few provisions for job confirmation and promotions of the members of a few selective cadres.

Under the amended rules, members of 10 cadres, out of a total of 30, have been enjoying the privileges of securing both their job confirmation and promotion without appearing at the departmental examinations.

The amended rules also exempted both foundational training and departmental examinations for promotion to certain posts for the members of the ten cadres who attained an age of 50.

The amendments were made separately on June 10, 1991 and July 4, 1993 through separate SROs (Statutory Regulatory Orders).

See Page 12 Col 6

Yangon agrees to resume transit today

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, July 25: Teknaf-Mongdow transit river communication between Bangladesh and Myanmar will resume Monday after a suspension of 25 days.

The breakthrough was made at the flag meeting between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Myanmar border security force, Nasaca, held today at Teknaf. Myanmar unilaterally suspended the transit facilities after the arrest of a Myanmar smuggler, Zahir Ahmad alias Bujee Zahir on June 30.

It had set the release of Zahir as a condition for resuming the transit. But, Myanmar unconditionally agreed to withdraw the suspension today.

The meeting decided that in addition to transit passes, he visitors from both the countries would have to carry certificates

issued by the chairman of their respective locality.

The BDR representatives asked their counterpart to release all the fishermen, along with their boats, who were previously arrested and detained by Myanmar forces.

In reply, the Nasaca forces assured the BDR of taking necessary steps in this regard and agreed not to act in the same manner in future.

The Myanmar forces have arrested 21 Bangladeshi fishermen and seized ten fishing boats till now.

The Bangladesh side at the meeting was headed by the commanding officer of 39th Rifles Battalion, Major A K M Nazimul Islam while the Myanmar side was headed by Mongdow Immigration Deputy Director, U Mint Theo.