

**NIRMAN TILES**  
Broken Marble Tiles  
In More Shades  
Than The Rainbow  
Tel: 605957, 861985

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Nazrul Award giving ceremony today**

Poet Nazrul Islam Award giving ceremony will be held here today at 5:00 pm under the auspices of Bangladesh National Personality Research Centre and Bangladesh Literary Cultural Organisation. A seminar on the 'Contribution of National Poet Nazrul Islam in Establishing Human Rights' will also be held on the occasion in the auditorium of Engineers' Institution. President Abdur Rahman Biswas will attend the function as chief guest while Justice Ruhul Islam, former Chairman of the Bangladesh Press Council, will be the special guest, the organisers said, reports UNI.

**RU registered graduate polls**

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, July 26: Election date of 25 registered graduate representatives to the Rajshahi University Senate has been shifted from August 3 to September 26 due to worsening flood situation, says a University press release today.

**Nirmul body leaders meet Hasina**

Leaders of Chatak-Dalal Nirmul Samannay Committee met last night with Awami League president and leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina at her official residence. During the meeting, the Nirmul Committee leaders were highly critical of the government for its reluctance to bring Jamnat leader Prof Golam Azam to trial as war criminal and making entente with forces opposed to the independence, reports UNI.

## Diarrhoea poses new threat as flood situation improves

By Staff Correspondent

The flood situation in most of the affected districts of the country has improved further yesterday but the outbreak of diarrhoea in some of the districts posed a new threat, according to reports received in Dhaka.

However, the situation in the districts of Brahmanbaria, Gaibandha, Sunamganj, Myensingh, Faridpur, Comilla, Manikganj and Netrokona remained unchanged.

As flood waters started to recede, situations in Tangail, Feni, Lalmonirhat, Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Kishoreganj, Rangpur, Maulvibazar, Habiganj, Sylhet, Sirajganj, Pabna, Bogra, Chittagong, Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban have improved, according to flood forecast centre.

Diarrhoea took an alarming turn in the regions of Tangail, Netrokona, Kurigram, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Sirajganj and Jamalpur.

Road links of Sylhet with four of its thanas of Zakiganj, Beanibazar, Fenchuganj and Kanaighat remained snapped yesterday while the road links between Chittagong and Khagrachhari, Kaptai, Bandarban, Cox's Bazar, Satkania and Banskhali had

been restored. The link between Chittagong and Rangamati was yet to be restored as landslide had caused great damage to the highway.

One hundred and forty-two people had lost their lives in the floods beginning from July which affected 55 lakh 41 thousand and 49 people, according to different district control room sources.

The highest number of deaths took place in the hill districts where 50 people were reported to be killed in landslide till yesterday. In Chittagong, the total number of death was 13, while 26 persons died in

Kurigram, 16 in Pabna, 11 in Netrokona, Sylhet 8, Sherpur 7, Sunamganj 5, Habiganj 3, Feni 2, and one each in Brahmanbaria, Cox's Bazar and Bogra. These deaths were caused mainly by drowning, diarrhoea and snake bite.

The Tangail flood control room told The Daily Star, in Bhuapur thana under the district where the flood situation had improved yesterday, diarrhoea broke out extensively. More than 1,000 families were affected by flood, the sources added.

Diarrhoea also broke out in Kurigram, 16 in Pabna, 11 in Netrokona, Sylhet 8, Sherpur 7, Sunamganj 5, Habiganj 3, Feni 2, and one each in Brahmanbaria, Cox's Bazar and Bogra. These deaths were caused mainly by drowning, diarrhoea and snake bite.

The government in yet another move towards liberalising the foreign exchange market, Monday announced that the Bangladesh Bank will henceforth undertake sale and purchase of only US dollars to and from the authorised dealers.

The Bank will not enter into transactions in any other currency, according to the Bangladesh Bank (BB) sources. The move was taken to boost inter-bank transactions of foreign currencies.

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## Currency market liberalised further BB to transact in US dollars only

Star Report

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The Bangladesh Bank earlier used to carry out transac-

tions in five currencies — US Dollar, Pound Sterling, French Franc and Deutsch Mark. The BB earlier helped public agencies to transact on these five currencies. The BB also used to help the local banks in all their overseas dealings and conversions related to trade in the five currencies.

But with the new move the local banks will themselves have to engage in inter-bank transactions for currencies other than US dollar.

The Bangladesh Bank will

## 73 feared killed in ROK air crash

SEOUL, July 26: A domestic airliner carrying 106 passengers and crew crashed Monday along South Korea's rugged southwestern coast on its third attempt to land in stormy weather, police said, reports AP. There were survivors, but reports on their number varied from 33 to 43, many said to be in critical condition. At least one survivor, a child, died en route to the hospital.

There was no immediate report from the airline or police on how many bodies had been found.

A search for bodies and more survivors continued through the

## 22 get life term for killing Tongi Poura Commissioner

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, July 26: Twenty-two persons including a mother and her three sons were sentenced to life terms today in connection with a murder of Tongi Pourashava Commissioner early last year.

The District and Sessions Judge Sirajul Islam sentenced the 22 accused at the Gazipur Court house today. Of the accused, 18 were arrested.

On February 15, last year, Mannan and his accomplices killed the then Commissioner of Tongi Pourashava Kamal Hossain near Dattapara (Ershadnagar) Welfare Centre. The killing was a sequel to a previous enmity.

Kamal's younger brother Siraj Miah filed a case against 23 persons.

The convicted persons included Abul Mannan, Shamsul Huq, Mohiuddin, Jadge Miah, Nurul Huq, Milon, Robu, Shah Alam, Murad, Asan, Abul Hossain, Ratan, Ramjan, Akhter, Shahera Khatun and her sons Anwar, Amir Hossain and Golam Rasul.

The absconders include Abul Hossain, Khaleque, Zahuruddin and Abus Sultan.

One person among the 23 was acquitted.

## 8 vehicles looted on Ctg-Cox's Bazar highway

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, July 26: An unidentified group of about 20 armed robbers intercepted eight vehicles including trucks and oil tankers near Meda Kaffiapa Dala on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar highway and looted goods worth about Tk 2 lakh from the passengers today at about 7 in the morning.

Later at about 3 in the afternoon, the Kutakhal police arrested three persons, who were allegedly involved in the incident, from a nearby hill after a gunfight.

Meanwhile, truck drivers and helpers barricaded the highway until around 11.30 am protesting frequent robbery there.

The arrested persons included Nazir Ahmed, his son Mohammed Hossain and Nepal Chandra Shil.

Police also recovered a sawed-off rifle, two rounds of bullets and some looted goods from the arrested persons.

## 2 shot in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, July 26: Two persons including an activist of the Chhatra League (ML) received bullet wounds when a group of armed miscreants opened fire on a gathering of Chhatra League workers at around 10.30 pm near Chasara Raigata area.

The miscreants, numbering about 12, also threw cocktails during the attack.

The Chhatra League activist Syed was admitted to Narayanganj Hospital with bullet wound while another unidentified youth was sent to Dhaka Medical College in a critical condition.

Eight passers-by also received minor injuries who were released after first aid.

After the incident, the general secretary of Tolaram College Zakirul Alam Helal and general secretary of city Chhatra League Md Nizam accused ruling BNP of making the attack.



Two women trekking along the partially submerged Mohanganj-Netrakona rail track yesterday that has been closed to train communications for the last one week. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

## Rao faces no-confidence motion tomorrow

NEW DELHI, July 26: Opposition parties joined together Monday to move a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao in the worst crisis of his two year old government, reports AP.

Rao's minority government has been paralysed since he was accused last month of accepting a secret payment in late 1991 from the key suspect in India's worst financial scandal.

Rao has denied receiving 10 million rupees (dhs 325,000) from stock broker Harshad Mehta, but many left-wing and

right-wing lawmakers have threatened to vote Rao's centrist government out of power for a variety of reasons, including Mehta's charge.

The all-pervasive corruption is eating into the vitals of our country," Ajay Mukhopadhyaya, a Communist lawmaker, said in a speech. "It is a sacred task of this august house - to bring down this government," said Mukhopadhyaya, opening the three-day debate on the no-confidence motion to be voted on Wednesday.

As soon as Parliament opened its summer session,

Speaker Shivraj Patil announced that he had received 14 no-confidence motions sponsored by 40 legislators.

Using a lottery, he picked out Mukhopadhyaya's motion, which criticized Rao's economic policies and said he had failed to curb the Hindu extremism that has caused communal riots. Parliament rules say only one motion can be discussed every six months.

Rao has survived two other no-confidence motions, benefiting from the enmity between the largest opposition group - a

## Tale of flood-hit Netrakona

From Masud Hasan Khan

NETRAKONA, July 26: Some 10 lakh people in Netrakona district are struggling hard to cope with a flood that has once again gripped them.

This year's flood has so far claimed 11 lives in the district, destroyed vast tracts of crop lands and 5,000 homesteads.

The district administration has already opened 80 flood shelters across Netrakona and another 18 in headquarters which themselves are seriously threatened by the swelling river Mogra.

Nearly 40,000 people have taken refuge in the camps and more are pouring in everyday.

## Banks reeling with excess liquidity

By Inam Ahmed

Most banks, currently having excess liquidity, find it hard to use their funds mainly because of the country's micro-economic condition, say banking circle sources.

However, some foreign banks are inventing new products to combat the situation.

According to Finance Ministry sources, there are now about Tk 1600 crore excess liquidity with the banks.

The government, in a bid to improve the situation, had asked the four nationalised commercial banks about two months back to invest Tk 200 crore in the industrial sector.

Banking circle experts view that although the banks had

been efficiently able to use the earmarked funds, they hardly could expand the base of industrialisation in the country.

They observed that the banks had lent the new funds mostly to the old entrepreneurs on balancing, modernisation, rehabilitation and expansion (BMRE) programmes. But, they pointed out, very little of this funds went to the new entrepreneurs.

"This reveals the limitation of our market," a banker in a nationalised bank commented on condition of anonymity.

But at such a tough time, two foreign banks — the ANZ Grindlays Bank and the Standard Chartered — have

come up with new ideas in personal banking to use part of their idle funds.

Grindlays has recently launched PLANZ (Personal Loans from ANZ Grindlays Bank) and SYFANZ (savings scheme). Standard Chartered has come up with Bonus 1-2-3 programme, a moderately calculated target market product.

Under the PLANZ, a person can take loans ranging from Tk 40,000 to Tk five lakh for any personal purchase. The loanee will have to offer the hypothecation over the asset to be purchased and a lien over another asset of considerable value.

Under SYFANZ programme,

## 'Shamsul Huda's move won't affect JP'

By Asiuzzaman

Jatiya Party leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury MP yesterday said that presidium member Shamsul Huda Chowdhury's recent move would not affect the party.

The presidium, nevertheless, would discuss the issue within a couple of days, Mizan said.

"Shamsul Huda Chowdhury has been detached from the party activities practically since the fall of Ershad and now he does not matter for the party," Mizan Chowdhury who is now the acting chief of the party told The Daily Star in an interview.

"Considering his age and initial contribution, he was inducted into the presidium de-

spite his inactivity," the former Prime Minister said adding that "so far Huda attended only two presidium meetings briefly."

Former Speaker of Ershad regime Shamsul Huda Chowdhury convened a meeting of the like-minded party workers at his Eskaton residence on August 1 terming the present party leadership as "dictatorial" which deviated from party ideals.

Mizan Chowdhury said that as they did not want to lose even one worker from the party, they requested Shamsul Huda to postpone the August 1 programme. But Huda turned down the request, he added.

"Before taking any decision against the dissidents, the presidium will discuss the matter thoroughly," Mizan Chowdhury said adding that "the presidium will meet within two to three days."

He said, "former First Lady Begum Roushan Ershad is always welcome to the party but so far she has expressed unwillingness to enter politics."

In reply to a question whether the government was engineering the split in the party, the JP leader said "I don't know but I have heard about a split in the student front who held procession under police

control."

A "massive manhunt" was underway to trace the militants

## 4 killed in BDR firing

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, July 26: Four villagers including one UP member were shot dead and 40 others hurt by BDR firing at the village of Bapo Chhaila under Jakiganj thana of Sylhet today.

Of them, Abdul Hasib, 55, and Alauddin 25, died on the spot while Bashir Miah, 20, and Harsuddin, 35, a UP member died on way to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital.

About one thousand villagers from Barohal Union went to Baro Chhaila for cutting the Kushiara Flood Control Embankment at about 2 pm. On getting information BDR personnel from Lakshimbazar border outpost went to the spot

which is about one kilometre off and opened fire on a mob there without warning.

There had been a long-standing dispute between the villagers of Barohal and Birsri unions over the embankment, it is learnt.

Sector-commander, BDR, SP and DC of Sylhet went to the spot. None of them were available till filing of this report, but other sources confirmed the incident.

Of the injured, 8 in critical condition had been admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital. Seven others including Abdul Latif Chowdhury, Chairman, Barohal UP had been missing.

## Kashmir rebels hit army camp, abduct 13

NEW DELHI, July 26: Muslim militants stormed an Indian military camp in Kashmir early today stripping it of weapons and equipment and abducting all 13 personnel manning it, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported, says AFP.

The pre-dawn raid on the camp in Doda district surprised the army men, who were asleep when the rebels struck, the news agency said. The camp was looted of all its arms and ammunition, explosives and radio sets.

A "massive manhunt" was underway to trace the militants

and free the hostages, PTI said. No group had claimed responsibility for the pre-planned raid.

Doda is located in the region surrounding Jammu, the Hindu majority winter capital of troubled Kashmir. Muslim guerrillas fighting for Kashmir's secession have in recent months stepped up their activity in Doda.

The Kashmir valley, including the state's summer capital Srinagar, was meanwhile paralysed today by a general strike called by the Hizbul Mujahideen militant group to mourn a comrade killed by security forces, PTI said.