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# The Daily Star

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**BNP confce bodies meet today**

A meeting of the entertainment sub-committee of the BNP will be held at 5:00 pm at the central office of the party today with Lt Gen (Retd) Meer Shaukat Ali, convener of the sub-committee in the chair. Meanwhile, a meeting of the management sub-committee of the BNP will be held at 4:30 pm at the party central office today with its convener Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman in the chair, reports BSS.

**SAARC body on agri meets Aug 30**

The 12th meeting of the SAARC Technical Committee on Agriculture (TCA) will be held August 30-31 in Islamabad. The Bangladesh team will consist of Dr S N H Arangzeb, Director General of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, and Dr Gul Hossain, Principal Technical Officer of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council, reports UNB.

**6 cops hurt in road mishap**

RAJBARI, Aug 23: Six police personnel were injured when a patrol van collided with a truck at Nimtala some 12 km off the town, on Daulatdia-Faridpur highway Sunday midnight. The injured Rajbari thana sub-inspector Abul Hossain, Naik Ashraf, constables Babul Dewan, Sekandar, Golam Mostafa and driver of the van Dulal were admitted to Sadar Hospital. The conditions of Ashraf and driver Dulal were stated to be critical.

## Hosokawa apologises for war-time role in Asia

TOKYO, Aug 23: Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa today expressed his new government's "profound remorse and apologies" for past Japanese actions in neighbouring Asian countries "including aggression and colonial rule", reports AFP.  
 At the same time, Hosokawa said he especially wanted to improve relations with China, South Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) grouping Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.  
 His remarks on Japan's wartime role in Asia, made in a policy speech to the lower house, were believed to be the most candid ever made by a Japanese premier in parliament although he did not mention the issue of compensation.  
 After forming his seven-party coalition government two weeks

earlier, the grandson of wartime prime minister Fumimaro Konoe told a news conference that Japan had waged a "war of aggression" in Asia, going well beyond previous statements by leaders of the outgoing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).  
 But the government, which considers the issue of war reparations already closed, was forced to hose down renewed expectations of compensation with chief cabinet secretary Masayoshi Takemura later denying reports that a new two trillion yen (19 billion dollar) compensation fund was in the pipeline.  
 In his speech to parliament today, Hosokawa refrained from repeating the term "war of aggression," an expression which had displeased war veterans.  
 Noting that 48 years had passed since its defeat in the

war, he said Japan had become "one of the prime beneficiaries" of world prosperity and peace.  
 "Yet we should never forget that this achievement rests upon the supreme sacrifices made during the war and is the result of great efforts made by previous generations," he said.  
 "It is important at this juncture that we state clearly before all the world our remorse at our past history."  
 "I would thus like to take this opportunity to express a new our profound remorse and apologies for the fact that past Japanese actions, including aggression and colonial rule, caused unbearable suffering and sorrow for so many people and to state that we will demonstrate our new determination by contributing more than ever to world peace," he said.



Chinese models pose with Swatch watches during the launching of the trendy Swiss-made quartz watches yesterday in Beijing. The Swatch regional director for the Far East hopes that China will be their number-one market in the world in three years. — AFP photo

## Rauzan power plant shut off

The controversial Rauzan Thermal Power Plant in Chittagong, installed at a cost of Tk 525 crore, was shut off due to mechanical fault just 20 days after it had gone into commercial operation, throwing the national grid into a crisis.  
 An official source told Probe News Service (PNS) that the power plant turned inoperative on Aug 16 and Chinese experts at the site failed to locate the fault immediately. The plant remained out of operation for nearly a week causing severe load-shedding in the national grid.  
 The 210-megawatt power plant, built by the China National Machinery and

Equipment Import and Export Corporation (CMEC), of which Hosaf Bangladesh is the local agent, started its commercial operation on July 26.  
 The source said the PDB, which hurriedly passed the required 72-hour Continuous Operation Test (COT) despite numerous deficiencies, asked CMEC to send competent engineers to correct the "fault" immediately.  
 "Over excitation protection tripped the 210-megawatt plant yesterday (August 16) at 9:45 am," said a message the PDB had teleaxed to CMEC in China on August 17.  
 "Chinese engineers at the site have failed to locate the

fault and rectify the same," the message said, adding "due to sudden stoppage of this plant the PDB's national grid has been experiencing severe load-shedding."  
 A PNS report had earlier warned that the suppliers, in collaboration with a section of PDB officials, were allegedly trying to hand over the faulty plant to the government.  
 There is no "Hot Start" in the plant to help it restart within a few hours in case of accidental trippings. According to experts, any tripping during overhauling of power plants connected with the national grid puts the power supply in severe crisis and may

## Pak EC bans provocative sectarian slogans

ISLAMABAD, Aug 23: Pakistan's Election Commission has promulgated a code of conduct for the run-up to the October elections, banning public meetings on streets and main roads and barring provocative sectarian speeches, reports AFP.  
 A commission statement published today said no leader or candidate during the campaign shall call the leader or candidate of another party "kafir (non believer) or a traitor."  
 The code, devised after consultations with leaders of the main parties, does not lay down

any special penalties for violations, which will be dealt with under the existing rules, officials said.  
 October 6 has been designated as polling day for the National Assembly, and October 9 for the country's four provincial assemblies.  
 The commission document said no candidate shall hold public meetings or rallies on main streets, roads and intersections to avoid traffic jams.  
 In past campaigns leaders have led huge processions blocking roads and highways for hours.

Observers said it was for the first time that use of provocative slogans had been banned to check sectarian frictions.  
 Some Sunni fundamentalist leaders have proposed excommunication of minority Shi'ites from Islam for their difference on a number of religious rites.  
 The code calls on the political parties to refrain from arousing parochial, linguistic or communal feelings.  
 It also bars political parties from propagating any opinion or act in any manner prejudicial to the ideology of Pakistan or the sovereignty, integrity or security

## Saifur to lead team to OIC confce in Turkey

By Staff Correspondent  
 A high-level delegation from Bangladesh will participate in the forthcoming OIC conference of the Standing Committee on Economic and Commercial Cooperation, to be held in Turkey.  
 Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will lead the 4-member team which will take place from September 1 to 4 in the Turkish city of Istanbul.  
 The other members of the delegation are ERD Secretary Lutfullah Majid, DG foreign Ministry Syed Moazzem Ali and Deputy Chief of the Planning Commission Badrul Hye.  
 The main agenda of the meeting will deal with the promotion of trade, investment and cooperation among the Islamic countries.  
 The special OIC meeting is See Page 12 Col 7

## Azam's citizenship Hearing of govt appeal adjourned

By Staff Correspondent  
 Hearing of the government appeal against a High Court verdict restoring the citizenship of Golam Azam was adjourned Monday by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court till October 31.  
 Comprising Justice Habibur Rahman, Justice A T M Afzal, Justice Mustafa Kamal and Justice Latifur Rahman, the Appellate Division bench granted a prayer by Attorney General Aminul Haq seeking an adjournment of the hearing till a week after the court returns from vacation. The annual vacation begins on September 8 and the court will reopen on October 24.  
 Last April a single-bench of the High Court restored the citizenship of the Jamaat leader Golam Azam after a division bench had given a split decision on a Writ Petition challenging the government order disqualifying him from becoming a citizen last year.  
 On July 22 the government See Page 12 Col 7

## 179 Degree answer scripts found in grocery shop

From Our Correspondent  
 GAIBANDHA, Aug 23: The Bonarpara railway police recovered 179 answer scripts of this year Degree examinations which were held on August 17 at the Rangpur Carmichael College, from a grocery shop in Bharatkhal Friday.  
 According to police, the recovery includes 73 Applied Chemistry and 101 Accountancy answer scripts.  
 The police said on August 17, the examination papers were sent to Dhaka by railway parcel from the Rangpur station. But, due to negligence of a railway clerk, some of the scripts remained abandoned in the guard van of the Dhaka-bound train.  
 Later a young boy, while rummaging in the empty van, found the scripts and took them away. He sold the scripts to a nearby grocery shop for Tk 25 only.  
 The shop owner on Friday, while making packets with the papers, found that those were examination papers and informed others about it. Afterwards the police came and recovered the answer scripts. The police sent the papers, some of which had already been damaged, to Bonarpara Thana and a case has been filed.

## Appraisal team for Jamuna Bridge due next month

By Staff Correspondent  
 An appraisal mission for the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project (JMBP) is expected in Dhaka on the sixth of next month, official sources said.  
 The meeting of the co-financiers of the project, held in Tokyo on August 18 and 19, has agreed in principle to finance the project, but the method of co-financing is yet to be decided, the sources said.  
 According to the sources, Japan, one of the three co-financiers, is preferring a parallel financing method, while the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) favour the joint financing method.  
 The crucial negotiations between the WB and the government for financing the project

will start immediately after the finalisation of the appraisal report by the bank, possibly in November this year, an official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said.  
 He was not, however, sure whether all the processing of the project could be completed and the contracts awarded before expiry of their bid validity.  
 The bid validity of Contracts 1 and 2 of the project (the main bridge and the river training components) expires on January 26 next year, while the period of Contracts 3 and 4 (approach roads on the eastern and western sides) expires on December 30 this year.  
 The Jamuna Multipurpose See Page 12 Col 8

## Impasse over nurses' strike continues

By Staff Correspondent  
 Formal talks between the government and leaders of the striking nurses did not take place yesterday, the sixth day of the on-going strike by nurses at the government hospitals and clinics.  
 However, a senior leader of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), who was assigned to negotiate with the nurses' leaders, held an informal meeting aimed at ending the strike, highly placed sources in the Health Ministry said.  
 Details of the four-hour-long dialogue were not available immediately.  
 Some 15,000 staff, assistant and student nurses in the government hospitals and clinics

launched a strike for an indefinite period since August 18 to press a single demand — to remain under the Nursing Welfare Directorate instead of the Health Directorate.  
 Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf had said late Sunday night that the government would start negotiations with the nurses today.  
 Leaders of the Bangladesh Diploma Nurses' Association, the Bangladesh Nurses' Association and the Bangladesh Nursing Teachers' Association, said they did not receive any intimation from the government to sit for talks.  
 Meanwhile, leaders of the See Page 12 Col 1

## Hasina tells businessmen BNP's inefficiency has ruined economy

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday said inefficient handling of affairs by the ruling BNP has ruined the country's economy, reports UNB.  
 "All sectors of national life are facing crises... Stagnation prevails in trade and commerce and production has slowed down in mills and factories" under the present regime, she said.  
 Speaking at a meeting of industrialists, businessmen and representatives of different chambers at a local hotel in the afternoon, Hasina said, "being the opposition party, it is our responsibility to save the nation from this unpleasant situation."  
 Sponsored by the Industrial and Commerce sub-committee of the Awami League, the meeting was presided over by its Chairman Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, MP. More than 100 industrialists and businessmen attended.  
 The Awami League president said, "We are deeply concerned at the prevailing chaos in trade, commerce, agriculture, education and other important sectors."  
 Recalling the objectives of the anti-autocracy movement, Hasina said people had expected that all irregularities caused in socio-economic life in the last 15 years would be removed.  
 "But what do we see today? What is going on in trade, commerce, industry and education sectors? Hijacking, terrorism, killing of entrepreneurs, assault of teachers and framing of black laws have been pushing the country towards a

catastrophe," she complained.  
 Putting partymen in the administration, extortion of tolls and hijacking of tender boxes have crippled the activities in trade and commerce, Hasina alleged.  
 The Awami League chief claimed her party had extended about cooperation to the ruling party to institutionalise democracy and ensure peace and stability in the country.  
 "But those who are in power are busy in making their fortunes. This situation cannot be allowed to continue for long. It is our collective responsibility to come out of this situation," she said.  
 Hasina said the politics of the Awami League is aimed at See Page 12 Col 7

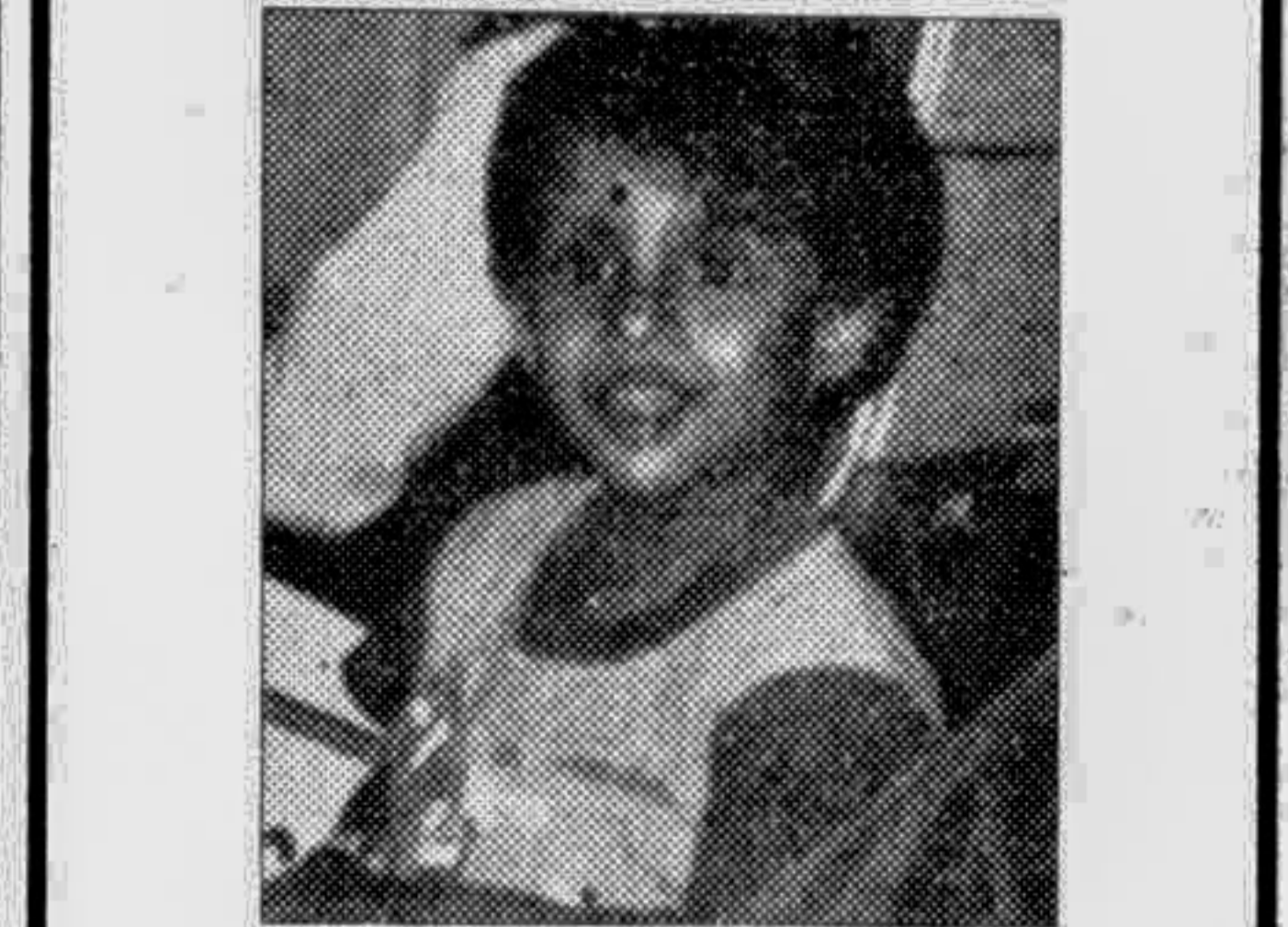
## Stern steps against food adulteration

The government yesterday decided to take stern measures against adulteration of food and other edibles including cooking oil, milk and milk products, soft drinks and mineral water, reports BSS.  
 It also decided to take similar steps against malpractices regarding weights and measures.  
 The decisions were taken on a proposal of the Ministry of Commerce at the regular weekly meeting of the Cabinet held at the Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.  
 The Ministry of Home Affairs has been directed to launch a special drive in this regard in association with other relevant agencies.  
 The Cabinet has also decided to constitute a high-powered committee to examine and update the relevant laws relating to prevention of adulteration and malpractices in weighing to make them effective.

## PM, sr ministers hold closed-door meet at BNP hq

By Staff Correspondent  
 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia held a two-hour closed-door meeting yesterday with six senior ministers to discuss some "serious" organisational and administrative matters.  
 Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and Energy Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain were among the six ministers who attended the meeting — at the BNP's Nayapalton office — which continued from 9 pm to 11 pm.  
 Meeting sources confirmed that they discussed matters not just relating to the forthcoming council but also some "serious organisational issues." They refused to disclose details.  
 The sources even declined to comment on what sort of organisational matters were discussed but party sources speculated that the problems with regard to forming some of the district committees might have been one of the issues discussed.  
 Sources said in Shariatpur district, two rival groups formed separate district committees on Friday during a conference of the party leaders.  
**Dhaka-Yangon talks Aug 31**  
 The 15th round of official level talks between Bangladesh and Myanmar will begin here on August 31, reports UNB.  
 A five-member Myanmar delegation headed by the Director General of the Immigration U Maung Aung will arrive in Dhaka on August 29.  
 Omar Faruque, Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong, will lead the Bangladesh side at the talks to be held at the state guest house Padma.

## OBITUARY



Our only beloved son Tasin Hassan Sabit, 3 years 6 months, left us and departed for the eternal life on 21 August '93 at 12:10 AM at the Combined Military Hospital, Dhaka Cantonment, after prolonged suffering due to blood cancer. Sabit was buried at the Cantonment Graveyard the same day after Namaz-e-Janaza.  
 We convey our deep gratitude to those who came forward and stood by us during this trying period.  
 A Milad Mahfil & Qul-khwani will be held at Sabit's residence, 548/7 Army Officers' Residential Area, Kachukhet, Dhaka Cantonment at 4:00 PM, today, 24 August '93, to pray for the departed soul.  
**RIFAT NIGAR SHAPLA**  
**MAJOR GAMRUL HASSAN BHUIYAN**  
 Phone: 601004