The Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE) gramme of the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Commit tee (BRAC) has succeeded in motivating poor parents in many rural areas to send their children to schools.

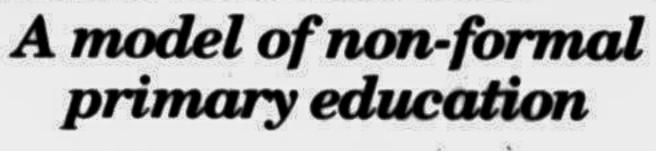
The BRAC is now running 33.500 NFPE schools all over the country, where some 10 lakh children are getting ed ucation upto class III. Over 70 per cent of the students are girl children.

A group of newsmen visited some such BRAC schools in Manikganj yesterday.

Tajul M Islam, Director. Public Affairs and Communications of BRAC told the journalists that a BRAC expert is now working with the UNICEF in Nairobi to replicate the NFPE model there.

So far, some 3,20,340 students have completed their studies under the NFPE programme and 82 per cent of them have moved to 'formal' schools from class four or five. Some 500 NFPE schools will be upgraded this year to enrol students upto class V, he said.

The journalists also talked to students, teachers, organizers, working children at Uchutia school, Ander Manik school, Berghata school, Purbo Dashra Kishori (teenaged girls) Library and Sreejani, au employment genera-



By Staff Correspondent

tion centre in Manikganj Sadar -- all run by the BRAC. At the Uchutia BRAC School, all 22 girl students and 11 boy students were seen having lessons from their teacher Aleya Begum. Sumon, son of a grocery shop owner, said. "I enjoy my time in the school very much." Teacher Aleya said her

Papia Sultana, who was a student of a BRAC school in 1986, is now a teacher of a BRAC school at Karmakar Para in Manikganj. "Things have changed a lot with the spread of literacy in remote areas of the district," she happily noted.

A monthly meeting of parents was going on when the journalists entered the Ander Manik school. Zainob Banu whose girl child reads in that school, said, "My daughter learns many thing. She is now more concerned about environment and hygienic living." At the Purbo Dashra

Kishori Library, Akhi, a minor girl, who comes to the library every Tuesday, said, "I wish to continue my study. I want to be a doctor." Monowara Sultana, the librarian, said that they were trying to develop a habit of savings among the girls. "Every girl coming to the library save Taka two per month". "We also teach them sewing so that, they can find a way to earn money after getting

Some 28 girls after completion of NFPE programme. are now getting training on manufacture of furniture and leather goods at Sreejani an employment-generation centre. Batashi, who is undergoing a two-year carpentry training there wants to have a furniture shop of her own. "BRAC will provide me with the necessary loan and I must own a shop soon.

Tanveer Qamrul Islam. Communications Officer of BRAC, the Area Manager in Manikganj and some other officials were also present during the visit.



A flood-affected family of Kamrangir Char in the city fetching drinking water from some other area.

From Page 1

City flood From Page 1

An industrialist yesterday distributed relief goods among the affected people.

Meanwhile, the Shitalakkhya river marked a fall by one cm vesterday but flood water was yet to recede from the inundated areas.

Our correspondent from Sherpur reports: Flood situation in the district improved further as waters from most of the inundated areas continued to recede. Red Crescent Society distributed relief items while 58 medical teams treated affected people at Jhinaigati, Nikli, Nalitabari. Sribordi and Sadar thanas. The situation in Comilia also started improving, a report said.

Nine held for illegal sale of Holy Quran

By Staff Correspondent

Police vesterday seized 240 copies of the Holy Quran and arrested nine people from Baitul Mukarram area for selling the holy book. presented by the Saudi government for free distribution.

Detective police, in a sudden raid, recovered copies of the holy book that contained Bangla translation.

A section of unscrupulous traders were selling those at high prices, police said.

Dhaka Telecom Region to be divided into

two zones By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) has decided to divide the Dhaka Telecommunication Region into two zones from September as the number of telephone lines and exchanges has greatly increased.

The zones will be known as Dhaka Telecommunication Region-North, and Dhaka Telecommunications Region-South, according to a BTTB press release.

The North Region will consist of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Mirpur, Gulshan, Uttra, greater Mymensingh and Tangail district exchanges while central, Nilkhet, Maghbazar and Narayanganj district exchanges will comprise the South Region.

Under the restructuring plan, two general managers and four directors will run the administration instead of one general manager and two directors now

Out of the 3.2 lakh telephone lines in the country, about 1.75 lakh are in the Dhaka region, the press release said.

nya, put to referendum or adopted by a future parlia-

since Sunday, are due to re-Chechen capital.

the only question which

2) The demand to hold the election under a care-

taker government and that,

given the continuing boycott.

no constitutional amendment

is possible to implement the

thana and distributed relief genels. During her busy itinerary.

Talking to the affected people, she said: "Today I have come to stand beside you on your days of suffering. am trying my best to resolve

government's allout assistance for the victims and said that the government had unsures for their proper reha-

seedbeds, the Prime Minister said the farmers would be provided with seedlings free of cost and the affected poor people be given house building grants and other necessarv materials.

Later, she rushed to Kachari Bazar in Chhagalnaiya thana and distributed huge relief materials.

the government would provide all necessary agricultural inputs so that they can recoup the losses caused by the

Begum Zia paused at various places in her tour and suggested the farmers not to worry as the government has taken up extensive rehabilitation programmes to miti-

Prime Minister went to her parliamentary constituency area at GM Hat in Fulgazi

Matri Kendro.

30 sewing machines among the poor women free of cost under the self-employment programmes. She also distributed relief goods among hundreds of displaced peo-

Puran Bazar in Parshuram thana and visited the areas eroded by river Mohrui and

After visiting the Feni sadar, Chhagalnaiya, Fulgazi and Parshuram thanas, the Prime Minister went to Razapur in Dagonbhuiyan thana, 30-km from Feni town.

The Prime Minister was accompanied by Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, State Minister for Disaster General Secretary Shahiduddin Ferdous.

Russia will give broad autonomy' to Chechnya

MOSCOW. July 19: Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin have found a 'mutually acceptable' political solution to the Chechen conflict which gives the republic "broad autonomy," Vyacheslav Mikhailov, Russian delegation leader to the peace

"This formula will fix very broad framework on the future status of the Chechen republic and allow its people self-determination while preserving the integrity of Russia, the constitution and international norms." Russia's nationalities and regional policy minister told a news conference before leaving for

Mikhailov said "conditions of broad autonomy for the republic could form part of a new constitution for Chech-

sume Thursday in the

The problem of the future status of Chechnya "remains

amination separately.

Moscow has agreed to note the existence in Chechnya of the separatist government of Dzhokhar Dudavey which has never been recognised by Russia', he

enforce hartal in Bhandaria

day hartal in Bhandaria thana of the district today protesting the present system of the examination, reports UNB.

tion of the question bank and cancellation of the present provision under which one has to pass both in essay and objective parts of the ex-

Hearing in SC continues

From Page 1 sequence by his reappearance in parliament, he added.

"But simple presence in the premises of Parliament without taking part in some way in Parliament's proceedings, would not break the sequence," Barrister Ishtiaq

Khandaker Mahbub Uddin expressed similar view and said general dictionary Smrity Nath died on the

> "Whatever be the form of absence they are absent from Parliament," Khandaker Mahbub said, contradicting the contentions of other amicus curie including S R Pal. Justice T H Khan and Barris-

S R Pal, Justice Khan and Barrister Ashrar had earlier said that absence from Parliament due to prolonged boycott is not contemplated in Article 67 (1) (b) which deals with absence from par-

liament and vacation of seat. Khandaker Mahbub, who began his submission yesterday, also contradicted the views of Barrister Ishtiaq that there are information or fac-

tual gap in the reference. "Facts are there and those have been analysed in the reference," he added.

tween two sessions will be excluded since there is no sitting of the House. Days would be counted by

the Parliament Secretary and the Speaker would just inform the House, Khandaker Mahbub added. He will continue his sub-

cluding his submission yes terday, reiterated that the questions raised in the reference were inappropriate and that the Appellate Division should decline to answer those.

He said while reference alludes to the elements of a heart ailment."

> The hearing resumes today at 9 am.

being opposed to Taylor, reports AP.

CHITTAGONG, July 19: The forest court here convicted seven people and sentenced them to suffer various jail terms for illegal felling of trees in the reserve forests.

reports UNB. Bazlul Karim Chowdhury, 1st Class Magistrate of the Forest Court, on July 11 in two separate cases sentenced two people to suffer one year simple imprisonment with a fine of Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer another one month for illegal felling of teak and garjan trees in the Chittagong reserve forests.

The court in another case at Jorargani Beat convicted three people on July 12 to suffer six months simple imprisonment with a fine of Tk 5,000, in default, to suffer Begum Zia also distributed one month more for felling of valuable teak timber in the

The same court also sentenced two others to suffer six months simple imprisonment with a fine of Tk 5.000, in default, to suffer for further one month each for illegal felling of teak timber

2 shot dead From Page 1

School, Sheikhdi at Jatrabari in the city because he had protested teasing of girls by some youths. Hossain, son of Abu Taher

of Sheikhdi, was the owner of a screen printing shop in the area, police said.

The armed youths, reportedly from Govindpur, shot Hossain in the right chest and leg. Local people al leged that the youths killed Hossain as he often resisted them from teasing girls of the school, close to his

Local people took fatally injured Hossain to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where attending doctors declared him dead. A case was filed with

Demra thana in this connec-

A leather trader, Rafique, 28, received serious bullet and stab injuries when some unidentified armed youths attacked him at Lalbagh in the

He was admitted to the DMCH.

Jyoti Basu From Page 1

airport regarding allegations of the BJP chief, according to reports published in Calcutta dailies yesterday.

Advani alleged that there has been increase in Muslim population in West Bengal due to what was stated as large scale infiltration from Bangladesh.

In refuting this allegation the West Bengal Chief Minister quoted the voter list of his state to substantiate his claim that there had been no increase in Muslim popula-

Kashmir From Page 1

phone today, reiterating their demand for the release of 21 iailed Muslim rebels. Now that we are in con-

tact with the abductors again. we are optimistic that the crisis will end soon," he said of the rebels' talks with the "crisis management group." He said the negotiators

had appealed to the militants to "show some flexibility." adding that the government was willing to release five militants in exchange for the freedom of the five western-He did not provide any

more details of the rebels' talks with the group comprising a retired lieutenant general, state police chief Manohar Nath Sabherwal and Veraana Aivelli, the head of state intelligence.

3 missing in Sirajganj boat capsize

SIRAJGANJ. July 19 Three people were missing after a mechanised countryboat carrying 17 passengers capsized in the Cholon-Beel area in Tarash thana today. police sources here said, reports UNB.

However, identities of the missing people were not immediately available.

The engine boat sank into the Cholon-Beel, a few kilometers from Tarash thana headquarters, at around 11 am. The boat was coming from Naogaon district.

in the Karerhat reserve

The convicted people are: Abul Kalam of Kalipur, Khurshid Alam of Mirerkhali, Abul

Forest officials also ar rested Daudul Islam from Lakmichheri forest in Mirsarat on July 12 while he along with his accomplices was engaged in cutting trees. Others managed to flee the

them indicated today, reports PTI.

The wage board headed by

final hearing on the payment of interim relief would begin on August 22 and completed on or before August 25.

The outlawed Shantibahini gunmen exchanged fire with law-enforcing personnel at Kachalong in Rangamati Sadar thana last night, re-

According to officials, the outlaws were stealing away a huge quantity of teak through the Marissa checkpost area of local VDP personnel at about 9:15 pm.

The gunmen opened fire on the VDP when they challenged the boat carrying the returned fire.

about 10 minutes, but there was no report of casualties in the fighting.

HSC candidate missing

HSC examinee from Noakhali University College has been missing since July 5, reports

Shahid was preparing

A case has been registered with Sudharam thana under Noakhali district in this connection.

The Bangladesh!

he added.

tained the passports with the erroneous seal expressed their dissatisfaction. One of them said they may face complications, even harassment, when these come under scrutiny by immigration officials abroad

From Page 1

The government has blamed the MQM for much of the political and ethnic violence in Karachi where more than 2,000 people have died over the past 18 months.

The group denies the charge and accuses Bhutto of pursuing anti-Mohajir poli-

l'oxic waste From Page 1 mediately. "Such contamina-

jeopardise the plan to turn the Dhanmondi lake-into a multipurpose tourist spot, the people said. The Tk 500 ting up of restaurants, fish culture, boating and other tourist attractions. , Work on the project is scheduled to

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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school, which was started in 1987, has no record of drop-



A non-formal primary school of BRAC in Manikganj.

Ershad's counsel

this country was detaining a

person without allowing him

a lawyer of his choice. The

human rights organisation

can take up the matter with

the government of Bangla-

he called diplomatic remedy

He said foreign governments

could also be informed of the

situation. The foreign gov-

ernments may used their

Bangladesh government to al

low the former president a

transfer of the Metropolitan

Magistrate court to the VIP

lounge of Chittagong Airport

to commit the former presi

dent to trial on the Manzoor

murder case, he said he had

not so far heard of such a

comment that it clearly re-

flected the former presi-

Warrant for arrest

of weekly

Manchitra editor

Magistrate yesterday ordered

arrest of weekly 'Manchitra'

Editor Khandker Maksudur

Rahman and reporter Reza

Raihan in a defamation suit,

The warrant for arrest was

issued upon the defamation

case filed by Chief Engineer

of Roads and Highways De-

partment of the Communica-

tions Ministry Mahtabuddin

plainant said the Bengali-lan

guage weekly newspaper ran

a story headlined "Jogajog

Mantronaloyer Ashirbad

pustha Thikader, Biswa Ban-

Koti Koti Takar Durniti."

ker Sarak Nirman Prokalpe

lished was motivated and in-

tended to tarnish the image

of the Ministry of Communi-

cations and the government

at large to the donor, World

titious, fabricated, ill-de-

signed and attempted to

sabotage the development

work of the government,"

stated the engineer in the

Advocate GA Khan ap-

"The report was false, fic-

He said the article pub-

In his petition, the com-

Ahmed on Tuesday.

The Chief Metropolitan

He further went on to

Asked to comment on the

persuasive pressure

lawyer of his choices.

precedent anywhere.

dent's popularity.

reports UNB.

He also referred to what

From Page 1 take in the event of a negative reply. Ershad's legal aide said there was a legal remedy

as well as an international

remedy in case of a negative

response from the govern-Dwelling in brief on what he meant by legal remedy, he said a local lawyer would file a writ in the High Court complaining that the former president was being denied

legal aid of his choice. When he was reminded of the law passed by the Bar Council of Bangladesh prohibiting legal practice in this country by a foreigner, Denis said Bar Council of his country passed a similar law debarring foreigners from un-

dertaking legal practice in Canada. But like the Canadian constitution Bangladesh Constitution entitles an accused to a lawyer of his own choice. Bangladesh Constitution did not impose any territorial

limit on an accused's choice of lawyer. He said he had not come to this country to undertake legal practice here. It is a special case for which he has been hired. He will go back

after this case is disposed of. Explaining what he meant by international remedy, Marcel Denis said international human rights organisa-

Hearing on framing of charges against Taslima stayed

tions would be informed that

The High Court yesterday stayed the hearing on the framing of charges against feminist writer Taslima Nasreen at the court of Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM), Dhaka, till the disposal of an appeal lying before it, reports BSS. The ACMM was to take up

the hearing today. Responding to a submission from Dr Kamal Hossain, counsel of Taslima, about expiry of the stay yesterday, the two-member bench of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court said, "Let the stay be there till the matter is disposed of in this court".

The bench was consisted of Justice M Mozammel Haq peared for the petitioner. and Justice Nurul Islam.

The appeal would come up

for hearing-today.

Female students confine JU hall provost in office

- Star photo

By JU Correspondent A group of female students kept the provost of Fazilatunnesa Hall of Jahangirnagar University locked in his office for about half an hour yesterday morning protesting a notice asking them to re-

turn to the hall by 8 in the Vice-chancellor of the university Prof Amirul Islam

later rescued the provost and postponed the order. Prof Abdul Hye, provost of the hall, had issued the no-

tice on Monday last. Some students who returned to the hall after 8 pm Monday found the hall gate locked. They broke the lock, and entered the hall.

On Tuesday, they locked the provosts office. Next morning (yesterday), the provost broke the lock and entered his office. As the news spread, a group of hall students rushed

to the provost's office at

about 8.30 am and locked the office keeping the provost inside. The Vice-Chancellor came at about 9 am, rescued the

provost and ordered postponement of the new order. Girl dies in gate

collapse in Ctg CHITTAGONG, July 19: A minor girl was killed and another critically injured when a portion of a dilapidated gate collapsed on them at a residence at Feeringi Bazar here this evening, police said, re-

ports BSS.

When Smrity Nath, 7, and Ibrahim, 6, were passing through main gate of the residence suddenly a chunk of the old gate collapsed on

spot while Ibrahim sustained critical injuries. He was later rushed to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Iraq's ultimatum

to UN team

BAGHDAD, July 19: Iraq today gave an august ultimatum to the UN Disarmament Commission to complete its work and recommend a lifting of sanctions, reports AFP. "We can no longer con-

tinue working with UNSCOM (UN special commission) without there being something clear," Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al-Sahaf said on state radio.

your problems. Begum Zia assured her

dertaken all possible mea bilitation. Pointing out the damaged

She assured peasants that

gate the losses. At about 12.25 pm, the

accord." Mikhailov said.

The two sides have reached agreement on some points of a peace settlement, including the declaration of a ceasefire monitored by joint commissions and the formation of Chechen self-defence regiments in towns and villages which would subsequently be replaced by

Chechen police. SSC candidates

PIROJPUR, July 19: SSC candidates enforced a half-

They demanded restora-

could slow the signing of the

meaning of 'absence' should be taken into consideration in interpreting the reference relating to the 90-day consecutive absence of the MPs.

ter Ashrarul Hossain.

Regarding the counting of days, he said "the days be-

mission today. Dr. Kamal Hossain, con-

constitutional crisis, it failed to address the two essential issues which lie at the root of the crisis. These are: 1) The continued boycott of Parliament in an attempt to impair its normal functioning and to press for dissolution of Parliament earlier than completion of its normal term and otherwise than as envisaged in Article 72 of the Constitu-

tion.

rescue," he said about the present situation, citing observation of the Pakistan Supreme Court in a reference case in 1955. Dr. Kamal argued that the

He said "the highest medical board was requested to decide whether paracetamol or aspirin would be given a patient for his headache emanating from a

the SC should refuse to answer the reference.

- Star photo PM ends Feni tour

Begum Zia left for Fulgazi Pilot High School where she disbursed interest-free loan amounting to Tk 15 lakh among 600 destitute women and members of the Pally

Later, Begum Zia drove to

Management and Relief Harun-al-Rashid, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Major (rtd) Abdul Mannan, Whip Mahbubul Alam Tara, Halima Khatun, MP, and Feni District BNP

talks, said today, reports AFP.

Grozny.

Peace talks, adjourned

proposal regarding a caretaker government. We have come to the brink of a chasm with only three alternatives before us to turn back the way we came by: to cross the gap by a legal bridge; and to hurtle into the chasm beyond any hope of

present crisis could only be resolved by political agreement through a meaningful dialogue and this process could include a legal bridge.

He also cited reasons why

out of peace talks MONROVIA. Liberia, July 19: The latest attempt at peacemaking in Liberia began abortively today when

delegates from the main rebel faction walked out after other factions refused to coalesce in opposition. Delegates belonging to Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia walked out after three other factions refused to come under a banner that would have defined them as

The Midnight Kile

Liberian rebels walk

Forest court convicts 7

Hashem and Sultan alias Sukdhan of Raypur, Ali Newaz of Durgapur, Noor Alam and Abdul Mannan of Geramara.

scene.

Interim relief for Indian journalists

soon NEW DELHI, July 19: The quantum of interim relief for journalist and non-journalist employees is likely to be decided by next month end, sources in the wage board for

Justice Raikumar Manisana Singh held its third meeting here today. After the meeting, Justice Manisana Singh said that the

Shantibahini opens fire on VDP men CHITTAGONG. July 19:

ports UNB.

timber. The VDP personnel The encounter lasted

Shahidul Islam Shahid, an

himself for the examination from his aunt's house (Ashraf Manzil) at Jail Road, Maijdi. Noakhali.

Shahid's parents are in critical condition at the news of their son's disappearance.

From Page 1 This went undetected as the department is under tremendous pressure to issue passports. Upto fifteen hundred passports are issued a day at its Dhaka office alone.

Some people who have ob-

Karachi

talks between the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the MQM. which represents the many ethnic Mohajir migrants from

tion of the lake water will

crore project includes set start in mid-1996.