## Over 300 feared dead in Pak flood

than 300 people were feared dead as monsoon flood in Pakistan washed away some 500 small and large villages in southern Sindh province. residents and rescue workers said today, reports AFP.

Troops have been called out for rescue and relief operations in Sindh and southwestern Baluchistan.

Local officials said many people believed missing may eventually be found, hoping that the number of casualties may turn out to be less than. feared.

Rescue workers in Dadu, a

### Sangskritik Jote urges British HC not to grant visa to Golam Azam

By Staff Correspondent

The Sammilita Sangskritik Jote has urged the British High Commission in Dhaka not to grant visa to Jamaat leader Golam Azam for his planned visit to UK. The presence of this war criminal in UK will also hurt the feeling of the Bangladeshi community living there," the Jote said in a memorandum given to the High Commission yesterday.

It said, "Recently the issue (of war criminals) was raised in Britain itself with the telecast of 'War Crime File'. The film exposed the presence of three war criminals of 1971 in UK.

"Against this backdrop. the planned visit of Golam Azam to UK will certainly be viewed as a get-together of war criminals to hatch new conspiracies to escape justice," said the memorandum, handed over by Jote leaders Fayez Ahmed, Ramendu Majumder. Nasiruddin Yusuf. Mofidul Haq, Golam Kuddus, Hasan Arif and Kamal Pasha Chowdhury.

It said, "The head of fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami and their cohort Al-Badr, Prof Golam Azam, has been accused by our people as the principal war criminal responsible for genocide, arson, rape, loot and torture in

Nizami blames

Jamaat Secretary-General Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizami yesterday alleged that the government-backed terrorists had attacked the Shibir activists at Rajshahi University in a planned manner to oust them from the campus, reports UNB.

KARACHI, July 23; More flood-ravaged district about 480 kilometers (300 miles) north of here, said it was difficult to ascertain the exact number of missing because many had abandoned their

> But, they said there was only a slim chance of finding survivors from at least three villages which had been to-

Some 100,000 people are marooned in the inundated areas, the district commissioner of Dadu. Mir Mohammed Perhiar, said by telephone.

### Student succumbs to injuries

By DMCH Correspondent

A student of the Jagannath University College, who was reportedly thrown out of a running scooter on Saturday night, succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) early vesterday.

Emdadul Haq. 25. a Masters final year student of Accounting, was returning home by a scooter on Saturday night. Two other passengers on board allegedly threw him out on a road at Rayerbagh near Jatrabari at around 10 pm. It was not known why he was thrown

## Dhaka-Ctg road

CHITTAGONG, July 23: Traffic on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway was disrupted for about five hours as the school students blocked the road demanding reintroduction of the old method of the SSC examination. The angry students put up barricades at Mirersarai. Nizampur, Hadifakirhat and Darogarhat at about 12 noon. They damaged more than a dozen vehicles, including three BRTC buses, reports UNB.

### RRF heads From Page 1

UN spokeswoman Major Myriam Souchaki said the reinforcements comprised at least 320 British soldiers, a company of French light tanks and French engineers.

The British contingent includes two batteries of the 19th field regiment of Royal artillery with twelve 105mm light guns that can hurl a 36 pound shell 10 miles.

One infantry company o the Devon and Dorset regiment with 16 warrior armoured fighting vehicles was also on its way.

mitted an application to the

The government in its re-

Ershad, now serving 20

Moving the petition

as a legal practitioner and not

tween consultation and de-

fence," he said, adding "al

advocates are legal practi-

tioners but all legal practi-

"There is a difference be-

for defending him (Ershad).

years' prison terms in three

citing no reasons.

president.

## HC rule on govt

From Page 1

Constitution.

former attorney general, appeared for the petitioner.

Danis, a former minister and deputy speaker of Canadian Parliament, was hired by the Jatiya Party to defend Ershad in the Major General Manzur murder case in accused.

The Canadian lawyer came to Dhaka on July 17 and sub-

# Dhaka proposes

New Delhi for holding a meeting of the Joint River Commission (JRC) as early as possible to resolve the outstanding water-sharing prob-

At a regular weekly press briefing yesterday. Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan told a questioner that Bangladesh had proposed a meeting of the JRC in the last week of

He, however, hoped that the date would be fixed at mutual convenience.

The two countries decided to revive the JRC to resolve the water issues during Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider's visit to Dhaka last month.

### One beaten to death in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, July 23: One person was beaten to death at village Noyapara of Araihajar thana under Narayanganj district last night.

It is learnt that Abdur Rashid, 35, was caught red handed when he entered the house of one Sundar Ali at 2 am. Local people came to the house and beat Rashid mercilessly to death. The body was taken to the Narayanganj

Hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with Araihazar thana.

homes before the deluge.

tally destroyed.

## Students block

Home Ministry seeking perrected to show cause why the mission to consult Ershad about legal matters relating authoritative action would not be considered a violation of to the murder charge. fundamental rights according ply on July 20 turned down to Article 33 (1) of the the foreign lawyer's prayer

Barrister Rafiqul Huq, a

other cases, appeared before a court in Chittagong on July 16 in the process of trial o Manzur murder case. Ershad's counsel, Barrister Hug told the court that the which Ershad is the principal refusal curbed the fundamental rights of the deposed

### Confining his argument to the right of consultation between legal practitioner Marcel Danis and Ershad, JRC meet in Aug Barrister Rafiq said Danis Dhaka has approached wanted to consult his client

lem, reports UNB.

tioners are not advocates." He further contended that for consultation no enrolment as an advocate with the Bar Council is necessary. The next month. provision of the Bar Council Order 1972 did not arise for and during consultation, he

> added. Citing example, the former Attorney General said: "Judges of the Supreme Court can advise but cannot appear before the court."

The government was unable to accord permission to Danis for meeting Ershad as he is yet to enrol as an advocate with the Bangladesh Bar Council, said Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, appearing on behalf of the government.

The foreign lawyer, Bhuiyan said, has to be an advocate even for consultation prior to defence.

Danis applied for permission to have consultation interview with Ershad for discussion on legal matters relating to the Manzoor murder case and he (Danis) has been engaged and brought to dean advocate, the Additional Attorney General said.



Artistes of the Chhayanat rendering songs at a function at the British Council in the city yesterday in memory of peet Nazrul Islam. - Star photo

## SAARC MPs complain of judicial encroachment on the executive

NEW DELHI, July 23: Divergent views were expressed on the relationship between the executive and the judiciary by the speakers and parliamentarians of the SAARC member nations here today with most of them complaining of frequent judicial interference in the functioning of the executive, re-

They were speaking at the resumed discussion on SAARC parliaments — their relations with the executive and the judiciary", on the second day of the first ever conference of SAARC speakers and parliamentarians.

The Bihar assembly speaker, Deve Narain Yadav, his Himachal Pradesh counterpart, Kaul Singh Thakur, and Congress-I MP Ram Nivas Mirdha, charged the judiciary with encroaching on the executive wing. However, the West Bengal

speaker. Hashmi Abdul

Haleem, and Janata Dal member of the Rajya Sabha, S Jaipal Reddy, said judiciary has to intervene to protect rights of the citizens and unthe situation in such incidents instead of blaming the judiciary. Mohammed Salim (CPI-M)

alleged that all the three wings — legislature, executive and the judiciary — were trying to encroach on each other's areas. Issues concerning democ-

racy, whether presidential form or parliamentary form of government was suitable, the role of speakers and parliamentarians and frequent changes in the constitution also figured in the discussion.

Another report says: Bangladesh today joined Pakistan in demanding that bilateral issues should also be discussed in the SAARC fo-

The demand was made by

the Bangladesh chief whip. Khondoker Delwar Hossain. at the conference.

Hossain demanded even an amendment to the SAARC derlined the need to study charter so that bilateral is-

Pakistan raised the same demand vesterday. In his speech at the inaugural session, the speaker of the Pakistani National Assembly. Yousaf Raza Gilani, said: "We can and should use this forum to resolve such conflicts so that our future generations can reap the fruit of peace." Stating that 'no issue can

be solved until and unless it is discussed bilaterally or at

regional or international level," Gilani said "SAARC provides us an excellent fo-

We should not shun this onerous responsibility nor leave those festering sores for our coming generations to cure." Gilani remarked.

### People deprived of benefits About edible oil, the meeting that price of dry

but the good of the poor con-

sumers as well. About pulses that topped the price spiral list, the meeting was informed that prices of essentials had risen recently because of the flood which hindered transportation of trucks from the northern districts to the

Briefing the meeting about the prices of essentials. Commerce Secretary M Asafuddolah mentioned a trend of hoarding and stock piling of pulses by a section of traders that also caused the price-hike.

He said a consignment of 10,000 tons of masur pulses will reach the country from Nepal within a week while two ship-loads with 25,000 tons of other pulses have already sailed for Bangladesh from Australia.

The official, drawing the meeting's attention to production shortfall of pulses in the growing countries, said that India, Pakistan and Myanmar — the major suppliers of Bangladesh — declined to meet Bangladesh needs. They are contemplating to import from other sources due to short production, he

The traders informed the

chilli might mark a slight rise as the standing crops have been affected by the recent flood. Saying that India has al-

ready increased the price of

dry chilli following the flood here, they observed that adequate imports would help stabilise prices at home. But they said that prices of other spices like ginger, garlic and onion should not in-

### crease as their stocks in the country are adequate and the world market prices steady. BRAC staff stabbed

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, July 23: A BRAC employee was stabbed to death at Bhuterdia village under Babuganj thana this

to death in Barisal

morning. Police and witnesses said. Mamun Hasan, 25, was attacked by three persons while he was returning to the BRAC office at Babuganj bandar after collecting money from a Mahila Sanity.

They tried to snatch the money but Mamun tried to resist them. The miscreants then stabbed him several times. He died on the spot.

A case was lodged with Babugani thana.

traders said the prices of soyabean and palm oils in the international market have increased by more than 40 per cent. Despite that the prices here are lower than in the neighbouring countries, they said adding that there is no possibility of price rise of edible oil in the country as their stocks are adequate. The meeting also re-

viewed the prices of cement that shot up during the last few months. The commerce secretary attributed the price-hike to a cartel of 10-12 people who fully control the market.

Cement was sold a Tk 220 a bag few months back, but now sells at Tk 360 a bag,

He, however, informed that price of cement is likely to come down shortly as import of 25,000 tons from Japan is underway. Of this, 10,000 tons of cement has

already been shipped. Representatives of various trade associations - K B Hasan, Nabi Solaiman, Saad Ahmed Chowdhury, Yusuf Abdullah Harun, Haji Shahjalal, Abdul Monaf, Haji Ismail, Haji Shamsuddin and Haji Shahabuddin — and Syed Ziaul Hag and A Gafur of Bus-Truck Owners Association were present.

# lift arms ban on Bosnia

From Page 1 Serbs. Dhaka was also vehemently opposed to the withdrawal of the UN Protection Forces. Rather it wanted that the UNPROFOR be strengthened. It also supported extensive deployment of ground forces for peace enforce-

ment. The Foreign Secretary explained that the "participation of Bangladesh at the London conference was essential since Dhaka had a very active interest in Bosnia. Our troops are in the frontline in Bihac. We wanted not only to take part in the meeting but also to make ourselves heard.

He said the OIC contact group was in touch with Bangladesh prior to the Geneva conference and the members were "fully supportive of our participation."

Faroog Sobhan said our

Foreign Minister was able to

convey the mood of the

London meet to the OIC meeting in Geneva.' Bangladesh, he mentioned, was not one of the eight-member OIC contact group on Bosnia, but was invited as an observer. The OIC contact group comprises Senegal, Malaysia, Iran, Egypt, Turkey, Pakistan,

observers. The Foreign Secretary fend Ershad, so he has to be quoted the communique of the ministerial level the meeting of the OIC contact

Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

Indonesia and Bangladesh are

group in Geneva as saying: In case of withdrawal of the UNPROFOR, the OIC-member states would consider keeping their contingents in Bosnia-Herzegovina in accordance with the arrangements with the government. These contingents could be increased in number and better equipped with arms. A new mechanism for coordination of their actions will be established with the legal authorities of the Republic of Bosnia-Hergegovina. One of the recommenda-

tions also called for the convening of a consultative meeting of ministers of defence, accompanied by armed forces commander-in-chiefs of the OIC contact group countries as well as OIC countries contributing troops to the UNPROFOR, to consider and adopt appropriate strategies.

At present nearly 40,000 troops from various countries are on peace-keeping mission in the Balkan peninsula. Of them, nearly 9,000 are from the OIC countries, including Bangladesh which has some 1,223 troops. Jordan has 3505, Pakistan 3039. Malaysia, 1595, Turkey 1479, Egypt 492, Senegal 18 and Tunisia 12 troops.

Responding to questions from newsmen about the effectiveness of the United Nations and the OIC, the Foreign Secretary said, it was important to understand the historical background of the Bosnian conflict following the breakup of former Yugoslavia. He said after the breakup of the former republic, 90 per cent of the arms, specially heavy equipment went to the possession of the Serbs. The Serbs inherited a fighting overwhelmingly stronger. Besides, he pointed out, the arms embargo has suffocated the Bosnians from receiving the supply of all types of weapons, not to speak of heavy equipment which the Serbs are receiving through Belgrade.

Responding to another question, he said that the Russians had a different position from the rest of the European countries. "In case of withdrawal of UNPROFOR Russia may come in a big way in support of Serbia."

The Foreign Secretary said we should continue to make efforts so that weapons reach the Bosnians to defend themselves. He pointed out that Article 51 of the UN charter have provided for the right of self defence. Farooq Sobhan said that

Malaysia had offered to host summit of the OIC contact group on Bosnia. The Peace Plan which had been accepted by all except the Bosnian Serbs must be

implemented, he stressed. Minister Foreign Mostafizur Rahman, who went to London and Geneva. is expected to return today. Faroog Sobhan said.

### Master plan to make Dhaka modern city soon: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said the government is undertaking a master plan for trimming Dhaka into a modern city, reports UNB.

She said the low-lying areas around the capital went under water during the rainy season as many people had filled up drains, ditches and canals and built houses.

"Though it is a very tough task to save people in the areas from flooding, we'll take up plans to resolve the recurring problem," she told the affected residents during an extensive tour of the flooded localities around the city yesterday morning.

Begum Zia visited the inundated areas like Uttar Badda, Basaboo, Kadamtala, West Rajarbagh, Konapara, Matuail and Demra. She distributed relief among the poor people of those areas.

### Illegal workers From Page 1

to investigate and find ways to stop the flow of illegal Bangladeshi workers going to Malaysia, primarily through Bangkok and Singapore. It was also decided at the meet ing to identify the recruiting and travel agencies involved in the process and take legal measures against them.

The flow of sending work ers to Malaysia legally has slowed down considerably in recent months due to frequent changes in visa policy. the sources said.

Till April 1993, the Malaysian High Commission in Dhaka used to issue entry visas/to workers, and after their employer cleared the levies following their arrival in Malaysia, they were given work permits.

Later a "calling visa" system was instituted under which the Malaysian Mission issued 'entry permits' based on a 'work visa' issued by that country's immigration department. However, following requests from the Bangladesh government, the Malaysian government changed the system and started issuing oneyear work visas at the point of entry. But recently that process was stopped and a one-month entry visa system was instituted.

The sources noted that the frequent changes has slowed down the process of acquiring visas for new Bangladeshi workers According to the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agents (BAIRA) there is a backlog of visa applications for an estimated 14,000 Bangladeshi workers already recruited Malaysian companies.

The Bangladesh delegation is expected to request Malaysian authorities to provide Bangladeshi workers with one-year entry visas and to extend the employment term to three years from two years now, the sources

### Industrial pollution Govt starts taking legal actions against units

The Environment Direc torate has started taking legal actions against the industrial units failing to inform it about the measures taken by them to maintain pollution-free environment in the factory premises, reports BSS. The Directorate had al

ready served notices to 1317 industrial units responsible for creating pollution to inform the authorities at the plan taken by them to maintain environment. Of these, only 196 indus-

trial units responded. The

Directorate has requested

the rest of industrial units to

provide the necessary infor-

### mation without delay. Tannery waste From Page 1

also emit Hydrogen Sulphyde, they said. "If you visit the area, you

will see corrugated tins used in structures get rotten so quickly. The brick structures wear away and colour of the gold ornaments worn by ladies there change," said an engineer of the DOE. "The WASA authorities simply failed to realise the gravity of the problem," he observed.

Before the flood, the toxic deposit used to flow into the Buriganga river. But now, as the river has swelled, the deposit cannot flow out into the river, local people said.

The local people also said WASA people told them that the decision to divert the toxic water into the water retention point was taken so that it could be pumped out of the embankment through the pump-house near Gabtoli

# The Midnight Kile

### Condition of injured hostage in **Kashmir** is critical

SRINAGAR. July 23: Kashmiri rebels holding five Westerners hostage said today that one of the two captives wounded in a gun battle between separatists and soldiers is in critical condition. The Indian government said no such gun battle occurred Friday as claimed by the militants, reports AP.

### Russia, Chechnya sign military deal

GROZNY, July 23: Russian and Chechen negotiators signed a military deal today in talks to end a bloody conflict in Chechnya, but there was still no word of a deal on political issues which lie at the heart of the conflict. "We have signed a deal on military issues," said Russian Interior Minister Anatoly Kulikov, speaking at the end of today's talks in Chechen regional capital Grozny, reports Reuter.

## **Supreme Court hearing**

From Page 1

not empower the Speaker to do so," he said and pleaded "this matter should be examined by the court."

Dr Zahir, who earlier showed interest in addressing the court on the issue, concluded that there is no question of law involved within the meaning of Article 106. But a question of fact may have arisen whether the Opposition members had in fact resigned in December last and whether the resignation letters had reached the office of the Speaker, he

Earlier, Barrister Rafiqui Hug concluded his submission which he started Thursday while Justice T H Khan added some new points to his previous submission. Justice Maksudur Rahman

also made a submission after

the Chief Justice announced Thursday that "If anybody is interested to address the court on the issue, he is wel-Justice T H Khan said that Article 67 (1) (b) of the Constitution should be read

along with Article 123 and

Article 70 which deals with

by-election and floor-cross-Framers of the Constitution did never contemplate that nearly half of the seats could fall vacant overnight. If they (framers) could think so, they could have inserted a prohibitive clause like Article 70 in the Constitution to avert such vacation of seats. he added

none would dispute that absent means not present but the present unusual situation should be taken into consideration in deciding the mat-Concluding his submission, Barrister Hug said that

Justice Khan said that

from Parliament without leave of the House, he would be considered absent and would vacate his seat automatically. Citing provisions of the company law, he said a board

member loses his member-

if a member remained absent

consecutive meetings and in this case an MP would lose his membership if he remains absent for 90 consecu-

tive sitting days. Justice Maksudur Rahman maintained that the opposition lawmakers should be considered absent from March 2 last year, with their walkout and boycott of Parliament.

"Walkout and boycott means absent and not present," he added.

The court will hear today Advocate Sudhangshu Shekhar Haldar, MP, and the summing up submission of government-appointed lawver Barrister Ashrarul Hossa-

### ID card plan

From Page 1

primary reason. Of the respondents 39.7 per cent said criminals should be meted out with exemplary punishment which would deter others. 13.4 per cent felt that criminal activities would be reduced if scope for employment expanded.

On a question regarding

the usefulness of parliament

elections, 51.1 per cent of the respondents said that the destiny of the nation would improve through parliamentary elections while 32.9 per cent said that elections would not improve the lot of the people.

Of the respondents 19.9 per cent felt that political parties often give promises. but seldom keep them.

Some 84 per cent of the respondents do not support inviting foreign mediators to resolve the country's present political impasse. Of the respondents 65.6 per cent said they would like to see that the war criminals

of 1971 be tried like the Nazi

war criminals who are still

being tried 50 years after the Second World War. 52.5 per cent of the respondents said the government was responsible for this vear's fertiliser crisis, while 35.2 per cent said profit

### seekers created the crisis. ship if he fails to attend three Major ROK companies

From Page 1 leading Korean companies are actively looking into these." he said.

Ambassador Fazlur Rah-

man said response from

relatively smaller companies are very bright and forthcoming since "they are seriously interested in relocating." He said that decisions from big companies would

take some time as they have

to look into both the produc-

tion and the marketing aspects. Asked if there were stumbling blocks in the investment process, the Ambassador replied, "Nothing, except that the Koreans are tough business negotiators. They would like to see what best facilities they could get in terms of tax incentives. zoning and marketing. They

are making many queries." The Ambassador pointed out that the keen interest shown by the South Koreans "should be explored seriously and put to use.

Presently, there are nearly 40 Korean enterprises having investments in the Dhaka and Chittagong EPZ's and outside. These investments are in diverse fields like ready-made garments, footwear, leather, electronics, plastic flower

and souvenir products.

in Korea and they are the second largest manpower force after the Indonesians. Speaking about the trade imbalance between the two countries, Ambassador Rahman said that while the twoway turnover of trade totalled million dollar. Bangladesh's share was only around 10 million dollars and

South Korea's share was 400

million dollars. Bangladesh

exports mainly comprised of

jute, some textiles, footwear

and frozen fish.

Rahman mentioned that

there are nearly 3500

Bangladeshis working legally

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## NOTICE

All Guardians are invited to meet the Executive Council of the BMSRI on thursday, 27th July, 1995 at 2.00 p.m. in the College premises to discuss college affairs.

Maj. Gen. Anis Waiz (retd.) Principal & Professor of Medicine Bangladesh Medical College.

## **Editor**: Mahfuz Anam

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