

Announcement

The Daily Star publishes the recommendations of the open discussion on the 'Streets of Dhaka' along with photographs in today's weekend magazine section.

Inside Today

Article

Bolted Doors Open to a Mirage

Column: Between the Lines by Kuldip Nayar Page 4

International

Pentagon concerned at China's growing military potential

ASEAN nations hail US military presence in Asia-Pacific Page 5

Business

Economic interest should get preference to politics, says FBCCI chief on return Page 6

STOCK MARKET

USE price index	775.67 (+0.59%)
Market capital Tk	47.97 billion
Transactions in volume	119989
Transactions in value Tk	16.57 million

Weekend Magazine

Best Guarantee Against Rot, Failing Rabindranath We have Failed Ourselves, Rising Star, Travel & Tourism, Teens and Twenties Pages 9-16

European carriers suspend flights to Zagreb

Croats, Serbs poised for all-out war

ZAGREB, Aug 3: Military police are rounding up draft-age men at the dead of night, bomb shelters are being readied and foreign tourists have been warned away — Croatia is on war footing against rebel Serbs, reports Reuters.

Some 100,000 Croatian army troops have their fingers on their triggers along UN ceasefire lines with the Krajina territory held by the Serbs while tens of thousands more have cordoned off much of its eastern flank inside Bosnia.

Tens of thousands of Serb militiamen, steeled by

Yugoslav army special units, are on red alert. Artillery fire is flaring along the UN buffer strip.

Croatian city hospitals have cancelled summer holidays and issued extra appeals

GENEVA, Aug 3: A Croatian government representative said today that no progress had been made at talks with rebel Serbs, increasing the possibility of renewed conflict, reports AP.

for blood donations. German, Swiss and Austrian airlines suspended flights to and from Zagreb today as European government urged tourists to avoid

Croatia amid growing fears of an outbreak of war.

"The security of flights to Zagreb is not guaranteed," said Gerd Leidinger, spokesman for the German carrier Lufthansa. He said Lufthansa's flights were stopped "until further notice."

Swiss air cancelled its daily flight from Zurich, and Austrian Airlines' daily flights from Vienna were stopped "until further notice."

Anxious UN mediators arm-twisted Croatian and Krajina Serb envoys to go to

See Page 8 Col 1

Armed mastaans attack police patrol: 5 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

At least five persons, including four police personnel, were injured when a gang of armed mastaans attacked a police patrol of the Rayer Bazar outpost of Mohammadpur thana in the city yesterday afternoon.

Of the injured, the four police personnel and a rickshawpuller sustained bullet injuries.

Witnesses said that an armed group of about 30 neighbourhood youths attacked the police patrol, from the outpost, when they picked up an alleged local extortionist from a market in Rayer Bazar at around 2:30 pm. The armed gang fired

several gunshots and lobbed dozens of crackers at the police, they added.

The injured policemen are Havilder Abul Kashem, Constables Moshir Rahman, Ali Asgar, Abdus Sattar and a rickshawpuller Nurul Islam, 30. All of them received bullet injuries.

Police and witnesses said that a group of armed local youths attacked Havilder Kashem when he along with a constable picked one Jahangir from Rayer Bazar area. The armed gang opened fire and snatched Jahangir from the police.

Later, at about 4 pm the

See Page 8 Col 8

Arms ban on Bosnia Clinton has 10 days to veto

By Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Aug 3: Congress's directive to President Bill Clinton to break the Bosnia arms embargo was delivered to the White House on Wednesday night, giving Clinton until Aug. 14 to veto it, Senate aides said.

Congress expects to be in summer recess by then, giving Clinton a month to try to win enough votes to support his threatened veto. Clinton has scheduled a press conference for August 10.

The directive would require Clinton to end US participation in the UN arms embargo if UN force withdraw or 12 weeks after Bosnia asks them to leave.

The House of Represent-

See Page 8 Col 8

Ishtiaq formula impractical, says Mizan

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party yesterday said, nothing short of a neutral interim caretaker government will be acceptable to the people for ensuring a credible parliamentary polls.

"We're waiting to see what steps the governing party takes ... We'll declare all-out action programme this month to thwart any move for by-election and realise the demand for a caretaker government", Chowdhury told UNB.

He said despite Opposition's resignation on December 28 as per the Constitution, the government resorted to daily-tactics to buy time only to hang on to power. After the Supreme

See Page 8 Col 7

BNP will study options till EC announces by-polls schedule

By Nazmul Ashraf

The ruling BNP is likely to wait until the announcement of the schedule of by-elections to the vacated parliamentary seats to finally decide whether to go for by-polls or dissolution of Parliament to pave the way for fresh general elections.

An authoritative source in the party told The Daily Star last night that they would be examining the proposed "formulae for forming an interim government", as the Election Commission goes ahead with the preparations to hold by-polls to the 87 seats already declared vacated.

"We'll be keeping both the options — by-polls or fresh polls — open and will con-

tinuing examining the available formulae that call for forming an interim government to conduct the next general elections within the Constitutional framework," said the source, requesting anonymity.

Referring to Wednesday's deliberations by the party policy planners during their meeting with Prime Minister and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia, he said they would hear the members of the party's National Executive Committee tomorrow and further discuss the options and the proposed formulae for an interim government at the Standing Committee meeting later. He, however, ruled out any possibility an-

nouncing a final decision soon.

Other reliable sources in the BNP told this correspondent that they were identifying some flaws in the available formulae and also considering if a practical and complete formula could be accepted.

The party was also closely monitoring the views of the major opposition parties on the proposed formulae and was planning to establish contacts with them in a bid to reach a consensus on the issue.

The sources further said the ruling party's next course of action would be largely influenced by the main opposi-

See Page 8 Col 5



Chandrika proposes autonomy to Tamils

COLOMBO, Aug 3: Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga today proposed unprecedented autonomy to minority Tamils under a power-for-peace deal aimed at ending the country's 23-year-old civil war, reports AFP.

See also page 5

But her plan, parts of which have already been leaked, have drawn opposition from both within and outside her coalition government.

See Page 8 Col 1

Power disruption at digital phone exchange

By Staff Correspondent

The Sher-e-Bangla Nagar digital telephone exchange remained out of order for nearly two hours yesterday morning due to sudden power disruption.

At around 10.10 am yesterday, the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Exchange along with its associated Rectifier and Tandem Exchange went out of order, a press release of the T and T Board said.

The tandem exchange was restored after half an hour and the digital exchange was made fault free after 12.15 noon following an emergency effort of the T and T workers.

However, the power surge had damaged power cards of 700 telephones which is expected to be restored today.

The power surge has also damaged and erased the software programme of telephone locking for telephones which begin with number 81. This software will be restored later, the release said.

60 feared drowned in West Bengal

NEW DELHI, Aug 3: Nearly 60 people were feared drowned in the Indian state of West Bengal today when a crowded boat capsized in a swollen river amid heavy rains, the Press Trust of India reported, says AFP.

The boat was carrying some 100 people when it sank in the Damodar river in the eastern state's Bankura district, the news agency said. Forty passengers swam ashore or were rescued.

The other were feared drowned, it said.

MQM plans to use Zee TV to pass information?

KARACHI, Aug 3: Interior Minister Naseerullah Babar said today that Pakistan had intercepted signals indicating that militants planned to use India's Zee Television to pass secret information to Karachi terrorists, reports AFP.

The communications system of the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement had been "weakened" by the ban imposed last month by authorities here on mobile telephones and pagers, he said.

"We have intercepted a couple of signals that indicate that they (MQM) were now going to use Zee TV for passing information," Babar said. He did not elaborate.

See Page 8 Col 7

Ishtiaq Formula can resolve crisis: Fowler

CHITTAGONG, Aug 3: A foreign diplomat thinks the present political crisis in Bangladesh may be resolved by adopting the formula of interim government given by Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed. Bar at Law, reports UNB.

"It will be better for the government and the opposition parties to sit in negotiation for solving the crisis by adopting the Ishtiaq formula," said Peter J Fowler speaking to a group of journalists at Chittagong Club this morning.

The British High Commissioner in Dhaka said the Commonwealth countries always expected the solution of the political crisis through negotiation to continue the

See Page 8 Col 7

Depression over Bay likely this month

A monsoon depression is likely to be formed over the Bay of Bengal during the current month, weather experts said yesterday, reports UNB.

A long-range Met Office forecast said that the Brahmaputra basin may experience flood during the first half of the current month. The Padma basin may have flood in the last half of the month.

With a little difference of time, both the basins may have flood simultaneously, according to the forecast.

Chittagong division is likely to experience the highest 450-500 mm rain during the month. Sylhet and Barisal divisions may have 400-450 mm each. Rajshahi 300-350 mm, Dhaka 250-300 and Khulna division 200-250 mm rain during the period.

Girl commits suicide after failing in SSC exams

JESSORE, Aug 3: A girl student, who failed in the SSC examination under Jessor Board, allegedly committed suicide here today, reports UNB.

Parul, 19, of Enayetpur village in Sadar thana took poison this morning after failing to pass in the examination in three consecutive years, family sources said.

She was rushed to the Jessor Sadar Hospital in critical condition where the attending doctor declared her dead.

Mismanagement in project implementation Japan's future assistance may be uncertain, warns envoy

Identifying mismanagement in implementing various development projects as one of the main hindrances to sustainable development, the Japanese Ambassador yesterday cautioned Japan's future financial assistance to Bangladesh might be uncertain, reports UNB.

"Inside Japan, people are now very much critical about the mismanagement and delay in implementing Japanese-assisted projects, and pressed to divert aid to better project-implementing countries," said Shigeo Takanaka at a seminar organ-

ized by the JICA Alumni Association.

The envoy said cumbersome official procedures and bureaucratic entanglements are hindering speedy implementation of projects.

Referring to Bangladesh as 7th recipients of Japanese assistance, Takanaka said aid flow would continue if project implementation capabilities increased to a great extent. Promotion of democratization is also needed for achieving better growth, he added.

Bangladesh as recipient of Japan's Overseas Develop-

ment Assistance (ODA) has been receiving continuous aid flow since 1973. Till 1993 the total flow of bilateral ODA to Bangladesh by way of grant aid or technical cooperation stood at 1652.26 million US dollar, out of which 241.52 million dollar was for 1993 only. With the inclusion of loan aid the amount upto 1993 goes to 3595.12 million dollar.

The seminar on 'Impacts of Projects' assisted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on the 'Socio-Economic Development of

See Page 8 Col 2

Story of unconsumable foods-II How testing fails to thwart adulteration

By Morshed A Khan and Krishna P Roy

In an extremely narrow bylane off Shakhariabazar in the old part of capital city a small shop produces 'ghee', the popular aromatic cooking oil of Bengali households.

A cheap quality tallow (animal fat), scientifically known as refined bleached degummed (RBD) tallow was being melted in a big aluminium pot.

As the content melted slowly, the worker poured few drops of a certain chemical into the pot. After a few minutes the pot was taken out of the cooker and placed

on another pot containing cold water. An aroma of pure ghee spread all around.

The worker stirred the liquid slowly adding some other chemical to it until the content gave the look of a perfectly blended ghee, otherwise made from pure cream of milk.

The chemicals, used in this process of adulteration is known as buterate, which flavours the oil. Artificial colours guarantee the golden look of the 'ghee'.

After all these process, the 'ghee' was put inside

small plastic containers and were ready for marketing.

In another shop nearby, workers mashed ripe bananas, mixed them up with tallow and an artificial flavour of butter was added to the dow. Buterate was also mixed with it.

Pieces of butter were made ready to be delivered in different parts of the city.

Now, the question arises how this widespread adulteration of foods for human consumption could take place so openly.

According to a highly

placed official in the BSTI (Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute), there are many unauthorised small factories, producing food items all over the city.

"All we can do is file a case against a factory for marketing products without certification from our department, but we can not close it," he said.

"Action can probably be taken against the established and big companies but it is virtually impossible to trace the incredible number of

See Page 8 Col 3

Erosion poses threat to Chandpur Puranbazar

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Aug 3: Fresh erosion along the banks of the Dakatia, a tributary of the mighty Meghna, has posed a threat to Puranbazar area of Chandpur town.

Four godowns with essentials were seriously damaged due to the erosion today.

Some 500-foot stretch of the Chandpur Town Protection Embankment had already been damaged and several cracks developed in another 1000-foot area of the embankment.

The Meghna had earlier devoured Nayabazar area of the town at five points — Machghat, Railway Station,

Jamuna Oil Depot, Michhi Kutir and Uttar Sri Ramdi. Nayabazar area has over 1000 shops and industrial units.

Traders at Puranbazar, having some 500 shops and factories, have become panicked because of the fresh erosion and some of them were seen dismantling their establishments.

Chief Engineer of the Water Development Board (WDB) Mohammad Bashir and other high officials today visited the spot and sanctioned 2000 cement blocks on an emergency basis to prevent further erosion of the af-

See Page 8 Col 8