## Dhaka iterates call to try Serb war criminals

Bangladesh yesterday reiterated its call for arrest and trial of Bosnian Serb war criminals including Radovan Karadzic, reports BSS.

A spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at a regular news briefing at the ministry said. Bangladesh joined the international community asking for bring-

#### Ratification of ILO convention discussed

The 36th meeting of the tripartite consultative council of the Ministry of Labour and Manpower was held in Dhaka yesterday with Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali in the chair, reports UNB.

The meeting discussed the ratification of the con cerned ILO conventions regarding safety in the use of chemicals at work, recommendations for part-time works in mills and factories and improving the working condition in hotels and restaurants.

The ILO convention regarding equal pay for men and women workers for the same jobs needs to be ratified immediately, the meeting was told.

#### Agha Hasan Abedi buried

KARACHI, Aug 6: Considered a Third World Robin Hood by many of his countrymen, Agha Hasan Abedi, founder of the scandal-ruined Bank of Credit and Commerce International, was buried today, reports AP.

### Dhanmondi lake

From Page 1

the government is destroying an established area for public recreation. This is a mindless act," said a retired engineer resident of Dhanmondi.

According to documents obtained by The Daily Star, twenty flats will be constructed with an estimated cost of Tk 4.61 crore. The road No 5 will be extended up to the other end of the lake by filling up the lake and joined with road No 6. The lake will be filled up on both sides of the road for construction of the proposed housing units. "Recently, the lake water

was polluted by these people. Now they are filling it up. It should be resisted", said Tanta, a young man.

Different social organisations of the area condemned the decision of the Works Ministry to fill up the lake and said that if necessary they would go for other steps to stop it.

"The Works Ministry is not allowing high-rise constructions in the area. But look, they are destroying a 35-year-old lake to build flats. Why don't they buy flats for the government employees elsewhere?" asked a businessman resident.

When contacted, a high official of the Ministry of Works said that he was not aware of any such move. "They are probably repairing the banks of the lake, not filling it up," he said.

The documents obtained further reveal that the first official tender paper for the project was signed by the PWD division II engineers on April 11 this year.

"This step was taken so discretely without public participation. This reflects the attitude of our bureaucrats," said another resident of road No 5.

#### ing the offenders to book.

The spokesman described the decision taken by the UN and NATO council to go for air strikes against the Bosnian Serbs on an aggressive path as "a positive development" as far as the UN protection force (Unprofor) posted in Bosnia was con-

Bangladesh, he said, had been keen that all safe areas and enclaves of Bosnia be protected through air strikes from the aggressors and for restoration and protection of the territorial integrity of

Quoting Article 51 of the United Nations charter the spokesman described the arms embargo on Bosnia as 'null and void' and said that Bosnia as a sovereign country and a member of the United Nations was entitled to procure arms to defend itself.

The spokesman said that Bangladesh government was keen to send humanitarian assistance to Bosnia at the appropriate time.

If needed, he said, the government could mobilise the assistance from its resources as well as from the members of the public to assist the Bosnians.

#### HC showcause on DESA

The High Court yesterday asked the DESA to showcause why its order directing payment of bills and threat in default of snapping electric line of one of its subscribers should not be declared illegal, reports UNB.

A High Court bench comprising Justice Habibur Rahman Khan and Justice M M Ruhul Amin made the rule returnable within four weeks.

Petitioner Humayun Majid alleged that the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) had installed a single meter in his building where there are 33 tenants. Seventeen of his tenants

managed separate meters directly from DESA in their individual names and two of them defaulted payment of

But the DESA, instead of realising the bills from the defaulting consumers, has directed the landlord (Majid) to pay Tk 195.346 plus interest amounting to Tk 2333 and further threatened to disconnect the electric line in default.

Advocate M I Farooqui with Advocate M Saleem Ullah and M Sadekur Rahman appeared for the petitioner.

#### School student shot dead in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 6: A school student was murdered by some unknown persons at Kunalpara village of Moheskhali thana, last night. Mir Ahmed, 15, a student

of class IX of Moheskhali Island High School, was sleeping in the shop of his uncle. The miscreants, on the pretext of purchasing cigarettes, asked him to open the shop at around 3 am. The unidentified persons.

numbering around seven, shot him dead as soon as he opened the shop.

A procession was brought out at Maheskhali today demanding punishment of the killers.

A case has been registered with the Maheskhali thana. None has been arrested.

# Croatia vows to crush

From Page 1 forces. Mladic, the chief

Bosnian Serb military strategist during the three-year war, was demoted to the position of adviser.

in an angry reply on Saturday, Mladic refused to step down, saying the move was "unconstitutional and illegitimate."

"I entered the war as a soldier, and I wish to come out of it as one," Mladic said in a statement faxed to The Associated Press. "I do not accept the cabinet post of special counselor to the pres-

ident of the republic". In a letter read at the start of the Bosnian Serbs' assembly, their self-styled governing body, the Bosnian Serb generals said Karadzic's decision was "unacceptable and wrong" and "would have unforseen consequences for our

people, fight and army." "We need every man and especially such an army commander as Gen Ratko Mladic," said the letter, a copy of which was received

by the AP. Bosnian President Alija lzetbegovic on Saturday thanked the neighbouring Croatia for its military cooperation and praised its victories over rebel Serb troops.

"I congratulate you and your brave soldiers," Izetbegovic said in a letter to Croatian President Franjo Tudiman.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton said on Saturday the push by Croat troops against Bosnian Serbs could be helpful in resolving the Bosnian conflict, ABC news reported.

Clinton made the comments to ABC correspondent Sam Donaldson at the

National Institutes of Health. Clinton reportedly said that when the Bosnian Serbs feel pressure, as in air strike or the push from Croatia, they will realise now is the time to make the best deal they can get.

#### **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina presiding over the party's central working committee meeting at its Star photo Bangabandhu Avenue office yesterday

#### Stampede: Probe ordered

By Staff Correspondent Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali yesterday ordered probe into Saturday's incident in two city garment factories and directed the ministry officials to form a committee for recommending safety measures to stop recurrence of such

accidents. Nine teenaged workers were killed and over 50 injured in a stampede triggered by a small fire in a high-rise building housing two garments factories at Ibrahimpur.

"Persons responsible for negligence of duty that led the stampede will have to face legal actions," the minister said while visiting the site vesterday.

"So far, 40 people have been killed in similar incidents at various garments factories and we wish no more from today," he said.

Replying to a query from this correspondent Mir Shawkat said, "Most of the garments factories are not housed in appropriate buildings. If we take actions right now, more than half of these factories will be forced to shut down." "This cannot be a solution. So, now, what we intend to do is ensuring safety by improving the existing facilities." he added.

He directed extension of the minimum width of stair from 45 inches now to 72 inches. He suggested evacuation rehearsal to train up garments staff so that they could escape in case of any emergency

He also instructed the owner of the building to make separate fire fighting arrangement in every floor and an emergency exit stair.

The minister expressed his dissatisfaction when he came to know that the second exit doors in the floors had been closed and packaging materials were stockpiled on stair steps.

He asked the owners of the garment factories to resume work and recruit relatives of dead workers in the on priority basis.

#### Factory bldg

From Page 1 which has six or more sto-

ryes, he pointed out. When asked, Managing Director of Faa Apparels Ehsanul Haq said. "We are not giving any compensation families separately, to the victims' rather, we are contributing fund to the BGMEA, which will give the compensation".

He admitted the lack of safety measures at the build-

When contacted over telephone. Secretary of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Faruque Ahmed said that at an informal meeting yesterday they resolved to make sure that all the BGMEA member factories should have wide and more than one stair-way.

BGMEA sources said, Faa Apparels is a member of the association while Lusaka Fashion, the new one, applied for provisional membership two weeks back.

# AL: Dissolve JS

From Page 1

kept the issue unresolved on various pleas and later rejected the resignation letters to help implement the government design. The ALCWC termed the

Speaker's decision a blow to the Constitution and said it curbed the Opposition MPs' constitutional rights. The Opposition MPs had set a glorious example by relinquishing their powers and privileges in the interest of democracy and people's right to vote and food while the ruling party was doing everything to prolong its stay in power, it added.

But, a resolution of the meeting said, the government was pushing the nation towards a deeper crisis through its undemocratic steps, misrule and corrup-

Held at the Bangabandhu Avenue office of the AL, the meeting expressed concern at the 'deterioration' law and order and condemned 'repression' on AL leaders and workers across the country. The meeting also demanded adequate relief materials for the flood victims and distribution of agricul-

#### Snake sucks woman's milk!

SILIGURI, Aug 6: In a bizarre incident, a snake was found to suck milk of a sleeping woman in the darkness of a right but bit her husband when he made an at tempt to pull the reptile out of her body, reports PTI.

The snake did not harm the woman's baby, sleeping beside her.

The incident occurred in a remote village Tufangani in Coochbehar district on July 27, official sources said here today.

The snake-bitten man was admitted to the Rampur primary health centre the following morning.

### Khaleda: Students

From Page 1

culture Institute. Government Bangla College, Textiles Engineering College, Ramna T & T College and Khilgaon Model Degree College.

These six were among the eight colleges in Dhaka City where the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of the ruling BNP won the elections held re-

Begum Zia said the government has given top priority to the eduction sector for improving the quality of education and ensuring education for all. She called upon the stu-

dent community to refrain from damaging the property of the educational institutions and asked them to keep in mind that we have limited resources.

Begum Zia told the teachers to guide their students on the right path so that none can mislead them

The function was also addressed by Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, Amanullah Aman, MP, DUCSU GS Khairul Kabir Khokon, JCD President Fazlul Hug Milon.

tural equipment among the affected farmers, it prayed for salvation of the departed souls of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and others killed on August 15, 1975.

#### 9 fish sanctuaries established

The government has established nine fish sanctuaries in the country for preservation and breeding of different species of fish, an official handout said in the city vesterday, reports BSS.

The lish, produced in the sanctuaries, will freely spread to different areas in the monsoon for further expansion of fish population.

A meeting on fish sanctuaries held in the conference room of the Land Ministry vesterday was informed that the sanctuaries were aimed at meeting the protein requirements in the country.

The sanctuaries are loeated in the districts of Barisal. Patuakhali, Sylhet. Sunanganj. Nawabganj. Na tore, Chittagong, Jamalgan and Netrakona. Presided over by Secretary

of the Land Ministry A' H M Abdul Hye, the meeting directed all concerned for proper maintenance, management and supervision o the sanctuaries and stopping illegal catching of fish there.

The committee will pre pare a report alongwith its recommendations within the next three months to prepare a policy for proper maintenance and management of the sanctuaries.

#### Youth found unconscious

By Staff Correspondent Dhanmondi police last night rescued a youth from Abaham ground at Dhanmondi in an unconscious state and sent him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The identity of the youth wearing a shirt and a trouser, could not be ascertained as he did not regain consciousness till 11 pm.

Police suspected that the youth had either taken chemicals or been forced to do so. There was no mark of injury on the body.

Evewitnesses said, an autorickshaw entered the Abahani ground through the southern side and left the youth there at about 8:30 pm.

#### Indian pilots won't fly to Kashmir, Amritsar & Lanka

NEW DELHI, Aug 6: A union of Indian Airlines pilots Saturday told its members not to fly to Sri Lanka and the states of Kashmir and Punjab. saying militants armed with missiles could bring down planes, reports AFP.

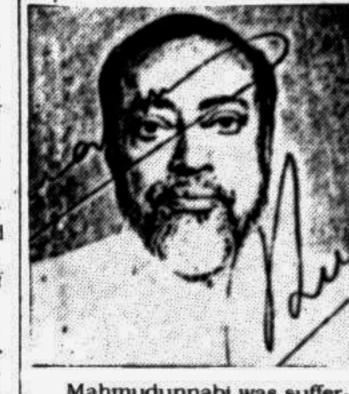
The Indian Commercial Pilots Association (ICPA) said pilots must not fly to Jammu and Srinagar cities in Kashmir and Amritsar city in Punjab from Monday if they were not given Indian Air Force escort.



Some 1,000 demonstrators stage a protest against the nuclear weapons yesterday beside the Atomic Dome in Hiroshima as more than 20,000 people participated in the peace memorial ceremony commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Hiroshima atomic - AFP/UNB photo bombing. Story on Page 5

#### Mahmudunnabi Chowdhury dead CHITTAGONG, Aug 6

Mahmudunnabi Chowdhury former Relief and Rehabilitation minister of the then Jukta-Front government died today at his residence at Mchdibagh here. He was 86. reports BSS.



Mahmudunnabi was suffering from various old age complications. He is father of Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, MP.

Born in 1909 at a renowned Muslim family of Kattali in Chittagong, Mahmudunnabi actively par ticipated in politics and social welfare activities since his youth.

He was elected a member of the then provincial assembly in 1954 and served the Jukta-Front government as relief and rehabilitation minister. He was the president of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry during 1962-63. During the War of Independence, he provided support to the freedom fighters.

Mahmudunnabi left behind his wife, five sons and five daughters and a host of relatives and friends to mourn his death. His namaz-e-janaza will be held at his native village home Kattali Nazir Bari tomorrow morning.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Frime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in separate messages condoled the death of Mahmudunnabi Chowdhury

#### Reporters Sans Frontiers seeks release of Farhad Mazhar By Staff Correspondent

a Paris-based organisation which monitors press freedom worldwide, in a letter to the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia demanded immediate. and unconditional release of

two Bangladeshi journalists

detained under the Special

Reporters Sans Frontiers.

Powers Act "Considering that these arrests is a grave hindrance to the freedom of the press in Bangladesh we demand the immediate and unconditional release of Farhad Mazhar and Helal Uddin", said a letter written on August 4 by its director Robert Mcnard addressed to

The letter, a copy o which was faxed to The Daily Star yesterday, said that the organisation considered that Farhad Mazhar and Helal Uddin had "never committed any crime punishable by a prison term. Farhad Mazhar, chief edi-

the Prime Minister.

tor of fortnightly Chinta, was sent to prison under the Special Powers Act, 1974. On June 20. Helal Uddin, Sirajganj correspondent of Bhorer Kagoz was arrested by the police.

#### ULFA, Bodos rocket CRPF camp: Two troops killed

GUAHATI, Aug 6: For the first time ULFA and Bodo security force Ultras used rockets today in a joint attack on a CRPF camp and a police station in Assam's Kalaigaon area of Darrang district killing two para-military personnel and injuring several others, reports PTI. The extremists came from

> neighbouring Bhutan and kept up the firing for over three hours, the Director General of Police Ranju Das told PTI here.

# The Midnight Rife

#### Arab League to form joint peacekeeping force (AIRO Aug 6: The Arab League plans to form a joint

peacekeeping force under a proposed "pact of honour" to prevent conflict between its member states. Secretary General Esmat Abdel Meguid said today, reports AFP.

### Native Sindhis observe strike

KARACHI. Aug 6: Sindhi-speaking natives in Pakistan's troubled Sindh province were on strike today to protest bloodshed in this port city, as five more people were killed residents and police said, reports AFP.

## Women's convention

From Page 1 from consultative regional discussions and workshops

held over last two years. Environment, health, law, economic empowerment. discrimination, culture, political participation, and the fulfillment of basic rights will all be mooted in group sessions throughout the three day programme from 6-8 The aim of this convention

is two-fold. Parveen Hossain said "Through our discussions we want to prepare a document which will serve as a guideline for women in the next two decades" Additionally, the conven-

tion hopes to provide on opportunity for women to simply meet each other.

During her welcoming speech. Hassan also commented on the recent death of several women garment workers following a fire scare. She said that it was unfortunate that no steps had been taken though a similar incident occurred in 1991. and took the opportunity to demand better safety mea-

Ferdous Azim of Nari pokkho said that the conference hoped to consolidate the women's movement and to build a platform of action. The three-day programme will explore women's role in society "we will speak of ourselves and our personal experiences. These discussions will point the way," she said.

#### Manzur murder

From Page 1

court here. But the hearing is unlikely to be held here if the order copy relative to the shifting of the case reaches the court here tomorrow, court sources said.

Earlier, the Sessions Court here took up the case on July 24 and fixed August 7 for hearing cognizance matter of The court had also issued

production warrants against the five chargesheeted accused including former president H M Ershad. Ershad was chargesheeted as the principal accused in the case. The Manzur murder case

was transferred to the

Sessions Court before from

the court of the Chief

JS seats From Page 1 Jatiya Party who also filed resignations but later attended the Parliament session after joining the ruling BNP still continue to retain their seats. Two MPs belonging to the ruling party died

The ultimate aim of such a

conference was not to attack

men but to further a change

in the power relationship be-

tween men and women. Azim

their seats are yet to be held. The gazette notification vacating the seats of the 55 boycotting MPs were announced Saturday in the sec-

recently and by-elections to

The Parliament Secretariat wrote to the absentee MPs to explain their position although they had signed the attendance register kept in the lobby. None of the 55 MPs were learnt to have given any reply within the stipulated time of three days that ended on August 3.

cations, published on July 30 last, announced vacation of the seats of 87 MPs whose absence from the House crossed the 90-day constitutional limit The opposition members

Earlier two gazette notifi-

tendered en masse resignation on Dec 28. The belated decision to

vacate the seats of the opposition MPs mainly belonging to the three main opposition parties — the Awami League. Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami — came after the Supreme Court in its opinion on a Presidential reference on the issue declared that 'walkout' and 'boycott' of the Parliament by the Opposition members must be construed

The opinion of the Supreme Court was conveyed to the President on July 27. The Speaker finally began to act on the crucial matter and proceeded to vacate the seats.

## Tariff protection

as absence.

From Page 1 users of electrical products. pharmaceuticals and insecticides because of continued

protection. The 1995-96 budget pulled the maximum duty down to 50 per cent, but the rate goes up to about 55 per cent with permit fees and advance income tax.

# Computer network

Magistrate

From Page 1

Metropolitan

process of installing E-mail facilities to help meet the growing need of the country. including the private sector.

"Our communication net-

work in the ministry will be

linked with Bangladesh

Missions abroad", said Mostafizur Rahman, adding that it would help realise the goals of 'economic diplomacy' of the present government. The minister said that the recently-established Trade and Investment Promotion

Wing of the Foreign Office

will act as a focal point and

facilitator in promoting trade and investment. "We have already instructed our heads of mission to take greater interest in economic diplomacy and make it the major thrust of their activities abroad," he

added. Pointing to the enormous importance of electronic information system in decision making. British High Commissioner Peter J Fowler said the network would provide Bangladesh a competitive edge needed for accelerating export-led growth. Expressing his satisfaction

at the increase in the volume of export between Bangladesh and the United Kingdom, the high commissioner said updated information through fast electronic communication system would help augment the country's bilateral trade with the UK. E-mail network service of

the DCCI primarily will serve the purpose of 'mail storing. mail forwarding and mail routing. "We have ambitious programmes for giving service to

the members enabling them

to have inhouse access

through local network," said Rashed Maksud Khan. Referring to the absence of computer network in the country, he proposed setting up of a central information

centre to facilitate the exchange of data services. which might gradually be expanded to cover the entire nation.

Hossain Akhter, senior vice-president of the DCCI. gave the vote of thanks.

### Tagore's death

From Page 1

Manjure Mawla said Rabindranath felt truth with his heart and with his skill, the poet had turned both the beauty and the ugliness into an art.

observed that the poet had emphasised more on life's experiences than theories. The seminar was followed by a musical programme at

Prof Syed Manjurul Islam

the foot of the academy's banyan tree. Different national dailies carried special articles on the life of the poet.

Bangladesh Television and Radio Bangladesh aired special programmes.s

Code of conduct

From Page 1 coordination committees at national, district and thana levels. These committees will extend cooperation to the EC in conducting the polls. The committees will also try to remove any misunderstand-

ing among political parties. No political party shall use government rest house, circuit house or any other government compound as its election office. The parties shall also refrain from wallwriting as part of their campaign.

The proposed CC says, the political parties shall reach an understanding so that nobody can capture any polling centre or use muscle power to collect votes. The EC will cancel elections of the centres where such misdoings will take place.