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NEWS BRIEFS

**College girl
electrocuted**

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 11: Two teenagers, including an HSC examinee, were electrocuted at village Shuvogachha in Kazipur thana this morning, police said. Ayesha Khatun, 18, who appeared in the HSC examination this year from Tenglahata College of Kazipur thana, died as she accidentally touched a live electric wire while bathing in a pond. Abu, 16, was also electrocuted when he tried to save Ayesha, reports UNB.

**14 fishermen
rescued**

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Aug 11: Fourteen fishermen were rescued 16 hours after their fishing trawler sank in sea. The trawler sank in the Bay of Bengal 40 kilometres off Kalapara of Patuakhali district Wednesday evening due to bad weather. They were rescued by another trawler.

**Ferry service
suspended**

PIROJPUR, Aug 11: Ferry service between Pirojpur and Barisal has been suspended due to some mechanical disturbance in the ferries at Togra Ferry Ghat in Sadar thana since last Tuesday. According to the officials of Roads and Highways, Togra Ferry service has only two ferries which are not in a position to operate. Of the two ferries, one has become inoperative for the last two days and another was stuck at a charland in Sadar on Wednesday, reports UNB.

**3 more beheaded
in S Arabia**

DUBAI, Aug 11: Three men — two Turks and a Saudi Arabian — were beheaded in Saudi Arabia today for smuggling drugs, taking the number of beheadings in the Kingdom this year to 133, reports Reuter.

An interior ministry statement, carried by the official Saudi press agency, said the three men were found guilty of smuggling drugs and were beheaded in northern Saudi Arabia.

The LTTE which is fight-

EC's deferral of by-elections Opposition will stage demonstrations today

By Staff Correspondent

The major Opposition political parties will observe a country-wide 'demonstration day' today to protest the Election Commission's announcement deferring the by-elections to 144 parliamentary seats on grounds of floods.

A joint meeting of the Awami League (AL), the Jatiya Party (JP) and the Jamaat-e-Islami on Wednesday took up the programme.

This is the first identical programme of the Opposition parties since the seats of 142 Opposition MPs were declared vacant due to their absence from Parliament for 90 consecutive sitting days without leave of the House.

Two more seats fell vacant

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cause of 'natural calamity' caused by recent floods in different parts of the country.

The EC's announcement came under fire from the major Opposition political parties which termed the deferral of by-elections another act of violation of the Constitution by the government.

As part of today's programme, the AL will hold a rally in front of the party's Bangabandhu Avenue office in the city at 4 pm. The rally will be followed by a procession.

The JP will hold a rally at the south gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque at 3 pm, while the Jamaat rally will be held at 5 pm at the north gate of the mosque.

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News Analysis EC makes it easy for the ruling party

By Farid Hossain

Few political speculations proved right, especially since the opposition parties launched their neutral-caretaker-government campaign in March last year.

No more does that record hold. Speculations that parliamentary by-polls to fill the seats vacated by Opposition MPs will be deferred citing Act of God — meaning floods, this time — have not gone futile. Newspapers are already vying for credit for writing about the possibilities of postponing the by-elections that, according to Constitutional provision, should have been held within September. Now forget the ballottings until at least December.

The Election Commission's decision must have cheered the government. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, desperately trying to avoid the huge by-elections, has got what she wanted. Good or bad, Begum Zia is scoring one point after another over her arch rival Sheikh Hasina of the Awami League.

When Hasina led the

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Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina along with party leaders placing wreaths at the mazar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Tungipara yesterday. — AL photo

Tamil Tigers reject peace package

COLOMBO, Aug 11: Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas have rejected a peace plan aimed at ending a separatist war as the government set a two-month deadline to defeat them, Tamil sources said Thursday, reports AFP.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) urged civilians in areas under their control not to support Colombo's political package unveiled by President Chandrika Kumaratunga last week, the sources said.

Area leaders of the LTTE have begun telling people that this plan will not bring peace. They say Tamils who support it are traitors. A Tamil source here said quoting travellers from LTTE-held areas.

The LTTE which is fight-

ing for an independent homeland in the island's northeast has rejected all previous attempts to politically resolve the conflict which has claimed over 50,000 lives since 1972.

There has been no direct statement from the LTTE leadership to the peace plan but travellers said Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran had been meeting with his field commanders and academics to discuss the issue.

The rebel rejection came as power and Energy Minister Anuruddha Ratnayake told parliament Wednesday that he needed another two months to complete an offensive against the LTTE.

Meanwhile, the Lankan navy has destroyed four Tamil rebel boats today.

13 members of a family gunned down in Sindh

KARACHI, Aug 11: A gang of bandits, commonly known as dacoits, gunned down 13 family members today in a village some 25 kilometers (15 miles) west of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's hometown Larkana, police and local administration officials said, reports AFP.

The officials said a gang of around 30 bandits took the whole family hostage in Mamrani village along the bank of river Indus.

The area is believed to be a safe haven for such gangs. They gunned down the 13 family members, injuring two others.

Officials said the reason for the killing was not known adding the bandits might have suspected the family of passing information to the police.

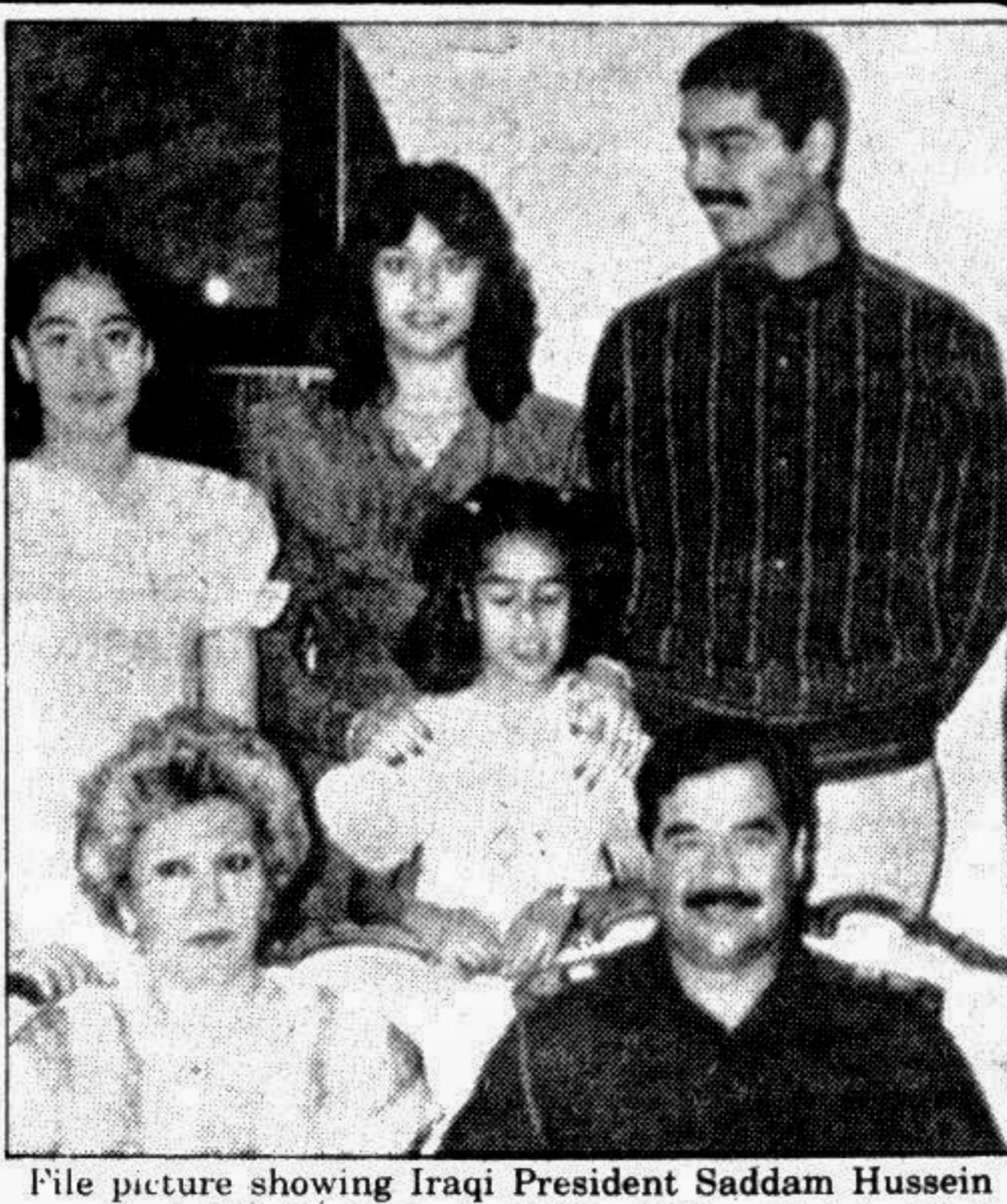
Saddam's 2 daughters defect to Jordan

WASHINGTON, Aug 11: The Pentagon said Thursday it had evidence that Iraqi troops were preparing to move artillery and tanks out of their bases following the defection to Jordan of two daughters of President Saddam Hussein, reports AFP.

Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said the United States saw three possible theories for such troop activities — a response to problems in the north with the Kurds, preparations to maintain stability within Iraq and a possible move toward neighboring Jordan.

Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, who ran Iraq's military industries, and his brother Lieutenant-Colonel Saddam Kamel

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File picture showing Iraqi President Saddam Hussein surrounded by his first wife Dajiba (bottom L), his eldest son Uday and daughters Rana (top L) and Raghdad (top C) dated November 20, 1988. — AFP/UNB photo

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Materialise Bangabandhu's dreams'

From Our Correspondent

TUNGIPARA, Aug 11: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today said the nation would take revenge for the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by materialising his dream for a 'Sonar Bangla'.

"Economic freedom cannot be achieved without completing the unfinished task of Bangabandhu," Hasina told a gathering at his 'mazar' premises.

The AL president said the Bangabandhu had dedicated his life for the emancipation of the masses. She deplored that the dream of the great leader could not be fulfilled as he was assassinated on the fateful night of August 15 in 1975.

The AL leaders led by Sheikh Hasina came to Tungipara in connection with the observance of August 15.

Hasina called upon the people to intensify the present movement for ensuring people's right to food and vote.

AL presidium member Abdus Samad Azad said that the killers of Bangabandhu later turned into the rulers of the country and did little for the good of the people.

The meeting was also ad-

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Tk 1.75cr Sultan museum at Narail planned

NARAIL, Aug 11: The government has decided to establish 'S M Sultan Memorial Museum' at a cost of about Tk 1.75 crore at the late artist's birth place on the bank of the river Chitra here, reports BBS.

I know that members of Congress share my goals of reducing the violence in Bosnia and working to end the war," Clinton said in a statement.

"But their vote to unilaterally lift the arms embargo is the wrong step at the wrong time," he said.

The President sent the veto message to Congress today just as lawmakers adjourned for the August recess.

The timing was aimed at preventing lawmakers from beginning the expected process of collecting votes for a veto override until they return in September, according to McCurry, who noted that Congress would not likely want to prolong the session into next week.

The President leaves for his own two-week vacation Tuesday and the White House is hoping to use the intervening time to win support for its opposition to lifting the ban.

Meanwhile, Reuter adds:

Clinton vetoes Cong Bill on Bosnia

WASHINGTON, Aug 11: President Bill Clinton today vetoed a Bill passed by Congress to unilaterally lift the arms embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports BBS.

In Sarajevo, the International Committee of the Red Cross said it believed some 6,000 people were missing in eastern Bosnia but said it could not confirm a US assertion that thousands of Muslims were executed and buried in mass graves.

The US ambassador to the UN Madeleine Albright gave

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**Mostafiz iterates
5-pt formula to
protect Bosnia**

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman has reiterated Bangladesh's five-point formula to protect independence and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports UNB.

"The arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims must be lifted," he said at a discussion on "Serb aggression on Bosnia and the Role of International Community" organised by Bangladesh Legal Aid Society at the Jatiya Press Club Thursday.

Meanwhile, Reuter adds:

Russia and the United States.

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MCCI suggests flexible labour market

A leading chamber has suggested reformation of the labour market by making it flexible for the workers to enjoy the benefits of market-driven growth, reports UNB.

"Its implementation will remove distortions which have characterised the country's labour market since its inception," the MCCI said.

The chamber viewed that labour is Bangladesh's most abundant resource which provides it comparative advantage. "For full utilisation of this comparative advantage, a flexible labour market is essential," it said.

Referring to the World Development Report 1995, the chamber said the report provides important lessons of government, employees and workers unanimously adopted it and committed to its implementation.

However, its implementation is yet to take place although various chambers

are reported locating the torn bodies of two children and 28 adults by late Thursday.

Among the crash victims were the Brazilian and Danish ambassadors to Nicaragua, officials said Thursday.

Salvadoran President Armando Calderon issued a statement expressing his sadness at the news of such a lamentable air disaster without precedent in El Salvador.

**Storm lashes
Sherpur**

SHERPUR, Aug 11: At least one hundred houses and shops, including a rice mill, were damaged and 10 people were injured when a cyclonic storm lashed some parts of the purashava here this evening, reports UNB.

Official sources said the storm swept over Tatalpur, Nauhata, Kandapara areas and Bazipur union in Sadar thana at about 6.30 pm and lasted for about five minutes.

A large number of trees and electric poles were uprooted in the high wind disrupting power supply. Several cattlehead were also killed in the storm.

Details of the casualties could not be known immediately.

Miladunnabi celebrated

Eid-e-Miladunnabi, marking the anniversary of birth and departure of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM), was celebrated all over the country on Thursday with due solemnity and religious fervour, reports UNB.

Processions, rallies, discussions, seminars and milad mahfil were arranged by different political, socio-cultural and religious organisations to mark the day.

Special prayers were offered in all mosques seeking divine blessings for peace, progress and prosperity of the nation as well as strong fraternity and unity of the Muslim Ummah.

The day was a public holiday.

National flag was hoisted atop all public and private buildings. Streets of the capital were decorated with national flags and flags inscribed with *Kalema Tajebla*. A milad mahfil was held at Bangabhaban. President Biswas, ministers, judges.

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Opposition out to create chaos : PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday made a blistering attack on the opposition parties, saying they are trying to push the country backward by creating indiscipline in national life, reports UNB.

"They do not want development