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# The Daily Star

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**NEWS BRIEFS**  
**Directives to assess loss in agriculture**

The government has directed concerned authorities to assess losses in agriculture due to floods which has affected new areas, specially in Chittagong division. An official handout yesterday said

**3 arrested from travel agency**

Police yesterday arrested three people from a travel agency in the city for cheating 52 youngmen. Police raided the travel agency, Air Mission International, and nabbed the broker of the agency, Mizanur Rahman and its employees Nazimuddin and Nazmul Abedin, reports UNB.

**OIC FMs meet Sept 11**

OIC foreign ministers at their upcoming commemorative meeting in Jeddah would dedicate a day to discuss the Bosnia situation, a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday. The meeting would begin in Jeddah on September 11 to commemorate the 25 years of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, he said, reports BSS.

**1 killed, five hurt in thunderbolt**

BARISAL, Aug 15: Moham-mad Jahangir, 20, rickshawpuller, was killed and five others were injured today by a thunderbolt at Kalizira Bazar under Jagua union of Barisal Sadar thana this morning, police said here. At least 12 persons were killed and 50 others were injured by thunderbolts in six southern districts of Barisal division during this season, reports BSS.

'Arms ban now stands null and void'

## Dhaka proposes emergency OIC summit on Bosnia

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called for an emergency summit of the OIC states to work out strategy for protecting independence and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina by deterring the Serb aggression, reports UNB. She put forward some specific proposals for providing the legitimate government of the Muslim republic with moral, material, humanitarian and military support enabling it to resist further acts of aggression. The Prime Minister sent the proposals to the heads of state or government of the

Muslim countries through letters delivered to the envoys of the OIC countries in Dhaka yesterday. Begum Zia in her letter expressed deep concern over the volatile situation in former Yugoslavia, particularly the massacre in the enclaves of Zepa and Srebrenica after the fall of safe zones to the Serb aggressors. Briefing newsmen about the contents of the proposals at the Foreign Office, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan said Bangladesh has proposed for development of well-armed six battalion troops from OIC states to the 'safe zone' of

Gorazde. "Bangladesh is ready to send one battalion," he said. Farooq Sobhan said the Prime Minister further suggested that the capability of the peacekeepers be strengthened in the peninsula countering the proposal for reduction of the troops there. He warned that short of at least well-equipped six battalion troops would invite fresh aggression. Replying to a question, the Foreign Secretary said Bangladesh would send even a regiment if asked for to protect the enclave. More than 1200 Bangladeshi

troops are now deployed in the UN designated safe zone of Bihac in Balkan. Five other OIC troops contributing countries to Bosnia are Pakistan, Malaysia, Turkey, Jordan and Egypt. The Foreign Secretary said the Prime Minister in her letter expressed the views in line with the OIC decisions that the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims "now stands null and void." The Prime Minister has stressed the need for making UNPROFOR more credible by extending its mandate for



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and her party colleagues placing wreath at the portrait of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Bhaban yesterday marking the 20th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. — Star photo

**150 missing as launch capsizes in Narail**

JHENIDAH, Aug 15: At least 150 people were missing after a launch capsized in the river Chitra, about 16 kilometre off Narail town, reports UNB. Police said ML 'Bashant' from Khulna went down the turbulent river at Raghunathpur in Kalia thana in the afternoon. The small motor launch with 150 passengers aboard was caught in a whirlpool and overturned by the strong current, witnesses said. None of the passengers could be traced, nor anybody rescued yet. Kalia thana sources said. Two cranes from Jessore Cantonment reached the spot. See Page 12 Col 5

**By-polls deferral not dictated, vows CEC**

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice AKM Sadeque has refuted the allegations that he was instructed by the government to defer the by-elections. "I can say on vow, though a man of my status should not do this, that I did not have any communication with anybody in the government regarding deferral of by-elections," he told this correspondent yesterday. Said the CEC, "It was done absolutely because of the flood situation. It was my own decision and nobody influenced me to make it". He also said he would announce the election schedule as soon as the flood situation improves. He said deferral of election by 90 more day did not

**Opposition announces programmes today**

The three major opposition political parties — the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami — will announce their identical agitation programmes from separate public meetings today to press dissolution of parliament and holding of general elections under a neutral caretaker government. Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will address the party meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue. Today's AL meeting is also part of its programme for observance of the 20th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The Jatiya Party will organise a public meeting at

**Hartal observed peacefully**

A half-day hartal called by the Awami League was observed across the country yesterday peacefully. The hartal was called to press the demand for repeal of Indemnity Ordinance that blocks the trial of those involved in the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members and other national leaders on August 15, 1975. The 6-hour shutdown was part of the 'National Mourning Day' programme of the AL to mark the 20th death anniversary of Sheikh Mujib. Ever since 1992, the party observes a hartal on the day. In the city, the hartal hours passed off peacefully barring stray incidents at

**Mourning day observed**

The 20th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed yesterday throughout the country amidst mourning for the architect of the independent state of Bangladesh. Awami League (AL) and several other political parties and socio-cultural organisations observed the day as 'National Mourning Day'. The AL also enforced a country-wide half-day 'hartal' demanding trial of the killers of

**Singapore trade team due today**

A 15-member business delegation from Singapore arrives in Dhaka today to explore trade and investment prospects in Bangladesh, particularly in the fisheries sector, reports UNB. The delegation, led by



Even the modern and resourceful ICDDR,B, popularly called the cholera hospital, is not quite coping up with a sudden spurt in diarrhoeal patients. During 12 hours preceding the taking of this picture yesterday, some 162 were admitted. The tally for yesterday and the day before stands at 462. The increase has been ascribed by the hospital's doctors to the effects of the current floods. — Star photo

**Khaleda cold-shoulders Ishtiaq formula**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is "inflexible" on the Opposition demand for a non-party caretaker government to conduct the next general elections, according to sources close to her. "Rather, she is willing to implement her earlier pledge to resign 30 days ahead of general elections, in the wake of the Opposition's planned agitation to press for their demand," the sources said. Begum Zia, also chairperson of the ruling BNP, expressed this sentiment while discussing the overall political situation with her senior party colleagues on Sunday. "She also cold-shouldered the latest formula suggested by noted lawyer Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed," an influential party leader who attended the meeting told The Daily Star yesterday. BNP sources, however, noted that the party high-command is yet to reach a consensus on ways to overcome the 19 month-long political impasse caused by the Opposition's demand for a caretaker government. The three major opposition parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami — are scheduled to announce identical agitation programmes today, including 'non-stop hartals and barricades'. Apparently worried by the Opposition's preparation for carrying out the planned agitations, the ruling party is learnt to have adopted a "wait and see" policy and are weighing several options to resolve the political crisis, including making fresh offer for talks with the Opposition.

**'Corporate tax rate should be below 20pc to attract FDI'**

The country's corporate tax rates should be brought down to a level not higher than 20 per cent from the current 35 per cent to 47.5 per cent level to attract more foreign direct investment (FDI), suggested a recent report. The report of the Policy Implementation and Analysis Group (PIAG), also advised not to extend the current tax holidays for industries set up after June 2000, the date up to which it has been ex-

**Contempt rule on 2 secys**

The High Court issued a rule Monday upon the present and a former secretary of the Works Ministry to show cause within two weeks why they should not be prosecuted for contempt of court, reports UNB. A division bench comprising Justice Naimuddin Ahmed and Justice Md Ruhul Amin issued the contempt rule upon Md Abdul Hakim, former Works Secretary and at present Defence Secretary, and Hasinur Rahman, the present Works Secretary. Another HC bench comprising Justice Qazi Shafiuddin and Justice Kazi

**Narsingdi ASP killed in road accident**

NARSINGDI, Aug 15: Additional Police Superintendent of the district died on the spot when the jeep he was travelling fell into a roadside ditch near Kendua Bridge on Danga road, about 14 kilometres off the town last night, reports UNB. Police and witnesses said ASP (Circle) Joinal Abedin along with two Inspectors of Sadar thana Ali Newaz and Farazi and five other constables in a drive arrested two accused — Abdur Rahman and Masud Mia — from village Hasanahata in Palash thana

**Bring the real culprits to book, says Fakri**

CHITTAGONG, Aug 15: "Still I am mentally upset though I started attending my office last Saturday," said millionaire businessman Taher Ali Fakri while talking to The Daily Star in an exclusive interview today. "Thanks to Almighty Allah that I am saved," said Fakri whose abduction from the port city recently raised alarm in the business community here. Fakri got a dramatic release on August 8 "my release from the hands of abductors without ransom is a miracle. Nobody believes that I was freed without money. It is the mercy of Almighty Allah," he said. "It is also surprising how they dared to kidnap me in such a way," he added. Fakri was kidnapped by three armed goons on August 5 from Nur Ahmed road in the city while he was on way to his office by his car at about 9:30 am. Narrating his hostage life Fakri said that he was kept in three separate places on three nights in neighbouring villages at Fatikchhari. He was shifted to those places by baby-taxi, Fakri said "during my stay there I could not take any other food except tea and biscuits due to my mental tension." "The armed goons brought for me rice, fish and other curries. Even, they offered me apples but I declined to take." I want justice. The real culprits should be brought to book and punished," he said categorically in reply to a question. He felt that measures be taken to stop recurrence of such incidents. Fakri, a trader and an investor in Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) said "pressmen did a lot for me and all response from various quarters came only due to their coverage regularly. If anybody touches me again I will inform the pressmen then and there," he said. Fakri, father of two sons and two daughters, has been living here for the last 45 years.

**Rajuk Commercial Plot Auction Notice**  
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 Applications on prescribed form to be obtained with terms and conditions from Janata Bank, Rajuk Branch, Dhaka on payment of Tk. 500/= (five hundred) only in cash for each set (non-refundable) and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estates) from the intending bidders up to 2.00 PM on 29.8.95.  
 The auction will be held on 30.8.95 in the Conference Room, 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10.00 AM.  
**Chairman**  
 Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha Dhaka  
 DFP-19765/13/8 G-1220  
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