

Floods inundate fresh areas

By Staff Correspondent

Fresh areas of the country have been inundated by flash floods caused by torrential rains and the onrush of water from upstream.

Large areas of Chapain-awabganj, Rajshahi, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Sylhet, Sunamganj and Moulvibazar have gone under water, with most rivers recording a sharp rise in the water levels as heavy downpour continued for the last few days.

According to the bulletin of the Flood Information Centre, the Brahmaputra and the Ganges continued to rise at all points while the rivers in the Meghna basin also recorded increases at several points.

Flood situation has improved in Cox's Bazar and Feni and road communication between Cox's Bazar and Chittagong was restored yesterday, after remaining suspended for the past two days.

According to official sources, flood water, also started receding from the 16 unions of Chokoria thana.

In Feni as the rain stopped, the flood water is receding fast. Flood water from 24 villages in Poursuram and Fulgazi thanas started to recede since Monday night.

Our Sylhet correspondent adds: The overall flood situation in Sylhet remained unchanged though water started receding from some areas while fresh areas were also inundated in two thanas yesterday. All the rivers were flowing at or above the danger levels.

Fresh areas in Baniabazar and Biswanath thanas have been inundated causing huge losses of standing crops.

Flood waters began receding from some villages of Gowainghat, Jaintapur and Companyganj thanas but the crops in these areas still remain under water.

Meanwhile, eight unions in Nakhla under Sherpur district were inundated within the last 24 hours, agency news reports said. The newly flooded unions are Gazirkhamar, Dhala, Bajithila, Pakuria in Sadar and Chandrakona Charaustadhar, Patakatha and Kurshahabadaoir in Nokhla. The flood water registered

fall in some areas of the district but officials said that standing crops in some 30,000 acres of land were under water.

So far, 35 unions out of 51 were affected by the renewed flood in five thanas.

BSS adds from Rajshahi: Low-lying areas of the district have been inundated following incessant rainfall during the last four days. Met office recorded 142mm rainfall during the period. Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi Abdul Malek said that char land of the river Padma have been submerged affecting thousands of people.

Standing crop on about ten thousand acres of land in low-lying areas have been submerged.

Momin Talukder

From Page 1
host of political colleagues and admirers to mourn his death.

The *namaz-e-janaza* for Talukder was held at the Dhanmondi Idgah Mosque after Asr prayers. Later he was laid to rest at the Banani graveyard.



Abdul Momin Talukder

Meanwhile, Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina in a condolence message said the nation had lost an honest and dedicated political personality in the death of Momin Talukder. She prayed for the peace of the departed soul and conveyed her heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Several Awami League leaders including Abdus Samad Azad, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Zillur Rahman, Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, Mohammad Nasim, Prof Abu Sayeed, S A M S Kibria, Nurul Islam Nahid, ATM Shamsul Hoq attended the *namaz-e-janaza*.



Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama bows before the tomb of unknown soldiers killed in the World War II in Tokyo yesterday. He apologized for his country's colonial rule and aggression against Asian nations during the war. — AFP/UNB photo

Fish Fortnight '95 begins today

The Fish Fortnight '95 begins today with a nationwide campaign to develop fish resources that currently account for 12 per cent of the country's export earning, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the Fish Fortnight '95 at a function at the auditorium of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC).

She will also distribute awards among nine people and institutions for their outstanding contribution to the fisheries sector.

Briefing newsmen at the Matshya Bhaban auditorium, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman said elaborate programmes have been drawn up to observe the fortnight. The programmes include seminar, discussion, documentary film show, fish exhibition and procession.

Body recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Police recovered body of a teenage girl from a lake near Mirpur Zoo in the city yesterday.

Murayama apologises for colonial rule, aggression

TOKYO, Aug 15: Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama expressed deep remorse and offered his "heartfelt apology" today for the "colonial rule and aggression" pursued by Japan until its surrender 50 years ago, reports AFP.

"During a certain period in the not too distant past, Japan, following a mistaken national policy, advanced along the road to war, only to ensure the Japanese people in a fateful crisis and, through its colonial rule and aggression, cause tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly those of Asian nations, he told a news conference.

"In the hope that no such mistake be made in the future, I regard, in a spirit of humility, these irrefutable facts of history and express here once again my feelings of deep remorse and state my heartfelt apology, he said.

Murayama was speaking at a news conference marking the 50th anniversary of Japan's surrender in World War II.

Question paper leakage: Physics admission test cancelled at JU

By JU Correspondent

The Jahangirnagar University authorities cancelled a part of the written admission tests for the 1994-95 session in the Department of Physics Monday following leakage of question papers, university officials said yesterday.

The JU central admission committee took the decision that the written test held on June 17 on the question-set titled "Madam Curie" would be cancelled as a probe body formed to investigate the question leakage confirmed the earlier allegation of leakage, according to the officials.

The admission committee decided that the fresh written test of the 642 examinees who appeared at the test earlier on the question-set titled "Curie" would be held on September 2.

The written tests under the 'Ka' unit (Science Faculty) were held on June 17, 18 and 19.

The roll numbers of the students who are scheduled to re-appear at the test will be published in the national dailies, the officials said.

The central admission committee also decided that the entire results of the written tests held under three Faculties and one Institute will be published together on September 16.

Proposal to abolish 21 cadre services absurd: Prokrichi

An emergency meeting of the Prokrichi-BCS Central Action Council held in the city yesterday urged the government not to implement any proposal to rescind the 21 cadre services, reports BSS.

Chaired by Dr MA Majed, the meeting urged the government to prevent a section of bureaucrats from doing what it said irresponsible and provocative activities.

The meeting quoted a newspaper report which said a four-member committee headed by an additional secretary had submitted a report to the government recommending the dissolution of 21 cadre services.

Mourning day

From Page 1

The first president of the independent Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujib was assassinated in a military putsch on August 15, 1975 at his Dhanmondi residence.

Awami League's programme of the day included hoisting of the National Flag and party flag at half-mast and also of black flags at party offices, wearing of 'black badges', *quran khwani*, *milad mahfil*, distribution of food among the poor, placing wreaths at Bangabandhu's portrait, visiting and offering 'fateha' at the graves of those killed in the army coup.

Arches with black banners demanding repeal of the Indemnity Act that bars trial of Mujib's killers were erected in different parts of the capital. Mujib's historic speech of March 7, 1971, was also played over loudspeakers.

In the capital, the Bangabandhu Bhaban, (Mujib's residence — now turned into a museum) was the centre of all programmes. Thousands of mourners, wearing black badges, visited the Bangabandhu Bhavan.

AL chief Sheikh Hasina, elder daughter of Sheikh Mujib, wearing a white saree and a black badge was there to meet the mourners. She placed wreaths at Bangabandhu's portrait at 12-31 pm, followed by leaders of other political, social, cultural, and professional bodies.

A *milad mahfil* was held at 12.45 pm. Sheikh Hasina and other AL leaders also visited the Banani graveyard and offered *fateha* there at 1 pm.

The AL chief opened a blood donation programme and an art exhibition on the life of Bangabandhu organised by the students of Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University.

The Bangabandhu Parishad, an organisation of pro-AL intellectuals and professionals brought out a mourning procession in the afternoon from Suhrawardy Udyan which ended at the Bangabandhu Bhaban. Prior to the procession, a rally was held which was addressed by among others, Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif, Dr SA Malek, Advocate Obaid Faruq, Prof Shahadat Ali, Dr Arefin Siddique, Dr Durgadas Battacharya and Dr Abdul Mannan Chowdhury.

Gano Forum organised a discussion meeting at its office premise on the occasion. Party leader Pankaj Battacharya, Mostafa Mohsin Montu, Shaded Ali, Sagor Anwar and Harunur Rashid addressed the meeting presided over by advocate Zahurul Islam.

150 missing

From Page 1

to conduct rescue work. The rescue team spotted the sunken launch but failed to trace anyone.

Earlier BSS said, about 50 persons were feared drowned in the launch capsizing.

The Midnight File

Self-rule accord: Arafat faces opposition within PLO

TUNIS, Aug 15: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat began his case before the PLO for a partial self-rule accord with Israel in the face of strong opposition within the organisation's leadership, PLO sources said today. Eight of the 18 members of the PLO's executive committee stayed away from an emergency meeting in the Tunisian capital called by Arafat to approve the accords on extending Palestinian self-rule over the West Bank, reports AFP.

Chinese Vice FM in city

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tang Xiaozun arrived in Dhaka last night on a three-day visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

She was received at the airport by Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan.

Tang will hold talks with the Foreign Secretary at state guest house Meghna today covering bilateral matters, regional and international issues of common concern.

During his stay here, the Chinese minister will call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. He will also call on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz.

OMS of rice from today

The government has decided to launch open market sale (OMS) of rice from today throughout the country, reports BSS.

Open sale of rice would start initially in 60 bazars of Dhaka city and in all the thanas of the country.

Corporate tax rate

From Page 1
chairman of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), Dr Akber Ali Khan said that as he had not yet received the report, so he was not in a position to comment on it.

The report, however, mentioned that the NBR had been consulted.

Saying that the level of tax compliance and enforcement is very low and discriminatory against foreign investors, the report said "placed in such a situation, Bangladesh can offer higher fiscal incentives, basically in the form of a lower tax rate, as an offset to its disadvantages."

Based on its findings from a survey, the report observed that corporate firms in Bangladesh report "too little" of their taxable profits and thus "go without paying" much corporate tax.

Of the evidence on the tax behavior of the companies which enjoy the tax holiday benefit, it found that the income tax holiday has led to further erosion of the tax base by "encouraging" tax avoidance behavior when the tax holiday is over.

According to the report, the tax holiday benefit have also been abused, among

Contempt rule

From Page 1
ATM Monwaruddin had earlier issued a rule on August 23 last year, directing the secretary and three others of the Ministry of Works to show cause as to why they shouldn't be instructed to implement judgement of the Court of Settlement asking them to release the property of petitioner Nayeema Khatun from the abandoned property list and hand over the vacant possession of the same to the petitioner.

The same court, in issuing the rule, further directed the respondents to hand over vacant possession within three months from the date.

The petitioner, Nayeema Khatun, filed the contempt petition alleging inter alia that Abdul Hakim received the directive of the HC but did not comply with the order.

Thereafter, she made several representations and ultimately served a legal notice upon Abdul Hakim for compliance of the mandate of the High Court.

In the meantime, on March 10, Hasinur Rahman joined as Works Secretary while Abdul Hakim was transferred to the Ministry of Defence.

On March 15, the petitioner served another legal notice to the incumbent Works Secretary to comply with the mandate by March 19, 1995.

But the new secretary also did not comply with and ultimately the petitioner added the present secretary and obtained rule against both for disobeying the court order.

Advocate M Saleem Ullah appeared for the petitioner.

By-elections deferral

From Page 1
Opposition MPs for 90 consecutive sitting days without leave of the House, was to be held by September 17. Two seats were vacated due to deaths of two ruling party MPs.

The Election Commissioner deferred the by-elections upto December 17 on ground of natural calamity caused by recent floods. In this regard, the CEC invoked "the act of God" provision of the Constitution.

Article 123 (4) of the Constitution stipulates that election to fill the seat of a Member of Parliament which falls vacant otherwise than by reason of the dissolution of parliament shall be held within 90 days of the occurrence of the vacancy, provided that in a case where, in the opinion of the Chief Election Commissioner, it is not possible for reasons of an act of God to hold such election within the period specified in this clause, such shall

be held within 90 days following next after the last day of such period.

The EC earlier asked 42 deputy commissioners (DCs) to inform the commission of flood situation in their districts.

He denied a press report that most of the DCs informed the EC that flood situation in their districts was under control. "You can go round and see whether floods are there or not."

Sources said the EC, in deferring the by-elections, also considered threat by the Opposition to resist any move to hold such elections.

Announcing schedule of the by-elections, the EC cannot take the risk of untoward incidents breaking out throughout the country, said an EC official on condition of anonymity.

The EC might not have gone for by-elections if there was any understanding between the government and the Opposition, said the official.

Dhaka for OIC summit

From Page 1

She also appealed to financial institutions of the Muslim countries, including the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) to extend help to the Bosnian Muslims as well as the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Farooq Sobhan said the Foreign Ministers of the OIC countries, scheduled to meet in Jeddah on September 11 to observe the 25th founding anniversary of the OIC, will also discuss how to help the legitimate Bosnian government to resist the Serb aggression. The Bangladesh Foreign Minister has been specially invited to attend the meeting.

Alleged smuggler shot dead

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 15: An unidentified person suspected to be an Indian national was shot dead by the BDR personnel this morning when he was smuggling goods across the border near Padma Shakra area under Satkhira Sadar thana.

The BDR personnel challenged the smuggler who was carrying 104 meters of polyester and shot him dead when he attempted to flee.

1000 phone lines out of order in city

By Staff Correspondent

About 1,000 telephone lines have gone out of order in the city due to heavy rainfall in the last few days, a Telegraph & Telephone Board (T&T) press release said yesterday.

Telephones in Motijheel, Jatrahari, Dholapari and Jurain areas under central exchange have gone out of service temporarily as 1,300 pairs of underground cables developed faults in the last few days.

T&T engineers are working on an emergency basis to restore the lines within two days, the press release added.

Patuakhali poura chairman held

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 15: Police arrested Sultan Ahmed Mridha, chairman, Patuakhali pourasava last night in connection with yesterday's clash in Patuakhali town between the AL and the BNP supporters.

Mridha was arrested under Special Power Act. He was produced in the magistrate court of Patuakhali this morning. The court rejected his bail prayer and sent him to jail.

Narsingdi ASP

From Page 1

and handed over them to the police of Panchdona outpost on Dhaka-Sylhet highway.

The ASP on his way to arrest two other accused met the accident near the Kendua bridge as his jeep fell into the ditch.

Hartal observed

From Page 1

In Savar, as many as 15 people were injured and four minibuses were damaged during a clash between pro-hartal pickets and transport workers at about 10 am.

In Tongi, a city suburb, about 200 mills, however, operated normally.

According to our Narayan-ganj Correspondent, a complete hartal was observed in the town.

District unit of Awami League and its front organisations jointly organised *qurankhwani*, *milad mahfil*, destitute feeding and blood donation programmes to mark the death anniversary of Sheikh Mujib.

Our Staff Correspondent in Chittagong adds: A six-hour hartal was observed here peacefully barring some stray incidents.

Some activists attacked a garments factory at Nasirabad ransacking it and damaging its window panes, police and witnesses said.

However, most of the vehicles including rickshaws stayed off the roads and shops and offices remained closed during hartal period.

In Chittagong port, handling of cargo was carried out as usual and only the delivery to and outside was suspended, officials said.

To mark the death anniversary of Bangabandhu, rallies, processions, discussion meetings, *milad mahfils* and *qurankhwani* were held at various places of the city.

Reports from Khulna said the hartal was observed in the city without any untoward incident. Awami League workers brought out small processions and held meetings during hartal hours.

Party's front organisations also organised *milad mahfil*.



Shahbagh area in the city during hartal hours yesterday. — Star photo

RAW COTTON FOR SALE
U. S. & Pakistan origin 1³² and 1¹⁶
staple Raw Cotton Available from Ready stock.
Please contact: **Khaled**
Phone: 865767-70

Editor: Mahfuz Anam
Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kairali, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3267, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.