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 Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Sylhet, Sunamgani 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 Pourshuram 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 Bianibaza and Biswanath thanas have been inundated causing huge losses of standing crops.

Flood waters began receding from some villages of Gowainghat, Jaintapur and Companygani 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 Chandrokona Charaustadhar Patakatha and Kurshahabadaoir in Nokhla.

The flood water registered By-elections deferral

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

Fish Fortnight

'95 begins today

begins today with a nation-

wide campaign to develop

fish resources that currently

account for 12 per cent of

the country's export earning.

Khaleda Zia will inaugurate

the Fish Fortnight '95 at a

function at the auditorium of

the Bangladesh Agricultural

awards among nine people

and institutions for their out-

standing contribution to the

Matshya Bhaban auditorium.

Fisheries and Livestock

Minister Abdullah Al Noman

said elaborate programmes

have been drawn up to ob-

serve the fortnight. The pro-

grammes include seminar.

discussion, documentary film

show, fish exhibition and

Body recovered

By Staff Correspondent

teenaged girl from a lake

near Mirpur Zoo in the city

out of order

Jatrabari, Dholaipar and

Jurain areas under central

exchange have gone out of

service temporarily as 1,300

pairs of underground cables

developed faults in the last

ing on an emergency basis to

restore the lines within two

days, the press release add-

Patuakhali poura

chairman held

From Staff Correspondent

arrested Sultan Ahmed

Mridha, chairman, Patuakhali

paurasava last night in con-

nection with yesterday's

clash in Patuakhali town be-

tween the AL and the BNP

der Special Power Act. He

was produced in the magis-

trate court of Patuakhali this

morning. The court rejected

his bail prayer and sent him

Narsingdi ASP

From Page 1

and handed over them to the

police of Panchdona outpost

rest two other accused met

the accident near the Kendua

bridge as his jeep fell into

The ASP on his way to ar-

on Dhaka-Sylhet highway.

Mridha was arrested un-

supporters.

the ditch.

BARISAL, Aug 15: Police

T&T engineers are work-

few days.

Police recovered body of a

She will also distribute

Briefing newsmen at the

Research Council (BARC).

Prime Minister Begum

reports UNB.

fisheries sector.

procession.

vesterday.

The Fish Fortnight '95

From Page 1

host of political colleagues and admirers to mourn his

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



Abdul Momin Talükder

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.

colonial rule and aggression against Asian nations during the war. - AFP/UNB photo 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.

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

"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.

Reuter adds: Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said his apology today for Japan's World War II actions does not mean his country will consider demands for compensation.

terms of those agreements,"

Biman

their flight to Calcutta.

Meanwhile, the Indian Airlines yesterday announced cancellation of its flights from Calcutta to Dhaka and Dhaka to Calcutta - flights IC-723 and IC-724 respectively — today.

"All individual compensa tion has been dealt with in the San Francisco peace treaty and other bilateral treaties," Murayama told a news conference after delivering a speech in which the word "apology" was used for the first time by a Japanese Prime Minister in relation to World War II. "We have faithfully met the

Murayama said.

From Page 1

The flights have been cancelled because of a 24-hour 'Bangla Bandh' today.



Shahbagh area in the city during hartal hours yesterday.

- Star photo

be held within 90 days fol-From Page Opposition MPs for 90 conof such period. The EC earlier asked 42

secutive 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

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 specifled in this clause, such shall

lowing next after the last day

deputy commissioners (DCs) to inform the commission of flood situation in their dis-

He denied a press report that most of the DCs informed the EC that flood sit uation 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 breakingout 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 offi-

Dhaka for OIC summit

From Page 1

defending safe areas and suggested Soth ground and air support for the UN peacekeepers in the trouble-torn

The Foreign Secretary referred to the setting up of 'Bosnian Muslim Solidarity Fund' and hoped that the people from all walks of life would contribute generously to helping the Bosnian Muslims.

The Prime Minister has already announced that she would donate her one month's salary to the fund set up at a Cabinet meeting on Monday.

The Foreign Secretary informed that officials of his Ministry had decided to contribute their one day's salary to the fund.

He said fund will also be raised through issuing postal stamp and match between the two arch rivals in the football arena in Bangladesh - Mohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Krira

Chakra. The PM in her letter also urged the OIC countries to set up a suitable 'home' for the Bosnian orphans, the FS

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 Hartal observed From Page 1

in city In Savar, as many as 15

people were injured and four By Staff Correspondent minibuses were damaged during a clash between pro-About 1,000 telephone hartal pickets and transport lines have gone out of order workers at about 10 am. in the city due to heavy rain-In Tongi, a city suburb, fall in the last few days, a

about 200 mills, however, Telegraph & Telephone operated normally. Board (T&T) press release According to our Narayansaid vesterday. Telephones in Motijheel

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 sixhour 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 ve-

hicles including rickshaws stayed off the roads and shops and offices remained closed during hartal period In Chittagong port, han-

dling of cargo was carried out as usual and only the delivery to and outside was suspended, officials said. To mark the death an-

niversary of Bangabandhu, rallies, processions, discussion meetings, milad mahfils and Qurankhani 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 matifil,

Qurankhwani and feeding of the destitute at different

parts of the city. In Rajshahi, the hartal was observed peacefully barring one incident at Sadurmor in the city where a sub-assistant engineer of Rajshahi University was attacked for riding on a bicycle.

At Meherpur, at least six people were wounded when some activists of Freedom Party attacked a mourning procession of Awami League at Gangni thana during the hartal.

UNB adds: Train services were almost normal across the country. There were, however, some disruptions on Dhaka-Mymensingh, Dhaka-Chittagong. Khulna-Syedpur, Goalanda-Khulna and Lalmonirhat routes.

Schoolboy beaten to death in hostel From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 15: A stu-

dent of class Ten of Khulna Public School and College was beaten to death in a room of Elahi Baksh hostel at Basupara road today allegedly by his two roommates. The schoolboy Sheikh

Mohammed Turan, 14, was having strained relations with hts roommates since last few months over playing at cards in the room during study time, according to police. Turan's roommates are

absconding.

150 missing

From Page 1

to conduct rescue work. The rescue team spotted the sunken launch but failed to Montu. Shahed Ali. Sagir trace anyone.

persons were feared drowned in the launch capsize.

Question paper leakage: Physics admission test cancelled at JU

By JU Correspondent The Jahangirnagar Uni versity 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 questionset 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

Chaired by Dr MA Majed the meeting urged the gov ernment 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

Bangabandhu.

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 Bangabandhu's portrait at 12-31 pm, followed by leaders o 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

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

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 Farug. 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 Battacharva. Mostafa Mohsin Anwar and Harunur Rashid Earlier BSS said, about 50 addressed the meeting presided over by advocate Zahirul Islam.

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 Ziaxuan arrived in Dhaka last night on a three-day visit to Bangladesh. reports UNB.

She was received at the airport by Foreign Secretary Faroog 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.

Ctg-Cox's Bazar road link restored

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 15: The road communications between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar has been restored this morning when water has receded from the road, official sources said, reports BSS.

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 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 Naveema 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 ul-

timately 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 But the new secretary also did not comply with and ultimately the petitioner added the present secretary and ob-

disobeying the court order. Advocate M Saleem Ullah appeared for the petitioner.

others, by transferring profits from taxable units to other units of the same group, set-

ting up new units and closing

down old units that have be-

"There is little evidence

come taxable.

that lends support to any claim that the tax holiday system is serving its mandated purpose of stimulating do-

mestic and foreign industrial investment," argued the report adding, it "rather works as a disincentive for foreign investors since the existing system in practice differentiates against them adversely. Though advocating for complete abolition of tax holiday for entirely locally-

> owned firms, it, however, advised not to extend the limit up to which this has been extended in the current year's It has suggested to introducing a new tax holiday only for foreign investment enter-

prises including joint-venture firms upto the year 2005. In place of the tax holiday benefit, it has suggested several measures, including to provide accelerated depreciation allowances, which are at present available as an op-

tion instead of the tax holi-As regards of revenue implications of proposed lowering of the corporate tax rate it estimated that the revenue loss on account of the proposals on corporate tax would be within roughly five per cent of total income tax rev-

enue and within 0.7 per cent of total tax revenue. "The possible short-term revenue loss due to these reforms is small, compared to the projected revenue losses associated with tax reforms or reductions effected by the last and this year's budgets,"

claimed the report. Hoping that abolition of tax holiday is likely to lessen the scale of tax evasion, it felt that to address the problem "satisfactorily" would require "genuine" improvement in

tax administration. Opposition

From Page 1 Shapla Chattar in Motjiheel. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Moudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar Ahmed. Shah Moazzem Hossain and Anwar Hossain Manju will address.

The Jamaat-e-Islami will hold its meeting at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram

Trade team From Page 1

fisheries and seafood The SIAS will also sponsor a permanent display of Bangladesh seafood in Singapore,

Frozen food exporters here said the proposed display would help promote sales and export of frozen shrimp and fish from Bangladesh to the Asia-Pacific market as well as in Europe.

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tained rule against both for

to be named Bangladesh Seafood Showcase