The Midnight Fife

Delhi sends top emissary

to Kashmir

a top emissary to Kashmir in a bid to pave the way for the

release of four westerners held by Muslim separatists since

last month, official sources said. V K Jain, Secretary in the

federal Home Ministry, arrived in Srinagar with a 'special

brief to help the Kashmir administration in securing the

release of the four western tourists, a top government

SRINAGAR, Aug 16: The Indian government today sent

## Dhaka very poorly placed in human, women dev indexes'

Bangladesh ranks 146th countries excepting the among 174 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI) of the UNDP's World Development Report 1995.

indicating that the country has made little progress in human development in the past one year.

The country also ranks in a very poor position in two other new scales measuring opportunities existing for women and development of their capabilities. Dr Selim Jahan, one of the four writers of the UNDP Report, said in an interview with The Daily Star yesterday.

The report is due to be released worldwide tomor-

"Women around the world. both in developed and developing countries, still get less opportunity than men at all levels and they have a long way to improve their capabilities." Jahan summarised the report, which focuses on gender issues this year.

The report will press policy-makers of different nations to recast their plans under the light of gender disparity, Jahan noted.

Prepared in context of the upcoming Beijing Women's Conference, the report also adds two new scales to measure development of different nations, which are genderrelated development index (GDI) and gender empowerment measure (GEM)." These add new dimensions to the existing HDI of the (1995) Report." Selim Jahan said.

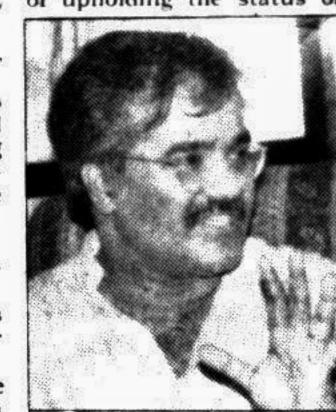
In GDI, which focuses on life expectancy, adult literacy, women's income and other areas. Bangladesh stands at the 108th position among 130 countries and in GEM, which analyse women's status in politics, administration and similar spheres, the country holds the 80th position among 116 countries.

"According to both of these scales, all developed By Sharier Khan

Scandinavian ones, do not provide equal opportunities to women." Selim Jahan, a former teacher at the Economics Department of the Dhaka University. pointed out.

"Sweden appeared at the top of the list in providing equal opportunity to women. But countries like the US or France, which enjoy top positions in the HDI, do not provide much equal opportunity to women," he noted.

It appeared from both the GDI and GEM indication, that Afghanistan was world's worse country from the point of upholding the status of



Selim Jahan

"The report has a special focus on women but it also has, for the first time in any UN document, a gender approach to development, Selim Jahan said. "From this approach we found that both men and women have lesser opportunities to jobs, education, health etc in the Sub-Saharan countries like Ethiopia or Sudan," Jahan

This approach also emphasises that men should no longer be a reference point for women's development. Women should be treated as human beings and that should be their reference point," he elaborated quoting

line from the report "development if not engendered, will be endangered."

According to the report's estimate, 50 per cent of the world's annual gross national product (GNP) of US 22 trillion dollar derives from unaccounted domestic activities of women.

So far, GNPs of different countries do not include domestic works, which are basically carried out by women. "But one has to admit that because a mother or wife cooks for their men back at home, men can spend much of their time working outside - which is included in the GNPs," Selim argued.

"There should be strong policy implication of this 50 per cent GNP deriving from women. Firstly, divorce or matrimony laws should be viewed in this light. Secondly, women's access to resources and thirdly women's access to credit and investment should also be reviewed," he opined.

"As these issues have been raised in this report. I believe NGOs attending the Beijing Conference would pick up the gender perspeclive and proceed with their activities around the world and increase the global awareness," Jahan described the implications.

"We have already discussed with different governments about including at least 30 per cent women in all sectors and the governments took it seriously," he

"We have also proposed formation of a World Women Watch body to monitor development of women and forma tion of a UN body entirely dedicated to women issues, he pointed out.

The four-member team to prepare this report was headed by former finance minister of Pakistan, Dr Mahbubul Haq.

Jatıya Party Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju addressing a public meeting at the Shapla Chattar in the city yesterday. — Star photo

### Hasina: Polls schedule

From Page 1

The AL chief termed the Speaker and the Chief Election Commissioner "Puppets of the government".

The rally held in observance of the 20th death anniversary of Bangabandhu was also addressed by, among others, central leaders of the party including Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Zohra Tajuddin, Amir Hossain Amu. Tofael Ahmed, Abdur Razzak and Abdul Jalil.

Hasina recalled in an emotion chocked voice, the killing of Bangabandhu and his family members on August 15, 1975, and said that the defeated forces of the liberation war killed the great leader.

"After the killings, the killers had been protected by framing the Indemnity Ordinance," Hasina noted.

"Article 31 of the Constitution ensures the right of the people to seek the protection of law. Yet, can you tell me, why cannot I resort to law asking for the trial of my father's killers?" she said, adding, "I want justice. If there was rule of law, no killer could openly say that he had killed my father!" Hasina said that after a

Bangladesh

replacing

contingent

in Haiti

Bangladesh is replacing its

.050 member strong mili-

tary contingent in the United

Nations Mission in Haiti

(UNMIH) with a new contin-

gent of 850 armed forces

personnel, an ISPR press re-

lease said in city yesterday.

The new contingent com-

prises 53 army officers and

763 soldiers, three naval offi-

three BAF officers and 14

Jamaat

From Page 1

where he also announced

Jamaat's agitation progra-

mme. The programme

identical to those of Awami

League and Jatiya Party, in-

cludes a 32-hour hartal from

6 am on September 2 and

countrywide demonstrations

Secretary also criticised the

government for its alleged

The Jamaat General

on August 26.

of law.

reports BSS.

airmen.

long struggle, democracy was rescued from the clutches of autocrats and a parliamentary system was established for further growth of democ-

"Yet, sadly, we found Parliament as an ineffective place to practise democracy. We have proposed a bill to reform the judiciary, it was put down," Hasina said.

Before the last elections the Prime Minister had promised to repeal the Indemnity Ordinance. Accordingly. Mohammad Nasim placed a bill. But it never saw day light. Begum Zia never kept her promises," Hasina

Begum Zia's slogan for dal-bhat' has proved to be a failure. She had promised to keep the price of rice at Tk 10 per kg during the BNP rule but it has already shot up to Tk 14 to Tk 22, the AL chief said.

She alleged that the BNP MPs were 'ni ilisting fake voters in the respective constituencies.

"This government has lost the legitimacy of staying in power. They are still in power by-passing the constitution just to continue their

corruption," Hasina said.

#### JP rally From Page 1

yesterday. The BNP now remains in the power violating the

Constitution, he said. The Parliament as well as the government lost its legitimacy with the resignation of 147 Opposition MPs. he added. Announcing party pro-

grammes which include a 24hour hartal on September 2 and 8-hour hartal on September 3, he said the movement would continue until the government dissolved the "ineffective" Parliament and handed over power to a neutral caretaker administration for holding general elections.

Chaired by city JP president Col (retd) Abdul Malek, the meeting was also addressed by, among others, Moudud Ahmed, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hossain, party Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju, Abul Hasnat and leaders of different front organi-

#### Zia Avenue opens in Bamako

Shaheed Ziaur Rahman avenue has been formally inaugurated in Bamako on Tuesday amidst thunderous applause by Mir Shawkat Ali, Minister for Labour and Manpower of Bangladesh, according to a message received here yesterday, reports BSS.

Minister's for Interior. Urbanisation and Habitat and Public Works of Mali, representatives of the President of Mali, Governor of Bamako, Bangladesh ambassador to Mali Abdul Quayyum, members of diplomatic corps and high-level civil and military officials as well as word commissioners of Bamako City Corporation were present during the ceremony.

#### Janmashtami

From Page 1

Sheikh Hasina conveyed their greetings to the Hindu community and wished a happy Janmashtami. President Biswas said that

Bangladesh has set an example of communal harmony through sincere cooperation of all sections of people. Begum Khaleda Zia ex-

tended her sincere greet ings, and congratulations to the Hindu community and said Bangladesh is a land of communal harmony.

#### Students gherao

From Page 1 press conference later at a

local community centre announced that they would form a 'humanchain' on August 19 and launched fresh programmes including hunger strike for reopening of the university. The press conference was

addressed by among others, convenor of the Parishad Mohammad Hanif, joint convenor Faisal Khaled, Saleh Hasan, Nazrul Islam and S M Jahangir among others.

From Page 1

At the Prime Minister's office, he also filled up the primary membership form of the BNP.

"I realised through my long experience in the Awami League that there is no scope in this party for serving the cause of Islam, Maijbhandari said while explaining the cause of his join-

ing the BNP. He alleged that the Awami League is not sincère about religious activities. In this context, he mentioned that at a party meeting he was not allowed to speak on the

Maijbhandari said neither

# Jalmahal lease

cent of the total export-in-

Terming the fisheries sector a large and potential one, she said the government has taken up some effective measures for preservation and development of fisheries resources. The existing laws relating

source said, reports AFP.

to the preservation of fisheries resources have been updated while long-term leasing system of the government waterbodies introduced, she told the function, listing the measures taken for development of the sec-

Pointing at the government's recognition of the fisheries, including shrimp culture, as industry, Begum Zia said credit facilities were being provided to the sector to help its smooth growth.

The government has also made import of equipment chemicals and fish feed dutyfree. It has also decided to al lot waterbodies under flood control and irrigation projects to cooperative societies and unemployed youths, she said.

Because of these steps rapid growth has been taking place in the fisheries sector." the Prime Minister said mentioning the effects of the measures that shot up growth in the sector to 8.5 per cent in 1994-95 from 2.5 per cent in 1989-90. The country earned Tk

1300 crore by exporting fish while the production target was 12 lakh tons in 1994-95. Export income from fish was

#### Woman murdered From Page 1

was dumped in Chankharpul

area at dawn.

Some sources said that Momtaz was a street girl who used to roam around Ramna and Suhrawardy Uddyan ar-

Kotwali police picked up one person for questioning in this connection.

woman, police said. A case was filed with Ramna police in this connection.

received head injuries in a clash at Gulshan, died yesTk 478.70 crore while the production was 8.40 lakh tons in 1989-90, she said.

The Prime Minister also stressed the need for ensuring optimum utilisation of the country's water resources to meet the nutritional and other socio-economic requirements of the vast popu-

We have to go ahead with the slogan where there is water, fish will grow there."

But, she noted with great regret, the water crisis caused by the Farakka barrage over the Ganges has been affecting adversely the national economy, particularly the fisheries and agricultural resources.

"We are working with firm determination to realise our legitimate share of the water." Begum Zia said.

Describing the observance of Fish Fortnight and Fish Fair, introduced by the present government, she said it creates a momentum in pisciculture and shrimp culture in the country. Later, the Prime Minister

distributed Fish Fortnight Awards, introduced this year, among six institutions and three individuals for their outstanding contribution in fisheries extension and development.

#### BNP founding From Page 1

tral rally at 'Democracy

Square' (Gulistan Chattar) at 3.00 pm which will be followed by a colourful procession. Broadcasting of the speeches of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman over laud-speakers and offering fateha and munajat and placing of wreaths at the mazar of Shaheed President Zia at 9-00 am, are the other highlights of the programme.

Besides, the meeting decided to organise meetings. rallies and processions from August 20 in all thanas and wards of the city to make the September one central rally and procession a success.

The local leaders, parliament members and respective ministers in charge of various districts have been requested to organise massive programmes including meetings, rallies and processions to celebrate the founding anniversary of the party.

### Initiative reflects concern

From Page 1 Dhaka's call for a summit

from simple. The complex and intricate pattern of interests and counter interests of US. Russia, France. Germany, UK etc. and their bilateral problems are working to vitiate any sincere initiative in favour of the Bosnian Muslims. Far more powerful countries than Bangladesh have failed before With this initiative Bangladesh comes out into have to be stopped. There is also a new mood of defiance

the forefront of the diplomatic maneuvers on this matter. We expect that immediate and a well concerted follow up move will now be put into place. The skills of our diplomats, and of the foreign ministry as a whole, will be put to test. For them to succeed, they must be given the full backing of our political leadership, especially of the PM, and her cabinet. Having made the move, they must go all out to make it successful. Here, some words of cau-

tion needs to be recorded. A foreign policy initiative is of a COUNTRY and NOT of a GOVERNMENT. Both the ruling party and the opposition must remember it. If the BNP tries to use it to gain in domestic politics, then the Bosnia initiative will not get the whole-hearted backing of the entire nation. The Opposition, on its part, must see the prestige and honour that Bangladesh will get if this initiative succeeds, and thus give this move its full backing.

Our support for the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina is not simply based on the fact of common religion, but more importantly because of our commitment to international principles and moral values of our civilization. Is it too much to ask that we have a national consensus on this issue at least. Or will the Opposition oppose it, just because the government has proposed it?

### Ershad, 4 co-accused From Page 1

the defence all the relevant documents like FIR,

chargesheet, confessional

statements and other papers. Ershad's chief counsel Mahbubur Rahman pleaded for making the reports of the Judicial Enquiry Commission, Army Enquiry Commission and proceedings of General Court Martial of 1981 held in connection with the abortive coup, killing of President Zia and murder of Manzur available to the defence. He men tioned that the Judicial

Enquiry Commission was headed by Justice Ruhul Islam and, of which, Chief Justice ATM Afzal was a member. since the report of the com-

mission was not a secret one. the evidences recorded in it should be available to the defence as the subject matter of the present case. And the proceedings of

the General Court Martial, including the evidences recorded, were also covered by the present case, he further said. Abdur Razzak Khan, public

prosecutor, opposed the defence contention and said these were classified documents and hence cannot be placed before the court. In "the commission reports, there are affairs of the state which are neither to be corroborated nor contested," he

The judge rejected Mahbubur Rahman's plea for making available the reports of different commissions and the court martial. He. however, ordered prosecution to provide defence with other documents save statement

### Sino—Bangla

From Page 1

some vital matters and now the concluding session will be held this afternoon.

Sobhan led a 10-member Bangladesh team to the talks being held in the state guest house Meghna.

Foreign Minister Tang Zia-

Foreign Secretary Farooq

xuan yesterday met Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and praised her government's endeavour towards empowerment of women, During the meeting at the PM's office, he said the Chinese government felt that

Begum Zia's presence at the

next UN Conference on

Women in Beijing would en-

hance its importance.

Major (retd) Emdad, who remained unrepresented by a lawyer yesterday, appealed to the court to allow him to engage Mahbubur Rahman as his counsel, as four lawyers he empowered earlier failed to turn in to plead his case The Judge allowed him to engage Rahman subject to consultation with the lawyers

earlier engaged. Emdad further stated that he had been confined in a solitary cell for the last five and half months and was not allowed to see anyone, even a

The Judge ordered that the jail and other relevant au-Rahman contended that thorities to ensure that all the accused persons receives the treatment they deserve and also see that each of them could meet with their near relations and a lawyer

> before the trial date. At one stage of the proceedings, Mahbubur Rahman informed that Begum Raushan Ershad accompanied by some lawyers of the principal accused were waiting downstairs and pleaded for them to be allowed to come

to the court. The Judge did not entertain the request.

Khan was assisted by Md. Ashrafuddin Ahmed, Special PP. Mr. Abdul Ahad Mia Additional PP, and Md

Sanaullah, APP. Besides Mahbubur Rahman. Nitai Chowdhury, Sharuddin Khan Mukul, Mridul Guha and a host of lawyers were present

to defend Ershad. The complainant Barrister Mansoor witnessed the pro-

#### BCS (Eco) Assoc rejects report on 21 cadres

The Bangladesh Civil Service (Economic) Officers Association yesterday outright rejected the report of a government committee that recommended abolition of 21

BCS cadres, reports UNB. Association members at a Visiting Chinese Vice- rally at the Planning Commission premises said the report was based on "colonial attitude, unrealistic, anti-development and inconsistent with the need of the time.

> They said that it was a "conspiratory step" to create obstacle in implementing the programmes aimed at socioeconomic development and was repugnant to the existing structure of the democratic government.

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#### Woman detained in Fakri abduction

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Aug 16: Police yesterday raided the house at Dharmapur in Fatikchhari where Taher Ali Fakri was kept hostage and recovered his briefcase.

Police also took into custody the house mistress, Sohagi Bala Barua, for interrogation. Fakri was kept in her house after abduction, police said.

A team of Kotwali police led by Assistant Commissioner Abdul Matin conducted the raid and returned to the city at about 12 noon

When contacted. Abdul | cers and 14 sailors as well as Matin said investigation was on to nab the abductors. But

### he declined to elaborate. From Page 1

tomorrow. Police arrested Ovi on June 18 last under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. He was given 120 days detention under Section 3 (9)A of the Special Powers

Upon a writ petition challenging the detention, the court had earlier issued rule upon the government to show cause why the detention would not be declared illegal. The court, after hearing

both the parties, made the rule absolute. Ovi's family sources said at

#### present there is no case against Ovi in any court.

Launch capsize

From Page 1 of Kalia quoting survivors said that most of the passengers managed to save their lives. He told UNB over telephone that the ill-fated

launch, having a capacity of

100, was carrying about 150-200 passengers when the mishap occurred. Moreover, the launch was carrying in its hold some goods, including rice, flour,

green chillies and ginger, the police official said. The Narail-bound ML Basanti' from Khulna went down after it was caught in a whirlpool in the turbulent Chitra at Raghunathpur in Kalia thana at 12:30 pm

#### Tuesday. Hasina shocked

Meanwhile, Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep shock at the loss of lives in Tuesday's launch disaster in the river Chitra in Narail.

In a condolence message issued in Dhaka yesterday Hasina conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved families and prayed for salvation of the departed souls. She urged the authorities

concerned to gear up the salvage operation to rescue the missing passengers of the illfated launch.

### Saddam's wife in Amman to meet daughters?

AMMAN, Aug 16: The wife of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is in Jordan hoping to see her two daughters who defected with their husbands last week, Jordanian officials

said today. "She (Sajida) arrived late yesterday but we are not aware if she has already met her daughters," one official told Reuters. He could not

say where she was staying. Jordan's king Hussein granted asylum to Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan, Irag's military mastermind, his brother Colonel Saddam Kamal Hussein, who headed Saddam's guards, their wives Raghda and Rana, and their children and body-

guards after they defected last Tuesday. Both Jordan and Iraq later today denied persistent rumours that President Saddam's first wife was in

Amman. Sajida Khayrallah Tulfah "is not in Jordan, and has not come here since the defection of her two sons-in-law and their wives." senior

failure to uphold the sanctity Jordanian official told AFP. of the Constitution and the Meanwhile, the press ad-Parliament, and establish rule visor at the Iraqi embassy in Amman, Adel Ibrahim, said," Mrs Sajida is not in Jordan Nizami demanded immediate formation of a caretaker and has not been here for a administration to hold genlong time". "Reports on this

#### eral elections. subject are baseless." Flood situation worsens

From Page 1 touched the danger mark at 6 pm yesterday. Thousands of people have been marooned in Char Ashariadaha, Char Khidirpur and Nirmal Char. More areas of Charghat, Paba, Bagha and Bagmara thanas

have been flooded again.

Six unions of the Sadar and Shibganj thanas of Chapai Nawabganj district have been affected by flood. The unions are Alatuli and Narayanpur of Sadar thana and Ujirpur. Ghorapakia, Manakasha and Panka of Shibgani thana. About 2000 people have become shelterless on their houses have either been damaged by floods or washed away due to erosion by river. More than 1.5 lakh flood-affected people were suffering due to lack of foods and pure drinking water.

The flood situation in Chapai Nawabgani may deteriorated further as water level of the Mahananda is rapidly rising. Vast, areas of Naogaon dis-

trict were flooded yesterday

as both the Atrai and the

Chata Jamuna crossed their danger marks. Neither he district administrations nor the Water Development Board authorities could give information about the latest situation in these areas even after repeated contacts.

ports from Sirajganj: Flood sttuation in the district worsened further yesterday as the river Jamuna continued to swell due to onrush of water from across the border. Meanwhile, Sirajganj

launch ghat was shifted as

Jamuna crossed its danger

mark yesterday.

Our correspondent re-

Nearly one lakh people in nine thanas have so far been affected by the flash flood that hit the district for the third time. Our correspondent re-

ports from Gaibandha:

incessant rainfall and onrush

of water from upper catch-

ment areas caused flash flood

in five thanas in Gaibandha

#### district. Schoolboy killed in road accident

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 16: A

schoolboy was crushed under the wheels of a jeep in Bouty Bhadraghat area of the town this morning. The victim Al-Amin. 13, a student of Class Five of the Bouty School, was killed on the spot at about 9 am while crossing the New Bogra road, reports UNB.

# Maijbhandari

joined her party. Maitbhandari is the first Awami League MP of the present parliament, who joined the ruling

genocide of Muslims in Kashmir.

religion nor independence and sovereignty of the country are safe at the hands of the Awami League and from this realisation, I have decided to join the BNP."

Marks of deep cut injuries were found in the neck of the

### Khalilur Rahman, 20, who terday morning.

ready been obtained. The years of experience in Bosnia-Herzegovina should meeting comes as follow-up make it clear to all that any to all the above, and is the initiative on this issue is far

product of our desire to energise the Muslim countries into a more active role in the Bosnian crisis. Bangladesh will now have to do a convincing follow-up act, and try to persuade the OIC countries about the need for the proposed summit. One can justifiably feel that there have already been too many of them. What good will another summit produce, other than more pious words. Our argument here must relate to the new realities on the ground. The conspiracy to curve up Bosnia-Herzegovina between the Serbs and Croats will

be collectively articulated in a summit. There is another proposal that Bangladesh should follow simultaneously. In the Joint Communique of the Contact Group (CG) meeting in Geneva, on 21 July last, it was suggested that a meeting be convened of the defence ministers and/or Chiefs of Staff of the six countries providing troops to Bosnia (namely Malaysia, Turkey, Pakistan, Jordan, Egypt and Bangladesh), CG countries and NATO members. The summit notwithstanding, Bangladesh should offer to host the meeting of this military group which will really give our initiative the bite, importance and international

in most Muslim countries

about the arms embargo.

Begum Zia reflects a consen-

sus when she says that the

arms embargo now stands

"null and void." This needs to

The success of our initiative lies with a few key coun tries of the OIC. The foremost of them is Saudi Arabia. whose support is a precondition for the success of our initiative. We hope that sufficient behind the scene contact have preceded our public move, and the support of some key players have al-

exposure that we deserve.