

Reform school dormitory fire kills 37 near Seoul

SEOUL, Aug 21: A church-run training center, where prostitutes and petty criminals were supposed to get a new start in life, turned into a death trap for 37 women Monday when a plan to escape alleged abuse went wrong, reports AP.

Lee Yun-kun, the chief police investigator, said the fire appeared to have been set as part of a failed breakout plan by 18 women. Lee said a preliminary investigation indicated they piled blankets in eight rooms and set them on fire at the same time to create confusion. Initial reports that seven escaped were incorrect.

Eliadah

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The petition in his chamber. Earlier, another judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Justice Latifur Rahman, stayed out November 2 a High Court order for release of Eliadah. A High Court Division Bench comprising Justice Mozammel Haque and Justice Nurul Islam ordered release of Eliadah on commuting her life sentence in a drug case to two years imprisonment. She was convicted by a lower court for smuggling heroin, after her arrest from Zia International Airport on February 25 in 1992.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over the weekly cabinet meeting at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

Hasina condoles deaths of 300 Indians

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of more than 300 people in India, killed in a tragic train accident, reports UNB. More than 300 people were killed and about 400 others injured when a passenger express train rammed into a stationary train at Firozabad railway station, some 40 km from the northern Indian town of Agra. In a message to Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, the Awami League chief conveyed her sympathy to members of the bereaved families and the injured passengers. Hasina also prayed for the peace of the departed souls and wished early recovery of the injured.

Two killed, 100 hurt in road accidents

At least two people were killed and about 100 others injured in three separate road accidents across the country yesterday, report Agencies. Two people were crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck near Bahraida bridge in Shailokupa thana on Jhenaidah-Kustia road. Police and witnesses said the Jhenaidah-bound truck ran over them while they were chatting alongside the road at about 7:30 am. The dead could not be identified immediately. In Netrokona, at least 35 persons were injured when a Netrokona-bound bus from Dhaka skidded off the road and landed on a farm land at Gastala on Mymensingh-Netrokona highway. The injured persons were rushed to the Netrokona Sadar Hospital and the critically injured were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Sadarpur College closed after clash

FARIDPUR, Aug 21: Sadarpur Government College was closed today for 10 days following a clash that left at least 10 people injured. Witnesses said the clash between the supporters of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) erupted at about 12:30 pm following a minor dispute. Seriously injured VP of the college students' union Kazi Wadud Hossain, an HSC examinee Sabina Akter Moni and a tea stall owner Abdul Hamid Molla were admitted to Sadarpur Thana Health Complex, reports UNB.

To escape attack

DETROIT, Aug 21: About 40 onlookers cheered as a man with a crowbar forced a woman to strip to her underwear and then chased her until she jumped to her death from a bridge, police said, reports AP. No one tried to stop the attack early Saturday at the Belle Isle Bridge, which occurred after the man and the woman were involved in a traffic accident, authorities said. The body of 33-year-old Deletha Word was found several hours later in the Detroit River, miles downstream from the bridge that links Detroit to an island park. "They don't have any heart," said Word's mother, Dortha Word. "They don't have any conscience. They are just as much at fault as the man who made her jump."

Saddam

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portedly shot in the leg by Uday during a family dispute a few weeks ago, sources close to the ambassador said.

Rajshahi Varsity

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Muhammad Yusuf Ali, demanding reopening of the university. They said Rajshahi university was being closed again and again as part of a conspiracy. The Santrash Mukta Shikhyangan Parishad (a committee for establishing violence free campus) also held a public meeting at Shaheb Bazar crossing today.

Nobel laureate Prof Salam ill

Nobel laureate physicist Prof Abdus Salam has entrusted a Bangladeshi scientist with the task of establishing International Centre for Science Technology Environment and Development (ICSTED) in Bangladesh. In a statement, made available to UNB yesterday, Prof Louis Jonson, wife of the Pakistani-born scientist, said Prof Salam is too ill to be able to continue his activities as before.

Prof Salam has informed his wife that the task of establishing the proposed ICSTED in Bangladesh should be completely entrusted to Professor Naseem Rahman of the University of Trieste. Prof Salam wishes Prof Naseem Rahman all success and will try his best to follow the developments of this potentially important and relevant centre for the future of Bangladesh. In another statement, Prof Naseem Rahman has proposed renaming the institute as Salam International Centre for Science Technology Environment for Densely Populated Regions, to be called SICSTED. "This act is the least we can do for remembering all the help that Prof Salam has provided for the development of Bangladesh in every sector," he said.

Saddam

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The JP leader also said apart from its legislative functions, this Parliament is incapable of amending the Constitution under Article 142 and impeachment of the President under Article 52 of the Constitution.

Ctg port

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Meanwhile, congestion both at port jetties and at outer anchorage suddenly increased in the past few days, the sources said. Ships have to wait at the outer anchorage for 5 to 6 days now before berthing in the port jetties. The waiting time was 12 hours on an average a week ago.

Gaibandha clash

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According to police, some BCL activists brought out a procession in the town last evening protesting alleged beating of one of their comrades by some JCD men. When the procession was passing by the local BNP office, some JCD activists, armed with lethal weapons, attacked it at around 9 pm.

Satellite link-up

From Page 1
million US dollar, equivalent to Tk 923 crore, in fiscal 1994-95, surpassing the target. The target for the year was 180 million dollar for both the Chittagong and Dhaka EPZs where the factories invested 167 million dollar, equivalent to Tk 668 crore. Some 32,000 Bangladeshi workers are currently employed in the two EPZs.

Monica Seles

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Meghna erosion

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Dakata. "I have witnessed the disappearance of Shamim Rice Mill, which took place within just 20 minutes this morning," said Subhash Chandra Roy, a local businessman. The mill is worth about Tk one crore.

Prosecution argument continues Ershad issued verbal orders to refurbish JP office

Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdur Razzak Khan argued that there are documentary evidences to prove that deceased president H M Ershad issued verbal directives from time to time in connection with refurbishing an abandoned house in the city which was used as the central office of the Jatiya Party, reports BSS.

Khan submitted a number of documents in support of his contention and firmly asserted that Ershad and two other persons violated the set rules of the government in getting the work done. The prosecution argument remained inconclusive for the fourth day yesterday and will continue today.

Manpower export

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According to sources, the minister explored possibilities of manpower export to Mali. His visit prior to a scheduled visit of the President of Mali to Bangladesh is being considered very significant.

AL: No polls

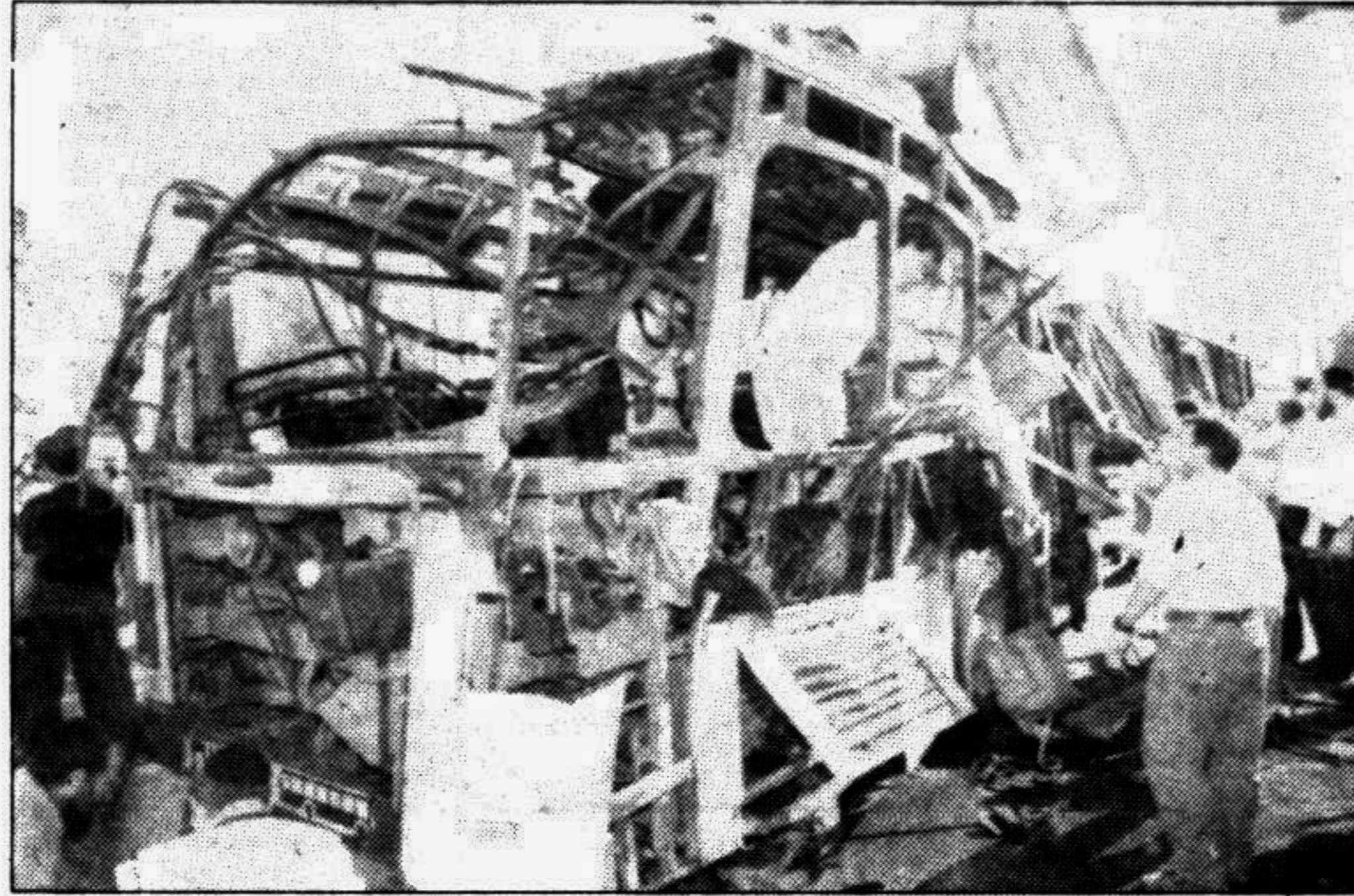
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rule of this autocratic government and restore rights of the people." Hasina said all the rights of the people, including the right to food and vote, are now turbed due to the misrule of BNP.

T&T employees protest move for privatisation

The T&T employees yesterday protested the government move to handover cellular telephone, thana telecommunications and PABX system to the private sector, reports UNB.

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Workers clear remains of bodies from the wreckage of a bus, where a suspected Muslim suicide bomber, thought to be a woman, blew herself up aboard a rush-hour bus in Jerusalem yesterday killing at least five others and wounding 100 people. — AFP/UNB photo

Floods hit Dhaka

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of seven thanas of the district have been inundated. Water levels of rivers Buriganga, Sitalakha and Meghna are rising fast. The affected unions are: Kashipur, Baktabali, Alirdak under sadar thana; Kalapaharia, Khakkanda, Uchitpura under Araihsar thana; Madanpur, Dhamghar under Bandar thana; Baradi, Pirojpur, Boldher Bazar under Sonargaon thana and Kaedpara and Golakandal under Rupganj thana. Our Manikganj correspondent reports: Although the water levels in the Jamuna and Padma remained unchanged, in the interior places of Manikganj district water levels are rising. The District Flood Control Centre said that so far at least 1536 villages have been inundated by the fresh floods. Acute shortage of drinking water and food was reported from the affected areas of the district. The flood situation in Savar and Dhamrai thanas deteriorated further as 16 unions of the two thanas were submerged. At least 20,000 people in the areas have been marooned as Bangshi, Turag and Gazikhali rivers swelled further. Our Rajshahi correspondent reports: The overall flood situation in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj and Naogaon districts improved slightly yesterday as the Padma, the Mahananda, the Atrai and the Chota Jamuna continued to fall. Diarrhoea has broken out in most places of the flood-affected areas in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj and Naogaon districts. One medical team is working in Chapainawabganj and two in Naogaon.

Property worth Tk 40 lakh gutted

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Aug 21: Property worth Tk 40 lakh was gutted in a devastating fire at Perojpur bazar early today. Witnesses and police said ten to fifteen shops were burnt to ashes.

Suicide bomber kills six in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Aug 21: A suspected Islamic suicide bomber killed at least six people and wounded more than 100 on buses in Jerusalem today during the morning rush hour, reports Reuters. Israel radio said a caller from the militant Muslim group Hamas, which opposes the Israel-PLO peace process, claimed responsibility for the attack. There was no official confirmation of the claim. Israel television said police were investigating one report that the bomber was a woman. Previous Islamic bombers have been men. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin immediately put on hold peace talks with the PLO, which condemned the bombing. The blast tore through an articulated commuter bus at 7:55 am (0555 GMT) and hit another bus, which was passing by. The headless body of one passenger sat amid the mangled and blood-spattered wreckage of the first bus, which was travelling north towards Jerusalem's Mount Scopus. Bodies lay beside the second bus, which moved on for about 100 metres (yards) after the explosion. Rescuers pulled wounded from the wreckage and piled bags and belongings on the sidewalk. A special unit of Rabbis picked up body parts for burial.

Indian train

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Doctors said the toll was likely to go up even further as many of the injured, admitted in hospitals in Ferozabad, were in critical condition. Rescue efforts were continuing at the accident site, PTI said. In a train disaster in July 1988, 107 people were killed when a railway bridge collapsed and a speeding express train plunged into a salt-water lake in the southern state of Kerala. Meanwhile, Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao blamed human error today for India's worst train crash in over a decade, which claimed over 350 lives and possibly as many as 600.

Meghna erosion

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Dakata. "I have witnessed the disappearance of Shamim Rice Mill, which took place within just 20 minutes this morning," said Subhash Chandra Roy, a local businessman. The mill is worth about Tk one crore.

The Midnight Fire

2 policemen shot dead in Karachi

KARACHI, Aug 21: Unidentified gunmen shot two policemen dead and injured another in an ambush today, while three civilians were gunned down by sniper fire in the violence-plagued Pakistani port city, police said. The policemen were attacked while patrolling the streets on motorbikes. The gunmen sprayed bullets on them from a car, a witness said. Three civilians were also injured in the attack, reports AFP.

Delhi denies direct talks with Al-Faran

SRINAGAR, Aug 21: Indian authorities today renewed an appeal to the Muslim militant abductors of four westerners in Kashmir but denied reports of a face-to-face meeting with them on Sunday, reports AFP. "We are in contact with them on phone," a spokesman said in this state summer capital. "The diplomatic channel is being used for the safe release of the hostages." "Repeated appeals by the government to the abductors to see reason has had no desired effect," he said. The government has renewed its appeal to the captors to release the hostages on humanitarian grounds. The spokesman denied reports of a face-to-face meeting between government officials and members of the Al-Faran group but said "indirect contact was on." "We mostly talk to the captors on phone. But there are other means also which we do not want to divulge," he said. A senior official had said on condition of anonymity that government negotiators had held the first direct meeting with Al-Faran members on Sunday. He said the meeting was held "somewhere in Kashmir." In another development, officials said today that five

Jatiya party

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time specified by the Constitution, the Parliament becomes inoperative in carrying out its constitutional function as a sovereign body. "At no point of time, the membership of Parliament can fall short of 221 members to remain sovereign and carry out all its functions," he said. In this context, he said, other than normal ordinary individual vacancies, if any time more than 110 seats fall vacant due to any reason, Parliament becomes incapacitated. The JP leader also said apart from its legislative functions, this Parliament is incapable of amending the Constitution under Article 142 and impeachment of the President under Article 52 of the Constitution.

BNP

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Salam Talukdar confirmed that their offer for dialogue would be based on the Prime Minister's offer for resignation 30 days before the next general elections. Asked about the Opposition's rigidity on the caretaker government issue, the BNP leader said, "Then how can you expect a peaceful solution through talks? People want a peaceful solution and, of course, it must take place within the constitutional framework, he added.

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