Reform school dormitory fire kills 37 near Seoul

SEOUL, Aug 21: A churchrun training center, where prostitutes and petty crimimals 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.

Another 16 were injured. some seriously, when deliberately set fires swept through the dormitory of the troubled Kyonggi Women's Technical School near Seoul around 2 am, police said.

With the doors locked and bars on the windows, the terrified victims - all but three in their teens - either burned to death or suffocated. One was only 13.

Police summoned the reform school's head, Lee Kyong-rae, 64, for questioning as a grim picture emerged of frequent escape attempts sparked by complaints of poor conditions and mistreatment.

Police said they found diaries amidst the wreckage in which women had written they wanted to escape or commit suicide.

Lee Yun-kun, the chief fire appeared to have been set as part of a failed

piled blankets in eight rooms and set them on fire at the same time to create confusion. Initial reports that seven escaped were incor-

Eliadah

From Page 1

the petition in his chamber Earlier, another judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, Justice Latifur Rahman, stayed upto 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.

Prosecution argument continues

Ershad issued verbal orders to refurbish JP office

reports BSS.

Khan submitted a number of documents in support of in getting the works done.

ment remained inconclusive and will continue today.

Mostafa Jamal Haider and former works secretary M A Rouf are co-accused in the

Zinat Ara, Additional Sessions and District Judge (First Court), Dhaka presided over the court.

the PP said.

The PP argued that the letters in possession of the prosecution were not written in changed circumstances but during the course of events that are amply proved by the dates. He said the documentary evidence further showed that the work in that house had to be undertaken involving huge money on verbal instructions of the accused persons from time to

another letter of PW-2 said the visit of Ershad in that house and issuance of verbal instructions with regard to work were mentioned in it. He further mentioned that this witness (PW-2), during depositions stated that Ershad used to visit the JP office regularly and give in-

As per the Evidence Act, these are the best possible evidences to prove the prosecution case, Khan contended.

Khan said though no rent was paid huge money was spent for refurbishing the house and also for taking up additional tasks like constructing the guard house and accommodation for visitors to the office. He pointed out that there was no formal application to take up the repair work and that all were done on verbal instructions.

T&T employees protest move for privatisation

of Ramna Telephone Bhaban leaders of the T&T employees threatened to wage a greater agitation if the government move was not stopped.

police investigator, said the breakout plan by 18 women.

Lee said a preliminary investigation indicated they

Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdur Razzak Khan argued that there are documentary evidences to prove that deposed 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.

his contention and firmly asserted that Ershad and two other persons violated the set rules of the government The prosecution argu-

for the fourth-day yesterday Former works minister

Khan read out letters from the prosecution file in which it was mentioned that Haider and Rouf gave verbal instructions to Shahiduddin Ahmed, the author of the let ters. Ahmed, the then executive engineer (during 1990) and a prosecution witness (PW) in this case (PW-2) wrote the letter to his senior.

Khan, while reading out structions.

The PP read out few other letters written by other per-

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

sons including prosecution witnesses which also proved the involvement of the works minister in carrying out the works of the house. He said, the prosecution is fortunate that even manuscripts and

Ershad stood up and tak ing the court's permission said, "Was it an offence to visit the party office?"

drafts of the letters are in

their possession.

The PP said what has to be ascertained here whether the work was done in accordance with law, whether lav ish expenditure was incurred or not and whether there were abuse of authority in getting the work done.

Manpower export

From Page 1 made public.

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.

President Alphaoumar Komare will pay a three-day visit to Bangladesh beginning August 25 at the invitations of President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Komare and Begum Zia are likely to discuss bilateral economic cooperation, export of agricultural labourer from Bangladesh to Mali and bilateral, regional and international matters of mutual interests, sources said.

AL: No polls

From Page 1 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 curbed due to the misrule of BNP.

The politics of killing coup and conspiracy was started after the assassination of "Father of the nation," resulting in corruption, nepotism, misrule, politicisation and terrorism, she said.

people.

From Page 1

of seven than as of the district

have been inundated. Water

levels of rivers Buriganga,

Sitalakkha and Meghna are

rising fast. The affected uni-

ons are: Kashipur, Baktabali,

Alirdak under sadar thana;

Kalapaharia, Khakkanda,

Uchitpura under Araihazar

thana; Madanpur, Dhamghar

under Bandar thana; Baradi,

Pirojpur, Boidher Bazar

under Sonargaon thana and

Kaedpara and Golakandai un-

Our Manikganj corre-

spondent 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 dis-

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

dent reports: A man was

electrocuted when a raft car-

rying him contacted a live

wire in flood affected

Chhoyagobind village in the

Our Sirajganj correspon-

rivers swelled further.

sadar thana of Sirajganj.

The flood situation in

trict.

der Rupganj thana.

"To stop the development activities of the country, the traitors killed the Father o the nation." Hasina said in the message calling upon the people to unite to reestablish their rights.

In his address, Samao Azad accused the government of making Parliament inoper ative and said the ruling party was playing with people's fate on the ruins of the Parliament, deserted by the opposition members.

"BNP has no right to play with the rights of the people; it has to dissolve Parliament and announce date of elections immediately in the face of strong movement of the people," he added.

Addressing the meeting Awami League leaders also demanded repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance, which blocked the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu.

They also demanded subsidy and loan for the handloom workers, and rehabilitation of the retrenched workers. The meeting, presided

over by Tantee League Convenor Sohrabuddin Ahmed, was also addressed by Al leaders Mohiuddin Ahmed Prof Abu Sayeed and Mukul **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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

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 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.

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 Akhter Moni and a tea stall owner Abdul Hamid Molla were admitted to Sadarpur Thana Health Complex, reports UNB.

Two killed, 100 hurt in raod 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 Bahrada 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. The general secretary of

the Jatiya Party, Netrokona

district unit, Mustafizur

Rahman Rizvi, commander of Muktijoddha Sangsad Netrokona district unit, Golam Mostafa and former upazila chairman Abdul Mannan were among the injured. In Comilla, at least 20 persons were injured in a

Comilla cantonment. One of the buses was going from Dhaka to Chittagong while the other from Comilla to Ramchandrapur.

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

Police said, the man,

Osman, 36, a day labourer.

died on the spot. At least

36,000 people have been ma-

rooned in the district.

District Control Room said

that six unions in Kazipur

thana, three in Sadar, one in

Shahjadpur, two in Ullapara

and three unions in Chouhali

Rajshahi reports: The overall

flood situation in Rajshahi.

Chapainawabganj and Nao-

gaon districts improved

slightly yesterday as the

Padma, the Mahananda, the

Atrai and the Chota Jamuna

in most places of the flood-

affected areas in Rajshahi,

Chapainawabganj and

Naogaon districts. One medi-

cal team is working in

Chapainawabganj and two in

Property worth

Tk 40 lakh gutted

From Staff Correspondent

ty worth Tk 40 lakh was

gutted in a devastating fire at

ten to fifteen shops were

brought the fire under con-

trol after three hours. It was

not known how the fire orig-

Perojpur bazar early today.

burnt to ashes.

inated.

BARISAL, Aug 21: Proper-

Witnesses and police said

Local people and firemen

Diarrhoea has broken out

continued to fall.

Our Correspondent from

Belkuchi, three

thanas went under water.

Floods hit Dhaka

road accident when two

buses collided head-on near

Drivers of the buses fled

away. Police seized both the Our Staff Correspondent from Barisal reports: At least 40 passengers were injured four of them seriously, when a Barisal bound BRTC coach from Jhalakathi collided

The four critically injured passengers -- Altaf, 28, Lal Mia, 50, Shireen Akhtar, 25 and Mobarak Hossain, 55 were admitted to the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

head-on with a bus in the

afternoon.

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 sev eral 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.

- AFP/UNB photo

Suicide bomber

kills six

in Jerusalem

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

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.

bombers have been men.

hold peace talks with the

PLO, which condemned the

articulated commuter bus at

7.55 am (0555 GMT) and hit

another bus, which was

passenger sat amid the man-

gled 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)

from the wreckage and piled

bags and belongings on the

sidewalk. A special unit of

Rabbis picked up body parts

Rescuers pulled wounded

after the explosion.

for burial.

The blast tore through an

The headless body of one

Israel radio said a caller

Reuter.

bombing.

passing by.

JERUSALEM, Aug 21: A

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.

available to UNB vesterday before.

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.

the developments of this potentially important and rele Bangladesh.

In another statement, Prof Naseem Rahman has proronment for Densely Popu-SICSTED.

provided for the develop sector," he said.

The disputes strike at the

heart of the Baghdad government since Saddam's relatives have headed four of the five intelligence agencies as well as held key ministry posts since the 1991 conflict Rajshahi Varsity

manding reopening of the university.

sity was being closed again and again as part of a conspiracy.

Shikkhyangan Parishad (a committee for establishing violence free campus) also held a public meeting at Shaheb Bazar crossing today.

Ctg port

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

number of ships calling at this port in recent days increased as our export cargo went up". "Number of container vessels also increased as most of our export cargo are shipped in container vessels for safety and security." he added.

tion will improve soon after unloading of foodgrain carry ing ships, he said.

The official said 12 ships are now waiting at the outer anchorage while 23 vessels are being unloaded.

The ships waiting at the outer anchorage include a US vessel, 'MV Exempler' with one lakh metric ton wheat, one rice carrying vessel and

Indian train

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.

1988, 107 people were killed when a railway bridge collapsed and a speeding express train plunged into 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. Rao told parliament the

high speed Purushottam Express smashed into the back of the stationary Kalindi Express while travelling at 100 km (60 miles) an hour early on Sunday because all the signals were clear.

charge of the railways ministry in the absence of minister C K Jaffer Sharief, who is in London for medical treatment, ordered an inquiry into the crash.

In a statement, made Prof Louis Jonson, wife of the Pakistani-born scientist, said Prof Salam is too ill to be able to continue his activities as

Prof Salam has informed

Prof Salam wishes Prof Naseem Rahman all success and will try his best to follow vant centre for the future of

posed renaming the institute as Salam International Centre for Science Technology Envilated Regions, to be called "This act is the least we

Uday during a family dispute a few weeks ago, sources close to the ambassador said.

From Page 1 Muhammad Yusuf Ali, de-

The Santrash Mukta

From Page 1

fice, some JCD activists armed with lethal weapons,

clashes began.

Local people, angered by alleged police inaction during the clashes attacked the police and injured two police personnel. The police force was later reinforced which brought the situation under control by resorting to baton

From Page 1 Seles said she never ex-

pected that.

In a field that included top players like Steffi Graf. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. Mary Pierce and Gabriela Sabatini, she expected only to use this event to get accustomed again to tournament surroundings and conditions.

ingly powerful all week, her serves and returns consistent and strong. She had every shot in her arsenal working to perfection. beating Kimberly Po 6-0, 6-3; Nathalie Tauziat 6-2, 6-2; Anke Huber 6-3, 6-2 and Gabriela Sabatini 6-1, 6-0 to reach the final.

As she had all week, Seles dominated the match with no contest.

Nobel laureate

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 army recruits kidnapped by

man said.

SRINAGAR, Aug 21: Indian authorities today renewed an appeal to the Muslim militant abductors of four westerns 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.

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

The spokesman denied

captors on phone. But there are other means also which we do not went to divulge." he said A senior official had said on condition of anonymity

meeting was held "somewhere in Kashmir. In another development.

officials said today that five

From Page 1 the proposed dialogue.

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 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.

Gaibandha clash

district buses suspended for 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 of-

attacked it at around 9 pm. The JCD activists chased the BCL activists upto the local Awami League office and ransacked the office. Chase and counter-chase and

Monica Seles

But her game was surpris-

unseeded Coetzer. The petite South African had simplified Sales' way to the championship by knocking off four seeded players, including Graf. Pierce and No 4 Jana Novotna. When she encountered Seles, however, it was The closest Coetzer came

was to force three break points on Seles' first service game in the opening set Each time, Seles won the next point to keep the game going, and finally won it. The game consumed six minutes The next five took just 22 more as Seles mixed power with touch to take control.

unknown Muslim separatists had returned safely. The rebels killed a sixth

hostage after she tried to flee shortly after the kidhapping near Srinagar on Saturday, they said.

AP from Delhi adds: Kashmiri separatists told Indian negotiators today that four Western hostages are safe but did not provide any proof that they are in good health, a state government spokes-

They have told us that the hostages are safe, though they are yet to provide the proof, the spokesman said. Last week, the govern-

ment urged Al-Faran group to furnish photographs, tape recordings or answers to questions from the captives.

Jatiya party From Page 1

time specified by the Constitution, the Parliament becomes inoperative in carrying out its constitutional function as a sovereign body.

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

142 and impeachment of the President under Article 52 of the Constitution. Barrister Moudud, earlier, planned to file a writ petition challenging the legitimacy of the present Parliament, but later abandoned his plan as

go to the court for settling political issue. Jatiya Party secretary general Anwar Hossain Manju, Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Barrister Abul Hasnat and Col (retd) Zafar Imam

Satellite link-up

lar, equivalent to Tk 668 crore. Some 32,000 Bangladeshi workers are currently employed in the two EPZs. The meeting was informed that the export growth from the EPZs in 1994-95 was 57 per cent

when the EPZ units exported goods worth 145.60 million Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Shipping Minister M K Anwar, Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain. State Minister for Industries Lutfar Rahman

Meghna erosion

Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen

From Page 1

Khan were present.

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

and other establishments were devoured today. All business activities in the area remained suspended. Shop and factory owners in the nearby areas have already started dismantling their establishments fearing that the entire locality may be devoured. The Chandpur Chamber

Minister, the Relief and Rehabilitation Minister and different authorities concerned to take immediate steps to protect the traditional commercial area of this river port town.

Prof Salam ill

can do for remembering all the help that Prof Salam has ment of Bangladesh in every

Saddam

From Page 1 portedly shot in the leg by

They said Rajshahi univer

From Page 1

A senior port official said

He attributed the sudden congestion here to arrival of more foodgrain carrying ships, dislocation in cargo handling this week due to heavy rainfall and holiday for two consecutive days (Thursday-Friday) and shortage of equipment. The situa-

four container vessels.

From Page 1 Doctors said the toll was

Israel television said police were investigating one report that the bomber was a In a train disaster in July woman. Previous Islamic Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin immediately put on

Rao, who is directly in

that government negotiators had held the first direct "At no point of time, the meeting with Al-Faran memmembership of Parliament bers on Sunday. He said the can fall short of 221 members to remain sovereign and

> apart from its legislative functions, this Parliament is incapable of amending the Constitution under Article

Awami League decided not to

also attended the press conference, held at Jatiya Press

From Page I million US dollar, equivalent to Tk 923 crore, in fiscal 1994-95, surpassing the tar-The target for the year was 180 million dollar for

both the Chittagong and

Dhaka EPZs where the facto-

ries invested 167 million dol-

over the performance of previous year (1993-94)

dollar. Khan and State Minister for

Dakatia.

Similarly, Lily Salt Mill, Janata Salt Mill, Mili Salt Mili

has urged the Prime

(Details on Page 11)

sector, reports UNB. Addressing a rally in front