Federal Express

The World on Time

SIGNED, SEALED & DELIVERED

From documents to packages, FedEx delivers peace of mind reliably to over 210 countries worldwide. Our integrated network of 550 planes, 37,000 vehicles and 1,20,000 people, promises smooth delivery every step of the way. We can even advise you on the status of your shipments; thanks to our unique computerised global tracking system. So the next time you have got to send a package, relax - call your fedEx agent BANEX to deliver your package hassie-free -

For more information call - Head Office : 9565114-7,Fax : 9565112 Gulahan : 887771, Chittagong : (031) 712127, Khulna : (041) 25008

BJMA urges PM

Ensure capital

for purchasing

raw jute

Jute mills owners said sur

vival of the jute industry was at

stake for lack of proper policy

and urged the Prime Minister

to take proper measure to save

Jute Mills Association (BJMA)

yesterday called on Prime Min-

ister Sheikh Hasina at her of-

led by BJMA president A M

Zahiruddin Khan, apprised the

Khan requested her to en-

sure working capital ahead of

raw jute purchasing season and

to form a high-power task

force to look into the prob-

motherly attitude", the former

minister of Begum Zia's gov-

ernment, Zahiruddin Khan,

said and pointed out to the

Prime Minister that jute sector

could play a vital role in allevi-

them that her government

would take pragmatic steps to

solve the problems and di-

rected State Minister for Jute

A K M Faizul Huq, present

there, to sit with the BJMA

and chalk out necessary steps

The other delegation mem-

bers were Kamran T Raeman,

M A Sattar, Syed Mohsin Ali,

Dr Naimur Rahman, Mirza Me-

hdi Ispahani, Mirza Ali Berouze

Ispahani, S Y Bakht, M Nasir, S

M Emdadul Hossain, Md

Sayefullah, Nurul Islam Pat-

wary, Chowdhury A K M Sham-

suddoha, M A Rahim, Sk Kabir

Uddin, Serajul Huq Khan and

Nawab Khwaza Habibullah

Second escapee

During the interrogation.

the two under-trial prisoners

gave some contradictory

statements to police and the

members of the inquiry com-

But according to an official.

heir statements were almost

the same. "However, some dif-

ferences were found as both of

them tried to save them-

committees also interrogated

the four arrested wardens of

Dhaka Central Jail, also under

Flood

From Page 1

in Manikganj deteriorated

further as the mighty Jamuna

and Padma rivers continued to

taken shelter on the flood-

control embankments as flood

onslaughts damaged their

District Flood Control room

sources said 410 villages of 36

unions of Shibalaya, Harira-

mpur, Gheor and Daulatpur

thanas had been affected by

the flood that damaged

property worth about Tk 4

of Bangladesh Air Force have

been engaged in carrying relief

materials for the flood affected

people, including a minor girl,

drowned in flood water in

sources said 51 unions in six

thanas of the district have

deteriorated with inundation

of fresh areas of 16 unions of

three thanas. Flood water dam-

aged Aus paddy, jute and Aman

seed-beds and disrupted

communications as the roads

were inundated in many

Faridpur district worsened fur-

ther for the rise of water level

in the Padma and Arialkha in-

undating 50 more villages in

Sadar, Charbhadrashan,

Sadarpur and Bhanga thanas.

Overall flood situation in

In Sherpur, flood situation

been affected by the flood.

Meanwhile, two helicopters

In Jamalpur district, three

District Relief Office

Nearly 5,000 people have

swell inundating fresh areas.

Both the three-member

mittees, the sources said.

selves," the official said.

From Page 1

to solve the problems.

The Prime Minister assured

ating poverty.

Askari.

yesterday.

CID custody.

crore.

people.

places.

Melandah thana.

"In the past, we got step-

Prime Minister of the prob-

lems the jute sector is facing.

fice and made the appeal.

A delegation of Bangladesh

The 17-member delegation.

it, reports UNB.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina went round different stalls at the closing ceremony of National Tree Fair '96 at Parade Square in the city yesterday. - PID photo

Distressed FFs will be rehabilitated: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government would rehabilitate the distressed freedom fighters who fought in 1971 for liberating their beloved motherland.

reports BSS. Addressing the freedom fighters, who under the banner of the unified "Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad" called on the Prime Minister at her office in the morning. Sheikh Hasina said her government is pledge-bound to materialise the ideals and spirit of the War of Liberation and the hopes and aspirations for which the made

aupitine bacinless. The two groups of Muktijoddha Sangsad merged into one in response to the call given by Sheikh Hasina while addressing, as chief guest, a grand rally of the freedom fighters held at Shapla Chattar at Motifheel during the mass movement for restoration of democracy and establishment

of the caretaker government. Visibly delighted Sheikh Hasina said: "Today I am accepting from the core of my heart your offer for becoming the chief patron and chief advisor of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad as you are now united."

The Prime Minister called upon them to sink all narrow differences and work unitedly with the spirit of 1971 for building an exploitation free "Sonar Bangla" which was the dream of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Chairman of the Central Command Council of the Sangsad Principal Abul Ahad Chowdhury, former convenor of the conference preparatory committee Sheikh Kusubuddin and members of the preparatory committee Dr ABM Fafarullah and Kabir Ahmed Khan also spoke on the occasion.

The Prime Minister said, Bangabandhu has formed Muk-

tijoddha Sangsad in 1972 to involve the freedom fighters in nation building activities as well as to translate into reality the ideals and spirit of the War

of Liberation. In this connection, she referred to the grand convention of the freedom fighters held at the historic Suhrawardy Uddyan where the Father of the Nation entrusted the valiant freedom fighters with the great task of bringing the economic emancipation of the

The Prime Minister said the vested quarter assassinated Pangabandhu right at a moment when he was out to launch the second phase of his struggle for economic emanci pation of the people. After that tragic incident, she said. 21 years had elapsed but the nation has got nothing and there is no progress at all.

"Go straight to the villages - tell the new generation the heroic tales of the freedom struggle in which your were the architects — you were the heroes," Sheikh Hasina said.

JMB likely to be completed by Dec 1997

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju vesterday said the Jamuna Bridge is expected to be completed by December next year, reports

Replying to a question in parliament, he said 33 per cent of the construction cost of the bridge, including rehabilitation of those affected, would be provided from domestic resources.

Sharif Khasru of Awami League raised the question on behalf of Jafrul Islam Chowdhury of BNP in absence of the opposition MP during the

By-polls to JS seats

proposals for setting up of permanent election tribunals in six divisional headquarters to expedite disposal of complains and formation of a commission for modernisation of the age-old election process.

The CEC said the Election Commission has received 41 complains of election irregularities and only five petitions. The petitions, which will be disposed of by the election tribunals, were filed by Khan Mohammed Iqbal, Dhaka-13, (AL), Shudangshu Shekhar Halder. Pirojpur-1, (AL), Mirza Abbas, Dhaka-6 (BNP), Sultan Md Babu, Jamalpur-2, (BNP) and Razia Faiz, Satkhira-2, (JP).

When his attention was drawn to questions raised by some political parties about the fairness of the June 12 polls, the CEC said, "There were, of course, a few allegations," "But, one can't speculate anything till the allegations are proved true," he

In this regard he narrated the measures taken by the government as well as the EC to ensure free and fair elec-

He said, 4,500 illegal weapons were recovered and 44,000 terrorists nabbed in a pre-poll arms recovery drive. A record turnout of over 74 per cent voters reflected peoples' awareness about holding a fair

election.

The CEC said, electoral enquiry committees were constituted in all the 64 districts, over 300 election observer committees were formed. which disposed of 558 complaints of alleged irregularities.

Besides, polling at 210 vote centres were postponed and later on, re-elections were held in 122 centres.

To another question, Abu Hena said demands were raised by certain quarters for withdrawal of eight Deputy Commissioners (DCs) before the polls. But the demands were not entertained. "I personally signalled out a note of warning that they (DCs) must have to live up to the expectations of the people." No allegations were brought against those eight DCs after the elections, he said. The eight districts were: Nilphamari, Kushtia, Faridpur, Comilla, Rangamati, Mymensingh, Bhola and Tangail.

About the election expenditure, the CEC said that out of the sanctioned budget of Taka 16.65 crore, Taka 11.56 crore was spent for the polls and the rest amount was refunded. Taka 18.79 crore was spent for the 4,16,209 members of law enforcing agencies deployed

for the polls. Replying to another question, he said that out of 2574 candidates in the last parliamentary polls, only 1930 submitted their accounts of expenditure to the EC. He said necessary actions would be taken against those who failed to submit the election expen-

diture returns. Replying to a question Election Commissioner Abidur Rahman said that after the time-limit of the ID Card Project expired on June 30 last. the EC proposed to the government to extend the time till June 30, 1997.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

AL, JP are old friends, says Khaleda

BOGRA, July 21: Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia today branded the Awami League and the Jatiya Party as "old friends" and said the present coalition government is the outcome of clandestine relationship they have nourished since 1982, reports UNB.

"Awami League was not sincere in the movement against the autocratic regime. They took part in the anti-autocratic movement only to save themselves from total alienation

from the people," she said. Addressing a public meet ing at Government Azizul Huq College ground, Begum Zia said that in the name of government of national consensus' the ruling party was trying to release the autocrat on the basis of 'consensus among partners of the government'

Begum Zia alleged that the ruling party was not willing to run parliament according to rules. "They want to conduct it by dint of force and it is a

threat to democracy". "If you want to continue the democratic trend, you have to allow the Opposition to express their opinion in Parlia-ment, she told the ruling party and claimed that during the fifth parliament, the Opposition were given 70 per cent

Swimming

From Page 1 two silvers and two bronzes at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics when she was just 14.

American Tom Dolan will seek a gold medal in the men's 400 metres individual medley to match the one he won in the 1994 world championships in world record time. European champion Jani Sievinen of Finland is likely to be his most dangerous adver-

Australian world champion Samantha Riley, who escaped with a warning after testing positive from a headache pill given by her coach, faces a battle in the women's 100 metres breaststroke from South Africa's Penney Heyns and American Amanda Beard Heyns took the world record from riley in March.

Cycling starts with the women's road race where vet eran French rider Jeannie Longo, the most successful female in the history of the sport, tries for an elusive Olympic title. Longo has two former world champions in a powerful French team with the potential to pull off a medals sweep over powerful American, Russian and Italian

squads. British rower Steve Redgravels aiming to win a fourth consecutive gold medal to cap his career when the Olympic regatta begins here on Lake

Lanier. Redgrave, 34, will retire after the Atlanta Games breaking a partnership with Matthew Pinsent that has dominated the coxless pairs event since 1991 and has been unbeaten since May 1992.

The main challenge to the British should come from Jean-Christophe Rolland and Michel Andrieux of France, bronze medalists at last year's world championships.

time to express their views. While visiting the flood-hit areas of Dhunat thana of the district today, the BNP chairperson addressed public meetings at 17 places and distributed relief materials there.

Leader of the Opposition alleged that supply of relief materials was inadequate in the affected areas and the party in power was not giving proper attention to the flood

Begum Zia said the people in the flood-hit areas are passing their days in distress for want of food, pure drinking water and medicine. The rul ing party is not carrying out their responsibilities to mitigate their suffering," she al-

She said within one month of its assumption of power, the Awami League has exposed its real face. "They are harassing opposition workers, arresting and even killing them."

She alleged that a certain quarter set fire to a government office at Chandpur and burnt ballot papers and documents when BNP demanded recounting of votes in Chandpur-6 constituency.

Begum Zia visited Rampur. Manikchowk, Pallimangal Hat. Gokul. Noongola, Mamuja, Nishindari, Erulia, Sapore Tinmatha, Ashekpur, Ranirhat Gohail, Banani, Ariabazar, Shaharabati and Karakbari in Sadar and Dhunat thanas

2 children killed in Moheshkhali road accident

COX'S BAZAR, July 21: Two minor boys were killed and five people critically injured when a jeep skidded off the road in Moheshkhali thana of the district today, reports

Witnesses said, Sumon, 1 and Mizan. 2, died on the spot after falling from laps of their mothers when they tumbled into a wayside ditch near Hoanak College in

Moheshkhali at about 11 am. Their mothers, Rehana, 30 and Mobin Ara, 26, and three others identified as Noor Kashem, 45, Abdul Karim, 16 and Shafiullah, 32, were critically injured and admitted to Sadar Hospital

The bodies were sent to the hospital for autopsy and a case was lodged with the local po-

Undefeatable mother

ATLANTA, July 21: US table ennis player Todd Sweeri has an impressive string of victories, but one player he has never defeated is his mother, Connie Mae Sweeris, a former national champion, reports Reuter.

"My parents used to play me, and they would beat me as heavily as they could." Olympic medal hope Sweeris said on Saturday. "They wanted me to know that when I won, I had really won. I never beat her." He said his mother stopped playing him when he started to improve about five years ago.

Electronic Scale 100 gms Resolution accuracy

Let's make things better Transcom Electronics Limited Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets Dhaka: 815306-9, 819625-9, 889993 Ctg.: 501082, 503578, Khulna: 20304, Bogra: 6215

PHILIPS

Body soon to probe ballot gutting in Chandpur

By Staff Correspondent A high-powered enquiry committee will be constituted soon to probe the alleged gutting of some ballot papers in a fire in Chandpur recently.

Disclosing this at a press conference yesterday. Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena said that according to a preliminary probe report, the fire was caused by electric short cir-

It was reported in a section of the press that some ballot papers were burnt in a fire in Chandpur-5 (Hajiganj-Shahrashti) constituency and a group of local people alleged that it was pre-planned.

The CEC said the enquiry committee would examine whether any ballot papers were gutted and identify those responsible

He, however, said that the Election Commission had not received any complaint in this

Replying to a question whether the Home Minister who got elected from Chand pur-5, was in anyway linked with incident, the CEC said No comment, please."

Dacoits attack

From Page 1

run as they realised that they have stopped the car of a min

District protection force of the minister, following in another car, tried to open fire on the fleeing dacoits, but Mosharraf asked them not to open fire. The dacoits escaped in a boat kept in the nearby river. Khiro.

Soon after the incident three men in civil dress appeared at the scene and identified them as members of Trishal thana police, challenged by the minister and the protection force.

Later, an on-duty ASI of Trishal thana, Nurul Islam, also arrived at the spot and identified the plainclothes police as

The state minister took all the four law enforcers to Bhaluka and handed them over to police there.

The minister's police protection force, while returning to Mymensingh, lodged a case with Trishal thana in connection with the robbery bid.

Another report says: The authorities here today suspended four policemen of Trishal thana whom Rashed Mosharraf found on the highway immediately after coming under a dacoity bid.

JP to field candidates in all 16 seats

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad has said his party will nominate candidates for all the 16 vacated seats of the Jatiya Sangsad where by elections will be held on September 5.

We will place our candidates in all the 16 seats in the by-elections," Ershad said adding that the party was yet to finalise the nominees. Ershad was flanked by his wife and party MP Begum Roushan Ershad and another JP presidium member Kazi Zafar Ahmed while he was talking to newsmen at the lobby of the

Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. Ershad said the reason for his not attending the second day of the session on Thursday was not "hunger strike" as reported in a section of the print "I was sick," he ex-

plained After attending yesterday's session. Ershad also held a meeting with his party MPs in which Kazi Zafar Ahmed also

attended Asked about a cleansing drive in the JP. Ershad said, "It is no more required, as they are no more around." Moudud Ahmed, a senior party

5 bills tabled From Page 1

nanced by the World Bank.

The council tasks will be research, planning, preparation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation on agricultural science through institutes and their affiliated organisations considering the national inter-

The institutes are: Bangladesh Rice Research Institute, Bangladesh Jute Research Institute. Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture, Sugarcane Research and Training Institute, Livestock Research Institute, Fisheries Research Institute, Bangladesh Tea Research Institute, Bangladesh Forest Research Institute and Soil Resources Development Insti-

The agriculture minister tabled the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (Amendment) Bill 1996 for further amendment to the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Ordinance 1976.

The Jute Research Institute (Amendment) Bill 1996 was aimed at further strengthening functional linkage among agricultural research institutes and ensuring coordination among various research activities.

The Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (Amendment) Bill 1996 aims at expansion and modernisation of nuclear agriculture research while the Livestock Research Institute (Amendment) Bill 1996 will help expansion and modernisation of research in livestock resources.

BNP From Page 1

tunity to bargain for some concessions to the Opposition, competent sources in the BNP

A ruling party delegation led by the Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, that met the BNP leaders at the chamber of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, however, failed to bring them back to the House on the day as the latter insisted on a tripartite talks, also involving the Speaker.

The BNP lawmakers walked out of the House on Thursday protesting, what they said, denial of their rights by the Speaker.

The party had earlier decided to join yesterday's session to 'ventilate their views inside the House,' a top leader of the party said, seeking anonymity

Leader of the Opposition and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia. who returned to the capital yesterday after three-day visit to Bogra, endorsed the decision of her party's return to the House, taken by her colleagues on Saturday, the leader added. Begum Zia, however, did not go to the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

According to the decision taken on Saturday, BNP legislators would meet at the Sangsad Bhaban before yester day's session to chalk out their strategy as to how to protest violation of rules and denial of their rights by the Speaker inside the House' and accordingly they started the planned meeting. But, sources con cerned said, the ruling party offer for 'bilateral talks' led the BNP to abandon its earlier decision to join the session yesterday. The meeting was also adjourned soon after Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof.Badruddoza Chowdhury received a phone call from Abdus Samad Azad on the latter's plan to meet the BNP leaders.

The four-member AL delegation comprising Abdus Samad Azad, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed. Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim and K M Jahangir, MP turned up at Prof Chowdhury's chamber at about 6.15 pm and had a 35-minute close-door meet.

leader of the JP, joined the BNP few weeks back. When asked what would be his first job when granted bail

Ershad said, "I would visit Rangpur. About the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Ershad said, "had

been in power, it would have been completed long time Expressing confidence in getting bail in all the cases against him, Ershad alleged

that he was "victimised" by the former ruling party. His legal counsels were already preparing his bail petitions, he "I will get bail in all the cases framed against me as all

of those are bailable." Ershad said adding, "out of the total 18. accused in the Janata Tower case, 17 have been granted bail excepting me." In this regard he also

quoted Prime Minister Hasina as saying that the law of the country would follow its own

Talking to The Daily Star one of Ershad's lawyer said. To secure the release of Ershad, bail has to be made available for 18 cases in which he has been shown arrested and the jail authorities has custody warrant for those cases."

said, in the camera case in the High Court, the trial had been stayed by the court in connection with a criminal revision Bail application for this case is likely to come for hearing today, the lawyer added. In the Japanese boat pur-

Giving details, the lawyer

chase case, application for bail had been filed which is likely to come up in the list today for fixing a date for hearing.

BIRDEM strike From Page 1

The Employees Welfare Association in the BIRDEM representing 1700 general employees called the strike demanding right to form union regularisation of some staff members and cancellation of the contract system of re-

A court had earlier ruled that the employees association in the BIRDEM could not be allowed to form union since the BIRDEM was a charity organisation and the association enjoyed the status of a collective bargaining agent (CBA).

The 25-member BIRDEM Council, comprising 16 elected members including six eminent persons from different organisations, yesterday urged the employees to withdraw their strike saying that their demands would be reviewed at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday. Nearly 2000 patients re-

ceive treatment at the outdoor of the 400-bed hospital everyday, hospital sources said adding that doctors faced difficulties in dealing with patients yesterday.

According to Honourary Director, Research and Development of the BIRDEM Prof A K Azad Khan, "the contract system is applicable for fresh recruitments only." BIRDEM Secretary General

Dr Fasih Uddin Mahtab in a press release last night noted that if the organisation accepted the demands of the employees welfare association, the BIRDEM would not be able to expand the welfare programmes for patients. He termed the activities of

the association as "totally illegal." "Yet the Council met its (association) leaders in the greater interest of the patients and the people.'

Dr Mahtab said that at a meeting between the association leaders and some BIRDEM consultants and officials, an agreement was reached on some issues of the employees Saturday. Since the agreement required the Council's approval, it could not be implemented. The next month meeting of the Council is

scheduled for July 28, he said. "A proposal to hold an emergency meeting of the council was given. But they closed the door for negotiation and decided to stop work," he

claimed The Secretary General pointed out that the doctors and officials of BIRDEM did not support the movement of the employees but a section of the employees were trying to bar them from performing

their duties. Speaker urges

From Page

The proposed laws include Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (amendment) Bill, 1996; the Livestock Research Institute (amendment) Bill, 1996; the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute (amendment) Bill, 1996; The Jute Research Institute (amendment) Bill, 1996 and Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (amendment) Bill.

Besides, the House disposed of a call attention notice on river erosion. It also had an hour long question answer session.



Finance Minister S A M S Kibria presiding over a meeting of representatives of donors' group at the ministry's conference room yesterday. - PID photo

BOI: Legal framework From Page 1 He also informed that the

JICA has completed a study. Representatives of many of the Japanese firms who attended the meeting pointed out that the image of

Bangladesh was still negative

and suggested that the country

should launch a vigorous move to promote its image "Image of Bangladesh is not so good. It's better for Bangladesh to do something for the improvement of its image," said Kazuko Kanado of Japanese Embassy in Dhaka, and suggested holding seminars to apprise the en-

trepreneurs about the potentials and incentives available here. The BOI chief executive replied that his organisation was planning to arrange an investment seminar sometime this year in the capital to address the question of image

building.

As some entrepreneurs pointed out different bottlenecks in doing business in Bangladesh, Chowdhury acknowledged, but assured that the government was attaching top priority to removal of all snags in attracting foreign investment.

new government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had assured that all commitments regarding investments by foreign companies and agencies would be honoured.

He termed the present gas shortage as "temporary shortsupply" caused by the delay in implementation of the Ashuganj-Bakhrabad Gas Pipeline. "But I can assure you that if there is any shortage of gas in future, KAFCO will be last to face the shortage," he

The BOI chief did not agree with Shunsuke Satomi of Mitsubishi Corporation that it is too early to invest here. "Bangladesh is in the top of the Bay of Bengal growth triangle and a member of SAARC which is trying to develop a preferential trading arrangement. So the potential market is bigger than Bangladesh," he said.

The Japanese businessmen also suggested the Board to bring small and medium-scale entrepreneurs from Japan and to make available the data about the existing incentives and facilities for foreign in-

4 JS committees From Page 1

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury will also announce the Business Advisory Commit-

tee in the House today. The four committees to be proposed by the Chief Whip are: Privilege Committee, Committee on JS Rules of Procedure, House Committee and the Committee on Private Members Bills and Motions.

"I had a plan to propose four important committees today, but the Chief Whip of the Opposition informed me that he would give me the list of their representatives tomorrow (Monday) I will propose the committees tomorrow," Chief Whip of the House told the Chair.

On the formation of the

standing committees on various ministries, Abdullah told the House that it would require amendment to the JS Rules of Procedure. Speaker Chowdhury, who is

nouncement till tomorrow as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition told me that he would send me the list of their rep-

to announce the JS Business Advisory Committee, said "I am deferring the an-

resentatives in the body tomorrow (Monday)."