



VOL. VI NO. 200 REGD. NO. DA 781

The Daily Star

SHRAVAN 27, 1403 BS.

DHAKA SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 1996

RABIUL AWAL 25, 1417 HIJRI

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 5.00

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
 WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
 ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,
 BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
 MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
 OF DIFFERENT TYPES.
NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
 199, TEJGAON 1/A, DHAKA.
 TEL : 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM : 861985

SM Ali's WORLD



Collection of 'My World' published

By Staff Correspondent
 A collection of the columns of Founder-Editor of The Daily Star late SM Ali titled 'S M Ali's World' has been published in book form from Malaysia.

'Southbound' and Asian Institute for Development Communication (AIDCOM) jointly published the book containing a selection of the writings of the distinguished journalist, all of which appeared in his regular column — My World that the late editor wrote in the weekend issue of The Daily Star.

The late S M Ali took Bangladesh journalism to a new height when he launched The Daily Star in January, 1991. He died while undergoing treatment at Bangkok in October, 1993 and wrote his last piece prior to his hospitalisation.

The Daily Star granted the publication rights to Southbound and AIDCOM.

Jatiya Sangsad passes five Bills WASAs to be restructured on commercial line

The Jatiya Sangsad (JS) yesterday passed five bills including the Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Bill, 1996, that sought to restructure the WASAs to make the organisations run effectively on a commercial basis and meet the ever increasing demand for water and a proper sewerage system in the cities.

Four other bills passed by the House are the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Council Bill, 1996; the Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (Amendment) Bill, 1996; the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (Amendment) Bill, 1996 and the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (Amendment) Bill, 1996. Moving the bills separately, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury told the House last week that these would substantially contribute to upgrading both research and management of agriculture.

With the passage of the Water Supply and Sewerage Authority Bill, 1996, a managing director appointed by the government will be the chief executive of a 13-member board of WASA. Presently, chairman is the chief executive.

The members of an WASA board, to be appointed by the

By Staff Correspondent
 government, would include one representative each from the users, the LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry, Finance Ministry, local chamber of commerce, Institute of Chartered Accountants, Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh Bar Council, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Bangladesh Medical Association, Institute of Diploma Engineers and two representatives from local municipalities, the bill said.

According to the bill, the government would also appoint a chairman, a vice-chairman and at least one deputy managing director from among the

members of the board.
 The World Bank had reportedly been insisting on appointing a managing director as chief executive of WASA since long.

Piloting the bill, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman told the House that the present management system and financial condition of WASAs were 'not at all satisfactory'. He added 'The system loss to the extent of 45 per cent, huge arrears and low quality services clearly indicate the problem of WASA management system.'

It is cited in the objective of the bill that the overall management and financial condition of the Dhaka WASA, which has been suffering 40 per cent system loss over the years, are not satisfactory.

A huge overdue from government offices and establishments and private subscribers, failure in regular payment of the DSL (debt servicing liability) and poor service reflect the weakness of the present management, it said.

The bill attributed the complexities and problems in management of Dhaka WASA to its inadequate autonomy, non-accountability of the officials

JS body submits reports on 3 bills

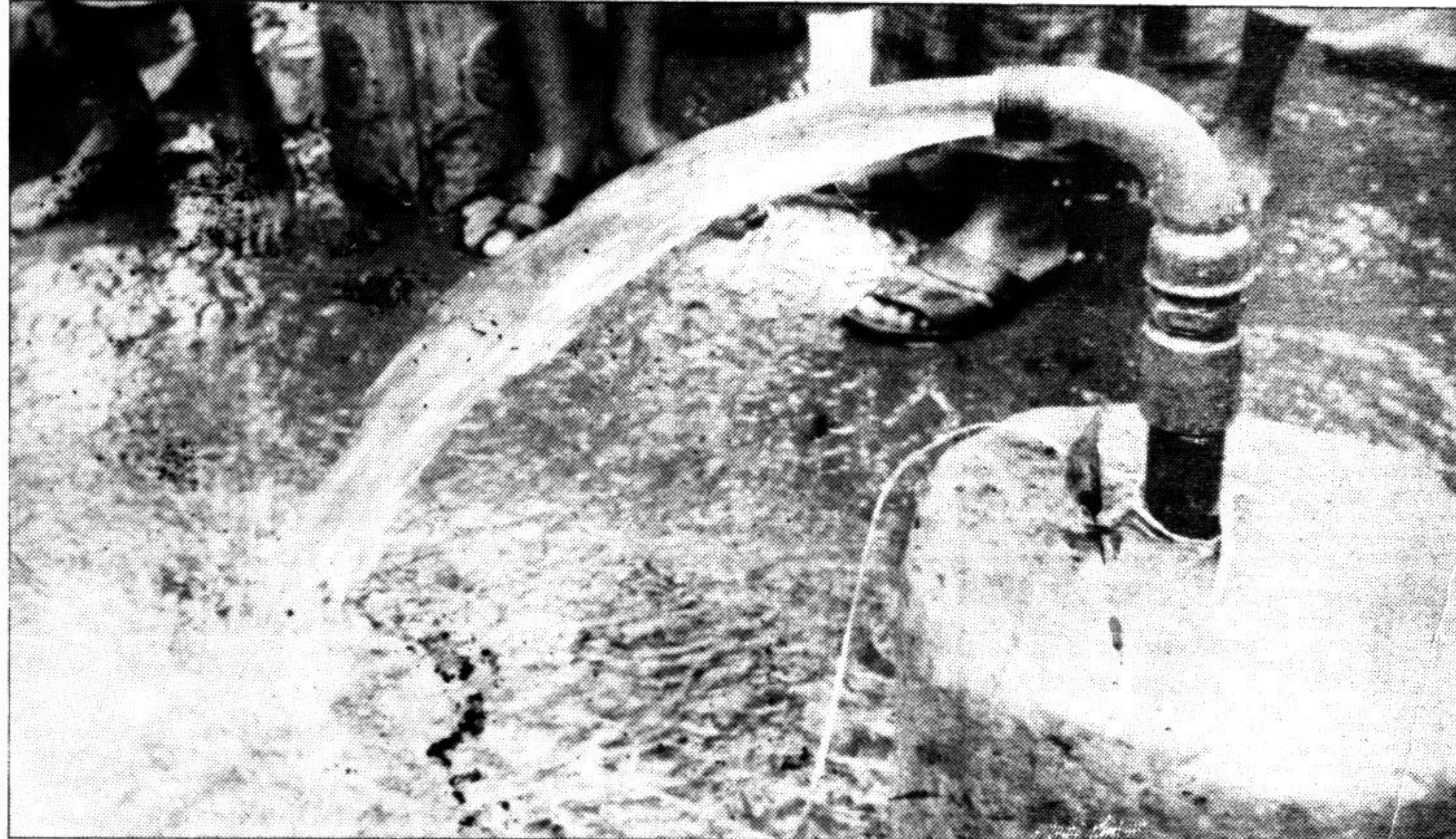
A special committee, constituted to examine the bills placed in the Parliament, submitted its second and third reports before the House yesterday, reports UNB.

Committee Chairman Advocate Rahamat Ali placed the reports on the Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute Bill 1996, the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority

See Page 12 Col 1
 See Page 12 Col 7

Have You Seen It, Mr Mayor?

From today, The Daily Star would be carrying photographs focussing on neglected or troubled aspects of city life to draw the attention of different utilities and organisations which fall under the broad purview of the Mayor as the city's top elected representative.



While the entire capital is plagued with acute water crisis, water is ceaselessly flowing from a public tap at Simpson road in old Dhaka. There is no faucet to regulate or control the water flow. Thousands of gallons of water are wasted this way in different parts of the city everyday.
 — Star photo-AKM Mohsin.

Search for oil in Bay begins today

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Aug 10: The stage is set for launching a month-long search for oil in the Bay of Bengal from tomorrow, sources concerned said.

Three offshore exploration survey vessels — Coral Reef Explorer, Setia Abadi and Anan Abadi — arrived at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port on August 6 and are now stationed near the Kutubdia channel, 35 km off the port.

The vessels, anchored near the site of two gas wells Shangu-1 and Shangu-2, have already carried out the preliminary work to start the oil search in the Bay, the sources informed.

Another survey vessel — Orient Explorer — is scheduled to arrive here tomorrow to join the survey operation.

The Shangu-1 and Shangu-2 gas fields in the Bay were drilled between January and April this year for exploration of gas. But due to rough sea condition the search for oil could not be started from April this year.

The sources hinted that if the survey team could sense the prospect of oil reserve a rig vessel would arrive in next two months time.

Two foreign companies — Cairn Energy Plc and Sea Search Holland — under a joint venture with state-owned Petrobangla signed a production sharing contract in 1994 and then began a survey in the Bay discovering the gas reserves.

The search for oil is the continuation of same project for which the cost was estimated at 200 million US dollars.

Meanwhile, Chittagong Port Authority issued a notice to the mariners to be cautious in operating the vessels in the Bay during the month long oil survey period, port officials said.

Deputy conservator of Chittagong Port Captain Amirul Islam said that the mariners were advised to maintain a distance of at least one kilometer from the survey vessels.

Time-limit for depositing illegal arms extended

The government has extended the duration of amnesty for surrender of illegal arms up to 6pm on August 13 following a 'hopeful' response to the mercy offer for the armsholders, reports UNB.

An official announcement yesterday said the decision was taken to inspire and enable those still illegally possessing arms to lay down those to avail the last opportunity given by the government.

The Home Ministry issued a 72-hour ultimatum for the illegal arms surrender, which began at 6 am last Wednesday, with assurance for the possessors that they would not be charged only for possessing the arms.

Under the drive, launched by the government to curb terrorist acts, more than a hundred firearms along with ammunition were surrendered.

According to the yesterday's government announcement, the deadline for arms surrender will not be extended further in any case.

Meanwhile a total of 187 firearms were surrendered to

Govt likely to seek \$2b at Aid Club meet

By Inam Ahmed and RM Titumir

The Council of Ministers is likely to approve tomorrow the memorandum for the September Paris Aid Club meet with a pledge target of two billion US dollars as foreign assistance in fiscal 1996-97, according to well placed Finance Ministry sources.

The World Bank, which coordinates the Paris Consortium Meet where donors pledge the amount of resources, they would provide, has already indicated that despite a depressing aid climate, the targeted amount could be made available against the backdrop of the new government's commitment to economic management and reforms.

The disbursement target of foreign aid has been fixed at 1.72 billion dollars which includes 160 million dollars as food aid, 260 million dollars as commodity aid and 1300 million dollars as project aid. The disbursement generally indicates the release of funds in the form of cash, goods or services.

The Council of Ministers

meeting on 'Memorandum for the Bangladesh aid group 1996-97', to be placed at the Paris meet on September 9 to 11. It will also approve the government's mid-term economic policy for donors' consideration, the sources said.

In its memorandum, the government would argue that with the re-establishment of political stability and a broad consensus in the society, it could now achieve a growth rate of 5.5 per cent to seven per cent in the short term and medium term.

It would also mention that the country's economy is growing into an export-oriented and a competitive one from an import-substituting and inward-looking one.

Acknowledging that the economic stability suffered badly at the beginning of this decade, the Memorandum said it is now an urgent task to restore fiscal discipline and increase productivity through efficient public spending.

Chalking its growth strategy at the rate of six to seven per

cent for reducing the poverty level, the government would present its plan for macro economic management with low inflation to attract both local and foreign investment.

The memorandum assure that GDP and investment ratio would be raised to 12-20 per cent.

The government expects that crop production will increase by five per cent in this fiscal to 19 million tonnes after it decreased by 3.8 per cent in 1995.

It pointed that the tax GDP ratio has stagnated at 9.5 per cent in 1995 as in the previous year. The fiscal deficit will remain over 6 per cent in 1996 as in 1995.

About speeding up reform in the financial sector, the government pledges improvement of the central bank's monitoring capability, divestiture of some nationalised commercial banks and making the rest profitable. The decision to compensate banks for bad loans incurred in the jute

JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf
 Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid adjourned the afternoon sitting of the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday moments after the Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia took her seat at 7:47 pm.

Begum Zia was seen apparently embarrassed at this but she kept sitting in her chair and talking to some of the party colleagues for quite sometime after the House became almost empty.

Begum Zia, who remained absent from the morning sitting of the day, took her seat at 8:47 pm. The session was adjourned at 8:48 pm.

All the 10 seats in the front row of the Opposition bench remained vacant for about an hour after the afternoon sitting began at 5:38 pm. Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury was the first front bench to take his seat at 6:40 pm, followed by Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury at 7:43 pm, Shaikh Razzak Ali at 7:58 pm and Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at 8:03 pm.

Abdul Hamid, who chaired both the sittings of the day.

Inside Today

Article

Middle East Peace Process—the Netanyahu Factor
 Column: The Horizon
 This Week
 by Arshad-uz Zaman
 Page 4

Focus

Law and Our Rights

The censorship of the freedom of expression; The act of rape in armed conflict
 Page 5

International

Pak opposition to force govt to withdraw new taxes

Saddam's prospects for holding onto power declining: CIA
 Page 8

Business

Two bills seeking to amend Insurance Act and Insurance Corporations Act are placed in Jatiya Sangsad

Reforms help pull Indian banks out of the red
 Pages 6,7

DSE MARKET

DSE price index 1130.33 (+0%)
 Market capital Tk 7754.75 cr
 Transactions in volume 373447
 Transactions in value Tk 8.34 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 473.60 (+41%)
 Market capital Tk 4315.52 cr
 Transactions in volume 36800
 Transactions in value Tk 8141055 cr



The Muktiyoddah Sanghati Parishad brought out a procession in the city yesterday as part of its programme in observance of the National Mourning Day on August 15. — Star photo

'Permanent water accord a must to avoid disastrous consequences'

By Staff Correspondent

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak said yesterday that Bangladesh and India must reach an immediate and permanent solution to the Ganges water sharing issues before the former becomes a victim of disastrous consequences.

'In the absence of any accord on water sharing for the last seven years the entire northern region of the country is reeling under a desertification process,' said the minister while speaking as chief guest at a seminar on 'Sharing the Ganges Waters.' In Pursuit of A Solution.

The seminar was organised at a city hotel by the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), a think-tank against the backdrop of the recent foreign secretary level talks between Bangladesh and India on water sharing and some other

bilateral issues.
 With BUP Chairman Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad in the chair, the seminar was participated by a large number of experts while BUP Vice-President Prof Dr Hafiz Siddiqi delivered the address of welcome. A paper prepared jointly by Dr Ahmad and Prof KB Sajjadur Rasheed of Geography Department, Dhaka University, was also presented at the seminar.

The Water Resources Minister said, 'We like to give a clear message to the international community that firstly, we want a permanent solution and we want it immediately; secondly, we want our just share and thirdly, we call upon the government and people of India that we seek your cooperation to resolve the issue in a friendly manner.'

Referring to the recent

talks, a confident Razzak said, 'India has expressed its goodwill to resolve the Ganges water-sharing issue and we hope the path of an immediate solution is ushering in.'

'We can't afford to spare any more time as we have already been pushed to the wall. Getting my share of water is my basic human right. I hope for sure that our friendly neighbour India realizes our difficulties,' said the minister adding 'our thrust will be to reach a permanent solution taking the previous agreements as the baseline,' the minister said.

'Alongside a solution to the Ganges water sharing issue, Bangladesh needs to bargain for establishing its legitimate rights on waters of 53 other common rivers with India and augmenting the water flow of the international rivers,' the minister said. Razzak observed

Lecturer murder: 3 arrested, placed on remand

By Staff Correspondent

Three persons were placed on four days police remand yesterday in connection with the killing of a former college teacher in her apartment at Bailey Road in the city on Friday.

Police identified the arrested persons as Mojibur Rahman, Kalam and Selim. They were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday afternoon. The court issued four days remand for further interrogation.

The three arrested persons had been working as carpenters and painters at the Bailey Road flat of the murdered woman, police said.

Police, however, termed the investigation in connection with the killing of lecturer of Kabir Nazrul Islam College Nargis Jahani Farida Begum, 51, a

See Page 12 Col 7

Agitation if repression not stopped: Mannan

COMILLA, Aug 10: Bangla-

desh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP said the BNP would launch a mass movement if the current 'reign of terror and repression' did not stop, reports UNB.

'We'll be compelled to wage street movement if the scenario does not change and we are not given scope to speak in the Jatiya Sangsad,' said the BNP Secretary General while addressing as chief guest a special representative conference of the South district unit BNP here today.

Mannan Bhuiyan said they were committed to playing the role of a responsible opposition in Parliament and cooperating with the ruling party as such. 'But we are not being given floor to speak.'

He said ministers and MPs of the governing Awami League had been violating the rules of

procedure by talking tall talks and using the Sangsad as a tool to tarnish the image of the BNP. 'We are even not being allowed to respond to such a matter.'

Referring to 'shameless' politicisation by the Awami League government, the BNP leader and former minister said: 'The bureaucrats of the so-called Janata Manch are being rewarded and promoted.'

He alleged that some innocent officers and employees were being victimised through transfer and other punitive measures taken by the government.

He pointed out appointments in the Red Crescent Society, Attorney General and Sports Federation, and transfers in Sonali Bank and so on.

'We want arms-free Bangladesh,' the BNP Secretary General said.

See Page 12 col 6

DMC classes resume today

By DMC Correspondent

Classes at the Dhaka Medical College (DMC) resumes today after an unscheduled closure for about a month, according to authorities of the college.

The decision was taken at a meeting of all student leaders of the college with the principal Prof ABM Ahsanullah, said a top official of the DMC.

The meeting held at the principal's office lasted for about an hour and was attended by leaders of the DMC Students Union and all student organisations.

The DMC was closed since die on July 10 following clashes between activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on the campus during the inaugural function of its Golden Jubilee.

Authorities later reopened the college on August 5, but the JCD called a strike on that day to press its six-point demand including allowing student politics on the campus and fixing a date election of the students union. The strike continued till yesterday.

A JCD press release said last night that the strike was called off after the authorities' assurance to accept the demands.

One killed as police, smugglers clash in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 10: One person was killed following a clash between police and some smugglers last night at Patenga.

Police said Imam Hossain, 35, who sustained bullet wounds during the clash succumbed to his injuries at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital at 4 am today.

The incident occurred following the recovery of 35 cartons of smuggled foreign cigarettes from Patenga when the smugglers retaliated by exploding cocktails police said.

See Page 12 col 8

NEWS BRIEFS

BNPPP meets today

An emergency meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party will be held at Committee Room no. one of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban at 3 pm today. Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will preside over the meeting, reports UNB.

JS session adjourned till 10 am today

Parliament was adjourned yesterday till 10 am today. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury announced the adjournment at 8:47 pm, reports UNB.