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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 1129.10 (-0.59%)
Market capital Tk 7746.27 cr
Transactions in volume 743167
Transactions in value Tk 13.37 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 468.41 (-0.53%)
Market capital Tk 4264.25 cr
Transactions in volume 63190
Transactions in value Tk 837690

NEWS BRIEFS

Fowler meets Speaker

British High Commissioner in Bangladesh Peter J Fowler yesterday called on Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury at the latter's office. They discussed matters of mutual interest of both the countries and exchanged views on different aspects of parliamentary affairs, reports BSS.

Cultural team off to Lanka

A 10-member delegation of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy left Dhaka yesterday for Sri Lanka to attend the 5-day SAARC Drumming and Dance Festival, beginning today. Hamida Haq, Director (training) of the Academy, is leading the delegation, reports UNB.

21 shops gutted in Chandpur: 15 hurt

CHANDPUR, Aug 13: At least 15 people received burn injuries when 21 shops were gutted in a fire at Ramchandrapur Bazar in Hajiganj thana on Monday night. Witnesses said the fire originated from an electric short circuit and soon devoured the adjoining shops of the congested bazar. Fire fighters from Chandpur and Hajiganj rushed to the bazar, but could not extend their help as the lane was too narrow to reach the spot, reports UNB.

Fisherman killed

FARIDPUR, Aug 13: A fisherman was killed and five others were injured in a clash between two rival groups of people at Harina village in Nagarkanda thana today. Police and hospital sources said Agnashwar Malo, 50, and five others were injured in the clash erupted over taking possession of a pond in the morning, reports UNB.

Old man burnt to death

CHITTAGONG, Aug 13: An old man was burnt to death in a fire at Purbamazapur village in Hathazari thana midnight last night. Police said local people recovered the roasted body of Munshi Miah, 75, after a 45-minute devastating blaze that gutted few houses. Villagers suspected the fire might have originated from an oven, reports UNB.

3 killed in Pak jet crash

QUETTA, Pak, Aug 13: Three people were killed and 11 injured when a Pakistani air force fighter aircraft crashed into a village near the southwestern town of Quetta during a training flight today, military sources said. They said two children and a woman died on the ground when the F-6 jet crashed near the Smungli Air Force Base.

Acts of sabotage alleged: Arms recovered

Farooq, Shahriar and Khairuzzaman held

Star Report

Three former army officers, including a self-confessed killer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, were arrested yesterday under the Special Powers Act and sent to the Dhaka Central Jail.

Police arrested Col (retd.) Farooq Rahman, widely known for masterminding the August 15 killings, from his old DOHS residence at about 3:40 am and picked up Col (retd.) Shahriar Rashid Khan at about 11 am from his Eskaton residence while Major (retd.) Khairuzzaman was arrested from the Gulshan residence of his brother-in-law in a pre-dawn raid yesterday.

A number of licensed and illegal firearms, ammunitions,

duplicate Bangladesh passports and foreign currencies were also recovered from the possession of the three arrested army officers, police sources said.

All three were later sent to the Dhaka Central Jail on a 30-day detention under the Special Powers Act of 1974.

They are all widely known as the men involved in the brutal killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and members of his family, totalling about 20. On several occasions Col (retd.) Farooq and Col (retd.) Shahriar Rashid had confessed their active involvement in the August 15 murder and plotting to the existing government.

The arrests of the three came only two days before the nation mourns the killing of the country's independence leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, along with almost all his family members, 21 years ago on August 15, 1975.

The arrests were made on suspicion, based on different intelligence agency reports, that the three were involved in acts of sabotage. The combined operation to arrest them under Section 54 of the penal code was carried out by the Detective Branch (DB) of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Special Branch (SB), Special Armed Force and police from thanas concerned in

collaboration with other national intelligence agencies, said a senior police official.

"We arrested them on suspicion of contemplating sabotage and in the process found several licensed and unlicensed arms and ammunitions and several passports in their houses," said the police official.

Raiding the residence of Col (retd.) Farooq, son of late Maj (retd.) Ataur Rahman, at road no. 3, old DOHS under Cantonment thana, at about 3:40 am, the police team recovered one pistol, two revolvers, one shotgun and more than 250 rounds of different types of ammunitions, the police sources said.

They added that when the police arrived at his residence Col (retd.) Farooq voluntarily handed over only one licensed gun and one revolver and produced their licences. Police, however, after a search of his house found the remaining unlicensed weapons. Besides, police seized different foreign currency notes from his residence.

A case under the Arms Act was filed with the Cantonment thana in this connection, police said.

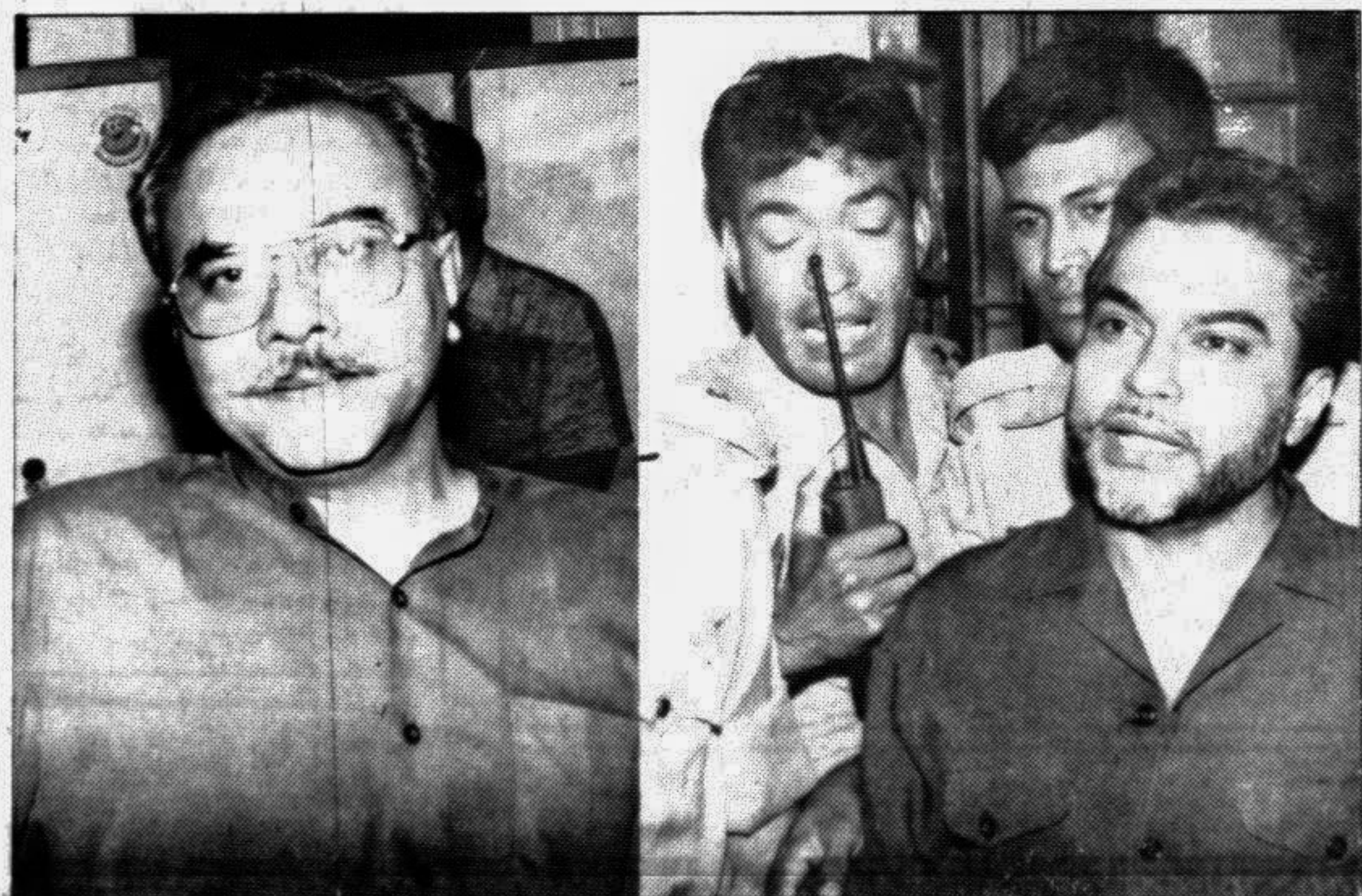
At the residence of Col (retd.) Shahriar, son of Harunur Rashid, at 2/C-5 Property Enclave apartment building at 54, New Eskaton under Ramna thana, police found three Bangladesh Passports belonging to the arrested colonel, police said.

Police sources said that they were verifying the seized passports while a General Diary was filed with Ramna thana yesterday.

One revolver, one 22 bore rifle and a gun were seized from the Gulshan residence from where Maj (retd.) Khairuzzaman was picked up during the pre-dawn raid, police said adding that he later

— Star photo

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Col (retd.) Farooq Rahman (L) at the Detective Branch office and Col (retd.) Shahriar Rashid at the Ramna thana after they were arrested yesterday.

Hasina tells seminar on freedom struggle History can't be suppressed

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her government's commitment to bringing economic emancipation of the people, reports UNB.

"Bangabandhu brought independence of the country, but did not get the time to ensure economic emancipation of the people... We got the opportunity after 21 years to translate into reality the dream of the Father of the Nation," she said.

"I do not want to be the ruler, I want to serve the people," she said and called upon all to point out her faults in running the administration.

The Prime Minister was addressing a discussion meeting on 'Bangalees' Freedom Struggle and Father of the Nation' organised by Bangabandhu Parishad on the occasion of National Mourning Day '96 at the Engineers' Institution auditorium.

Dr Harunur Rashid presented the key-note paper while Shawkat Osman, Shamsur Rahman, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Dr Nileema Ibrahim and Justice Kemaluddin Hossain participated in the discussion. Parishad's chairperson poet Sofia Kamal presided.

Referring to distortion of history in last 21 years, the Prime Minister said it has once again been proved that truth can never be suppressed.

"The real history cannot be suppressed by lies, it cannot be erased," Hasina said recalling Bangabandhu's sacrifice and struggle for the country and its people.

Paying rich tributes to the memory of those who laid down their lives in different movements leading the nation to independence, she said, "Independence does not come in a day... it followed a long struggle."

I feel pity for those who

distort the history," she said while referring to Leader of the Opposition Begum Zia's recent comment in parliament that Bangabandhu had surrendered to the Pakistani authorities on March 25.

"If Bangabandhu would have compromised, he could be the Prime Minister of Pakistan," she said adding he (Mujib) did not leave his house even after being pressed by many leaders and well-wishers as he wanted to save lives of the people.

Bangabandhu, the Prime Minister said, had dreamt of a free nation long before the independence. Those who criticise him (Bangabandhu) did not want independence of the country, she added.

She said reactionary forces who grabbed power anywhere in the world could never be driven out. But revolutionary forces in Bangladesh could come back to power through a democratic struggle as truth

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JCD-BCL clash at Mohanganj College: One killed

NETRAKONA, Aug 13: One student was killed and seven others were injured as two rival groups of students clashed yesterday at Mohanganj Degree College in Netrakona, reports BSS.

The clash erupted over the hanging of a portrait of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the office of the college students union, police and eyewitnesses said today.

They said the students belonging to the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) fought for several hours on the college campus. They used lethal arms in the fight.

The critically injured Mohammad Shilpi, a degree student of the college, died at the operation theatre of Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he was sent for treatment. Five others were admitted to Mohanganj Thana Health Complex, but later they were transferred to Netrakona

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Govt seeks extension of WB-funded JSAC

The government has sought a two-year extension of the World Bank funded 250 million US dollar Jute Sector Adjustment Credit (JSAC) due to end by December this year, reports UNB.

According to official sources, the government made the proposal for extending the JSAC for two years during a recent review meeting with a World Bank team.

According to the sources, the World Bank mission did not turn down the plea but, in return, asked for firm commitment on implementing some key reforms as per fresh proposals.

The Bank wanted commitment, by this month, from the government on the fresh reform schedule. Only then the Bank would consider any extension, sources said.

The previous government had signed agreement with the World Bank in February 1994 on the 250 million US dollar JSAC, under which the government was to implement an ambitious reform programme in the ailing jute sector.

First instalment, 50 million US dollar, of the credit, the largest-ever World Bank credit programme for Bangladesh, was released in April 1994 following re-trenchment of 12,000 surplus workers and closure of four heavily loss-making public mills. The Bangladesh Jute

Corporation (BJC), too, was dismantled at the time.

But the credit remained stalled since then due to authorities' failure to go by the reform schedule. On several occasions, meantime, the World Bank threatened to cancel the credit.

Failure to privatise public jute mills has been a major cause behind the holding up of the credit for more than two years.

The government was to off-load about 18 public-sector jute mills to the private sector in phases. But not a single mill

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Another jail escapee held

From Our Correspondent
TANGAIL, Aug 13: Another jail escapee was nabbed by police from the Bhuanpur ferry terminal here this morning.

Golan Azam, 30, one of the 13 prisoners who had escaped from the Dhaka Central Jail on July 14, was arrested by police when he was on his way to Isurdi.

There are two cases filed with Bhuanpur thana against Azam.

According to police, Azam after escaping from jail stayed in Dhaka, Narayanganj and Kishoreganj.

Hearing of writ continues The President is not in service, court told

By SC Correspondent

The President is not in the service of the Republic rather he is the appointing authority of all persons in service of the Republic. Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq observed yesterday while making his submission in a writ petition challenging the election of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as the President of Bangladesh.

On the second day of hearing of the writ, Rafique-ul-Huq submitted that as far as the president is concerned, he is

not the president of the government, but that of the Republic.

Barrister Rafiq, one of the amicus curiae, also argued that the President is not in the service of the Republic as per Article 133 and 134 of the Constitution.

He argued that although the President gets remuneration and other benefits out of the consolidated fund of the state he is not in the service of the Republic.

His arguments in the case will continue today.

Earlier yesterday, Attorney General KS Nabi concluded his submission before the Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice MM Huq and Justice MA Matin. Advocate Maksudur Rahman also made his submission on behalf of the Chief Election Commissioner.

Attorney General KS Nabi, Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq and Advocate Maksudur Rahman all opined that as Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was yet to take oath as President, the writ petition in the form of quo-warranto was pre-mature.

Barrister KS Nabi submitted that according to Article 147 (1) (3) and (4) of the Constitution, the Office of the Presi-

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3-day nat'l mourning programme begins

'August 15 a stigma in history of Bangladesh'

TUNGIPARA, Aug 13: A three-day national mourning programme began here today commemorating the 21st anniversary of the assassination of country's founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, reports UNB.

Cabinet members and central leaders of ruling Awami League placed wreaths and offered *fateha* at the mazar of the late leaders at noon marking the opening of the national programme.

Ministers, state ministers, MPs, members of the AL executive committee had arrived here in the morning to pay tributes to the memory of Bangabandhu.

Besides placing wreaths, they attended a *milad mahfil* and a commemorative meeting at the mazar premises.

Awami League leaders at the meeting said trial of all the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman would be held on the soil of this country.

Addressing the meeting AL General Secretary and Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman termed the month of August as a stigma in the history of Bangladesh because the Father of the Nation was assassinated this month 21 years ago.

He said Bangabandhu had dreamt an exploitation-free and poverty-free Bangladesh, but could not realise those in his life as he was killed by the 'enemies' of the nation.

"We can remove the black spot from our history through materialising the dreams of Bangabandhu," said the AL General Secretary and called upon all to cooperate with the

government in fulfilling the basic needs of commonman.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad in his speech said the main objective of Bangabandhu was to build a poverty, terrorism and corruption-free Bangladesh.

"Now there is a lot of problems and obstacles before our leader Sheikh Hasina. These are really a great challenge for the Awami League government," he said. "We have to face the challenges to bring smiles on the faces of the millions."

He said Bangabandhu believed in consensus and "we have to overcome the challenges and obstacles through national consensus".

Sajeda Chowdhury MP said trial of the killers of Bangabandhu must be held on the

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11 killed in Bhaluka bus accident

At least 15 people were killed and 70 others injured in two road accidents — one at Bhaluka in Mymensingh on Monday night and the other at Ganda under Savar thana — yesterday, reports UNB.

At Bhaluka at least 11 people were killed and 40 others wounded in a head-on collision between a microbus and a minibus.

Police said the accident took place at Hazir Bazar in Bhaluka thana on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at about 11 pm. Five people died on the spot and six succumbed to their injuries at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

The microbus was reportedly carrying Awami League leaders and workers who were returning to Sherpur after meeting Kader Siddiqui, MP, in Dhaka Monday night.

Eight of the dead were identified as Gouranga Pal, 38, Baidyanath Kar, 40, Bahadur

Shah, 28, Tofai, 25, Tomirun, 40, Fatema, 55, Jasim Uddin, 35, and Sangkar Shah, 28.

Police said they handed over seven bodies to their relatives while the rest four bodies, including that of Tamiran of Kurigram district, were kept in the hospital morgue.

Of the injured, 12 were admitted to MMCH where the conditions of five were stated to be critical. They are Abul Kasem, 50, Hasmat, 40, Asraf, 35, Anisur Rahman, 23, and Haider Ali, 45.

Kader Siddiqui, MP visited the hospital to see the injured people and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved families.

In another accident in Savar, four people were killed and 30 others injured when a Dhaka-bound bus plunged into a roadside ditch near Ganda under Savar thana yesterday.

According to police, the accident occurred when the

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Arms recovery drive begins

Star Report

An all-out arms recovery drive started across the country from midnight last night after the expiry on Tuesday of the seven-day deadline for voluntary surrender of illegal weapons, according to official sources.

A detailed plan has been chalked out identifying the probable dens of illegal arms, where raids would be carried out, said a highly-placed official adding the government was giving top priority to rooting out terrorism and freeing the country from illegal weapons.

Meanwhile, officials at the police headquarters in the city said, total of 602 weapons of various kinds were surrendered voluntarily during the seven day period after the government announcement on August 7.

Of these, 51 weapons and 173 rounds of bullets were surrendered in the Dhaka

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Power tariff may be raised by 15pc

By Shahriar Khan

The government is likely to take a decision on increasing the power tariff by 15 per cent soon, according to an authoritative source at the Energy Ministry.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other donor agencies have recommended increasing the power tariff by 25 per cent. But the government agreed, in principle, to raise the power tariff by a maximum of 15 per cent apprehending possible political repercussions, the source pointed out.

A proposal to increase the power tariff was placed at the cabinet meeting Monday, but no decision was taken on the matter. The issue was also discussed at a meeting convened by Energy Minister Lt Gen (retd) Nooruddin Khan yesterday.

Noting that the donors were seeking a quick decision on the matter, the ministry

source said: "But it will require further discussion and it will take at least a couple of days to finalise the issue."

The source noted that if the government did not increase the power tariff soon, the ADB might back out from funding a vital project to build a connecting line between the 210 MW Razuan Power Plant in Chittagong and the national grid as well as other future projects like the Meghna Ghat Power Plant. The World Bank is also pressing for an increase in the power tariff.

The power tariff was last increased in 1991 when the power sector was sustaining an annual loss of more than Tk 350 crore due to pilferage in the guise of 40 to 45 per cent system loss of the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).

The World Bank and the ADB as well as other donors

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Accord with China to construct bridge over Karotoa

Fourth Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge (Karotoa bridge) construction agreement was signed in the city yesterday between Dhaka and Beijing, reports BSS.

Chief Engineer of Roads and Highways Department Tohru Ahmad and President of China Heilongjiang International Corporation Gao Yong Wen signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

After the completion of the bridge, the distance between

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5 hurt as bomb hurled at Jubo Dal procession

Five people were injured when a bomb was hurled at a procession of the Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal near Shahbagh intersection in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Police said Jubo Dal activists themselves were carrying the bomb, but the Jubo Dal leaders claimed that the bomb was thrown by miscreants on their procession.

Of the injured, Jubo Dal activists Abu Taher and Nasir, and a pedestrian Shahid were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical

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ANNOUNCEMENT



The Star Weekend Magazine comes out this week tomorrow with a fascinating cover story on the new crop of stage players—their life and leisure, dreams and frustrations, agony and ecstasy. Besides regular features, read a special report on the victims of acid throwing.

Ask your hawk for your copy