



VOL. VI NO. 207 REGD. NO. DA 781

BHADRA 4, 1403 BS.

DHAKA MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 1996

RABIUS SAANI 4, 1417 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

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## Inside Today

### Article

**For Permanent Sharing of Ganges Water**

by Amjad Hossain Khan  
Page 4

### Focus

**Biman: Fleet modernisation programme; and Patient, heal thyself!**  
Page 5

### International

**Fightings cast doubts on Chechnya ceasefire**

**Gaddafi's security guard, 13 soldiers killed in violence**  
Page 8

### Business

**Akhaura border can be used as transit for trade, Tripura Chamber team tells PM**

**DSE and CSE price indicators continue to fall**  
Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET	
DSE price index	1124.36 (-0.05%)
Market capital Tk	7713.77 cr
Transactions in volume	319964
Transactions in value Tk	7.51 cr

CSE MARKET	
CSE price index	467.13 (-0.18%)
Market capital Tk	4257.55 cr
Transactions in volume	22720
Transactions in value Tk	6164070

### Metropolitan

#### Dhaka Day by Day



**Yet Another Cable Novelty**  
Page 3

## Discussion resumes in JS Budget pro-peasant: AL Jugglery of words: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

The members of the Treasury and Opposition benches in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday continued discussion on the proposed national budget for 1996-97 placed in the House by Finance Minister S A M S Kibria on July 28.

The Treasury bench members praised the budget specially for its Tk 100 crore allocation for 'subsidy' to the agriculture sector. They termed the budget a 'pro-peasant' one.

The opposition BNP lawmakers termed the budget documents a 'jugglery of words' with no vision for the future. They argued that the budget had actually proposed no 'subsidy' for the peasants' and that the proposed allocation of Tk 100 crore would eventually benefit the businessmen who import agricultural machinery.

A Jatiya Party member was

critical of the proposed budget while another of the same party appreciated it.

Rafiqul Anwar of the ruling Awami League said, "the Tk 100 crore allocation as subsidy for the peasants" and reduction of tariff on the agricultural machinery will step up growth in the sector. He also lauded the budget for proposing the 'highest allocation' for education sector.

Fazlur Azim of BNP said the Tk 100 crore allocation had actually nothing to do with the peasants. Quoting from the budget speech of the finance minister he said that the amount would actually be used in the exemption of 80 per cent interest on bank loans taken by those who import agricultural machinery.

"The allocation, therefore, would benefit a section of the

intermediary business class, not the peasants as such," Fazlur Azim added.

Contesting the finance minister's claim that the budget has proposed no fresh taxes, he said expansion of Value Added Tax (VAT) to the retail level certainly amounted to imposition of fresh taxes.

Chitra Bhattacharya of the Treasury bench said that the proposed budget was in line with AL's election manifesto that had promised subsidy to the agriculture sector. "Proper implementation of the proposed budget would prepare the country to face the challenges of the 21st century," she said.

She thanked the finance minister for his speech which, she said, "correctly identified that the women in the country have been victims of various

### JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf

The former BNP government of Begum Khaleda Zia built pucca school buildings in the areas where sunlight did not reach and where human beings did not turn up. BNP lawmaker and former education minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

"We constructed a pucca school building at Madarganj (of Jamalpur) where sunlight does not reach... We also set up a three-story school in an area in Rangpur where no human being ever stepped in," Sircar said while highlighting the achievements of the BNP government in his deliberation on the proposed budget for the 1996-97 fiscal.

The Opposition legislators' dramatic and humorous presentation caused laughter among all the members and received table-thumpings from his party MPs.

An enthusiastic former minister included the Joyprhat Limestone Project in his long

See Page 12 Col 1

## Attempt on Sheikh Helal alleged AL activist gunned down during election campaign

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 18: An Awami League activist was shot dead by unidentified gunmen today when he was attending a campaign of the party candidate for by-election in Bagerhat-1, party sources and witnesses said.

The victim, Nasir, 30, hit in his head, died on way to hospital.

Candidate Sheikh Helaluddin, who is a cousin of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, however, escaped unhurt.

The attackers fired 2-3 gunshots from a secret place while Sheikh Helal along with party leaders and workers were conducting door-to-door campaign for the coming by-election at

village Dariala in Mollarhat thana of Bagerhat district at around 10:30 in the morning.

The assailants immediately fled the scene after firing.

Nasir was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital where attending doctors declared him dead.

Bagerhat district and city AL have blamed BNP for the attack and alleged an attempt on the life of Sheikh Helal.

On the other hand, BNP has denied the charge and claimed that the deceased was a Jubo Dal activist.

The police super of Bagerhat, when contacted, confirmed the

See Page 12 col 8

## Documents seized from Farooq's house

Police yesterday raided the house of Col (rtd) Farooq Rahman and recovered nine bullets, police sources said, reports UNB.

A three-member special squad of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) conducted the search operation.

The plainclothes police seized some papers and documents from Farooq's residence at DOHS in the city. The details of the seized papers could not be known immediately.

Our Staff Correspondent Adds: Col Farooq's house, was searched from 1 pm to 6:45 pm, according to his mother. "The whole house including the servant's quarter was searched," she said.

"One PC computer set, eight cassettes, papers and books were taken by them," she said.

Some official sources also hinted that police might seek remand for Col Farooq for interrogation.

Three retired army officers

See Page 12 Col 7

## Acting Kuwaiti PM meets Samad Azad

KUWAIT, Aug 18: Acting prime minister and foreign minister of the state of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al Sabah paid a courtesy call on Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at his hotel suit today now on an official visit to Kuwait, reports BSS.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Minister extended a very warm welcome to Bangladesh Foreign Minister who in turn thanked the Kuwaiti leader for the extraordinary courtesy and generous hospitality.

The two ministers exchanged reminiscences of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the late leader's contribution to the fraternal relations between Bangladesh and Kuwait.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister conveyed to the acting prime minister of Kuwait the warm greetings from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and continuous support of

See Page 12 Col 3

## Divers search for Tareq's body

By Staff Correspondent

Private divers as well as divers from the fire service were deployed during the day-long extensive search for finding the body of Md Moinuddin Kashem alias Tareq at Meghna ghat yesterday, said police.

Till the writing of this report late last night, Tareq's body was yet to be found, according to family sources.

Mohammad Abul Kashem, father of Tareq, in the FIR lodged with the Gazaria police station and the General Diary with the Gulshan police station on August 15 stated that Tareq's friends were responsible for the murder of his son. The family suspected that Tareq was killed and the body was dumped near the Meghna Ghat under the Gazaria thana.

See Page 12 Col 4

## Govt employees demand 30pc DA

The Bangladesh Government Employees' Coordination Council yesterday demanded immediate formation of a permanent pay and service commission and 30 per cent dearness allowance until the new pay commission is implemented, reports BSS.

The leaders of the Council at a press conference also urged the government to fix the ratio of highest and lowest pay scale at five to one keeping the lowest salary scale at a respectable amount.

The Council alleged that the then BNP government signed an agreement with the Council in 1994 to fulfill the demands within two months. But the then government took no measures to resolve the demands afterwards and thus made its agreement with the employees a 'farce'.

## Kalpna's mother protests BHRC report

By Staff Correspondent

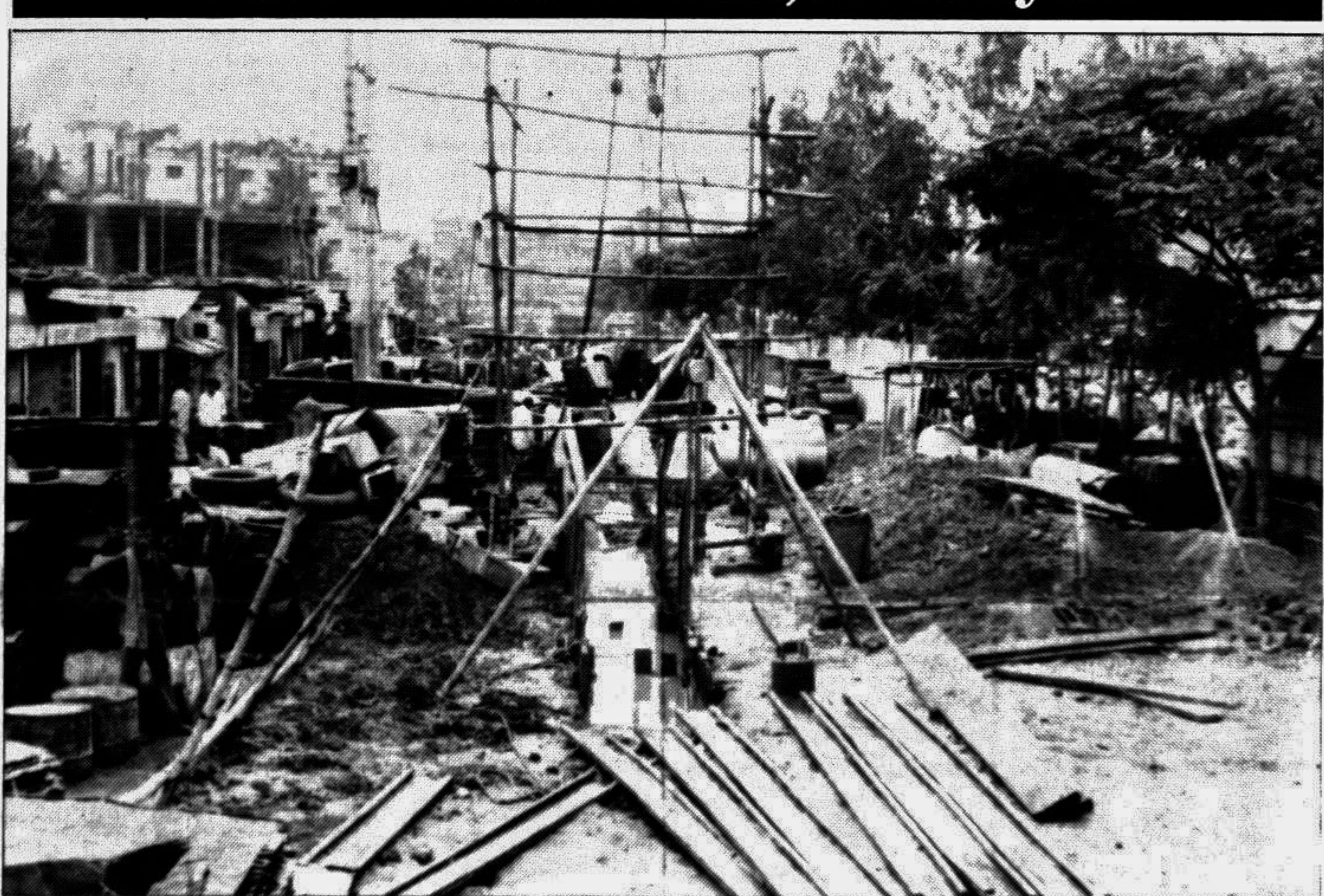
Bandhuni Chakma, the mother of abducted Kalpna Chakma, yesterday said that the report of the Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) on Kalpna claiming that she is now in the Tripura state of India was a 'blatant lie'.

Bandhuni also denied that she told BHRC that Kalpna had contacted her twice after the abduction.

Kalpna's mother was talking to newsmen at a press conference at the National Press Club. Leaders of the Hill Women's Federation (HWF)

See Page 12 Col 7

## Have You Seen This, Mr Mayor?



This important road in Sutrapur, near Dholai Khal, has been closed for the last three months. The cause of the closure is the construction of sewerage lines. As is clear from the photograph, it will be a long time before the work is completed. Meanwhile, thousands of residents of the area have been suffering due to the closure of the road. Citizens want, and deserve, an explanation from the relevant authorities.

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman.

## Arrival of Pak nationals at ZIA

## No deportation, they came to visit relatives: Pak FS

By Staff Correspondent

Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Najmuddin Sheikh yesterday said that his country was keen to expand bilateral cooperation with Bangladesh and hoped both countries would work for ensuring peace and stability in the South Asian region.

He was addressing a press conference at the state guest house Meghna prior to his departure for Beijing on conclusion of a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Najmuddin Sheikh emphasised further expansion of ties and said "We share many commonalities and must take advantage of these commonalities to develop and expand our relations in the mutual interest of our two countries."

He said both countries were following a policy of liberalisation and encouraging promotion of trade and investment

and hoped new joint ventures could be taken up under the liberalisation policy.

Najmuddin Sheikh said he had handed over a letter from Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Responding to questions on repatriation of stranded Pakistanis and sharing of assets and liabilities of pre-independence period he said that the issues were raised during the official talks.

He, however, added that

"these were complex issues and there has been exchange of each others points of view."

Asked if something concrete was forthcoming on the issue of repatriation of stranded Pakistanis, he termed the issue a 'humanitarian problem' and said both the governments need to work together to expedite the process.

He, however, insisted that Pakistan government had honoured the original agreement in full by taking back 'three categories of people'.

When it was pointed out that there was an effort to push some people into Bangladesh from Pakistan recently, Najmuddin Sheikh said they were not deported and that they wanted to come on their own to see their relatives. "We had differing views on the subject," he said and claimed that there was a large number of Bangladeshis in Pakistan. He indicated that their number could be more than a million.

He said that some who had arrived at Dhaka airport recently from Pakistan were sent back by Dhaka for carrying forged documents.

The Pakistan foreign secretary said those Bangladeshis

See Page 12 col 8

## Benazir invited to visit Bangladesh

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has invited Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to visit Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The invitation was given when Pakistan Foreign Secretary Nazmuddin Sheikh called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday morning.

Nazmuddin handed over a letter of Benazir Bhutto to Hasina.

The Pakistani Foreign Secretary said a schedule for the proposed visit of Benazir would be worked out quickly through diplomatic channel.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Hasina underlined promotion of regional cooperation under the framework of SAARC for advancement of more than one billion people of South Asia.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister said there had been certain problems between the two countries which should be resolved.

Drug and terrorism are the major problems of this region," she said and called for cooperation of all the countries of the region for tackling the duo.

## Indemnity Ordinance violation of fundamental rights: AI

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 18: Amnesty International (AI) chairperson Prof Ross Daniel said here today that free hand reporting in newspapers and other media could play a pivotal role in creating mass awareness about the human rights being abused in the world, reports BSS.

The AI chief said, the indemnity Ordinance in Bangladesh is a violation of fundamental rights.

Prof Daniel who is now in Bangladesh on a four-day goodwill visit to see for himself the activities of Amnesty International group in Dhaka, was speaking as the chief guest

See Page 12 Col 2

## Memo to Home Minister BNP alleges terrorism, torture on partymen

BNP submitted a memorandum to Home Minister Rafiqul Islam yesterday protesting what it called terrorism, torture and repression on its leaders and workers across the country, reports UNB.

It alleged in the memorandum that about 50 leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations were killed, several thousand others injured and several hundred arrested or forced to leave their homes in last one and a half months.

Party leaders Abdullah Al Noman, Col Akbar Hossain, MP, Abdul Hye, MP, Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, MP and Jaijal Abedin Faruk, MP met the Home Minister at his office and handed over the memorandum to him.

The memorandum, signed by BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, mentioned some incidents that took place after the assumption of power

by the Awami League one and a half months ago.

In some places, it said, houses of BNP leaders and workers were looted and set on fire, women were physically abused and a large sum of money was forcibly collected as toll from the businessmen who support BNP.

The memorandum referred to some specific incidents that occurred in Jessore, Kushtia, Khulna, Bagerhat, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Jhenidah, Feni, Patuakhali and Chittagong districts, where BNP men fell victims to repression.

The BNP leaders demanded immediate arrest of those responsible for the killing, looting, arson, ransacking and other terrorist activities and stern legal actions against them.

They also demanded the release of the BNP leaders and

See Page 12 Col 7

## JCD, BCL consolidate positions at DU halls

By DU Correspondent

Armed outsiders belonging to the two rival student organisations, Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), have again consolidated their positions in the halls of Dhaka University, according to sources in the students' dormitories.

The BCL, itself divided into two rival factions, has consolidated its position in four halls. The Faridpur faction, led by Shamim Ahmed, has 'strongholds' in Jagannath Hall, Salmullah Hall and Zahurul Haq Hall while the Gopalganj faction, led by Khigir Hayaat Liza, has its stronghold in Shahidullah Hall.

Besides, political reasons,

rivalry between the two BCL groups has mounted over toll collection from a 10 crore taka construction work near the science library, the sources said.

The Gopalganj faction which was ousted from Jagannath Hall in October last year returned to the campus last month and captured Shahidullah Hall. The provost of the hall resigned recently protesting presence of outsiders in the hall.

The JCD has also consolidated its positions in Mohsin Hall, Surya Sen Hall, Ziaur Rahman Hall, Bangabandhu Hall and Sir A F Rahman Hall.

See Page 12 col 8

## Rate of landless on the rise

Standard of living which is already below poverty level is declining everyday and the number of landless people increasing for lack of land reform which is imperative for growth of the stagnated farm sector, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at a workshop on 'Approval of ILO Convention for the Farm Labourers in the Perspective of Socio-economic Condition of Bangladesh and Formulating Law on that Basis' at the BARC auditorium yesterday.

The rate of the landless in the country was 8 per cent in 1947, which rose to 34 per cent in 1972 and to 68.8 per cent over the last 24 years.

It was observed that there is no policy on job security, security, medicare, housing and old-age security for the rural

labourers or agricultural labourers. If this continues, country's socio-economic condition and law and order situation may deteriorate further, the workshop cautioned.

"Labour laws have so far been formulated for organised sectors like industry, mills and factories, business houses, shops, offices, and transport, but no step seems to have been taken for the vast labourers engaged in agricultural sector," said a keynote paper.

Inaugurating the workshop Minister for Agriculture, Food, Relief and Disaster Management Begum Matia Chowdhury said land reforms was needed in the interest of agricultural labourers, employees and small farmers.

Federation president Joinul Abedin presided over the

opening session of the workshop, organised by Bangladesh Agricultural Farm Labourers Federation. It was addressed by chief adviser of the federation and Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon and ILO representative Paul J Bailey.

Matia said the government would ensure the rights of the working community, particularly the farm labourers, including their right to organise.

The minister said there had been no specific land reforms as yet for the benefit of landless people and the farming community.

Rashed Khan Menon underlined political commitment for implementing ILO and other conventions. He lamented that many of the ILO conventions were not yet executed

See Page 12 Col 7

### NEWS BRIEFS

**5 kgs of heroin seized in Ctg**

From Staff Correspondent, CHITTAGONG, Aug 18: Police seized five kgs of heroin worth about Tk five crore and arrested three persons including a woman from Isamati village in Rangunia thana last night. The arrested are Khorsheed Alam, Abu Taher, and Monuara Begum. Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of Abu Taher and found the heroin packed in polythene bags. Police suspected that the heroin was brought from Thailand.

**BCL leader stabbed, robbed in city**

By Staff Correspondent  
A student of the Suhrawardy College was stabbed and robbed of Taka 25,000 at Razar Dewry in the old part of the city yesterday afternoon.

The victim, Aminul Haq alias Shahin, 25, the president of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Suhrawardy College unit, was admitted to the DMCH.

According to Shahin, a group muggers waylaid him near his house when he was returning home by a rickshaw and snatched Taka 25,000 after stabbing him.

**Meherpur AL worker slaughtered**

MEHERPUR, Aug 18: Some unidentified miscreants killed an Awami League worker at Ashrafpur village in Sadar thana of the district on Saturday night. Police said the miscreants called Shaheen, 30, out of his house and shot and then slaughtered him. The motive behind the killing was not known, reports UNB.