

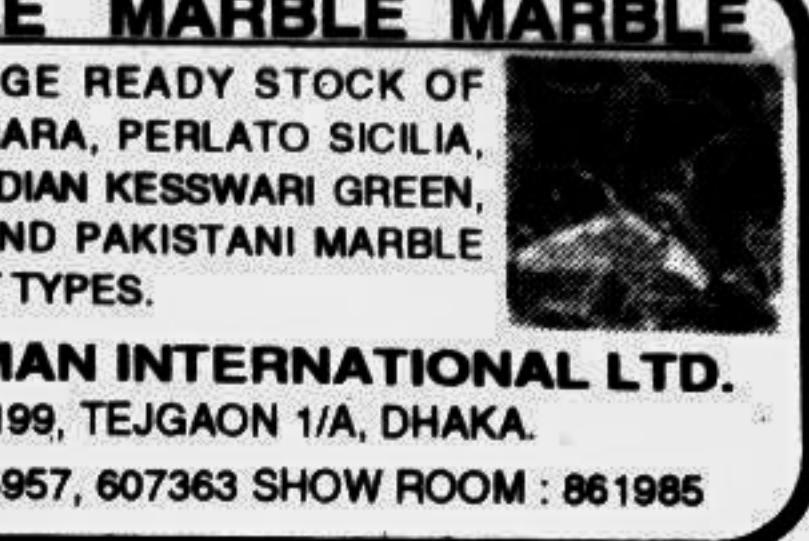


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Inside Today

Article

For Permanent
Sharing of Ganges
Waterby Amjad Hossain
Khan
Page 4

Focus

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

International

Fightings cast doubts
on Chechnya ceasefireGaddafi's security
guard, 13 soldiers
killed in violence
Page 8

Business

Akhra border can be
used as transit for
trade, Tripura
Chamber team tells PMDSE 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	7.61 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

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 Khorshed 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 Raziar 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 of 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.

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 Sangsads 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.

The allocation, therefore, would benefit a section of the

See Page 12 Col 3

intermediary business class, not the peasants as such," Fazlul 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

See Page 12 Col 1

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 Sangsads 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 legislator's dramatic and humorous presentation caused laughter among all the members and received table-thumpings from his party MPs.

An enthusiastic former minister included the Joypurhat 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.

Candido 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 Farook 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 reminiscence of Bangabandhu 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
bodyBy 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 'lame'.

Kalpana's mother protests BHRC report

By Staff Correspondent

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

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

Kalpana's mother was talking to newsmen at a press conference at the National Press Club, Federation of the Hill Women's Federation (HWF) See Page 12 Col 7

Memo to Home Minister
BNP alleges terrorism,
torture on partymen

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 Jatiyabadi 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 Shamsur Ahmed, has strongholds in Jagannath Hall, Salimullah Hall and Zahirul Haq Hall while the Gopalganj faction, led by Khigir Hayat Lizu, has its stronghold in Shahidullah Hall.

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

See Page 12 Col 8

Arrival of Pak nationals at ZIA
No deportation, they came to
visit relatives: Pak FS

By Staff Correspondent

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

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

When 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.

He however added that these were complex issues and there had been exchange of each other's 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 said both countries were following a policy of liberalisation and encouraging promotion of trade and investment

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

Federation president Joynul Abedin presided over the

See Page 12 Col 8

Indemnity Ordinance
violation of
fundamental
rights: AI

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 18:

Amnesty International (AI) chairperson Prof Ross Deniel 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 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

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 Sahidullah Hall. The provost of the hall