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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Typhoon kills 7 in China**

**BELJING, Aug 23:** Typhoon Niki killed seven people when it roared past China's Hainan island on its way to northern Vietnam, the China news service said today. The seven were killed as the typhoon ravaged the resort city of Sanya on the island province's southern tip, which was lashed by high winds of upto 150 kph and heavy rains, the agency said, reports Reuters.

**Greek parliament dissolved**

**ATHENS, Aug 23:** Greek President Costis Stephanopoulos signed a decree on Thursday ordering the dissolution of the 300-seat parliament ahead of snap elections on September 22, reports Reuters.

**1 killed in road accident**

**SIRAJGANJ, Aug 23:** A man was killed and four others were injured when a truck knocked a rickshaw van on Bogra-Nagarbari highway here this evening. Police and witnesses said the Dhaka-bound truck hit the van near Chandakona at about 6 pm killing a passenger of the van on the spot. The victim was identified as Abdur Rahman, 57, of Madhainagar of Tarash thana, reports UNB.

**Croatia, Y'slavia to set up ties**

**BELGRADE, Aug 23:** Croatia and Federal Yugoslavia will establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level within the next two weeks. Tanjug news agency cited a Yugoslav foreign ministry communique as saying today. The communique was issued after the two republics of the old Yugoslav federation signed an agreement earlier Friday on normalizing their relations, reports AFP.

## Directive to DCs, SPs of 16 northern dists Combat terrorism with iron hand: Hasina

From Our Correspondent

**NATORE, Aug 23:** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government was committed to wiping out terrorism from the society to ensure security of the people.  
Addressing a review meeting on law and order situation and development programmes at Uttara Gonobhaban here today the Prime Minister directed the DCs and SPs of 16 northern districts under Rajshahi Division to eliminate terrorism from the society at any cost.  
She also said that the lives of the people became miserable during the past regimes due to political patronisation of terrorism and anti-social elements. "Terrorists, whichever party they belonged to, would be

dealt with iron hand," she said.  
The Prime Minister said the people wanted to live in peace and have opportunities to access to law in times of their needs. "Please ensure people this fundamental right which is also guaranteed in the country's Constitution," she added.  
The Prime Minister said there were listed and identified terrorists and criminals under each police station. She instructed the authorities to round them up without further delay.  
Sheikh Hasina said that there were about one lakh unauthorised arms in the country and the Home Ministry might know the sources. She directed them to take immediate steps to

annul all the licenses issued by the former Home Minister among his party cadre ignoring all kinds of rules and regulations.  
The Prime Minister said her government is pledge-bound to establish a corruption-free society so that the benefits of independence could reach the common people. "We have been voted the power to serve the people and bring about their welfare, not enjoy power," she said and directed the officials to dedicate themselves to achieve that goal.  
About the infrastructural development, she said the present government intended to provide electricity without

See Page 12 col 8

## WB suggests expansion of VAT net

The World Bank has said continued efforts are needed to generate more revenues from Value Added Tax (VAT) and for an efficient income tax system, reports BSS.  
In a report on the Annual Economic Update of Bangladesh, the Bank said the country has to earn more revenues from additional strengthening of the tax administration to raise its very low tax/GDP ratio to pave the way for further rationalisation of the import tariff system.  
Notwithstanding the three percentage point gain achieved since the late 1980's, Bangladesh's budgetary revenues still amount to only 12 per cent of GDP, the bank said, adding this is much lower than the above 17 per cent in other South Asian and Asian countries and certainly well below what is needed.  
The bank criticised

See Page 12 Col 1

## SP, OC withdrawn, probe body formed Pitched battle with police at Bogra: Hartal today

**BOGRA, Aug 23:** Agitated people fought pitched battle with police in the town after the body of a student, a victim of Thursday's police action, was recovered from a nearby river today, witnesses said, reports UNB.  
All-Party Students' Unity has called for a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the town tomorrow to protest Thursday's killing of students.  
Akhter Ali Moon, a student of the Azizul Haq Government College, was seriously injured Thursday when police charged baton on students demonstrating in front of the DC office in protest against police action on the college campus earlier in the day.  
On Thursday, armed clashes

between police and students on the college campus left a student and a cop dead.  
Local people found the body of Akhter floating in the Korotoa river adjacent to the DC office in the afternoon. His relatives claimed police had killed him and threw his body into the river.  
Witnesses said clashes between police and public erupted in the town this evening after the janaza for the deceased was held at Satmatha crossing.  
Angry people threw several patrol bombs at Kotwali thana. A Fire Brigade vehicle was damaged at Satmatha crossing when it was coming towards the thana.  
Meanwhile Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina tonight gave di-

rectives to constitute a one-member enquiry committee with a judge of the Supreme Court to enquire into Thursday's incident in Bogra.  
She ordered withdrawal of the Police Super of the district and the Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali thana.  
The Prime Minister also announced compensation of Tk one lakh from her relief fund for each of the families of those killed in the incident.  
Hasina deeply regretted the incident and conveyed her profound sympathy to the members of the bereaved families.  
She urged the people to remain calm and sought cooperation from them in maintaining law and order.



Rain or no rain Shantinagar Road in the city remains water-logged during rainy season. Construction materials kept on the road aggravated the problem. —Star photo

## Shopowners call for strike today Terrorists, extortionists active in Ctg again

**CHITTAGONG, Aug 23:** Law and order has deteriorated in the port city and its surrounding areas, particularly Bouzan, Fatikchhari and Hathazari, as alleged abductors, toll collectors, snatchers and dacoits have become active again.  
Leaders of the Federation of Chittagong Shop Owners Association earlier gave a call for observing a half-day strike in all city shops tomorrow in protest against collection of toll by the terrorists.  
The federation leaders in a press conference on Wednesday last informed that the terrorists had threatened the shop owners with abduction for refusal to pay toll.  
Meanwhile, the drive for recovery of illegal arms is progressing slowly. The identified and listed terrorists are not being arrested. These goons are moving at large, sources informed.  
But police officials here said that efforts were on to round up the terrorists and recover arms.

Police officials have admitted that crimes have increased in recent months. Most of the terrorists and miscreants who were earlier engaged in election campaign are now engaged in various acts of terrorism like abduction of businessmen, snatching and dacoity, the police officials said.  
Three masked gunmen on August 9 abducted a jeweller, Milon Kanti Dhar, from his village home at Hathazari during day time and demanded a ransom of Taka 6 lakh for his release.  
He was rescued by police after two days search in Hathazari, Bouzan and Patikchhari areas. But the abductors are yet to be nabbed.  
In the month of July, six incidents of abduction took place in the surrounding areas of the city, according to official reports.  
One Bhole Miah alias Bhole was abducted by armed terrorists from his village home un-

## People to reject water accord for transit, says Khaleda

**SHATIBARI (Rangpur), Aug 23:** BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia said today that the people would not accept any agreement on water sharing of the Ganges in lieu of transit through Bangladesh, reports BSS.  
Addressing several public meetings at different places in Mithapukur police station, Begum Zia sought support in favour of her party candidates in the forthcoming by-elections.  
She referred to various development programmes implemented by her party when

## Jamalpur flood control project if people give 'go-ahead'

By Mizan Ali

Grassroots people are being consulted in designing and refining a project that will affect their lives and livelihood for many years to come. Water Resources Planning Organisation (WARPO) officials said.  
Implementation of a massive flood management project in north-eastern Bangladesh would depend solely on what people would say about the engineers' plans, the officials said, adding that people's suggestions would be incorporated in the project design.  
The Jamalpur Priority Project (JPP), an outcome of the Tk 700-crore Flood Action Plan (FAP) studies, is one of the 31 FAP components that is going to be implemented if people from the command area give the go-ahead," they said.  
The JPP (FAP 3.1), part of the FAP-3 began in August, 1991, was finalised in January 1993. The refinement process of the project was initiated in September, 1995 for a period of

15 months.  
The proposed project is a combination of structural and non-structural measures, with plans to build embankments, improve drainage, dredge rivers and canals and undertake special projects in agriculture, fishery and environment, the officials pointed out.  
Roughly the project area comprises 92,000 hectares, of which 74,000 hectares are cultivable and 66,000 hectares would be benefited from flood protection embankment. The project area is spread over the thanas of Maderganj, Melajaha, Islampur, Jamalpur, Charishabari, Dewanganj, Fulchhari, Shariatkandi and Kazipur.  
In the first phase of people's participation, meetings were organised in 25 selected moogas where participants from the lowest tier of the society gave their views on the project. The initial reaction was found to be positive but people came up with alternative suggestions on much of the contents of the project. The participants were chosen from varying socio-economic and anthropological backgrounds.  
The officials said a full one year had been devoted to refining the project on the basis of people's reaction. The project

comprises 92,000 hectares, of which 74,000 hectares are cultivable and 66,000 hectares would be benefited from flood protection embankment. The project area is spread over the thanas of Maderganj, Melajaha, Islampur, Jamalpur, Charishabari, Dewanganj, Fulchhari, Shariatkandi and Kazipur.  
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## Police, youths clash in Mirpur: 15 injured

**By Staff Correspondent**  
At least 15 people including three police officials were injured in a clash between a group of young men and police during a concert at the Indoor Stadium at Mirpur in the city yesterday afternoon.  
The injured policemen are OC of Pallabi thana Nazrul Islam, OC of Mirpur thana Abdul Malek and SI Haroon, police

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## Titas Gas employee succumbs to bullet injuries

**By Staff Correspondent**  
An employee of the Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Company Ltd who was shot by an unidentified gang at a tea stall near Rokeya Hall of the Dhaka University Thursday night died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday afternoon.  
The victim identified as Mostafizur Rahman Bulbul, 35, an electric supervisor, sustained bullet wounds in his back and belly when the gang of two in a motorbike shot at point-blank range at about 11 pm, police said.  
Mostafiz was taking tea at the stall when the gunmen attacked him. The attackers sped away in their motorcycle, sources said quoting police.  
Mostafiz, a resident of Kalabagan staff quarters in the city, was rushed to the DMCH. See Page 12 Col 4

## Violence on DU campus Political ambition of parties blamed

**Star Report**  
Change of the government has led the student fronts of both the Awami League and the opposition BNP to make fresh moves for consolidating their positions, turning the Dhaka University (DU) into virtual a battlefield for 'capturing' the residential halls, according to sources concerned.  
Teachers, students and others on the DU campus are now facing an uncertain situation arising out of such 'political ambition' of gaining control over the university, the sources noted.  
"One particular group may be neutralised by the use of force, or even may be thrown out of the campus under government protection, but who will guarantee that they will not strike back..." said a senior teacher of the DU. "Many of us apprehend further deterioration of the situation in the coming days," he added, declining to be named.  
About prevailing situation at the DU, the chairman of a department, who also sought anonymity, said "it is due to a political decision." The newly-elected syndicate dominated by the 'blue panel' and the provosts' committee of the university have failed to condemn the 'capture of halls,' he regretted.  
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## Test for political leadership now, says Fox

**By Staff Correspondent**  
British Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Dr Liam Fox has expressed the hope that Bangladesh would go for speedy implementation of privatisation programmes and immediately endeavour to attract foreign investment.  
"A narrow window of opportunity existed in Bangladesh for the moment. It is now a test of political leadership to seize this opportunity to carry out quick economic development," he said.  
Dr Liam Fox was addressing a press conference yesterday prior to his departure for Kathmandu, at the end of a three-day visit to Bangladesh. He termed the visit "very educative and

## Yasmin murder case sees no progress in a year

By Masud Arif

There has been virtually no progress in the trial of Yasmin murder case even after one year of the incident.  
Various women's organisations now allege that unnecessary delay is being made and "administrative complexities" are being created in the process of the trial of the killing in Dinajpur that had sparked off violent police-people clashes leaving at least 7 people killed and scores injured.  
Yasmin Khatun, 14, was allegedly raped and killed by a group of patrol policemen at Dosh Mile, near Dinajpur town in the morning of August 24 last year. Yasmin, who worked as a maid at a house in Dhanmondi, Dhaka, was going to meet her family members in Dinajpur, according to reports.  
The Sammilito Nari Samaj (SNS), a women's organisation will observe the day today as 'Women Repression Resistance Day' to protest against all oppression against women.  
The Nari Samaj has taken up programmes to observe the day at local and national levels. See Page 12 Col 3



Yasmin's mother Sharifa Khatun, grandfather and a 12-year brother. The photo was taken by Daily Star Staff Correspondent Morshed Ali Khan in August last year.

## Interrogation of Col Farooq continues

Police continued interrogating Col (ret'd) Syed Farooq Rahman for the second consecutive day yesterday at the Police Control Room in the city, reports UNB.  
A combined team of Criminal Investigation Department, Special Branch and National Security Intelligence started the second day's interrogation at 8 pm.  
Farooq was not questioned during day time as he had declared himself sick. Doctors saw him at Police Commissioner's chamber at the control room at Shahbagh.  
Sources close to the investigators called the former army See Page 12 col 8

## DU VC's deadline expires today

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Imajuddin Ahmed said yesterday he was yet to get any response from the government to his call to free the halls from the grip of terrorists.  
The VC on Thursday threatened to resign if the halls were not freed and the law and order improved within 48 hours. The deadline expires today.  
Talking to The Daily Star See Page 12 col 6

## AN APPEAL TO ALL CONSCIENTIOUS PEOPLE

We are making a fervent appeal to all conscientious people, law enforcing agencies and all media to make all possible efforts to trace Mohammad Moinuddin Kashem alias Tariq who has been missing from night of August 14, 1996.

Tariq is the only son of Rtn. Mohammad Abul Kashem who is a Past President of the Rotary Club of Dhaka West. Rtn Kashem is also the Chairman of Southeast Bank Ltd, the Managing Director of the Mutual Group of Companies and the former President of the FBCCI.

Tariq is a computer expert in the field of Internat technology in Bangladesh. He received all support from his father in this specialised field of knowledge. He is capable of taking this country to greater heights in the Internet field.

In these circumstances, we request all to put their efforts to trace Tariq.

MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF DHAKA WEST

Telephone : 9552567, 9550626.

