

Fed 弘 Federal Express

The World on Time

D-8 launched

From Page 1

According to the declara-

tion, the D-8 would be a global

forum whose membership will

remain open to other develop-

ing countries, subscribing to the

goals, objectives and principles

appropriate mechanism be es-

tablished for liaison with other

relevant international organi-

sations, particularly with the

next meeting of D-8 in Dhaka

in November or December.

suring universal access to eco-

nomic opportunities for eradi-

cation of poverty, people living

in poverty and vulnerable

groups must be empowered

through organisation and so-

cial life, in particular in the

planning and implementation

for a stable macro-economic

framework, open markets, en-

hanced financial support and

infusion of technological dy

namism to sustain the compet

itiveness of the respective econ-

omy, and to overcome the prob

lems of integration to the world

necessity for the international

community to promote and

implement policies to create a

environment, through consul-

tation and coordination in the

formulation and implementa-

tion of macroeconomic policies.

sound macro-economic man-

agement with emphasis on in-

dustrialisation and human re-

sources and a constructive

partnership between public and

private sector and need to over-

come the existing trade barriers

Flash floods

in Romania

Twelve people drowned in west-

ern Romania today when flash

floods swept through several

ing, but the situation is still po-

tentially dangerous," Captain

Gheorghe Simionas told Reu-

ters by telephone from Oradea,

re rain expected across Ro-

mania over the next few days.

Weather forecasts show mo-

Errata

Daily Star yesterday under the

headline 'D-8 to be launched in

Istanbul today,' inadvertently

mentioned Istanbul as the capi-

tal of Turkey instead of An-

kara. The error is regretted.

A report published in The

near the Hungarian border.

BUCHAREST, June 15:

"The floods are now retreat-

facing the countries.

villages, police said.

It also stressed the need for a

supportive external economic

The declaration stressed the

economy.

It also recognised the need

of policies that affect them.

It recognised the need for en-

It also decided to hold the

The summit decided that an

of the group and sharing com-

mon bonds.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina signing the Istanbul Declaration launching the D-8 - PID photo yesterday.

Dhaka's call to promote

From Page 1

"Being the latest entrant in the league. I believe that the D-8 can well draw from the experiences of these arrangements Overcoming our economic limitations would be the biggest challenge", she observed.

Hasina emphasised mobilisation of own resources as foreign assistance is currently on the decline.

"We must, therefore, encour age trade creating joint ventures, smooth flow of capital services and technology and promote investment with the D-8 countries in right earnest. We must demonstrate that D-8 is a serious forum in the international arena," the Prime Minister said.

She said the D-8 can play a substantive role because it has more than 800 million people and represents 8.5 per cent of the world GDP.

Hasina noted with satisfaction that the group identified 10 areas of cooperation. There are deep-rooted historic, religious and cultural affinities and abundance of human and natural resources within the group-

Turning to her own country, Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh had created a favourable climate for investment and the economic and industrial reforms developed a firm base for

sustainable growth. Bangladesh is now enjoying macroeconomic stability as a result of comprehensive adjustment measures for short and medium-run stabilisations of the economy, she told the summit meeting of the heads of state or government of the eight Muslim countries.

She welcomed the fellow members of D-8 to visit Bangladesh and assess themselves the vast potential that exists for trade and investment there.

The Prime Minister said in vestments are increasing, reserves are being fully utilised and progress has been achieved in the area of human resources development.

She said the foreign investors and companies could invest in Bangladesh independently on the basis of 100 per cent ownership or through joint ventures, with public or private

AL MPs

From Page 1

Amanullah Khan, Deputy Minister for Primary and Mass Education Zinnatunnessa Talukdar and Whip Mizanur Rahman Manu were present in the work-

The consensus opinion of the MPs will be conveyed to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her return from Istanbul today, the sources said.

They said the opinion might be discussed at the Awami League parliamentary party meeting shortly before its approval by the cabinet.

Commenting on the consensus opinion, a senior ruling party leader said this is for the first time in the country's parliamentary history that members of the treasury bench took such a major move considering the interest of the people.

2 killed in Feni road accident

FENI. June 15: Two people were killed and three others injured as a speeding truck rammed a rickshaw at Lalpul on the Feni bypass today, reports UNB. Witnesses said the unidenti-

fied rickshaw-puller and its passenger Saira Khatun, 35, died on the spot when the truck hit the rickshaw from behind at about noon. Three children of the ill-

fated woman, who were in the rickshaw, also sustained serious injures. In another accident on Feni-Parshuram road, 15 people were

injured, three critically, when a passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch in the morning. Police said the accident occurred at Munshirhat as the Feni-bound bus from Parshu-

ram skidded off the road and plunged into the ditch at about 9 Three of the injured were

rushed to Feni Hospital in critical condition.

Dhaka to host

From Page 1 Turkey for hosting the first

summit of the bloc. The next D-8 Arts and Cultural festival will be held in Bangladesh in June next year.

State Minister for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader made the announcement in Dhaka on his return from Istanbul Sunday.

Lightning kills one in Kurigram

KURIGRAM, June 15: A young man was killed by lightning at Digirchar village in Sadar thana today, reports

Witnesses said Sirajul, 22, son of Mojibur Rahman, was struck by the thunderbolt while working in a jute field in the morning.

3 held with arms in city

Police arrested three people and recovered two revolvers and some ammunition from their possessions in Maghbazar area in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

According to a DMP press release, police arrested one Nurul Amin with the help of local people from Oriental Restaurant and recovered a revolver with two bullet at about 12.15 In another drive, police ar-

rested Salahuddin and Liton from Nayatola area at about 1 pm. Acting on their confessional statements, police recovered a US-made revolver from a thatched house at Naya-

100 injured as rival armed groups clash at Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, June 15: A fierce clash between two rival groups of people in the town today left about 100 people injured, 25 seriously, reports Witnesses said the clash be-

tween the armed supporters of Abul Hossain, chairman of Machhimpur Krira Chakra, and Abdul Mannan, a member of the organisation, started as the former refused to pay money from the sale proceeds of a cultural function. The cultural function, or-

ganised by the organisation with artistes from Dhaka in the local New Market area, was foiled as the supporters of Mannan allegedly attacked it on Saturday midnight.

The two groups then locked into an overnight battle exploding bombs and using lethal

weapons. The injured were admitted to different clinics in the town. Separate cases were filed with the local police.

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KSA to recruit more Bangladeshi workers

the region.

vesterday.

mediately.

of the latest position of the

Middle-East peace process and

hoped that the stalled peace

process would be revived soon

to bring peace and stability in

minister assured him of

Bangladesh's total support to the Palestinian cause and

hoped that the problem would

be solved in soonest possible

Azad hoped that all mem-bers of OIC would work unitedly

for the solidarity of the Islamic

JCD leader of

Dental College

unit beaten up

By Staff Correspondent

College was assaulted by a group

of young men on the campus

year student and a Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal leader of the Den-

tal College, came under attack

when he came out of his class at

about 10:30 am, campus sources

outsiders took Hannan to the

students' union office of the col-

lege and started beating him

with hockey sticks. Some peo-

ple rescued Hannan and took

him to the Dhaka Medical Col-

lege Hospital. The cause of the

A resident of Kazipara area

in the city, Hannan, who hails

from Bagerhat, filed a case with

rested in this connection till

Ramna thana. None was ar-

last night, police said.

attack could not be known im-

The attackers, reportedly

A student of Dhaka Dental

Abdul Hannan, a second

The Bangladesh foreign

Saudi Arabia will recruit skilled and unskilled manpower from Bangladesh both in the government and private sectors, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, re-

ports BSS. Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal reiterated his government's decision on recruitment of Bangladeshi manpower to the visiting Bang-ladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad during their formal talks at Jeddah Satur-

The two foreign minister reviewed the whole gamut of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. Prince Faisal emphasised the need for frequent high level bilateral visits to strengthen

further the existing brotherly

relations between Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia. He recalled the visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to Saudi Arabia in July last and her fruitful discussions with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin Abdul

The Saudi Prince reiterated Saudi government's strong support to the social and economic development of Bangladesh and assured all possible economic assistance for various projects of the country.

The Saudi foreign minister hoped that Saudi businessmen would take full advantage of various facilities being offered by the government of Bangladesh

He agreed to the revival of the existing joint economic commission between the two countries and hoped that the meeting would take place as early as possible.

The Saudi foreign minister during the talks, gave a resume

Repatriation of Rohingyas stalled

Repatriation of the remaining Rohingya refugees has been stalled due to reluctant attitude of Myanmar, a competent source said yesterday, reports

Nearly 2.35 lakh Muslim refugees out of 2.5 lakh, who fled to Bangladesh from neighbouring Myanmar in 1991 in the face of persecution by military junta, had returned to their homeland voluntarily in last seven years. The remaining 15,000, en-

camped in Teknaf now, are awaiting repatriation which began in September 1991 under an agreement between the two countries signed in Dhaka.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been monitoring the repatriation with the consent of the two countries.

Bangladesh has not yet received clearance for about 10,000 refugees as Yangon was said to be reluctant to hold the 22nd scheduled senior officiallevel meeting between the two countries.

BAGERHAT, June 15: Angry villagers gauged out eyes of three alleged dacoits at a remote village adjacent to the Sundarban area in Morrelganj thana early today, reports UNB.

caught the three while they were fleeing after committing dacoity at the house of a UP member, Sattar Akhand, at PC Baroikhali village at around 4

The villagers beat up the dacoits - Nasir, 35. Wahidul Sheikh, 25, and Nazrul Islam, 26, and gouged out their eyes. Later, the dacoits were handed over to police. Of them, Nasir had been wanted by police

in several cases, including

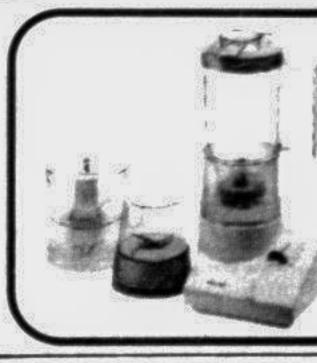
murder and dacoity.

PDB employee electrocuted

BHERAMARA, June 15: One Abdul Aziz, an employee of Poradah electrict supply centre under Mirpur thana was electrocuted at Poradah on Thursday, reports BSS.

Villagers gouge out eyes of 3 alleged dacoits

Police said some villages



Blender with mill and chopper

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- Star Photo hike of fertiliser and other agri-inputs.

Krishak Dal stages demonstration

Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal staged demonstration in the city yesterday protesting the "anti-people" budget proposed for the next fiscal, reports UNB. The party hold a rally in

front of BNP central office and then brought out a procession which ended as the Jatiya Press Club after parading the city streets The rally was addressed,

among others, by BNP vice

chairman Tariqui Islam, Krishak Dal leaders Mahbubul Huq Tara, Ehsanul Kabir, Borhanuddin, Anwarul Huq and Jamaluddin Khan Milon. Tariqul Islam said 12 crore people of the country are now facing the tax burden proposed

in the budget, which also imposed surcharge on various He said the farmers are in danger with the price hike o fertiliser. The former BNP government reduced the price of fertiliser, but the present gov-

ernment increased it, he added The meeting was presided over by Dhaka district Krishak Dal president AKM Moazzem Hossain.

One accused arrested KURIGRAM, June 15: Police

arrested one person, an accused in five cases, from LGED Bhaban in the town today, reports Gafur alias Babu, said to be

an activist of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League, had been absconding for a long time. Acting on a tip-off, police

raided the Bhaban and picked up Gafur, son of Mofizuddin of Dakbanglopara in Sadar thana around 2 pm

'US troops to remain in S Arabia indefinitely'

PRINCE SULTAN AIRBASE. Saudi Arabia, June 15: US Defense Secretary William Cohen told US troops today they have to stay indefinitely at this hot and isolated desert base because US economic interest demands it, reports AFP. With temperatures soaring

to 47 degrees Celsius (117 degrees Farenheit), Cohen toured the base flight lines and tent towns and commiserated with fighter pilots and ground crews enforcing a nearly six-year-old "no-fly zone" over southern "Many of you I'm sure from

time to time wonder why your are here. And if it is necessary that you be here," Cohen told about 200 soldiers assembled in an air conditioned shelter. "The answer is yes, because

the Middle East is a vital interest to our economy, it is a vital interest to the rest of the world Nepali Congress

men clash with police: 100 held KATMANDU, June 15: One

hundred supporters of opposition Nepali Congress were arrested and more than 30 were injured in clashes with police in southern Nepal on Sunday, police said, reports AP. Police fired gunshots in the air and tear gas to quell the

Nepali Congress activists who accused Communists, the main partner in the governing coalition, of using violence and fraud to steal local elections last month. They clashed with police in

Gaur, 100 kilometers (63 miles) south of Katmandu, the Nepalese capital. Protest marches elsewhere in the country were peaceful.

Privatisation From Page 1

ensure transparency and ac-

countability in every decision making by the managing committees of each sugar mill Reiterating government decision to give priority to the

workers and employees of a mill if they want to buy it. Tofael said in one hand the workers will not take over the responsibility of running the mills and on the other the mills will continue to make loss years after years, such a situation could not be continued. Holiday

From Page 1

the handout added.

The universities will decide the weekly holiday through their own syndicates and other policy-making bodies. Meanwhile, a press release

of the labour ministry yesterday said the new weekly holiday and office time would not be applicable to the organisations under Factory Act of 1965 and the Shop and Establishments Act of 1965. All these organisations and

establishments will follow the Factory Act and the Shops and Establishments Act, the press release added.

BNP: Movement From Page 1

tion in the Manikganj-3 by-

election Bhuiyan said, "We have taken it as part of our movement against the government subservient to India. He alleged that the Awami

League government wanted to hand over "the electricity switch to India like that of the Farakka in name of importing power." The BNP leader said the gov-

ernment talked of development of agriculture, but the farmers are not being provided with agri loans. "It is shedding crocodile's tears for them by raising the price of fertiliser," he added. He called upon the officials

and employees including those of the police administration not to do any "illegal acts" to kowtow to the government. Bhuiyan mentioned that the

Awami League had formed its "government of consensus" with autocratic forces. "Now it made party candidate a man who was one of the top men in the autocratic Ershad regime".

economy, "he said. Cohen's only concession to the searing heat was to unfasten the top button of his starchy white shirt as he moved about dressed in a blue suit and tie.

More than 4,000 US troops work and live behind concentric rings of fences and sensors in the snake and scorpion infested desert — out of view from Saudi society and as far as possible from the threat of terrorist bombings. The truck bombing nearly a

year ago of a US military housing complex near the eastern Saudi city of Dhahran that killed 19 Americans prompted the US military to retreat to the safety of the desert. Despite apprehensions fu-

eled by the upcoming anniversary of the Khobar tower bombing June 5, US military officials said the base was not on any higher alert. "Vigilance every night — we

don't treat tonight any different than any other night. You can't because you're always going to be hit at the most unlikely time," said General Binford Peay, commander of US forces in the Gulf.

Medical staff From Page 1

and C Viruses.

"For the poor man it's a big temptation to recycle syringes. For the sake of very little money they are risking the whole community," he pointed Bhutani said used needles

very readily transmitted dis-

ease like HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B and C. He said the medical profession had a duty to protect the people who placed their trust in it. Bhutani also said medical

workers should try to raise public awareness of the dangers of recycling syringes through the electronic media. He suggested glass syringes could be reintroduced if they

were properly sterilised by au-

toclaving, the standard process for sterilising surgical instru-"You need conscientious people to ensure the process is carried out — the responsibility lies with the medical people to

make sure syringes are ster-

ilised," he said. Bhutani also said plastic syringes had to be burnt, which made glass syringes a more ecofriendly option. He said disposable needles

could be used with the glass syringes but it was still the responsibility of people in the medical profession to prevent recycling by ensuring their destruction after use. Charles

From Page 1

blessing to such a union. The monarch automatically

becomes supreme governor of the Church of England, and there is no technical bar to Charles retaining the title. But there is disapproval within the Church hierarchy - reflected in Streeter's comments. Although Charles has con-

fessed his adultery, Streeter said he had not repented, causing "considerable problems of how to avoid a constitutional crisis."

The clergyman noted that the prince is not above either civil or moral law.

"What he has to face up to is the fact that the monarchy is greater than prince Charles and this country is greater than the monarchy," Streeter said.

"A lot of sacrifices have to be made in public office. I feel he has got to sacrifice Camilla Parker Bowles if he is going to convince the public of his ability to lead this country. He has simply got to say to Camilla Parker Bowles, very tearfully, good-bye," Streeter said.

One-day status From Page 1

in 1947, the cricket-crazy country wandered in the wilderness for more than two decades. Bangladesh seized the attention of the cricket fratermity for the first time when a selection of the famous Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) visited the country in December, 1976.

Huge blaze engulfs gas field it. But the fire there is no fierce of another well by a British also rushed to the spot. From Page 1 The violent flames were vis-"If there had been any moni-

deteriorating as the rise in crime here continues to increase.

toring of the high-pressure problem, the explosion could be avoided," he added. He further doubted whether Occidental was equipped with any Blowout Prevention (BOP) measure as outlined in the Production Sharing Contract

The Daily Star in a report published on June 11 had highlighted the absence of monitoring of the activities of foreign oil and gas companies. The fire can not be con-

trolled with normal fire-fighting equipment as water can not put out gas-ignited fire. The official press release last night said that the fire was limited within 150 feet of the well. Occidental has taken up

emergency steps to bring in special fire fighters from Singapore and USA. It is expected that the team from Singapore will arrive today. "This fire may continue for months if they fail to control

Usually, such a fire is put

down by blowing explosives

over the well and then sealing

it," a source pointed out.

that nobody can go near it, the source said.

High officials of Petrobangla and Occidental rushed to the disaster area in a chartered plane yesterday morning. Energy Minister Noor Uddin Khan and high official and experts of the ministry will visit the area today. The energy minister has postponed a foreign visit in view of the disaster, the sources Property damaged in the ex-

According to a preliminary report, the expensive German drilling rig deployed by Occidental has been completely Occidental started drilling the well on June 2. This is the first drilling by the US com-

pany which is operating in the

Surma valley under a Produc-

plosion is yet to be determined.

tion Sharing Contract (PSC) signed on January 11, 1995. "This is the third such disaster in Bangladesh. The first one took place in Haripur gas field in the 50s and the second one in Semutang in the late 60s", an official source said.

Currently, similar drilling

company, Cairn Plc, is in progress in Semutang. **Occidental's Version**

An official of Occidental re-

Some 40 elementary school students have their mouths sealed at an anti-kidnap training

programme provided by a local security company yesterday. Taiwan' social order has been

questing anonymity, told The Daily Star last night that specialised fire fighting measures will be taken soon. The official noted that the nature of five originating from oil and gas was different and such fire required specialised

fire fighting team.

"Nobody can say why the rig blew," the representative said. "We are unable to measure the extent of damage right away. All we can say is that all the damages were incurred by Occidental only." The official refrained from

making further comments

saying that there was a gov-

ernment restriction on giving information. UNB adds from Moulvibazar : The authorities have imposed Section 144 in and around the

spot. All firebrigade teams in Sylhet and Chittagong divisions, however, were kept stand-by. The Deputy Director of Firebrigade in Chittagong

ible from the district headquarters, 26 kilometres of the spot. "It was like daylight despite deep jungles on both sides of road," said UNB Moulvibazar correspondent.

— AFP/UNB photo

Workers at the gasfield said technical fault was detected in the pipeline after digging down 839 metres till 00:45 hours. The fault, found during pulling up the fourth pipe, was checked

immediately.

sound like the roars of a train engine was heard from under the pipeline, a blast blew huge earth some 500 yards up and flames sparked," said a technician. However, some 250 local and foreign workers fled the spot in

"But in a few minutes, a loud

panic. Some of them were injured as they ran helter skelter for shelter in the nearby forest. Chief mechanic of the gaswell Villi and chief electrician Vita informed that the fire destroyed property worth crores of taka, including trailor cars,

cranes and other machinery

used to explore gas.