

# Metropolitan



Minister of State for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaleq is presiding over an inter-ministerial meeting of the Disaster Management Committee at the Cabinet room of the Secretariate yesterday. — PID photo

## Inter-ministerial meet held

# Arrangements made to send relief to flood-hit areas by helicopters

The inter-ministerial disaster management committee at a meeting in the city yesterday discussed the damage caused by the sudden flood which has gripped 16 districts, including those in Chittagong and Sylhet divisions, reports BSS.

The committee also held detailed discussion on what measures could be undertaken to face the deluge as well as repair the damage caused by the floods.

The meeting was held with State Minister for Disaster

Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khaleq in the chair, an official handout said. It was informed in the meeting that arrangements were made to distribute relief goods and dry food among the flood-affected people by helicopters in the districts where road communications were damaged.

"Besides, pure drinking water and medicines were sent to the flood-affected areas," the handout said adding, senior officials of various ministries and divisions went to the areas to oversee the flood situation and relief activities.

The committee also discussed ways to repair damaged roads and bridges in the affected districts. It was informed at the meeting that 10,000 people were taken to various shelter centres in Bandarban district and Taka 25,000 and 20 tons of rice were allocated for each affected district for distribution among the flood-hit people.

The state minister urged all government officials to unite to face the disaster and said the government was keen to pursue its efforts to face the flood situation. He went to Chittagong yesterday afternoon to supervise the relief activities in Chittagong and the hill districts.

The relief control room in the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief has been working from 8 am to 12 midnight in monitoring the overall flood situation in the country, the handout said.

The meeting was attended by secretaries and senior officials of various ministries and divisions and acting Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Brigadier Ahsan Najmul Amin.

## Reception accorded

Freedom Fighters Officers' Council accorded a reception to Deputy Commissioner of DMP Detective Branch Syed Bazul Karim on Saturday, reports UNB.

The council accorded the reception to Karim for his role in improving the city's law and order.

Chaired by council president and director general of the Foreign Ministry Manjurul Alam, the function was also addressed by DG of the Prime Minister's office Mominullah Patwari, DIG (Dhaka) of Police Nurul Alam and Bangladesh Railway chief of operation (Chittagong) SK Habibullah.

# 'Satellite TV responsible for many social ills'

By Cameron Kennedy

Participant in a panel discussion in the city Saturday night debated satellite programming with some liking the spice and others finding the dish just too much to digest.

The Bangladesh Institute for Islamic Thought organised the discussion in conjunction with the presentation of Dr Md Ataur Rahman and Md Nazrul Islam's paper entitled "Impact of Dish Antenna on the Young Generation in Bangladesh: An Empirical Study" at the BANSDOC auditorium.

The panel included Md Muhsinuddin, public relations advisor from Bangladesh Open University; Saiful Bari, former chairman of the Bangladesh Broadcasting Authority; and Md Shamsur Ali, former vice chancellor of Bangladesh Open University and a physics professor at Dhaka University. It also welcomed members of the large audience to participate.

In his keynote address, Prof Rahman said satellite television was responsible for many social ills in Bangladesh, such as robbery, dacoity, prostitution and drug addiction. "It cannot be denied that such ideas and events are carried through satellite TV where impact is undoubtedly negative," he said.

While he didn't have any concrete statistics on how many Bangladeshis became addicted to drugs or entered prostitution after watching satellite television, Rahman said his empirical study was the first step to understanding its impact on young people.

Rahman gathered his facts through a questionnaire distributed to 76 random Dhaka University students. He asked for their opinions on the impact of satellite television on youth. More than 60 per cent of the students said TV affected character. 34 per cent said it reduced religious values, and over half thought it trampled cultural traditions.

"Instead of contemplating how satellite TV should be used in the social system of Bangladesh and what will be their impact on the people, we should see whether the media is consistent with our national ideology," Rahman concluded.

Rahman later clarified his position.

"Satellite TV should be used in a controlled way," he said. "Islam is our national ideology and TV programs should conform to Islamic values."

But speakers at the seminar didn't seem content to discuss only satellite TV and raised issues like Hindi movies and pornographic video cassettes. They also discussed potential solutions, like the V-Chip. The chip became standard equipment in American televisions with the support of US Pres-

ident Bill Clinton and while some cried censorship, others welcomed the opportunity to screen out objectionable material.

Other speakers said the government should accept television's challenge and transform the medium and a development tool. Professor Ali called on the government to create a channel devoted to knowledge and education. He used Canada's ACCESS Network as an example. ACCESS provides educational programs, like Homework Hotline, to thousands of households across the province of Alberta. Students can call into the hotline while they watch a teacher on TV solve their tricky math and science problems.

And while speakers said Bangladesh couldn't hide from satellite TV's impact, many suggested the seminar was a step in the direction.

"I think it was important," said Hafiz Nisar Uddin Ahmed, a kamil in hadith at Madrasah-e-Allia in Dhaka. "But we have to continue these discussions. Islam isn't against technology but we have to use it the right way."

## Housewife stabbed to death

By Staff Correspondent

A young housewife was stabbed to death by her husband at Dhalpur under Demra thana yesterday, police said.

Police recovered the body of Hasina Begum Hasna, 22, from a house at 14 Dhalpur with stab injuries in her neck. Police arrested her husband, Abu Hanif, from the spot.

Hanif married Hasna about 13 months ago. Four days after the marriage Hanif went to Saudi Arabia from where he returned home recently and found his wife staying at her sister's house. He asked his wife to come back to his house but she refused.

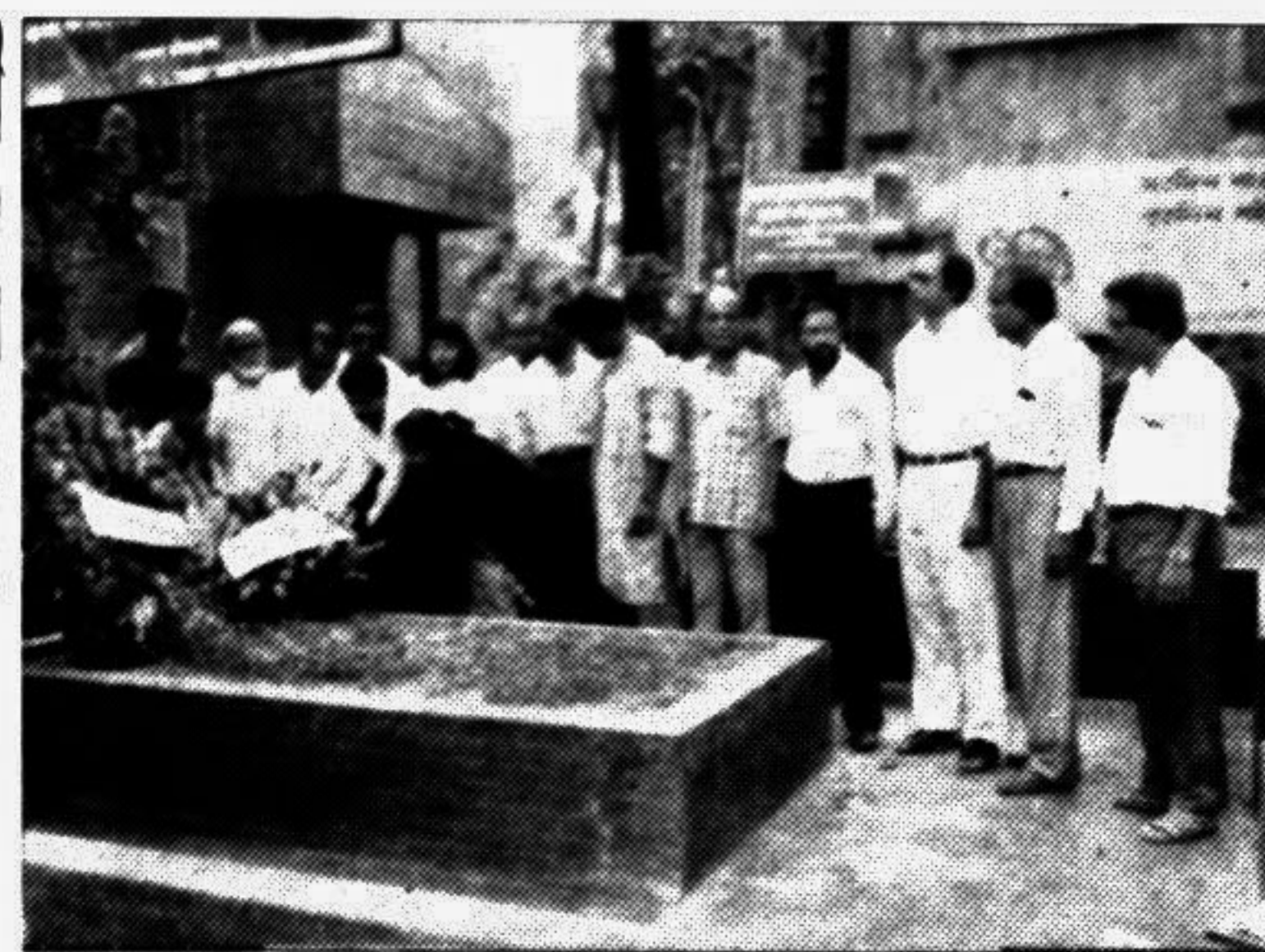
This led to a quarrel between them, family sources said.

Yesterday morning Hanif went to her sister's house and told his wife that they would go for shopping, a relative of Hasna said.

Instead of going to market Hanif returned to his rented house at Dhalpur and a row started between the two. At one stage, Hanif started stabbing Hasna with a knife killing her on the spot, family sources said.

Hanif, son of one Shawkat Ali, hallor from Akal Megh under Sadar thana of Munshiganj district.

Nurjahan Begum, elder sister of Hasna, lodged a case with Demra thana accusing Hanif of killing her sister.



Oithijo, a voluntary organisation placing wreaths on the mazar of noted educationist and litterateur Dr Mohammad Shahidullah marking his death anniversary yesterday. The organisation also held an exhibition of his photography at the mazar premises on the day.

# HERE and THERE

## Inner Wheel Club

Inner Wheel Club district 328 assembly 1997 was held at a city hotel yesterday, reports UNB.

Razia Matin Chowdhury, MP, was the chief guest at the "Assembly of Reflection and Recollection".

The programme was addressed, among others, by immediate past District Chairman Dr Shireen Huj, District Chairman 1997-98 Rahima Asafjah, National Representative 1996-97 Munira Khan and

National Representative 1997-98 Lutfa Islam.

## Customs Intelligence Officers' Assoc

Customs Intelligence Officers' Association has dissolved the previous committee and formed a seven-member ad-hoc committee with MA Mottalib as its convener, reports UNB.

The ad-hoc committee was formed at a meeting of the association. It will form a full-fledged committee within three months, said a press release.

# Weather

## Heavy rainfall forecast

Heavy to very heavy fall is likely at places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office also forecast moderate or moderately heavy rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind at most places over Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at many places over Khulna and Barisal divisions.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country.

The country's highest temperature 35.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Mongla and the lowest 23.6 degree at Rangamati.

Meantime, Rajshahi experienced the highest 130 mm rain in the 24 hours till 6 am yesterday. Dhaka had 81 mm rain, Sylhet 76, Mymensingh 49, Dinajpur 45, Comilla 41, Chittagong 27 and Khulna 11 mm during the period.

The sun sets at 6:49 pm today and rises tomorrow at 5:20 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.0	24.6	90	95
Chittagong	32.4	25.0	85	86
Rajshahi	30.4	24.0	100	88
Khulna	34.8	26.2	86	89
Barisal	33.4	25.4	89	100
Sylhet	29.4	24.5	100	86
Cox's Bazar	30.5	25.4	85	85

# 3 phensidyl traffickers arrested

Detective police arrested three alleged phensidyl traffickers from Suritola and Nazira Bazar areas of the city and recovered a total of 2,800 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup from their possession yesterday and Saturday night, reports BSS.

A team of the DB arrested Alamgir Hossain, an alleged ring leader of a phensidyl traffickers gang from Suritola area, and recovered 1600 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup from his residence yesterday morning.

Police said, arrested Alamgir Hossain was involved in trafficking of phensidyl in the city for a long time.

Another team of the DB led by Assistant Commissioner (AC) Mohammad Akram Hossain, arrested Nurul Islam alias Babu and Abdus Sobhan alias Nazira Bazar and recovered 1200 bottles of phensidyl syrup from their possession.

Police also recovered 1800 bottles of phensidyl syrup from the same place in May last year. Separate cases were registered with respective police stations.

## Date shifted

Pre-departure orientation programme of USIS scheduled for tomorrow for students enrolled at different US universities for the Fall 1997 session has been shifted to July 22, says a press release.

The programme will be held in the Bougainvillea Room at the American Recreation Club (House No. 13, Road No. 69), from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Students who have already received their American visas are invited to attend the programme. For further information, interested students may call the USIS Educational Advisor at Telephone No 873440-4 or visit at Momen-shahi House, House#110, Road# 27, Banani

## SKOP demonstration today

The Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) will stage demonstration today in front of the Labour Directorate in the city to press for its 8-point demand, reports UNB. SKOP central leaders will address the demonstration at 11 am. Similar demonstrations will also be held in front of the Labour Directorates in four divisional headquarters today.

The SKOP has called for a 24-hour strike on July 30 in support of their 8-point demand which includes stoppage of de-nationalisation, reopening of closed mills and factories and fixing minimum national wages at Tk 3,000.

## School girl rescued in Khulna

By Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, July 13: Nasrin Akhtar Poppy, 13, student of class eight of Jessore Govt Primary School was rescued from the house of one Matiar Rahman of Kurhiakhali village under Swaran Khola PS in Bagerhat district.

She was abducted while she way to her school on July 9. Police rescued the school girl on Saturday night and arrested from there the alleged kidnappers named Raju, Mizan, Hira and Dilara.

# International



Palestinian men carry Imad Isseid, a Palestinian APTV cameraman, after he was hit in the leg by a rubber bullet fired by Israeli troops during clashes in the West Bank city of Hebron where Palestinians burned Israeli flags, hurled stones and firebombs, on Sunday. Eleven Palestinians were wounded including three other Palestinian journalists. —AP/UNB photo

# Flooding claims 66 in SE China

BEIJING, July 13: New reports of flooding in southeastern China have raised the death toll to at least 66 in torrential summer rains. Newspapers said another 130,000 people were forced to flee their homes, reports AP.

Ten people were killed in Zhejiang province, south of Shanghai, the Yangcheng Evening News said in its Saturday edition. It said the province had received more than 10 centimeters (4 inches) of rain since July 6.

At least 250,000 hectares (600,000 acres) are flooded in Zhejiang, the Liberation Daily reported Sunday. It said rivers around the city of Hangzhou, southwest of Shanghai, were at record-high levels.

Flooding hits much of China every summer, aggravated by heavy farming that has stripped hillsides of vegetation that would trap seasonal rains. Hardest hit this year has been the southern province of Guangdong near Hong Kong.

where officials said 41 people were killed and thousands of buildings and roads damaged.

Another 15 people were reported killed in the southern province of Guangxi, where floodwaters also damaged some 20,000 homes.

In Zhejiang, rains submerged the train line to neighboring Jiangxi province, forcing authorities to suspend service Wednesday, the Yangcheng Evening News said. There was no indication when service would resume.

The Liberation Daily said 2,500 soldiers and military police had been assigned to relief duties.

Trains between Shanghai and the southeastern cities of Xiamen and Fuzhou were cancelled Saturday because the tracks were flooded, the official Xinhua news agency said.

It quoted a railway official as saying normal service was expected to be restored in three to five days.

# Presidential polls in India reduced to 'political tamasha': Seshan

NEW DELHI, July 13: Presidential candidate and former chief election commissioner T N Seshan has said the election of president has been reduced to a 'political tamasha by the power brokers', reports PTI.

The country is facing all kinds of crisis and it does not need a 'rubber stamp president', who would put his signature on 'any article 356 or any ordinance', he said in an interview with Zee TV, to be telecast today.

On the choice of K R Narayanan as the candidate of main political parties, Seshan was quoted by a Zee TV press release as having said, "All this talk of dalit, is 'beker' (useless). What were they doing in the 40th year, 35th year, 20th year? Why did they have to wait till the 50th year to make a dalit president?"

"Did they ask the people of the country whether they want him as the president. Or at least did they ask their own party-men on the choice of the presidential candidate?"

# Most Britons against Camilla becoming queen

LONDON, July 13: More than half of Britons think Prince Charles would make a good king but seven out of 10 of his future subjects do not want his mistress Camilla Parker Bowles to become his queen, a survey showed today, reports Reuter.

Her divorced husband, however, said Parker Bowles has no desire to be queen.

"Camilla is adamant she has no desire to become queen and will refuse it at any cost," Andrew Parker Bowles was quoted as telling The Mail on Sunday newspaper.

"She knows that might prevent her marrying the prince but she is willing to forego a wedding to avoid having to take the title and the throne."

The Mori Survey showed the country is getting increasingly used to the affair between their to the throne Charles, divorced from the glamorous Princess Diana in 1996, and Parker Bowles, 49, The Mail on Sunday said.

Fifty-nine per cent think they should stay together and only 18 per cent want them to split up. The newspaper said 43 per cent said they should marry but 71 per cent, down from 79 per cent this time last year, said Parker Bowles should never become queen.

Charles has said he would never remarry after the breakup of his 15-year marriage to Diana but media reports have suggested he might be reconsidering this.

Fifty-three per cent said they believed Charles would make a good king, a nine point increase from last year. The survey was of 806 adults.

# Thieves break into Portuguese Embassy in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, July 13: Thieves broke into the Portuguese Embassy here, killing a policeman who was guarding the embassy, the state-run news agency The Associated Press of Pakistan reported Sunday, reports AP.

Six heavily armed bandits gunned down police constable. Mohammed Riaz when he caught them trying to scale the embassy gates late Saturday night, the report said.

# 31 TTYF activists surrender to Tripura govt

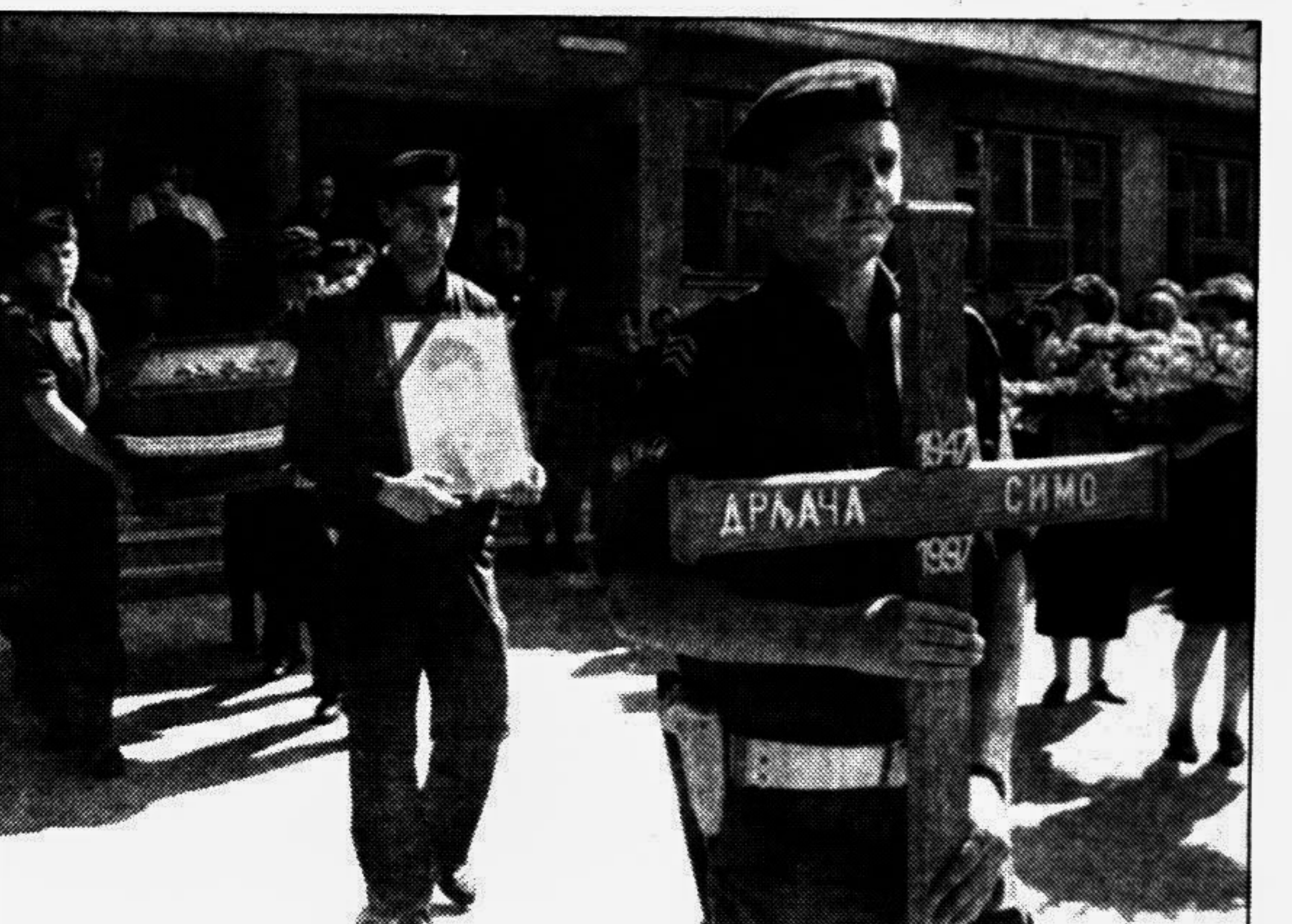
AGARTALA, July 13: Thirty one activists belonging to the Tripura Tribal Youth Force (TTYF) activists surrendered to the Tripura government, reports PTI.

According to a police report here today, the ultras also laid down ten country-made pistols, sixteen country-made guns, 36 grenades, two pipeguns and sharp cutting weapons to the deputy collector, Gandacherra subdivision of Dhalai district.

The militants surrendered in two groups. Twenty of them led by its self-styled area commander, Nandanam Tripura surrendered first followed by another eleven led by Untimohan Tripura.

Tripura Home Minister Samar Choudhury expressed hope that insurgents who were yet to surrender should shun the path of violence and join mainstream.

Over 500 ultras have laid down their arms in different parts of the state since January 30 last, as per the appeal of the state government.



Policemen are watched by citizens of Prijedor (some 80 km from Banja Luka) in Bosnia and Herzegovina as they carry the coffin of former local police chief Simo Drljaca during the funeral ceremony Sunday morning. Drljaca was killed by British SFOR troops recently during a raid on war crimes suspects as he was resisting arrest. —AFP/UNB photo

# The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Monday 14th July

(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes)

## BBC

6:00am BBC World News 6:30 World Living : Top Gear 7:00 BBC World News Inc. World Business Report/Asia Today/24 Hours 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Focus: Correspondent 11:00 BBC Newsdesk 12:00 BBC Newsdesk 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: Correspondent 2:00 BBC World News 2:25 50 Years Of Independence 2:30 World Living : Building Sights 3:00 BBC World News 3:30 Hard Talk 4:00 BBC World News 4:30 Time Out: Top Gear 5:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:00 BBC Newsdesk 6:30 World Focus: Correspondent 7:00 BBC World News 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 BBC Newshour Asia & Pacific 8:25 50 Years Of Independence 8:30 World Living : Airport 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 9:55 50 Years Of Independence 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Living : Tomorrow's World 11:00 The World Today 12:00 The World Today 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: Window On Europe 2:00 BBC World News 2:25 50 Years Of Independence 2:30 World Living : Holiday 3:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc. World Business Report & 24 Hours 5:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc Asia Today & World Business Report 5:00 BBC World News 5:10 Newsnight

## CHANNEL V

6:00am Rewind VJ Sophia 7:00 Tune in [V] 8:30 Rewind VJ Sophia 9:30 Tune in [V] 2:30 Liberty First Day First Show 3:00 Videocoin Mangta Hai 3:30 Close Up Close Encounters 4:00 Tune in [V] 5:30

dependence 8:30 World Living : Airport 9:00 BBC World News 9:30 Hard Talk 9:55 50 Years Of Independence 10:00 BBC World News 10:30 World Living : Tomorrow's World 11:00 The World Today 12:00 The World Today 12:30 Hard Talk 1:00 BBC World News 1:30 World Focus: Window On Europe 2:00 BBC World News 2:25 50 Years Of Independence 2:30 World Living : Holiday 3:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc. World Business Report & 24 Hours 5:00 BBC Newsdesk Inc Asia Today & World Business Report 5:00 BBC World News 5:10 Newsnight

Tune in [T] 6:30 Tune in [T] 7:30 Tune in [T] 9:00 BPL Oyel 10:00 Liberty First Day First Show 10:30 Tune in [T] 11:00 Over The Edge 11:30 Tune in [T] 1:00 Haysah 2:00 BPL Oyel 3:00 Mojo Working Muddy Waters 3:30 Mainstage 5:30 V Spot

## STAR MOVIES

7:30 Classic : Yojimbo 15 (English Subtitles) 9:30 Adventure : Avlanche 15 (Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Family : Asterix The Gaul G (Hindi Subtitles) 1:30 Miniseries : Pride and Prejudice Part 2 2:30 Inside The Wrong Trousers 3:00 The Wrong Trousers 3:30 Classic : The Long Duel 12 5:30 Adventure : A Cry in The Wild 12 7:30 Comedy : Newfront 15 9:30 This Week That Year 10:00 Comedy : Widow's Peak 12 12:00 World Cinema : The Servile (English Subtitles) 2:00 Film Club : Jennifer - A Woman's Story 4:00

Tune in [T] 6:30 Tune in [T] 7:30 Tune in [T] 9:00 BPL Oyel 10:00 Liberty First Day First Show 10:30 Tune in [T] 11:00 Over The Edge 11:30 Tune in [T] 1:00 Haysah 2:00 BPL Oyel 3:00 Mojo Working Muddy Waters 3:30 Mainstage 5:30 V Spot

Western : Blood At Sundown 5:30 Action : One Man Army 15

## STAR PLUS

6:00am Travel Asia 6:30 Ninasad 7:30 Good Morning India 9:00 Business Agenda 9:30 Nine To Five 10:00 Pierre Franey's Cooking In France 10:30 Video Fashion 11:00 The Wonder Years 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 12:30 Dynasty 1:30 Santa Barbara 2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 3:00 Priya Tendulkar Show 4:00 Jeena Bhi Do Yaaro 4:30 WWF: Shotgun Challenge 5:30 Doogie Howser MD 6:00 The Wonder Years 6:30 Pierre Franey's Cooking In France 7:00 Living on the Edge 7:30 Star News (Hindi) 8:00 Small Wonder 8:30 Tu Tu Main Main 9:00 Imthan 9:30 Star News 10:00 Yes Prime Minister 10:30 Chicago Hope 11:30 The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00m Santa Barbara 1:00 Star News

## STAR SPORTS

7:30am Asia Sports Show 8:00 Inside PGA 8:30 Australia v England 10:00 Sports India 10:30 Live Pepsi Asia Cup 1997 Sri Lanka v Pakistan 1st Session 2:00 Lunch 3:00 Live Pepsi Asia Cup 1997 Sri Lanka v Pakistan 2nd Session 6:30 Trans World Sport 7:30 Jesus Chavez vs Louie Espinoza Junior Lightweight Championships 9:30 Superbikes USA Grand Prix 11:00 Pepsi Asia Cup 1997 H/L Day 1 Sri Lanka v Pakistan 12:00 WPGET Tour Players Classic 1:30 Super League Rugby 3:00 Trans World Sport 4:00 Superbikes World Championships USA Grand Prix Highlights 5:30 Jesus Chavez vs Louie Espinoza Junior Lightweight Championships

01:30 The X Files 2:30 Star Trek 3:30 Vega 4:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:30 21 Jump Street