

## Illegal manpower export to Malaysia: 3 big agencies involved

A top-level enquiry team found three big recruiting agencies of the country responsible for illegal manpower export to Malaysia, official sources said yesterday, reports UNB.

Besides, about 40 to 45 fake agencies are involved in such illegal acts, forcing the innocent people into miserable life in Malaysia.

Some Bangladeshis working in Malaysia, including a section of Bangladesh embassy staff, and some officials at the BOESL are also involved in the illegal manpower export.

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## Medicine, gold worth Tk 70 lakh seized at ZIA

Customs surveillance team seized contraband medicine and gold bars worth about Tk 70 lakh at Zia International Airport yesterday, reports UNB.

Officials said the team opened four suitcases as their two owners who were scheduled to board a connecting flight for Sylhet did not turn up.

The suitcases bearing names of two home-bound passengers — Fazur Rahman and Moulvi DMR of Sylhet — reached here from Dubai by a Biman flight at 11 in the morning.

But the passengers did not board the Sylhet-bound connecting flight that left at 6 pm.

Huge contraband medicine worth about Tk 60 lakh, four gold bars each weighing 10 tolas and gold ornaments of 101 grams were found in the suitcases.

## AL to send relief teams to flood affected areas

Awami League working committee at an emergency meeting yesterday reviewed the country's flood situation and decided to send central relief teams to the affected areas, reports UNB.

Held at the party's central office with its acting president Amir Hossain Amu in the chair, the meeting called upon the party leaders and workers to stand beside the country's flood affected people.

The meeting was informed that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been maintaining regular contact with the party leaders and she is being briefed on the overall situation of the country, including the latest flood situation, said a press release.

Among others, party central leaders Abdul Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Abdul Momen, Zillur Rahman, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdul Razzak, Begum Matia Chowdhury and Prof Abu Sayeed were present.

## 2 drown as launch capsizes in Barisal

PATUAKHALI, July 15: A young man and a minor girl drowned when an overloaded small passenger launch sank in Andharhanik river at Kalapara today, reports UNB.

Quoting the survivors police said the launch, ML Hasan, with about 50 passengers overturned as it left Kalapara Food Godown ghat at about 2:30 pm. It was heading towards Babla Bazar.

All but two — Lovely, 3, of Lalua village and Morshed, 25, of Chandupara village — swam ashore. The bodies were recovered by the locals.

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## Aricha-Nagarbari ferry service resumes

# Diarrhoea in Bandarban: Flood situation in N-districts worsens

The flood situation continued to deteriorate in the north-western region and greater Faridpur district yesterday while it was steadily improving in greater Sylhet and Chittagong and the hill tracts regions, reports UNB.

Diarrhoea and dysentery broke out in Bandarban hill district where flood situation further improved during the day. Some 200 people already fell victims of the water-borne diseases, official sources said.

Civil Surgeon of Bandarban said 11 medical teams have been working to check the

spread of diarrhoea in Sadar thana and the municipal area, but they cannot go to other thanas due to communication disruption.

The authorities resumed ferry services between Aricha and old Nagarbari ghat on Monday night due to partial disruption in ferry movement on the Aricha-Natakhol route.

Officials said only light vehicles were now being ferried between Aricha and Natakhol ghat, which connects the road link between Dhaka and 16 northern districts.

Sixty-nine people died fol-

lowing flash flood in 96 thanas of the country's 21 districts which affected nearly 30 lakh people, an official handout said yesterday.

The handout said some 30 lakh people belonging to four lakh families were affected in the flash flood.

Another handout said supply and distribution of relief materials in 21 flood affected districts could not be carried out due to halt.

It said the vehicles carrying relief goods could not move from district and thana head-

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IJO activists clashed with police at Purana Paltan in the city during hartal hours yesterday.

## 70 injured in sporadic clashes during hartal

By Staff Correspondent

A dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal, called by some pro-Islamic political parties yesterday, passed off by and large peacefully barring some stray incidents of clashes that left over 70 people injured.

Pickets clashed with police and anti-hartal activists leaving at least 30 injured in the city, 20 in Narayanganj, 30 in Savar, and three in Raozan in Chittagong.

Police picked up 247 pickets from the city's Mirpur, Farmgate, Gulistan, Paltan and Motiheel areas during clashes. Of them, 174 were later released, said a police press release. Of the injured, Alamgir, 18, a garment worker was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospi-

## BNP demands release of its activists held during hartal

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said government's "repressive" measures against hartal activists proved that its reaction protesting against act of blasphemy was an eyewash, reports UNB.

In fact, they (AL) don't have sincerity in this respect, he said in a statement in the city last night.

Bhuiyan claimed the police arrested an unspecified number of religious-minded people and went on massive action against the pro-hartal activists during yesterday's peaceful shutdown.

He said police arrested a number of BNP leaders, including Nabi Solaiman, Nuruzzaman, Mostafizur Rahman, Del-

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## JRC meet begins in city July 19

# Focus on sharing waters of Teesta, 5 other rivers likely

By M Anwarul Haq

A two-day meeting of the Bangladesh-India Joint Rivers Commission (JRC), the first in seven years, begins in Dhaka on July 19 to take up the issue of permanent sharing of the Teesta waters and review the problems encountered in implementation of the Ganges water sharing accord, sources said yesterday.

Indian Minister for Water Resources S. Ramo Oja is due to arrive in the city on July 18 at the head of a 11-member team comprising water experts and senior officials to participate in the meeting.

This will be the 32nd meeting of the Joint Rivers Commis-

sion, a body formed in 1972 to resolve water sharing issues between India and Bangladesh. However, the JRC remained dormant for a long time and this will be the first meeting in seven years. The last meeting was held in Dhaka in June 1990.

The decision to reactivate the JRC was announced after the official talks between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the then Indian Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda in Dhaka on January 6.

Earlier, a three-day meeting of the JRC was scheduled to begin in Dhaka from April 10. But it was subsequently cancelled

due to the political change in Delhi at that time.

The upcoming JRC meeting is expected to give special attention to the recommendations of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Committee (JC), set up under the provision of the Ganges accord. The Joint Committee gave a detailed annual report on the problems encountered in implementing the Ganges water accord during the first year, ending with the dry season in May.

Among other recommendations, the JC also suggested carrying out a scientific study for finding the reasons for short-

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## PM leaves Germany for Miami

FRANKFURT, July 15: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left here today for Miami, USA, ending her three-day visit to Germany, reports BSS.

Earlier, the Prime Minister arrived here this morning from Hamburg where she attended the inaugural session of the UNESCO-sponsored international conference on adult education.

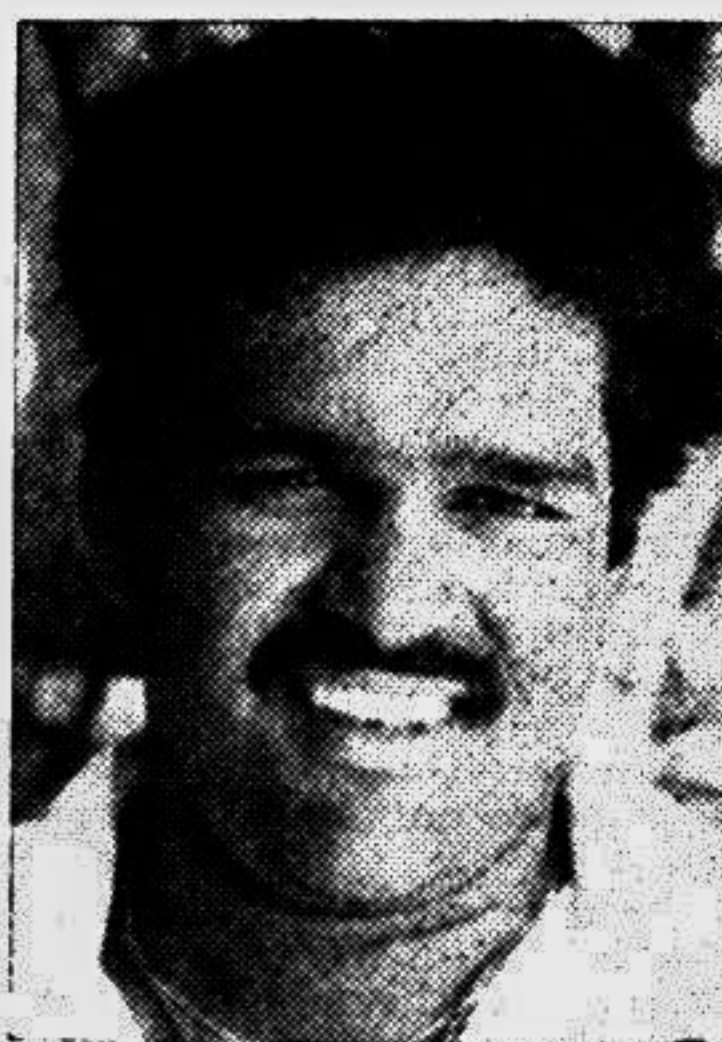
During her stay in Hamburg, the Prime Minister, besides presenting her key-note speech at the conference, attended a number of programmes.

Sheikh Hasina held discussions with German President Roman Herzog at the Congress Centre. She was given a reception by the first mayor of Hamburg.

The Bangladeshi nationals living in Germany also accorded a grand reception to the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister is expected to return home in the first week of August.

## Victory shouldn't be taken for granted: Raja Bangladesh take on Pakistan in Asia Cup today



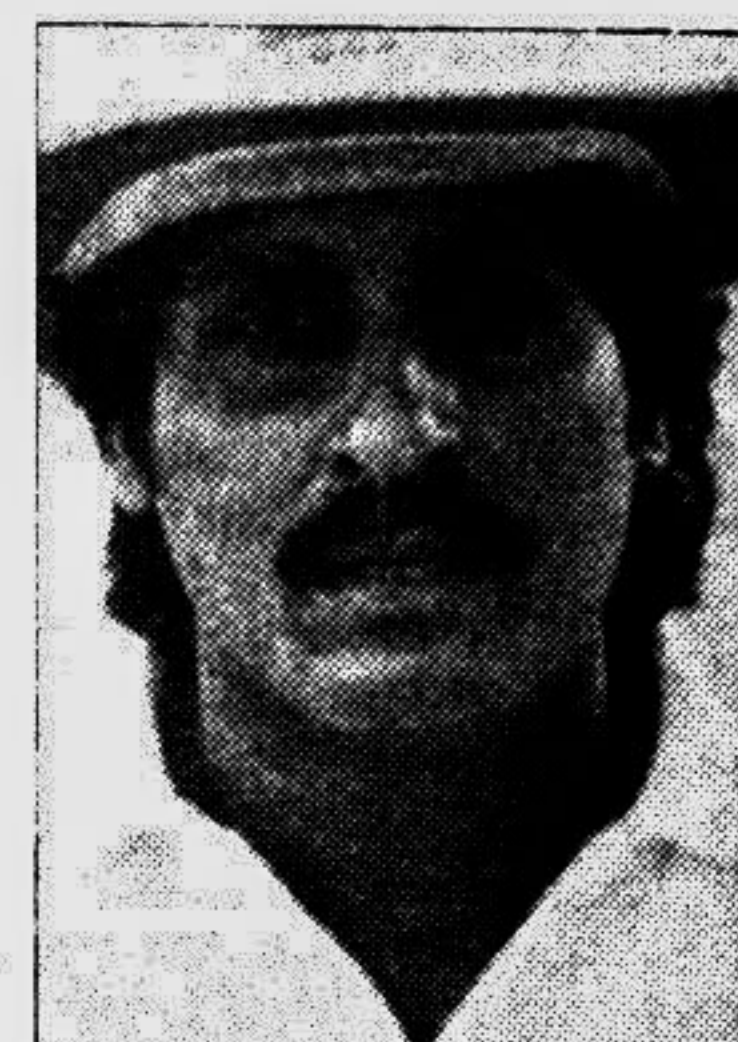
AKRAM KHAN

COLOMBO, July 15: Pakistan captain Rameez Raja warned his players not to take victory for granted when they clash with Bangladesh in the Asia Cup tomorrow, reports AFP.

Bangladesh is the only non-Test playing nation in the limited-overs tournament also featuring world champions Sri Lanka and India.

Raja remains wary of a side that was granted official one-day status last month and

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RAMEEZ RAJA

Bangladesh Television and the Star Sports will telecast the match live while Bangladesh Betar will provide ball-by-ball commentary of the match, scheduled to start at 10:30 BST.

## Second day of CHT talks Discussion on draft accord continues

By Special Correspondent

Talks between the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT) and the Parbatya Chattagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS) continued yesterday.

"We are working on the draft of an agreement," Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad and convener of the NCCHT, told waiting reporters after the second day's talks ended at 8-24 pm.

Abdullah made the terse on-sentence announcement at the porch of the state guest house Padma. PCJSS chairman Jyotindriyo Bodhipriyo Lama alias Shantu Lama in a gray full-sleeve safari suit and other leaders of the NCCHT and PCJSS delegation stood beside him.

However, Abdullah declined

to elaborate ignoring a volley of queries from newsmen and retreated inside the heavily guarded villa with his guests from the hills.

Abdullah and other members of the NCCHT stayed overnight at the state guest house because of the hartal yesterday. They used the time to talk after dinner. Yesterday's talks were split into two sessions, one was held from 11:15 am to 2:30 pm. After lunch break, the talks resumed at 6 pm.

According to meeting sources, the discussion centred on the unfinished agenda of Monday where both sides exchanged their notes on a draft accord tabled by the NCCHT. But disagreement on the new is-

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## BNP demands retrial of Shima rape & murder case

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has blamed the government for making the trial of Shima rape and murder case "a farce" and demanded fresh enquiry and retrial of the case, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, he said Shima Chowdhury was violated and died mysteriously in police custody. Moreover, she was cremated after her death although she was a Muslim convert.

"The country has now become a lawless country. The government was using the police to file thousands of false cases and made indiscriminate arrests across the country," Bhuiyan alleged.

He said the government was mainly responsible for creating a situation that turned the trial of Shima Chowdhury case into "a farce."

Because of such injustices and oppressions, he added,

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## Gas, oil exploration in 15 blocks 21 cos submit proposals to take part in bidding

Star Report

Twenty multinational oil and gas exploration companies and one local company have submitted proposals to participate in bidding for hydrocarbon exploration in 15 blocks of the country.

The deadline for submission of the proposals expired yesterday.

The 21 companies are: South Asia Oil and Gas (Australia), Total Exploration Production (France), Niko Resources Ltd (Canada), Chevron (USA), Texaco (USA), Maersk Oil (Denmark), Union Texas Murphy (USA), Tullow Oil Plc (UK), Pangaia Energy LLC, Enron Oil

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## Young man killed in city

By DMCH Correspondent

An unidentified gang killed a young man in Sutrapur area in the old part of the city early yesterday morning.

The victim, identified as Nitu Shil, 26, son of one Roman Mohon Shil, was found dead on the roof top of a two-storey building. There were marks of bullet and deep stab injuries over the body.

Police said, three young men called Nitu out of his house at North Moudun near Bonogran Lane, at about 3:30 am.

The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately. Nitu's elder brother, Nijanjan Chandra Shil, filed a murder case with Sutrapur thana.

However, none was arrested till last night.

## BCP activist shot dead

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, July 15: An activist of Biplobi Communist Party (Haq Group) was shot dead by unidentified gunmen at Joradah bazar in Harinakundu thana yesterday evening.

Police said, the armed men attacked Dulal, 30, when he was gossiping at the market.

The reason behind the killing could not be known. A case was filed.

## Italian Deputy FM in city

Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Senator Patrizia Toia arrived in the city yesterday on a three-day official visit, reports UNB.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury received her at Zia International Airport.

This is the first high-level visit from Italy to Bangladesh in nine years. The visit is significant at a time when Bangladesh and Italy have completed 25 years of diplomatic relations.

Toia will hold formal talks with Abul Hasan Chowdhury today, covering the entire

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## 2 alleged child lifters held in city

By DMCH Correspondent

Police held two women for their alleged involvement in lifting a new born baby from Kawan Bazar area under Tejgaon thana in the city yesterday afternoon.

According to police, the two women, identified as Ambia, 35, and Noorjahan, 50, came from Barisal but further details about them could not be known

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অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

তত্ত্ব প্রকল্পে

বিত্তিযোগেব অপরূপ সুযোগ

অগ্রণী স্ট্যান্ডার্ড আমানত প্রকল্প এবং

প্রবাসীদের বিশেষ সঞ্চয় আমানত

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক সাধারণ ব্যাংকিং সেবার পাশাপাশি তার সমন্বিত গ্রাহকদের সুবিধার জন্য ভবিষ্যৎ আর্থিক নিরাপত্তার দার্ঘ্যে বিলিয়েগকৃত অর্থের উপর থেকে মাসিক সর্বোচ্চ দু'লাক লাভের মাধ্যমে সৈনধিন পারিবারিক বরচ মেটানোর লক্ষ্যে নতুন প্রকল্প চালু করেছে।

**মাস ভিত্তিক সর্বোচ্চ সুদ প্রদেয় মেয়াদী আমানত প্রকল্প**

তিন বছর মেয়াদী এই সঞ্চয় প্রকল্পে ৫০ হাজার টাকা বা এর তলিতক অর্থ এক লক, দেড় লক, ২ লক ইত্যাদি পরিমাণ অর্থ বিলিয়েগ করা বাবে। প্রতি মাসে ৫০ হাজার টাকার জন্য ৫০০ টাকা করে দু'লাকা প্রদান করা হবে এবং মেয়াদান্তে মূল টাকা কেবল পাওয়া বাবে। এছাড়া আমানতকারী তার সাময়িক প্রয়োজনে আমানতের বিপরীতে মূল অর্থের ৮০% পর্যন্ত ঋণ গ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।

**প্রবাসীদের বিশেষ সঞ্চয় আমানত প্রকল্প**

কমপক্ষে ২৫ হাজার টাকা জমা দিয়ে যে কোন প্রবাসীর নিজ নামে কিংবা তার মা - বাবা, স্ত্রী অথবা ছেলেমেয়ের নামে এই প্রকল্পের আওতায় বিশেষ সঞ্চয়ী হিসাব খোলা বাবে। এই হিসাবে বিশেষ থেকে মাসে যে কোন পরিমাণ অর্থ ব্যতীত বৃত্তী পাঠানো বাবে। আমানতকারী ইচ্ছা করলে প্রেরিত অর্থ সময় সময় উঠাতে পারবেন অথবা মাসিক ভিত্তিতে ব্যাংক কর্তৃক প্রদানকৃত অর্থ দিয়ে পারিবারিক বরচ মিটাতে পারবেন। এই প্রকল্পের আওতায় বর্তমান প্রদেয় সুদের হার ৮.৫০%, যা দৈনিক প্রদানের উপর প্রদানযোগ্য।

**আপনি উপরোক্ত বিষয়ে আরো বিস্তারিত জানতে চাইলে আপনার নিকটস্থ অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের বেকোন শাখায় যোগাযোগ করুন**

**অগ্রণী ব্যাংক**  
দেশ ও জাতির সেবার প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ একটি ব্যাংক