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# The Daily Star

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## Repatriation postponed as Rohingyas go on rampage

From Abdul Monayem Khan  
COX'S BAZAR, July 23: The government has postponed tomorrow's scheduled repatriation of 200 Rohingyas following a law and order situation in two camps.

Some 200 refugees from the Kutupalong camp were due to go back home.

At noon today, a militant group from the Nayapara camp marched towards the Kutupalong camp and asked the refugees not to return to Myanmar.

Hundreds of refugees, armed with bamboo sticks, bows and arrows, forced out six officials and employees from the camp, surrounded by BDR and riot police. They also damaged six huts and looted the goods, which were supposed to be distributed among the refugees.

Police arrested four refugees on charge of rioting. Seventeen refugees were arrested by police since the repatriation resumed last Sunday after about three months.

## Govt desperate to erase name of Zia: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia said the government became desperate to erase the name of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman from everywhere by exercising muscle, reports UNB.

"Anything can be done by flexing muscle, but this power cannot last long," she said reacting to change in the name of Zia International Airport.

Zia's name can be erased from signboard temporarily, but it is not possible to erase the name of Zia from the hearts of the people of this country, Begum Zia said.

She was addressing the lead-

## Bikash on 6 days' fresh remand

The Detective Branch (DB) of Police yesterday brought Bikash Chandra Biswas alias Bikash, a 'notorious criminal' of the country, on a six-day remand for interrogation, reports BSS.

The DB produced Bikash before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court and sought 10-day remand. But the court granted six-day remand.

The police earlier brought him on a 10-day remand in two terms from the same court.

Police arrested him and his 11 accomplices and recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition from their possession.

## 10,000 Bangladeshis in Libya not getting wages

Foreign workers including Bangladeshis in Libya are facing manifold problems as they have not been paid their wages and other benefits for the last few months, according to information received in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

About 10,000 Bangladeshis are now employed in the North African oil-rich country.

The Foreign Office here has asked the country's embassy in Tripoli to let it know the actual situation.

International economic sanction and air embargo were imposed against Libya in May 1992 following the Lockerby air accident.

## Inside Today Article

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## Fault in national grid at Ghorasal Country without power for 45 minutes

**By Staff Correspondent**

A fault in the national grid near Ghorasal left the country without power for about 45 minutes yesterday afternoon.

Almost the entire Dhaka city was without power for about two hours from 4:40 pm when the fault tripped the grid. Power supply was restored in some areas after 6:30 pm.

Power Development Board (PDB) engineers could not detect the fault until 10:30 pm last night, according to sources in the PDB.

BSS quoting PDB sources said that the disruption was caused by a fault in Circuit Number 1 of the East West Interconnector, resulting in tripping off generators one after another at Ghorasal Power Station making those in operative in quick succession. All the other power stations in the country excepting the Kaptai hydroelectric station then became gradually inoperative, the news agency said.

Restoration of supply started in greater Dhaka area at 6:30 pm and about 700mw of power or one third of the total demand was restored by 9:30 pm. Since the Kaptai power station was operative, partial supply in Chittagong area remained intact. Efforts are underway to gradually activate all the power stations.

PDB will carry out a 'system investigation' to find out the causes of power failure.

Meanwhile, an enquiry committee has been constituted to inquire into the disruption.

The committee will submit its report within seven days, sources said.

Chairman of the PDB told The Daily Star at 10:10 pm that its engineers and high officials had rushed to Ghorasal shortly after the supply breakdown.

Disruption in the power supply brought angry students of Dhaka College laying a siege on Mirpur Road, stopping traffic and inviting riot police.

The students hurled rocks at police who used batons to clear the road and drove students back to their dormitories.

PDB engineers managed to restore power in the western region and some other parts by 7 pm. "We are trying to restore power as soon as possible," he said.



Students of Fine Arts Institute blocked the road in front of the institute yesterday demanding upgradation of Shaheed Shah Newaz Bhaban into a full-pledged dormitory. —Star photo

## PW-3 tells court during cross-examination Kamal, Jamal had no arms in Bangabandhu's residence

**By Staff Correspondent**

Army personnel wearing black uniform were seen firing gunshots while attacking the residence of Bangabandhu, the third prosecution witness said during proceedings of the Bangabandhu murder case yesterday.

Selim alias Abdul, during his cross-examination in the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, also said that he did not see any of those army personnel wearing khaki uniform. Cross-examination of Selim concluded yesterday.

Selim said that he was kept under house arrest along with the family members of Bangabandhu for eight months during the Liberation War.

Asked whether the marks on his body were from wounds done by Pakistan Army personnel during the liberation war, he said, "They used to guard the house only and never beat me."

Hearing will resume at 10:00 am Monday.

UNB adds, Selim told the court that there were no arms (of Sheikh Kamal and Jamal) in the residence of Bangabandhu.

He said he had never gone out with Sheikh Kamal by his (Kamal) microbus, neither Sheikh Kamal ever gone out with his (Kamal) friends carrying arms.

Asked, Selim said, "It is not true that Bangabandhu and his family members were killed due to the rashness of Sheikh Kamal and Sheikh Jamal."

He said he did not know whether the microbus of Sheikh Kamal was damaged during a firing incident with police anytime in Dhaka and denied a defence suggestion that Sheikh Kamal was injured in firing with police.

However, there was much heat generated in the courtroom as prosecution raised objection to some of suggestive questions of the defence lawyers while defence accused the prosecution of prompting answers to the witness.

A junior to a defence counsel at one stage even threatened to boycott the court if the prosecution side continued, what he said, prompting answer to the witness.

As Abdur Rezzak Khan pointed to the court a comment made by BBC about the situation in the courtroom, the judge suggested not to go for reporting such comments.

See Page 12 Col 3

## JMB: 7273 acres acquired to resettle 1 lakh affected

**By Nazmul Ashraf back from JMB site**

The Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMB) is continually monitoring the condition of the Project Affected Persons (PAPs), resettled under a 'very expensive' scheme.

Furthermore, JMB has also planned to train up and rehabilitate those turned jobless due to 'closure' of the Dhaleshwari river by the guidebund constructed on the eastern bank of the Jamuna, officials at the JMB site office said.

Closure of the river caused unemployment among the fishermen and boatmen who depended on it for their livelihood.

Under the Revised Resettlement Action Plan (RRAP), 7,273 acres of land were acquired to resettle 100,000 members of 15,000 affected families at a cost of Tk 163.2 crore. The lands are spread over the areas surrounding the project.

Those who lost their homesteads were given Tk 300 per person as transfer grant — the total ranging from Tk 1,000 to Tk 3,000 for each homestead.

Grant for construction of new house for the homestead losers ranged from Tk 2500 to Tk 7500 at the rate of Tk 10 per square foot.

The people who lost their lands (agricultural and residential) were compensated at the market rate plus 50 per cent premium. The wage losers were paid 90 days' wages at a time at the rate of Tk 40 per day.

Besides, grants for relocation, training for income generating activities and alternative employment and community facilities were covered by the resettlement scheme.

Deputy Manager of the JMB project said the resettlement was so comprehensive that it would be a model in future. He, however, cautioned against implementing such schemes in future, saying that the affected persons might demand Jamuna bridge-type compensation which is very expensive.

About the resettlement areas, he said "Initially the affected people were unwilling to live in the compact quarters, built by the JMB, because of up even after getting Japanese visa. The fair ended on April 27 this year."

He urged the government to investigate the matter and take necessary action.

In the latter he said, "Although we received message from EPB that representatives from Narita Handicrafts and Fashions Ltd, Otobi Apparels Ltd, Beautiful Jackets Ltd, Shah Jute and Plastic Processing Industries, Bangladesh Pearl

## Unfair practice in the name of trade fair

**By Rafiq Hasan**

Some trade organisations in collaboration with a section of Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) officials are allegedly sending people abroad in the name of participation in international trade fairs.

According to sources they take Tk 2 lakh to 10 lakh for sending one person to the United States or any South Eastern country.

The EPB is the sole authority to select an organisation and its representatives for participat-

ing in trade fairs. Some of the private organisations thus selected allegedly take extra people in collaboration with the EPB officials and leave some of them while returning home, the sources said.

An official of a leading chamber body told this correspondent that some private companies always offer money for selecting their representatives in trade fairs and trade delegations.

He said the owner of a lead-

## Showcause on Khatib of Baitul Mukarram

The Islamic Foundation authorities yesterday served a showcause notice asking Khatib of Baitul Mukarram mosque Maulana Obaidul Haq to explain why he would not be removed from service for his involvement in the disruption of Eid-e-Miladunnabi function on July 17, reports UNB.

"Yes, I received the showcause notice at about 7 pm today and now I am taking preparations to give the reply," Maulana Obaidul Haq told the agency.

However, he again denied his involvement in the incident at the Miladunnabi function organised by Islamic Foundation of Baitul Mukarram mosque where President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed was the chief guest.

The Khatib also said the allegation brought against him is false and provocative. "I strongly condemn the incident," Maulana Haq said.

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## India's do-or-die battle with Bangladesh today

**Sports Reporter**

Bangladesh are set to ride the roller-coaster when they take on the desperate Indians in the last round robin league match of the sixth Asia Cup at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground in Colombo today.

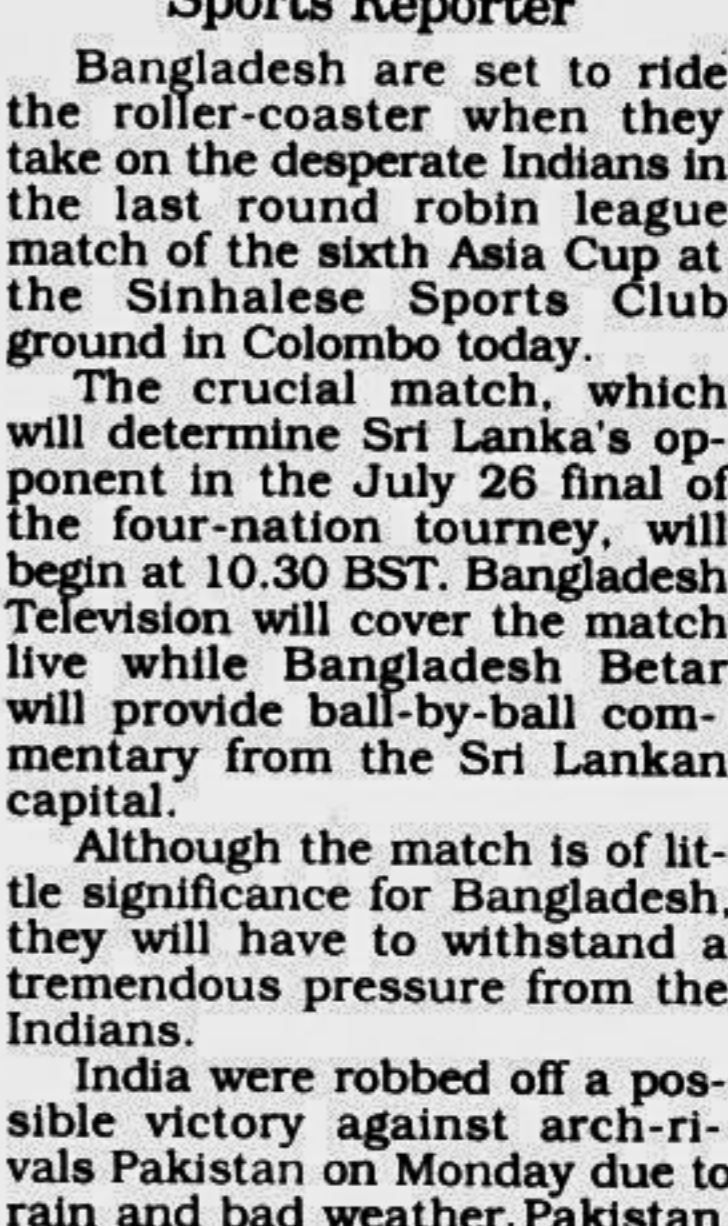
The crucial match, which will determine Sri Lanka's opponent in the July 26 final of the four-nation tourney, will begin at 10.30 BST. Bangladesh Television will cover the match live while Bangladesh Betar will provide ball-by-ball commentary from the Sri Lankan capital.

Although the match is of little significance for Bangladesh, they will have to withstand a tremendous pressure from the Indians.

India were robbed off a possible victory against arch-rivals Pakistan on Monday due to rain and bad weather Pakistan



Akram Khan



Sachin Tendulkar

## High Court orders IFIC not to hold AGM

**Star Report**

The Judge of the Company Bench of the High Court yesterday issued an injunction restraining holding of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of IFIC Bank Limited, due on July 27, until the disposal of a case filed by two shareholders.

They prayed for directives from the court for holding of the AGM under the chairmanship of a court-appointed person, instead of Sohel Rahman.

The petitioners filed the case contending that if the AGM is held by Sohel Rahman, it will elect as directors persons who are disqualified by law from becoming directors of IFIC and will appoint an auditor of their own liking to hide their liabilities and misdeeds from the annual accounts and balance sheets of IFIC Bank.

Passing the order, Justice ATM Monwaruddin said, "I have already observed in the admission order that a prima facie case has been made out by the petitioner for admission of the main application for hearing and if at this time the holding of the Annual General Meeting is not restrained, the main petition may be infructuous."

"The respondents are directed not to hold the annual general meeting of the Respondent No 1 Bank, namely IFIC Bank Limited, which is due to be held on July 27, 1997, until disposal of this matter."

He also ordered the Bank to publish a suitable notice in line with the order passed by him.

During the hearing of the case, Salman Rahman and Sohel Rahman were present in the court room, accompanied by

## Gas leaking at many points Occidental fencing off 5-km 'danger zone'

**From Sharier Khan and Iqbal Siddiqui**

SRIMANGAL, July 23: Occidental has started fencing the Magurchhara gas well area with barbed wire to ensure that none can enter there.

The situation in the area became highly hazardous and unpredictable in the last few days as gas started leaking through so many points spread over about one kilometre area. The soil has become loose, creating possibilities of landslide.

According to district administration sources, it is unlikely that Occidental will begin any drilling operation for a relief well within a week.

Restriction on entry to the area has been enforced so strictly that even some Petrobangla officials were refused entry yesterday, said officials of the Jalalabad Gas and the Occidental.

Only Occidental's experts and workers and a couple of Petrobangla officials were working in the area today. Occidental's President Nigel Hopkins visited the spot in the morning.

Three check posts have been set up on the 8 km-long Srimangal-Magurchhara road. Two check posts have been set up on the Kamalganj-Magurchhara road.

During a visit to the spot by alternative means, The Daily Star correspondents found that the main well has become a medium-size crater, filled with muddy water. A flame is now lolling by the side of the crater while another flame can be seen at a new spot in Fulbari Tea Estate, some 200 yards away from the crater.

Occidental's workers have raised barbed wire fence covered

**NCC Bank now at DILKUSHA**

Dilkusha - the busiest commercial area and the centre for Banks, insurance and financial institutions.

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## Shima rape case AI calls for prompt retrial

**By Staff Correspondent**

The Amnesty International has called upon the Bangladesh Government to promptly reinvestigate Shima rape case to bring to justice not only those who raped her, but also those whose alleged negligence caused her death.

The acquittal last week of four policemen accused of raping Shima Chowdhury, in their custody in October 1996, is a culmination of a series of failures by the Bangladesh authorities to protect human rights and provide justice, Amnesty said Sunday.

The four policemen were acquitted by a trial court on July 14. The judge reportedly deplored the fact that government lawyers had presented weak evidence and witnesses. No one in the jail administration has even been held to account for alleged negligence after Shima Chowdhury died in 'safe-custody' in mysterious circumstances.

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## 2 bodies recovered from Dhanmondi Lake

**By Staff Correspondent**

Police recovered the bodies of two unidentified men from the Dhanmondi lake in the city yesterday.

The bodies of men, aged between 25 and 30, were found floating near the bridge on Road No 8. Police said the bodies did not bear any mark of injury.

However, police were yet to find out the cause of their deaths. One of the victims was wearing lungi and shirt while the other a black trouser only.

Sources at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) said marks of injuries were found over one body.

Dhanmondi police took the bodies to the DMCH for autopsy. Unnatural death cases were lodged.