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109 out of 158 members of

Ctg city BNP resign

CHITTAGONG, Aug 1: One hundred and nine out of 158 executive committee members of the BNP, Chittagong city unit today tendered their resignation in protest against the newly announced city committee, headed by former city mayor Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, reports BSS.

On the second day today of the agitation against the new committee. BNP and its different front organisations held a protest rally at its Nasimun Bhaban office premises with president of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, Chittagong Division unit MA Nazimuddin in the chair.

The speakers demanded a committee acceptable to all. They termed the committee announced on Wednesday last as 'weak and biased' one. They reiterated an ultimatum to meet the demand by August 5. Otherwise, a greater movement including hartal would he nunched, they warned.

Our Staff Correspondent See Page 12 Col 8

Speedy trial of Bangabandhu's killers demanded

Speakers at a rally organised by Bangabandhu Parishad vesterday called for expediting the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports BSS.

They also strongly demanded trial of those who were indirectly involved in the conspiracy of killing the father of the Nation and most of his family members.

Presided over by Parishad president Prof Kabir Chowdhury, the rally was addressed by Political Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr SA Malek, Mayor Mohammad Hanif, city AL General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, MP. and Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan, Santosh Gupta, Muktijoddha Sanghati Parishad Chairman Col (Retti) Shawkat Ali, MP, Prof. Panna Kaiser MP. BMA acting secretary gen-See Page 12 Col 4

Withdraw Billal murder case, Titas Gas employees' call

By Staff Correspondent Eleven hundred employees and officials of Titas Gas Company have appealed to the government to withdraw the Billal Murder case against some "innocent employees and union leaders" of the organisation.

Death of Billal was an accident and not a murder, they said in a petition.

Billal, an employee of Titas Gas Company, died falling from the seventh floor of the Titas Gas building in the city during a clash among activists of three rival unions on July 9, 1992.

The 1101 employees in their petition submitted to the authorities on Thursday said that Billal was a "victim of politicisation of the unions by the then ruling party.

"Everybody knows that Bil-See Page 12 Col 4

Inside Today Article

Rohingya repatriation

A Delicate **Balancing Act**

Column: Time and Tide by Shah Husain Imam Page 4

International

ASEAN diplomats warned not to meddle in Cambodian affairs Page 5

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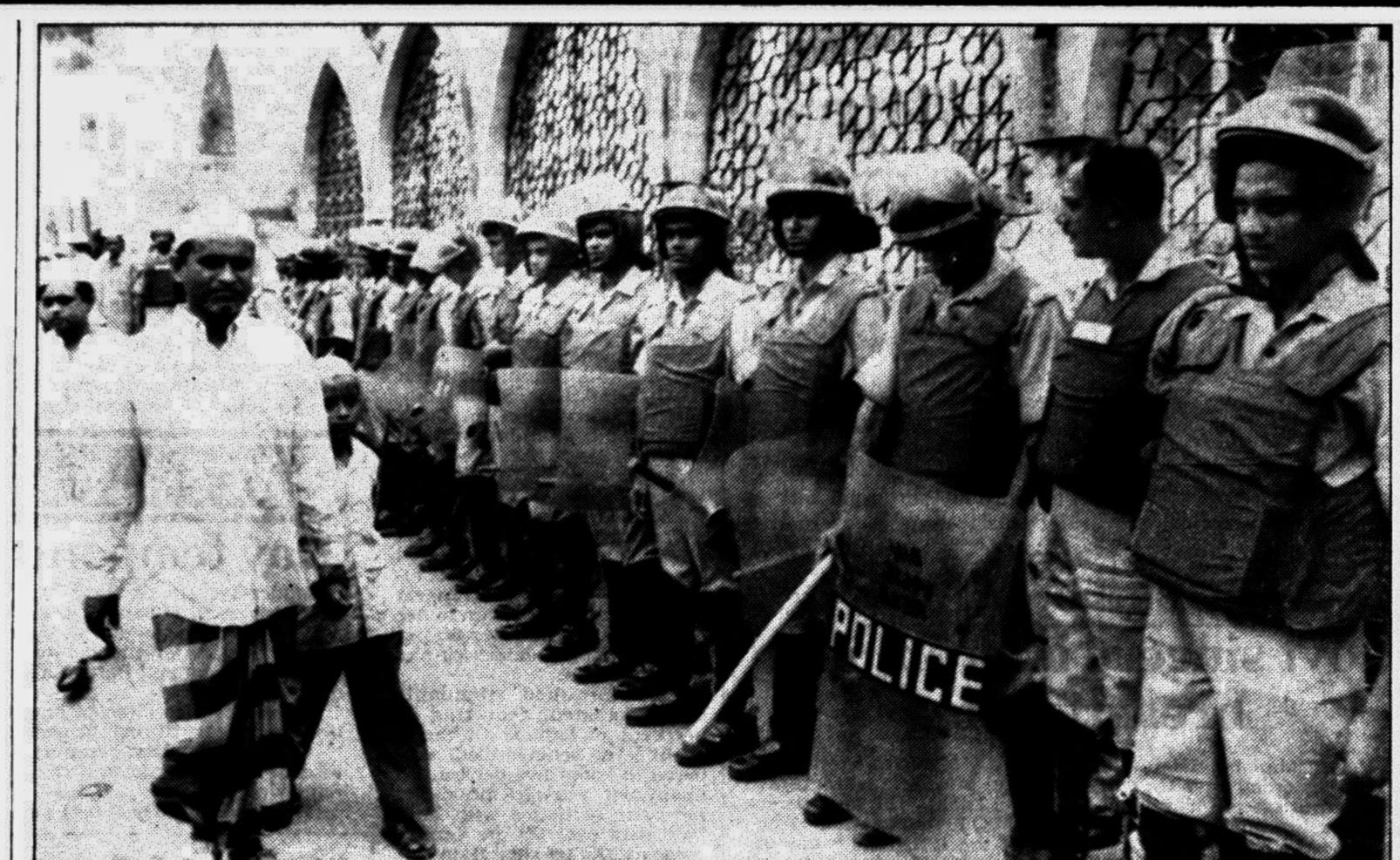
Another modest proposal; The computer affects language; and Some aspects of nationalism of the Bengalis; and Fiction— The fall

Business

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in 3 years EU ban surprises shrimp exporters Page 8



A heavy contingent of riot police was deployed at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque during Jumma prayers yesterday. - Star photo

Tomorrow's countrywide demonstration called off

Try those who issued circular renaming ZIA, demands BNP

The BNP has called off tomorrow's countrywide demonstration designed to protest the changing of the name of Zia International Airport, but demanded trial of those involved in issuing a circular renaming it Dhaka International Airport. reports UNB.

The demonstration day programme, announced on July 27, has been withdrawn in view of the government declaration that it had not changed the name of any airport, BNP Secretary General told a press conference at 29 Minto Road yesterday afternoon.

He said the flight service department of Biman Bangladesh Airlines on July 17 issued a circular renaming ZIA as Dhaka International Airport. He also produced copies of the circular, signed by the Deputy General Manager of Flight Service.

It said: As per decision of the management from now on whenever inflight announcements are made regarding Dhaka Airport, it must be mentioned as "Dhaka International Airport." Any amendment as necessary must be made in this

regard. This is for strict compliance.

Bhuiyan said obviously the circular was issued following a government decision as "an official alone cannot dare to show such audacity of changing the name of ZIA which is highly sensitive."

"We demand trial of those responsible for issuing the circular though an official announcement made it clear that no name of any airport of the country has been changed," he

He warned of tough street agitation if the state-run radio. television and flights do not use The BNP secretary general

said that the party had received information that many foundation stones laid during BNP regime were being removed. "It's not a good culture," he

said while urging the government to refrain from resorting to such bad culture which would only create conflicts.

Bhuiyan said since the assumption of power by Awami League, it has started politics of killing, repression, arrest, issuing warrants for arrest and filing false cases against BNP.

More than 150 leaders and workers of the BNP and its front organisations were killed in attacks by the ruling party and thousands were arrested, he said adding that false cases have been filed against at least 10,000 BNP men across the country.

He alleged that the government has now intensified its evil design to erase the name of the proclaimer of independence Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman. He claimed that Zia was also a creator of modern Bangladesh.

Bhuiyan said no government institution was named after Zia in his life time. The grateful nation, after his martyrdom named only a fertiliser factory, an airport and the Shishu Academy auditorium after him through official decision.

He told a questioner that renaming government institutions, buildings or bhabans after Sheikh Mujibur Rahman without soliciting public opinion cannot be permanent. See Page 12 Col 8

'No politics at

Begum Zia's

cantt house'

made it clear that no political

programme or activity is initi-

ated from the cantonment resi-

dence of Leader of the Opposi-

tion Begum Khaleda Zia, re-

house ... mudslinging centering

this house is not desirable to

anyone," BNP secretary general

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told a

the heels of Foreign Minister

Abdus Samad Azad's Thurs-

day's remarks that Begum Zia

should not make the canton-

ment a meeting place and that

the area should not be used for

sometimes meet the former

Prime Minister at her canton-

ment residence when they visit

based diplomats who came to

meet Begum Zia at her residence

were obstructed and harassed

by security personnel while one

was given special escort. He also

named some diplomats who

were not allowed to meet Begum

are allowed to play golf, attend

marriage ceremonies at 'Shen-

Bhuiyan said, if foreigners

Bhuiyan said foreign guests

He alleged that some Dhaka-

political purpose.

Bangladesh.

His statement followed on

press conference in the city.

"It's absolutely a dwelling

ports UNB.

A top BNP leader yesterday

Mannan Bhuiyan tells The Daily Star

BNP will never become a communal force

By Nurul Kabir

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has expressed his confidence that his party "will continue to remain a centrist political platform, with institutionalisation of multi-party democracy and strengthening of the national economy, particularly the private sector, as its objectives.

"Since its birth, BNP was a middle roader in terms of political ideology. It restored multiparty democracy in the country and initiated economic reforms to introduce market economy from the nationalist point of view," Mannan Bhuiyan said, adding. "The party will continue to be a centrist platform with its original political and economic objectives."

The BNP leader made this observation in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star on Wednesday. When requested to explain

its recent 'tilt' to the religionbased political forces, Bhuiyan said, "It might appear sometimes that BNP is tilting to-

Mannan Bhuiyan

wards left or right, but, I reiterate. BNP will never prove to be a communal political force. Thousands of BNP activists across the country know that our people are pious but they are not fanatic." Evaluating the performance

of the government headed by

Al proposes set of standards

Sheikh Hasina, the BNP leader said this government has been rendering 'disservice' to the people. "The government's economic policies are plagued with self contradictions and the head of the government has even proved herself to be indifferent to the interests of the people.

Asked to substantiate the allegations. Bhuiyan said that the national economy had been exposed to a stagnancy - there was no significant economic activity in the country. "The government talks about strengthening the private sector, but consistently refuses to disburse project loans to the private sector entrepreneurs. Does it not appear contradictory?"

As regards giving disservice to the people, he said the ruling Awami League has already proved itself to be very consistent: "It is a common knowledge among the entrepreneurs that certain policy of the government has already paralysed the leather sector. Although the fi-

See Page 12 Col 1

Education policy Political fronts on campus opposed

By Mizan Ali

Members of the Committee for Formulating National Education Policy have reached a consensus that students should not be allowed to open front organisations or affiliate bodies of political parties in educational institutions, according to committee sources.

The time for submitting the committee's recommendations has been extended and it will now submit its report after the Prime Minister returns home. the sources said.

The 58-member committee headed Prof Shamsul Huq was formed about five months back. A total of 19 sub-committees were formed to recommend measures on various issues in the education sector. Majority of the members

supported a ban on student politics in educational institutions. It was, however, opposed by a section on the ground that student politics played a vital role in our Liberation War.

Subsequently, the committee reached a consensus that students should not be allowed to form front organisations of political parties in the educational institutions.

The committee also agreed to that students' unions be allowed to function to help develop leadership qualities among students and solve their problems in educational institutions, the sources added.

Bazar

a flood, report UNB.

places including hill.

shiakhali, Lakhyarchar, Kaiyerbil, Baraitala, Harbang,

The flood also engulfed 50 bil areas of the thana.

swelled due to heavy rain.

Project on Gulshan Lake

Serious flaws in Rajuk deal

By Morshed Ali Khan

BGMEA announces plan

Insurance scheme for 13

lakh workers in 7 days

By Staff Correspondent

Serious procedural flaws have emerged in the Rajuk deal to hand over 220 acres of prime land in Gulshan, Baridhara and Banani areas to a Singapore-based developer, Indus Valley, on a Build-Operate and-Transfer (BOT) basis for 75

Under the deal, Indus Valley will construct a massive complex comprising a hotel, condomoniums, service apartments, office buildings, shopping centres, hospital and other facilities. The project will cost about 213 million US dollars. Indus has already paid Rajuk 250,000 dollars as a deposit and will pay Tk one crore annually as royalty.

According to official documents, Rajuk accepted and later approved the company's proposal without involving any of its own professionals in reviewing or studying the project's feasibility.

It was revealed in a document that Rajuk Chairman Humayun Khadem held several informal meetings with Indus management before the first official meeting in the Ministry

The Bangladesh Garment

Manufacturers and Exporters

Association (BGMEA) will bring

13 lakh workers of the gar-

ments industry under insurance

for a Tk 40,000 compensation

claim under the insurance

scheme in exchange of an an-

nual premium of Tk 10, a press

release issued by the BGMEA

number of steps to stop recur-

rence of incidents of fire and

stampede in garments factories.

Twentysix garment workers

died in a stampede in a factory

in the city on Wednesday last

and many more lost their lives

other precautionary measures

The press release said some

in such incidents earlier.

The BGMEA also pledged a

Each worker will be eligible

scheme within seven days.

said last night.

of Housing and Public Works on May 24, 1995. The meeting was chaired by MD Hasinur Rahman, the then Secretary of the Ministry, and was attended by, among others. Salim Ibrahim, Director of In-

dus Valley. Dean of the Faculty

of Civil Engineering, BUET, Dr Alamgir M Haq and Humayun Khadem. At the meeting, Dr Haq had questioned the compatibility of the project with the environment and residential character of neighbouring areas, role played by the authorities concerned as regards the project, economic analysis of the 75-

buildings. He termed the project highly optimistic. Hasinur Rahman had emphasised the project's consistency with the recently prepared Master Plan for Dhaka. He pointed out that environmental, social and economic aspects of the project should be thoroughly studied by Rajuk be-

year period and life span of the

fore finalising it. Following the meeting, things moved fast. Rajuk top See Page 12 Col 7

will be taken within the next

thirty days in all garment fac-

tories. These will include,

building alternate staircase.

installation of fire extinguish-

ing equipment, alternate light-

ing system in staircases, fire

evacuation drill for workers to

train them to vacate the factory

within 30 seconds, first aid

system, setting up smoke detec-

tors, and other emergency

teams of the BGMEA will start

their monitoring work within

three days, the press release

taken a decision to take up fire

fighting programmes in collab-

See Page 12 Col 2

oration with Fire Brigade.

To implement the steps, 15

Besides, the BGMEA has

Besides giving Tk 50,000 to

safety systems.

added.

akunja' and visit 'Shikha Anir-See Page 12 Col 1 N'ganj BCL

leader shot From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Aug 1: A local student leader was shot by unidentified assailants here

last night.

Md Sajnu, 28, joint secretary of Narayangani city unit of pro-Awami League Chhatra League, received bullet injuries in his back when some gunmen fired on him from a close range near Mission Para crossing at 11:30 pm.

He was rushed to Naravanganj Hospital and later shifted to Shamrita Clinic in Dhaka. Police nabbed four youths — Biplob, Jainal, Mahbub and Salahuddin from Mission Para area in this connection.

Narayanganj district and city units of Awami League held a protest rally this afternoon at Bangabandhu Road.

Chaired by district AL president Prof Najma Rahman, speakers at the rally demanded immediate arrest and trial of the persons responsible for the attack. They blamed BNP for the attack.

DCC asks for Tk 153cr grant to repair roads

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has asked for a government grant of Tk 153 crore to repair the damaged city roads and drains, and to complete other related works, reports

Frequent digging of roads by the utility services like DESA WASA, Titas Gas and T&T, fullowed by a series of recent incessant rain, caused serious damages to the city roads.

When contacted, a DCC official said Kataban-Nilkhet, Sukrabad-Tallabagh, Purana Paltan-Naya Paltan, Mouchak-Malibagh-Rampura and Maghbazar-Nayatola roads as well as roads in Hatirpool, Basabo, Khilgaon and in old parts of

dition. The DCC has received only Tk 30 crore from the government, after it submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) seeking Tk 153 crore for the repair to damaged city roads and drains.

Dhaka are in a dilapidated con-

See Page 12 Col 5

for setting up nat'l HRC By Staff Correspondent The Amnesty International Bangladesh. sions in protecting human The Commission should rights and should be able to make recommendations for prepare reports documenting

has proposed to the government

a 'set of standards' for establishment of a National Human Rights Commission. The Al proposal, titled "Bangladesh: Proposed Stan-

dards for a National Human

Rights Commission," containing 22 recommendations, was made available to The Daily Star recently. The AI, in its recommendations said that the proposed Commission should be independent of the government and its charter should reflect its in-

dependent status. The Commis-

sion should be established by

law or, preferably, by Constitu-

tional amendment. The Commission should be mandated to review the effectiveness of the existing legislation and administrative proviamendment to such legislation or introduction of new legisla-

tion, as necessary. The Commission should also examine bills and government proposals for new legislation to verify their conformity with international human rights standards and to ensure the state's compliance with international human rights instruments.

Powers should be vested in the Commission to conduct wide-ranging inquiries at national level on human rights concerns of fundamental importance to the nation.

The Commission should be authorised to investigate the conduct of security forces throughout the territory of

Fishermen and villagers releasing fingerlings in Borobila beel at Pirgachha in Rangpur.

Pisciculture in floodplain: A success story

all the complaints it has received, together with the action taken in each case, as well as an account of all its other activities for promotion and protection of human rights. The reports should be presented periodically to representative national and regional bodies, the

Al suggested. The result of the Commission's investigations should be referred to appropriate judicial bodies without delay.

The Commission should have powers to ensure that superior officers are held accountable for acts committed under their authority and should be mandated to closely follow subsequent legal pro-See Page 12 col 6

Star photo

Flood in Cox's

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 1: About 1.5 lakh people have been marooned in Chokoria thana for the last two days as heavy rain and on rush of hill water caused

Local people said that at least 10,000 people of 13 floodaffected unions of the thana took shelter at nearby safer The unions are: Kakara, Fa-

Saharbil, Dulahazar, Khuta Khali, Badarkhali, BM Char and Purba Baro Bhewla.

homesteads of Kakara, Kaiyer-Meanwhile, Cox's Bazar-Chittagong and Cox's Bazar-

Tekhnaf roads, at several places, have gone under 2-3 feet water as the river Matamuhuri

By Masud Arif, back

It was like a festival for the

from Rangpur

fishermen and villagers who

gathered in dozens on the bank

of Borobila Beel at Pirgachha in

Rangpur to watch the release of

The concept of pisciculture in a floodplain — the low-lying

areas flooded during monsoon

- has changed the life of people

around Borobila in three years.

It was started under the gov-

ernments' Third Fisheries Pro-

The TFP, a project jointly funded by the government, World Bank, IDA, UNDP and

ODA, ended last year but the

fishermen of Kamnathpur

Union Fishermen's Co-opera-

tive Association have succeeded

in building stocks of fingerlings

ment support this year. The

fishermen's association is re-

leasing one and a half tonnes of

fingerlings this year with the

support of a local NGO, Pre-moda Sundarisen Kalyan Trust.

State Minister for Fisheries

and Livestock Satish Chandra

Roy inaugurated the release of

See Page 12 Col 3

in Borobila without govern-

ject (TFP) in 1994.

fingerlings.

Strike in Bihar protesting Laloo's arrest: 500 held

NEW DELHI, Aug 1: More than 500 people were arrested Friday for blocking roads as supporters of a jailed politician in eastern India protested his arrest on charges of embezzlement, a domestic news agency said, reports AP.

Activists enforcing calls for a one-day protest strike damaged at least 60 buses and cars in Patna, the capital of Bihar state, and several people were injured in clashes between strikers and police. United News of India said.

The general strike shut down most schools and businesses statewide. Railroad services were halted in many places. Laloo Prasad Yadav, former

chief minister of Bihar, has been in a police compound converted into a luxury jail in Patna since his arrest on Wednesday. Yadav and 55 others are ac-

cused of stealing 138 million dollars earmarked for livestock feed for state-run dairy farms. He resigned as Bihar's top elected official only days before his arrest, but named his wife to succeed him and apparently

plans to continue exercising power through her.

Meanwhile, the main party in India's governing coalition faced more trouble Friday after a court indicated it was ready to try its new leader, who replaced Laloo Yadav, in a bribery case.

The Janata Dal Party split last month when Laloo Yadav was ousted from his party position because of the corruption case. His replacement, Sharad Yadav, learned Friday that a case against him that has been dormant for months could soon be revived, local news agencies reported.

Prime Minister I K Gujral is a Janata Dal member, and the turmoil in his party has raised questions about his government's stability. But corruption scandals have become so widespread in Indian politics that only the most serious can topple a leader, and then only if his or her direct involvement can be proven. Sharad Yadav was among a

score of politicians charged last year with taking bribes in 1988-1991 from the Jains, a promi-

See Page 12 col 6

The LGRD ministry sent the