

## ROK plane with 331 aboard crashes

WASHINGTON, Aug 5: A Korean Airlines Boeing 747, reportedly with 331 people aboard, crashed today in Guam, a US military spokeswoman in Honolulu said, reports AFP.

"We can confirm it crashed," the spokeswoman for the US Pacific Command said. CNN said there were reports of survivors after the jetliner crashed as it was landing at Agaña, Guam. The military spokeswoman was unable to confirm there were survivors.

In Washington, White House spokesman Michael McCurry said he was "aware of the reports." "We have heard reports of bad weather in the area. Beyond that, we just have sketchy information at this point. Clearly it will be a developing story." Dr. Michael Cruz of the Guam memorial hospital told CNN the plane crashed in a sparsely populated area near the airport and that emergency teams had been put on alert. CNN said the plane was flying from Seoul to Agaña.

## 15 drown as boat capsizes in Meghna

NARSINGDI, Aug 5: Fifteen people were drowned and two missing after a country boat capsized in the river Meghna at Nurpur in Raipura thana of the district on Monday night, reports UNB.

Survivors said the Asha-rampur-bound boat, sailing from Raipura thana headquarters with over 60 passengers on board, was overturned during a storm at about 8 pm.

The dead were identified as Sardar Ali, 30, Mohammad Ali, 45, Abdul Mia, 21, Rajuddin, 25, Kamal Sikdar, 22, Halim Sikdar, 40 and Halim, 40, of Asha-rampur village, Shawkat Ali, 30, Shahid Mia, 35, Kashed, 40, Mujibur, 32, of Gopinathpur village, Ali Akbar, 30.

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## Rajya Shabha told ADB to fund feasibility study for Indo-Bangla power exchange

NEW DELHI, Aug 5: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to provide fund for a feasibility study of electricity exchange between Bangladesh and India, Minister of State for Energy Prof Y K Alagh informed the Rajya Sabha yesterday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question in Rajya Sabha, he said the study would identify inter-link points, quantum of power supply at each point, nature of power supply, commercial arrangements on the basis of international practices for sale and purchase.

## PM returns today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to return home this morning after 23 days of her staying abroad, official sources said, reports UNB. Hasina left Dhaka on July 13 for Hamburg where she presented the key-note speech at the UNESCO-sponsored international conference on adult education. She proceeded to Miami in the United States on July 15.

In the US city, the Prime Minister stayed with her daughter Saima Sharmeen Putul. Putul gave birth to her first child on July 19.

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# HC asks govt to form interim CHT councils within 15 days

By SC Correspondent

All three Chittagong Hill Tracts Local Government Council (Amendment) Acts, 1997 stand valid and effective as all rules issued on four writ petitions were discharged by the High Court yesterday.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Mozammel Haque and Md Hassan Ameen yesterday pronounced the judgments on four writ petitions filed challenging the insertion of Section 16(A) in the respective Hill Tract District Local Government Acts.

The court also directed the

government to constitute interim local government councils in Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati Hill Tract districts within 15 days from the date of judgement.

The HC further directed the interim councils to hold election of the respective local government councils within 60 days from its formation and if not possible to hold the same due to natural calamity further 60 days are allowed.

The court also rejected a prayer of Barrister Ziaur Rahman, a BNP MP and one of the

writ petitioners, for certificate to file a petition for leave to appeal against the HC judgement in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Barrister Ziaur Rahman, Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, No Ong Khume and Uday Rabi Chakma separately filed the writ petitions.

Section 16(A) of each of the Amendment Acts allows the formation of interim councils by the government until the elected body takes over the office.

The petitioners challenged See Page 12 Col 8

## AKC lift Fed Cup

Sports Reporter

Abahani Krira Chakra won the 14th Federation Cup football tournament title defeating Arambagh by the odd goal in three in the final at Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

Jahangir struck a late winner for Abahani, who came from behind to beat their unlikely opponent to add another pearl in their crown. It was Abahani's fifth title triumph in the season's curtain-raiser.

Details on Page 10

Arambagh, making their maiden appearance in any major domestic tournament final, shot into the lead by their Senegalese striker Youssouf, who served the stunner in the 25th minute quite against the run of the play.

Abahani's substitute Tipu, who stole the highlight with a golden goal in Abahani's 3-2 semifinal victory against arch-rivals Mohammedans on Sunday, scored the equalizer in the 72nd minute before Jahangir pulled off an 89th minute winner with a thunderous left-footer.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammed Nasim later distributed trophies among the winners.



A proud Abahani skipper Zakir Hossain holds aloft the Federation Cup trophy after the final at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

## Business leaders endorse Fifth Plan but doubtful about funds

The business community yesterday endorsed the Fifth Five Year Plan that envisages private sector as the engine of growth, but appeared doubtful about whether they would get the financial support to play the expected role, reports UNB.

They expressed their full support to the objectives of the plan when State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir explained it to the business leaders. The plan will be finalised later this month.

Dr Alamgir informed that the plan envisages at least 7.2 per cent annual GDP growth during its period when the private sector would play the lead role, spending 58 per cent of the total projected resources.

He estimated that the private sector would channel 20 per cent of the total investment as equity financing while the rest 80 per cent would be supplied from the country's financial system.

Yussuf Abdullah Harun, the FBCCI president who led a team of businessmen to the meeting, said the reliance on the private sector is alright, but they are al-

ready facing problem to mobilise funds.

"It has already become difficult to get money from the banks," he told the meeting at the NEC conference room, indicating that banks might be unwilling to lend with only 20 per cent equity from the entrepreneurs.

Shafiqul Chowdhury, an FBCCI executive member, pointed out the gap between the projection in the plan and the existing policy which suggests that banks give priority to the investment proposals having 50 per cent equity participation.

"Your policy is calling for a 20 per cent equity participation while the finance minister is talking about 50 per cent," he said.

Dr Alamgir said the projection is realistic and observed that only a very small number of entrepreneurs would come up for setting up industries if they have to put 50 per cent of the total project cost.

"Those who are talking about 50 per cent equity participation are not talking about

industrialisation," he remarked.

In this context, he said the government should follow a more expansionary monetary policy for the sake of development. He pointed out that the existing monetary policy is contractionary and conservative.

"We also have to go for undervalued exchange rate from the current overvalued exchange rate to increase export in a sustainable manner," he said.

The state minister also agreed with the FBCCI chief who said bank financing to the industrial sector should not be stopped while recovering the overdue loans from the defaulters.

"We have to realise the overdue loans, but at the same time we have to keep running the wheel of industrialisation," he said.

Yussuf Harun said the main problem lies in the implementation process. "We had excellent plans earlier," he said.

For the smooth implementation See Page 12 Col 7

## College erected overnight on Rajuk land at Badda

By Morshed Ali Khan



The tin-shed structure of the college built overnight at Badda on Friday. — Star photo

Some people at Badda, led by a local Awami League leader, occupied nearly three bighas of Rajuk land on Friday and built a two-unit tin-shed college overnight, fencing it with barbed wire.

They alleged that nearly 60 acres of land in the area were brought under a Rajuk scheme to rehabilitate some local people who lost their lands in the process of Rajuk's acquisition of land in different times. But instead of allocating the plots to the victims, Rajuk handed over more than four hundred plots to its employees, they alleged.

Osman Gani Khan, secretary, Gulshan thana Awami League, told The Daily Star that Rajuk already had provision for an educational institution on the spot. "We built it because the people here desperately needed a college. If Rajuk See Page 12 Col 1

## Ctg mass killing Court orders framing of charge against Raqibul Huda

CHITTAGONG, Aug 5: A court today ordered charge-framing in the case of mass-killing at Laldighi Maidan against the lone accused, ex-CMP Commissioner Mirza Raqibul Huda, reports UNB.

Chittagong District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Zahurul Islam, after two days of hearing, issued the order for framing charges under Penal Code 302/109, 326/109, 302, 201/109.

Now the case would proceed to trial, Public Prosecutor Advocate Nurussafa Talukder told the news agency at his office after the court order.

The court fixed September 7 as next date for deposition by witnesses.

Twenty-two people were killed and more than a hundred See Page 12 Col 7

## Bangabandhu Murder Case Dalim, Huda were seen at Rd 32 on Aug 14 : PW-5

By Staff Correspondent

The fifth prosecution witness in the Bangabandhu murder case yesterday named two military officers whom he saw in motorcycles in front of the residence of Bangabandhu on August 14, 1975, the day before the killings took place.

Abdul Gani, 55, a retired Army Havildar while making his deposition before the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, also mentioned that their ammunition were taken away in the early hours of August 15, 1975. Gani was among the guards who were on duty at the Dhanmondi residence of the

then President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15, 1975.

Maj Shariful Haq Dalim, former commanding officer of our regiment was seen moving in a motorcycle on Road No 32 in front of Bangabandhu's residence at about 4 pm on August 14, 1975. At around 5:00 pm, former Adjutant Capt. Bazul Huda was also seen moving in a motorcycle on the same road," Gani said.

Gani also told the court that at about 4:00 am on August 15, 1975, Wahab Joardar, Subedar See Page 12 Col 4



## Tagore's death anniversary today

By Staff Correspondent

The 56th death anniversary of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore will be observed today.

Born in 1861, the great Bengali poet was awarded the Nobel Prize for his most celebrated work titled 'Gitanjali' in 1913. He died in 1941.

Different socio-cultural organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes on the occasion.

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## Interpol's help to verify Aziz Mohd's statement sought

Criminal Investigation Department has sought cooperation from Interpol in probing into some statements of business tycoon Aziz Mohammad Bhai implicated in the suspected murder of Salman Shah, reports UNB.

"We have sent message to Interpol to investigate if Aziz Bhai was in London or not during the death of filmstar Salman Shah," said a CID official yesterday.

He said the passport of Aziz Mohammad Bhai showed that he left the country early on September 5, 1996 and stayed in London for more than a week.

"But we want to confirm further if it is true or not," said the See Page 12 Col 1

## Medical tests of 4 sisters done

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 5: The medical report on the alleged violation of the four sisters Friday night in Siddhirganj thana of Narayanganj has been submitted to the SP of the district today.

The laboratory tests were performed on Monday afternoon.

"There were hardly any trace of sperm in the vaginal cavity of those who were examined," said a source in Narayanganj General Hospital, where the tests were conducted.

The tests in such cases are supposed to be carried out within 24 hours. In the case of the four sisters it was delayed. The sisters had come for medical examination after they had taken their shower which probably could have destroyed all the physical evidences," he said.

"For this reason the medical tests have failed to find a positive sign of any evidence of rape," he added.

## Fire at Fenchuganj fertiliser factory

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 5: Production in the Natural Gas Fertiliser Factory (NGFF), Fenchuganj has been suspended since yesterday after a fire broke out in the factory.

Sources said the gas line in the Urea section of the factory caught fire at about 6:15 am yesterday soon after a burst in the Tranger pump. Valuable equipment and cable were burnt in the fire. Fire fighters brought the blaze under control after one hour of struggle. However, none was injured.

A departmental enquiry committee has been formed to investigate the cause of the fire. Extent of the damage could not be known.

Production in the factory may resume by Thursday after completion of repair work, officials said.

## CU students observe strike

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 5: A day-long strike was observed at the Chittagong University today at the call of 'General Student Parishad'.

The strike was called to press their demands which include introduction of academic calendar, formation of a Parishad Parishad, making the campus violence-free, and immediate reopening of Prtilata Hall.

No classes or examinations were held today and administrative offices were closed. In the morning, students barricaded the entrance of the university.

## Records tumble in Colombo

COLOMBO, Aug 5: Sri Lanka batsmen Sanath Jayasuriya and Roshan Mahanama rewrote cricket history today with a world record partnership of 548 in the first Test against India here, reports AFP.

Jayasuriya made a monumental 326 not out and Mahanama an unbeaten 211 as the hosts piled up 587 for one at close of the fourth day at the Premadasa Stadium.

The pair batted for full two days to compile the largest partnership for any wicket, surpassing the 467 by New Zealanders Andrew Jones and Martin Crowe for the third wicket against Sri Lanka in 1991.

They also broke previous highest second-wicket partnership record of 451 runs between Australians Bill Ponsford (226) and Don Bradman (244) which at 451 against England at the Oval in 1934.

Jayasuriya, who is now just 49 away from equalling Brian Lara's record of 375, moved from 291 to 297 after tea by sweeping Nilesh Kulkarni for his first six in the innings.

Two singles later, the left-hander lofted the same bowler for his 32nd boundary to reach the 300-mark in only his 26th Test match.

Jayasuriya, 26, celebrated the feat before 1,000 delighted home fans by adding a four and six in a marathon innings that has so far lasted 13 hours.

The 31-year-old Mahanama, a veteran of 44 Tests who guided See Page 12 Col 7



INSEPARABLE PAIR ... Sri Lanka's opening bat Sanath Jayasuriya (R) being hugged by double centurion Roshan Mahanama after the former joined the elite 300-run club during fourth day's play of the first test against India in Colombo yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

## Rumour of child trafficking: Mob gheraos Demra thana for 3 hrs

By Staff Correspondent

Several hundred people laid a siege to Demra police station in the city for about three hours yesterday when rumours spread that some children and child traffickers were held inside, creating a big traffic jam on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Demra police said, thirty-five workers, some of them of tender age, were going by a truck with a big canvas overhead amid morning hour drizzles, but some people near Jatrabari crossing gheraoed the vehicle suspecting them to be abducted children and child traffickers.

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## Tremor shakes Dhaka, Chandpur

A mild tremor was felt in Dhaka last night, city dwellers said, reports UNB.

But the Met Office could not confirm it as the Seismology Centre located in Chittagong, remains open from 9 am to 5 pm.

Another report from Chandpur adds, at least 20 people were injured as a mild tremor shook the town last night.

As the earthquake was felt at 10 pm, the panic-stricken people ran helter skelter for safety and of them 20 were reported injured.

The magnitude of the tremor, which lasted for three seconds, could not be measured as there is no Richter scale in the Chandpur town, an official at the local Meteorology department said.

## Jigatola kutchi bazar demolished

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) evicted the unauthorised kutchi bazar at Jigatola in the city yesterday morning.

The bazar had been operating on the DCC road since long affecting vehicular traffic in the area.

As a DCC team led by a magistrate and backed by police demolished the makeshift vegetable and fish stalls, the angry vendors threw bricks at the police who baton charged the attackers.

Police also picked up several people from the spot. However, See Page 12 Col 8

## Rivalry for leadership in many BNP units

By Nazmul Ashraf

Rivalry over leadership is surfacing in a number of units of the BNP ahead of the party's central council session, planned for December, according to party leaders monitoring the situation.

Formation of new executive committees of BNP's 74 units across the country, a pre-requisite for holding the national council session, is now facing obstruction due to internal conflicts at local levels, they explained.

Induction of one segment of the local leadership in a fresh committee is causing 'revolt' by the other, wherever and whenever a new committee is being formed, they said.

As per reports available from the BNP central office, full-fledged new executive committees have been formed in only eight out of the party's 74 units following expiry of their tenure. Some 30 units are being run by convening committees and the remaining are operating with committees whose tenure have expired. In many cases, influential leaders are backing their own groups.

The BNP top leadership is preferring not to concede to the party 'rebels' in Chittagong as it thinks surrendering to the 'rebels' would encourage similar occurrence in other trouble-ridden units. The BNP is fearing a similar situation in the division.

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## Hartal in Sylhet today protesting 'police action'

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 5: District BNP has again called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the town areas tomorrow protesting police attack on the rally during hartal hours today.

At least 20 persons were injured in clashes between the BNP activists and police. But the district BNP in a press release claimed that about 50 party activists, including its president and general secretary were injured in police action.

Police fired 11 rounds of tear gas shells and picked up four BNP activists from court-point area in the afternoon.

The party called the hartal protesting the government's failure in restoration of direct rail and road communication, frequent loadshedding and price-hike of essentials.

Three trucks, one microbus and seven auto-rickshaws were damaged by the pickets in Ambarghana and court-point areas during hartal hours.

Attendance in the government offices was thin, business establishments and educational institutions were closed and vehicles were off the roads.

The police swooped on the BNP rally in court-point area at about 5:45 pm and baton-charged the party activists, district BNP alleged.

Chaired by district BNP president M A Haque, the rally was also addressed by district unit secretary Ariful Haque Chowdhury, Abdur Razzaque, Advocate Noman Mahmud, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Aheza Reza Chowdhury.

They called upon the government to take immediate and effective measures to restore the rail and road communication. Otherwise, they said, greater movement would be announced after August 14.

UNB adds: BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has greeted the people See Page 12 Col 3