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The former IPGMR is now Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University. —Star photo

## Laloo accuses CBI of plotting to kill him

PATNA, Aug 6: A powerful Indian politician jailed on corruption charges today accused federal investigators of plotting to kill him. The politician was hospitalized after complaining of chest pains, reports AP.

Doctors said Laloo Prasad Yadav was suffering from stomach trouble, and he made no attempt to link his hospitalisation — which kept him from a court hearing today — to the alleged plot on his life.

In a court petition filed today, Yadav's lawyer Shakeel Ahmed Khan said his client feared the Central Bureau of Investigation could try to poison or torture him during questioning.

## Govt move

From page 1

loan in the leather sector was also taken in the meeting.

It took another decision regarding bringing the loanee under one bank and operating his export activities from the same bank.

The leather sector delegation, led by the association president AKM Rahmatullah MP, thanked the finance and commerce ministers for taking the decisions to revitalise the leather industry.

They also mentioned that leather industry is a priority sector as announced by the government.

Banking Division Secretary Syed Amir-ul-Mulk and Commerce Secretary Syed Alamgir Farouk Chowdhury were present at the meeting.

## Workers gherao

From page 1

would lay a non-stop siege to the Port Bhawan on Monday if their demand was not fulfilled.

Meanwhile, a meeting held in the capital on Monday between leaders of CHWU, Port Merchant Workers Union and high officials of the Shipping Ministry failed to find any amicable solution to the problem.

Earlier, a six-day strike last month paralysed the activities of the port over the disputed right of handling cargo at the outer anchorage of the port.

Sources said the ministry suggested the rival groups to reach an acceptable solution through discussion, but the unions remained rigid on their respective stand.

## Bank Company Act

From page 1

of 1995 influx of term-lending is not good and the commercial banks also lack capability to weigh the risk of project financing.

The Governor, after hearing the arguments of the bankers, said the government would not put pressure on the commercial banks to provide long term industrial loans.

The bankers said, almost 100 per cent loans provided with 20 per cent equity during the 80s and 90s had 'gone bad' which proves that loans with 20 per cent equity are basically 'political loans' which should be stopped to maintain the health of the banking sector.

After thorough discussion on the issue, the bankers decided that they would give priority to loan proposals with 50 per cent equity, and after meeting their need, lower equity projects could be considered.

The bankers also discussed the government's initiative to float industrial bonds and felt that these bonds should be long term in nature with low interest rate to make those 'responsive'.

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# World Bank tells ministry Finalise strategy on reproductive health by Aug 31

The World Bank has asked the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to finalise a national reproductive health strategy through a participatory process by August 31 to expedite the fourth population and health project, reports BSS.

A WB source said the bank has also requested the ministry to submit plan for recruitment of appropriate proportion of male and female health assistants.

Under the project which started in March 1992, family planning service delivery, health service delivery and other supportive activities are being intensified.

The total credit amount for the programme is 133.20 million dollars. Apart from the World Bank, USAID, CIDA, DFID, EEC, Japan, the Netherlands, NORAD and SIDA are the co-financers of the programme.

The experts of WB have expressed satisfaction over the progress of implementation work of the project.

The International Development Agency (IDA) has so far disbursed 98.97 million US dollars under the programme, the source said and hoped that the project would be successfully completed by June next year.

While pointing out some major problems facing the project, the source said permanent and long family planning methods continue to decline. The present organisational structure of the Ministry of Health needed to be rationalised, it added.

The bank has asked the ministry to approve the seven project proposals and technical assistance proposals pending with the ministry.

The bank also suggested the ministry to complete the study on storage requirement for health sector and finalise the report of high-level committee on operation and maintenance of the project.

## DU tense

From page 1

diately alleging that they were illegally interfering in every affair of the hall. But the JCD was opposing the demand saying all the halls of the university should be made terrorists-free first.

The Vice Chancellor of the university had several rounds of talks with leaders of both the organisations, but failed to resolve the dispute.

UNB adds: The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal yesterday threatened to reinforce its strike in Dhaka University if the varsity authorities failed to resolve the recurring problems.

The threat came from a rally held in front of DUCSU Bhawan to protest an 'aggressive' role of pro-Awami League Chhatra League in Surya Sen Hall.

## Rezvi detained

From page 1

authorities could not hand over any prisoner to police if he remained under detention.

The official also said an approval from the Home Ministry is a must if any investigation agency wanted to take any detention-awarded inmate on remand.

Sources said the detention was given following a prayer from Cantonment thana of Dhaka Metropolitan Police who dramatically arrested Rezvi from Salmaan's parental house.

Despite repeated effort, the officer-in-charge of Cantonment thana could not be reached. Same thing was in case of the DMP Commissioner.

The CID team in presence of a magistrate was supposed to interrogate Rezvi on two-day remand regarding his confessional statement made to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court.

Rezvi in the statement mentioned a dozen names, including himself, responsible for 'pre-planned' murder of Salmaan Shah.

## Tk one lakh snatched from businessman

By Staff Correspondent

Snatchers stabbed a businessman and took away Tk one lakh in cash from him at Dilkusha under Motijheel thana in the city yesterday morning.

The victim identified as Abdur Rouf, 30, was attacked when he was going towards the Dhaka Stock Exchange from his house at Shahidbagh. The snatchers intercepted the rickshaw in which he was travelling at about 8:30 am.

The attackers stabbed Rouf, a foreign currency trader, in the hand and snatched the bag in which he was carrying the money. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital immediately, according to police and hospital sources.

## Bangabandhu murder

From page 1

cused in custody.

He also told the court that he was bound to follow the orders of senior officers of his regiment even if they were not of his company.

Razzak Khan, lawyer of Wahab Joarder asked Gani whether he had reported this to Naik Afzal who was in charge of the ammunition of the military guards at Bangabandhu's residence. Gani answered in the negative.

"I did not report it to Naik Afzal as Wahab Joarder told me he will replace the old ammunition with the new ones," Gani added.

Replying to another question from the lawyer, Gani said he did not tell Joarder that those ammunition were brought by them only a few days back. Everything was normal when Joarder came to take the ammunition from him at around 4:15 am, he added.

He was also asked whether he had informed the on-duty police and SB officers that Joarder had taken away his ammunition. Gani answered in the negative.

Razzak Khan suggested Gani that he did not tell the Investigating Officer (IO) that 1000 rounds of bullet used to be kept at the guard room of Bangabandhu's residence. He said that he did.

At this, Serajul Huq, the Chief Special Public Prosecutor raised his objection. The objection was also recorded by the court.

Responding to another question from the lawyer, Gani said that each of the guards, while on duty used to carry 10 round of bullets in their pockets. Those bullets used to be recorded against their names.

The lawyer suggested that he was not on-duty at Bangabandhu's residence from 2:00 am to 6:00 am on August 15, 1975 as per the duty roster which allowed four hours rest after four hours work. Gani said that it was not true.

Gani said that the Guard Commander used to distribute duty through consulting his colleagues and that his (Gani) duty had started from 2:00 am.

He told the court that eight military guards were posted at the residence of Bangabandhu. They were on-duty till about 5:00 am and one of them went inside the residence when firing started. Police and the military guards used to discharge their duties there jointly, he said.



## Pir Dudu Miah dead

Pir Mohsenuddin Ahmed (Dudu Miah), an elderly politician of the country, died yesterday at his village home at Bahadurpur in Sirbhar thana under Madaripur district. He was 84, reports BSS.

Dudu Miah, who was a member of parliament in 1954 and a member of the National Assembly in 1962, is survived by seven sons and two daughters.

He was the brother-in-law of late Yusuf Ali Chowdhury (Mohan Miah), a former minister and well-known politician.

Dudu Miah was a descendant of Haji Shariatullah.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held after Jumma prayers on Friday at his home and he will be buried there.

## Samad Azad to represent PM at All India Congress confce

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad is expected to represent Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the 80th plenary session of All India Congress Congress beginning in Calcutta tomorrow, reports UNB.

Sheikh Hasina who heads the ruling Awami League has been invited to attend the grand conference of the oldest political party in the sub-continent, which was born in late 19th century.

The Prime Minister is likely to send a message to the 5-day conference.

Samad Azad, an elderly politician and a presidium member of Awami League is likely to address the inaugural session of the meet.

Chiefs of political organisations and heads of state or government of a number of countries, including the SAARC states, have also been invited to the historical conference.

## Production in NGFF to resume after 7 days

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 6: Resumption of production at the Natural Gas Fertiliser Factory (NGFF) at Fenchuganj will take at least seven days more, officials said.

Production at the state-owned factory was suspended Monday morning following a fire in the Urea section. The fire was brought under control after about an hour. None was, however, injured.

According to a preliminary estimate, the fire caused a loss of about Tk one crore, said an official.

Meanwhile, a three-member enquiry committee formed by the Managing Director of the BCIC concern has already started probing the incident.

Repair work will start after completion of the probe.

## Bangladeshi dies in Warsaw road accident

Dr S M Shaheen Shahannul-lah, a Bangladeshi residing in Poland, died in a road accident on July 31 in Warsaw, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday. He was 42, reports BSS.

Dr Shaheen did his PhD degree in Petroleum in Poland in the 70s and engaged himself in business there. At the age end of the communist rule in Poland, Dr Shaheen achieved tremendous success as a foreign trader.

Born in Bamundi of Gangne (thana under Kushtia district), Dr Shaheen was a student of Rajshahi Cadet College. He left behind his wife, four children and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

## 2 fishermen drown in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 6: Two fishermen drowned and one was missing as a boat capsized in Bakkhali river early today, reports UNB.

The fishing boat, carrying about 20 fishermen, sank in the river as it was caught by a violent storm. Fifteen of the fishermen swam ashore while another was missing.

A case was filed with the local police.

## BNP demands

From page 1

participation in the programme; the BNP letter stated that as a responsible and strong opposition party it was with the people, struggling for their just demands.

But, BNP added, it accepted the invitation with utmost interest for the sake of free flow of information.

The BNP letter also blamed the state minister for information for what it said misleading the people by frequently inviting the Opposition leader to participate in the programme without creating a congenial atmosphere for this.

"It proves that the programme is not planned by the BTV but by the government itself," it viewed.

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## Dacoity at city house

By Staff Correspondent

Two men allegedly robbed cash and gold ornaments worth about Tk 22,000 after forcibly entering into a house on North Road under Dhanmondi thana in the city early Tuesday.

Police said yesterday, the tenant at the affected house, Bazlur Rahman, alleged that the son of the landlord and an accomplice were involved in the robbery.

Accusing the house owner's son in the FIR, Bazlur said the two attacked his family as soon as he returned to the ground floor house at about 2 am from the local clinic where he works. The attackers allegedly hold the family members hostage till early morning.

Later early in the morning, Bazlur's brother somehow managed to escape from the house and informed police. However, the attackers fled the scene before an emergency team from Dhanmondi thana reached the spot at about 6 am.

## Gunmen kill 7 in Pakistan

LAHORE, Aug 6: At least seven people were killed and five injured as unidentified gunmen opened fire on a Sunni Muslim mosque late today, triggering a wave of anger in this second largest Pakistani city, police said, reports AFP.

## Call to monitor

From page 1

to make public the reports as to whether the garments factories were following the rules properly.

Nari Samaj termed the deaths in fire in garments factories as killings. It alleged that the factory buildings were not built as per provisions of the relevant laws. The people responsible for the incidents of fire should be punished for committing crimes, it demanded.

Proper working atmosphere should be ensured in the factories and appointment letters should be issued to the workers, the Samaj leaders further demanded.

Most of the garments factories do not have sufficient fire fighting equipment and security measures. Urgent evacuation is not possible as the main entrances are kept locked, they said and demanded immediate removal of these irregularities.

They called for awarding punishment to the factory in-spectors for 'adopting unfair means' and 'reluctance to performing their duties.'

The Samaj, quoting statistics of Fire Service, said that 107 garments workers were killed so far in 53 garment factories.

## No response

From page 1

of political parties, control on election expenses, participation of women and disadvantaged groups, law and order, post-election, evaluation and other related points.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Mohammad Abu Hena told The Daily Star that his office still welcomed opinions on reforms from political parties and individuals. "It is necessary to have everybody's opinion to strengthen the institution through reforms," he said.

After receiving the opinions, EC's electoral reforms committee will examine those and send its recommendations to the law commission. The commission will then process and finalise those, EC sources said.

The questionnaire asked what new laws could enable the EC to perform its duties in an independent and neutral way as stated in the Constitution. It asked whether the EC Secretariat could be brought directly under the EC to ensure complete independence of the commission.

The questionnaire also asked whether it was necessary to register political parties and which department should handle it.

## Sri Lanka

From page 1

players who have made three hundred plus in Test innings.

His dismissal came soon after his overnight partner Roshan Mahanama was trapped leg-before to Anil Kumble for 225 with the total at 615. The stand between the two was worth 576, a new Test record for any wicket and falling short of beating a First Class feat achieved by Vijay Hazare and Gul Mohammed for Baroda against Holkar in a Ranji Trophy match in India.

Mahanama spiced his innings with 28 fours during a stay of 753 minutes.

The separation of Jaya-suriya and Mahanama however did not bring any relief to the tired Indians as Aravinda de Silva with his 12th Test century (126), Arjuna Ranatunga with 86 and debutant Mahela Jayawardena with 66 kept pounding the bowlers.

(More on Sports pages)

## EU extends

From page 1

exporters of the country maintained the expected standards in processing seafoods. The quality of the frozen foods is 'very good', he was quoted to have said.

He further said a consortium of British companies would start construction of a second port terminal at Patenga this year.

## School girl killed in truck accident

GAIBANDHA, Aug 6: A schoolgirl was killed and seven people were injured in a truck accident in Gobindaganj area today, reports UNB.

Police said Rafika, 8, a class II student, died on the spot and seven people were injured when the Rangpur-bound truck knocked her down as the driver lost control over the steering in the morning.

The injured, who were on board of the truck, identified as Baker, Matin, Saiful, Hafizur, Khalilur, Mantu and Halizar Mia.

## Indian army chief visits BMA

CHITTAGONG, Aug 6: Indian Army Chief of Staff General Shankar Roy Chowdhury and members of his entourage visited the Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA) at Bhatiahy here today, reports BSS.

The BMA Commandant received them at the Academy. They were taken round the different sections of the Academy.

Later, the Indian team went to Kaptai where they were received by the local Area Commander Major General Mohammad Abdul Matin, Bir Protik. They visited places of interest at Kaptai and Rangamati.

## West Bengal gov'ts donation for cyclone victims

West Bengal government donated Rs one crore, equivalent to 280,014 US dollars, to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the victims of the May 1997 cyclone, reports UNB.

The Calcutta branch of Sonali Bank received the donation and remitted it to the Ramna branch of the Bank on July 24. The Ramna branch transferred the money to the PM's Relief Fund.

Officials said the West Bengal government sent polythene and tarpaulin for the cyclone victims and pledged the donation for them after the cyclone hit the country's coastal belt.

## Shima rape case

From page 1

the court in future.

"We have given due consideration to this submission but at this stage as we do not find any reliable material to accept the contention we are unable to accept the prayer of the learned Attorney General," the court observed.

The HC said, "However, in view of this submission we hope the law enforcing agency and other offices of the Republic should take necessary steps so that the accused persons may not leave the country to avoid due process of law."

The court allowed the government prayer for preparing the 'Paper Book' out of the court within a week after the vacation.

Both the divisions of the Supreme Court will go on Autumn Vacation after August 28 and will reopen on October 19.

The Special Judge of the Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Adalat, Chittagong vide his judgement and order dated July 13, 1997 gave acquittal to all four accused who are police personnel.

It was stated in the memorandum of appeal that Shima was raped on October 9, 1996 in police custody at Raosan Police Station.

Attorney General KS Nabi along with Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan assisted by Deputy Attorney General Faruk Ahmed moved the case.

## Sylhet hartal

From page 1

division. The government did not bother to restore rail and road communications though one and half months had already passed after the Magurchhara gasfield fire incident, they said.

A tougher agitation programme will be announced if the government fails to take immediate measures for restoring communication links, reducing loadshedding and controlling the price hike, they said.

They also demanded immediate release of party activists arrested during the hartal.

Meanwhile, the Sylhet district unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has called a day-long strike in educational institutions on Monday, protesting police attack on BNP and JCD activists and demanding immediate release of the arrested leaders and workers.

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From page 1

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