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Police dispersing activists of Islami Oikya Jote in Baitul Mukarram area for defying a ban on rallies and procession there yesterday. — Star photo

## National Council on Science meets Increased incentives to stop brain drain suggested

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for expansion and implementation of science and technology for ensuring economic advancement of the country, reports UNB.

"Massive expansion and proper implementation of science and technology are essential for attaining economic self-reliance," she told the 4th meeting of the National Council on Science and Technology held at the PM's office.

Top scientists and policy-makers, who attended the meeting, suggested that more importance be given to the advancement of science and technology and more incentives to the scientists to stop brain drain.

The meeting suggested increased incentives to the scientists to bring them back after their complete higher studies abroad.

It called for increasing compensation and incorporating legal measures against those who do not come back to the country after getting higher degrees at the expense of the government.

The meeting discussed various branches of applied science, particularly the agriculture science, and approved the decisions of 3rd meeting of the council.

It also discussed the issue of giving the science and technology medal, formation of the executive committee of the council.

### Alleged dacoit beaten to death

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Aug 20: One alleged dacoit was beaten to death by mob at South Demsha village under Satkania thana yesterday, police said.  
He was identified as Mostaque Ahmed, 30.

## Water contaminated

From page 1  
tal coliform per 100 ml was found to be as many as 19000 while the total aerobic bacterial count per 100 ml was 2200. The terrible state of supplied water in a part of the city became known when the reader, who preferred anonymity, sent a sample in a bottle to ICDDR,B's Laboratory Sciences Division. "I was advised to go for a lab test after some of my family members fell in long spells of illness apparently caused by waterborne diseases. My elder daughter who recently came from England to visit me was struck down by typhoid. Similar affliction was in store for my younger daughter and her children, who are currently out here on a vacation from the States. It was so bad in the case of my grand children that they had to be rushed to hospital. Although they have been released from there, they are still running temperature," grumbled the complainant.

He was, however, far from being narrowly focused in his concern. "I am more worried about the fate of people who do not have access to the forums through which they can air their complaints. There are ample reasons for concern because our society in general comprises people who cannot and will not take the trouble of testing water, let alone contacting media for redressing the situation. What really flabbergasts me most is that people who can really pull their weight are sitting absolutely smug over a fearful crisis like this. From

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## 4-day 'holiday' if hartal observed on Aug 24

From Staff Correspondent  
BNP's proposed hartal on August 24, if observed, will virtually result in a closure of government offices and institutions for four consecutive days. The party will go for the hartal if the government does not withdraw the price enhancement of fuel by August 23. The weekly holidays are on August 22 and 23, followed by the proposed hartal on August 24 and a public holiday for Janmashiti on August 25. Originally, the Janmashiti holiday was on August 24 but the government shifted it to August 25.

## UNHCR

From page 1  
triation process by June this year, it could not be made possible and "that's why we gave the proposal for local integration of the rest of the refugees," she said.

"After Bangladesh turned down the proposal and took a firm stand to repatriate all of the Rohingyas, we are now reviewing our decreasing budget for the purpose on monthly basis."

When asked how funds were mobilised after June 30, she said, "We got some funds for the purpose of local integration and we are now spending money from that fund."

Out of some 2.5 lakh Rohingyas, all but some 21,000 went back home over the last six years. Presently, a motivation campaign by the Bangladesh government and UNHCR is on at the Nayapara and Kutupalong refugee camps to persuade two refugees to go back home voluntarily.

## Flood

From page 1  
Dhalchar and Char Montaz were submerged with 2 to 3 feet tidal surge. Vast tracts of cropland and dwelling houses in Barisal, Jhalakati, Barguna and Pirojpur have been submerged with flood water and damages to the property are yet to be ascertained.

## BGMEA

From page 1  
Anisul Haq, when the Qudus group was demanding that he should apologise. Sinha, in his statement, accused the present BGMEA leadership of making "suicidal and damaging" comments that they would shift the garment business to other countries from the EU because of the GSP problem. Qudus, in the meeting, denied that he made such comments in a press conference a few days back. But another garment factory owner said that if such comments were made, those were not intended to harm the industry. At this point, Anisul Haq demanded a clarification from the BGMEA chief which led to a noisy scene. The garment exporters were unanimous regarding the necessity of GSP for maintaining their competitive edge in the European markets, but came out with split opinion on the cancellation of the GSP certificates. However, at the end they adopted a five-point resolution which opposed the cancellation of the certificates, but called upon the government for taking full financial responsibility if it cancels those unilaterally.

The meeting empowered the BGMEA executive committee for taking any decision to resolve the GSP problem by showing any flexibility. It urged the government to involve the BGMEA in the Cabinet committee on GSP issue. The resolution is likely to be put forward to Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed today. Detailed story on Page 6

## Tofael, EC envoy talk GSP issue

The Ambassador of the European Commission to Bangladesh, Michael Drury, called on Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed at the latter's office in the city yesterday, reports UNB. They discussed in details the GSP issue, upholding the friendly relations between Bangladesh and European Union countries.

## JCD-BCL clash: Edward College closed for 4 days

PABNA, Aug 20: Pabna Edward University College was closed for four days following a clash between pro-Awami League Chhatra League and BNP's student front Jatitatabadi Chhatra Dai (JCD) today, reports UNB. Academic Council of the college took the decision in an emergency meeting with Principal ASM Anisur Rahman in the chair.

## Chaumuhani BCL leader succumbs to injuries

A BCL leader succumbed to his injuries yesterday at the Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital in the city, reports BSS. Vice President of Chaumuhani thana unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League and a degree student of Chaumuhani College Hasan Ahmed was seriously injured on Monday in an attack allegedly by the BNP activists.

## Bus strike in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent  
SYLHET, Aug 20: Bus, minibuses and coach services to and from Sylhet remained suspended for the second day today due to strike called by the transport owners and workers association. The strike was called protesting toll collection allegedly by an organised group in Khowai bridge area on Dhaka-Sylhet highway. Several hundred vehicles have been stranded on the both sides of the Khowai bridge, causing sufferings to the passengers.

## Yasmin murder

From page 1  
cused was held in the District and Sessions Judge's Court, Rangpur. They all were charged under Section 201(34) of the Penal Code for offences of lapse in duty, trying to damage almanac, concealing facts and diverting the case. Judgements of both parts of Yasmin case will be announced on the same day, court sources said.

## Bangabandhu Murder Case

From page 1  
of the five accused in custody also cross-examined him. Shahadat said, "Those among us who were at the officer's mess reported to the Unit office at around 7:45 am. We woke up at the last outside the mess at around 6:30 am. As we came out we saw the troops and officers of the Second Field Artillery in their full gear outside the mess. They told me, 'We have finished all ... you are still sleeping ... put on your uniform and report at the Unit office.' Within few minutes of my arrival at the Unit office, I saw high officials of the Army including Chief of Army Staff Maj Gen Shafiqullah assembling at the offices of my Commanding Officer (CO). There I also saw Maj Dalim in his military gear along with Maj Rashid, CO of Second Field Regiment. After another few minutes, Rear Admiral MH Khan, Chief of Naval Staff, Air Vice Marshal AK Khandaker, Chief of the Air Staff also went to my CO's office. I also saw Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman, the Deputy Chief of Army Staff, Brig Khaled Mosharraf, the chief of General Staff, Col Nuruddin, the Director, Military Operation entering my CO's office. My CO, Lt Col Matur Rahman, came out of his office and ordered me to visit Bangabandhu's residence located at Dhanmandi and report back to him. The CO also ordered me to take two other officers along with me. I reached Bangabandhu's residence at around 8:45 am. At the entry point of Rd No 32, I saw armed troops, some wearing khaki and some black uniforms. Tanks were there on the road as well. When the troops stopped us I said that the Chief of Army Staff has sent us to visit the spot and report. Then they allowed us to go. As we reached in front of Bangabandhu's residence we saw armed Army personnel inside the house, its surroundings and on the road. Maj Noor received us at the gate of the house. On his query I told him that the Chief of Army Staff wanted us to report about the incident here. Maj Noor then asked Capt Huda to take us inside the residence. I saw the body of Sheikh Kamal lying on the floor near a table at the reception room of that house. I asked Huda, 'why did you kill Sheikh Kamal?' He (Huda) said, 'He (Sheikh Kamal) was been killed as he was trying to contact outside.'

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## Can you please help Simky

From page 1  
the four notorious brothers — Raja, Badsha, Nabab and Samrat — all identified terrorists with strong political backing," Huda says. It's a six-year-old story. In October 1991, Huda alleges, Nabab, Samrat and two of the four brothers, Raja and Ramzan, robbed Tk 25,000 from Biplob, his son. Huda, who runs a moderate business in the local bazar, filed a case with the Keraniganj police against them. They are being tried. Seven months later, in May 1992, the brothers took on Biplob, allegedly stabbing him in broad daylight. Huda once again took them to court. This family meanwhile had to move from Zinjira to Dhaka city because the brothers proved too powerful for the Hudas to handle them. A magistrate meantime found the accused in the May 1992 incident were not guilty. An appeal against the verdict, given in 1994, is being heard in the District Court. The family returned to Zinjira in June 1996. Huda, a staunch supporter of the ruling

## Four alleged snatchers beaten up

By Staff Correspondent  
Local people yesterday assaulted four alleged snatchers at Laxmibazar under Sutrapur thana in the Old City. Police said they rescued the four and arrested them. The snatchers, identified as Suruj, 28, Anwar, 27, Siddique, 35, and Nirmal, 23, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital under police custody. The gang attacked an auto-rickshaw passenger in Rishikesh Das Lane, Laxmibazar. Police seized the auto-rickshaw.

## Forged revenue stamps: Two arrested

By Staff Correspondent  
Detective police recovered forged revenue stamps worth about Tk 13 lakh and arrested two persons in this connection from Mirpur in the city on Tuesday. Acting on a secret information, police raided Jahurabad area at about 7:30 pm and seized 3.25 lakh pieces of four-taka revenue stamps. The arrested persons are Atiar Rahman, 40, and Matiar Rahman, 33.

## Aziz Bhai


From page 1  
tion officer ASP Khalequzzaman — interrogated him from 10:30 am to 1:30 in the afternoon. Replying to the CID investigators, Aziz Bhai was learnt to have said that he knew none of those mentioned in the confessional statement, including Rezvi. "Even I didn't know the late hero Salman Shah or his wife Samira," the business magnet told the CID investigators who were repeatedly questioning him about the matter. He also informed the CID officials that he was in London during the 'suicide' of the heart-throb hero Salman. He, for this, requested the investigators to go through his passport which they already had impounded. They asked Aziz Bhai who were with him when he was in London during the 'suicide' of Salman on September 6, 1996. He was also asked if he could mention some names who were in flight during his trip to London early on September 5. Aziz Bhai was learnt to have satisfied them. Sources close to the investigators said Aziz Bhai told the CID officials that he was planning to sue the people who implicated him in the death of Salman Shah. Meanwhile, the CID will interrogate Salman's wife Samira and her mother Lusi today. They have already been sent letters in this regard.

## Jamaat calls hartal Aug 24

Jamaat-e-Islami has called a dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal on August 24 protesting the price hike of fuels and terrorism in the country, reports UNB. The hartal call was given from an emergency meeting of its central working committee yesterday with Jamaat Ameer Prof Golam Azam in the chair.

## Injunction

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the court today to obtain the injunction, the sources said. Besides, Advocate Suhrawardy, Advocate Rezaul Kabir Hiron, APP, Advocate Abu Bakar Farhad, APP and Advocate Faridul Islam Talukder are the other plaintiffs who signed an affidavit seeking the injunction.



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## Auto-rickshaws

From page 1  
Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong adds: Auto-rickshaws and tempos stayed off the roads and highways for the second consecutive day yesterday protesting enhancement of fuel prices. The sufferings to the commuters mounted as the rickshaw pullers demanded high fares, sources said. However, trucks and buses tried in the routes. The auto-rickshaw drivers refused to put up barricades at some places in the city and its surrounding areas but their attempts were foiled by the police. One police man received injury in his head as auto-rickshaw drivers pelted stones at Shanthi under Patiya thana yesterday morning. The attack was made when police removed the barricade put by the drivers, police sources said. In the city, over 20 platoons of police were deployed yesterday to foil any attempt of violence by auto-rickshaw drivers. Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna writes: Sales of petroleum products in the city declined by 30 to 40 per cent yesterday due to price hike. Owners of all the 13 filling stations yesterday decided to observe a three-day token strike from tomorrow protesting the price hike of fuels. They would not lift petrol and diesel from the depots during the strike.

## This govt to face public trial soon for betrayal: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said the ruling party, which came to power making apology to the people for their past misdeeds, would be put in the dock for public trial shortly for betrayal, reports UNB. "It is not too far when this government will have to face trial ... people might not give enough time and forgive them anymore," she said. The opposition leader observed that the ruling party totally failed to run the country this time like the post-liberation period. "Second time they came to power following the conspiracy of their masters to complete the unfinished tasks of selling out the country," she said. The BNP chairperson was speaking at a jointing programme at her 29 Minto Road official residence last night. Former Defence Secretary M A Hakim along with a group of elite of Madaripur district formally joined BNP at the function. Begum Zia said: "In the last

## Khaleda to visit Pakistan on way to US

By Staff Correspondent  
BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia will pay a one-day courtesy visit to Pakistan on her way to the United States. She will leave Dhaka for the US on August 23. Begum Zia will be visiting Pakistan at the invitation of Pakistan Prime Minister Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, said a party press release yesterday. 14 months, the government has messed up everything. There is no single positive achievement of this government. It has destroyed everything through its subservient policies. On the one hand, industries are being closed one after another and on the other, the government opened all borders to allow all goods of another country, she said.

## Port users may sue

From page 1  
Bangladesh delegation could convince them explaining the actual situation and causes behind the congestion. But the CFTC on August 15 informed them that they had cut the duration of the surcharge from three to one month considering the logical grounds of Bangladesh delegation. On August 16, Chowdhury said, the Bangladesh side rejected their decision and replied by fax that the CFTC's decision was illogical and one-sided. A M Wadud Ullah, President of Bangladesh Steamers Association, told the press conference that imposition of surcharge is not illegal. "But there must be some valid ground." BGMEA President Mostafa Golam Qudus said the people responsible for the crisis in Chittagong Port could be identified through normal enquiry. "They are damaging our economy. If they are identified, sued with treason charge and finally given exemplary punishment, there will be no problem in the port," he said. Farid A Chowdhury further said the CFTC did not consult the shippers, which is mandatory for it as per the UN convention, before serving the notice of imposing the surcharge. He said if the users could legally prove that the imposition of surcharge was not imposed in accordance with the rules, the CFTC would be bound to refund the money within 30 days. During the meeting with CFTC, he said, the Bangladesh side replied to the arguments of the committee in favour of imposing the surcharge. "They could not answer to any of our points." The CFTC imposed the surcharge for the 'unusual' congestion in the Chittagong Port which, it said, forced the vessels to stay there for 14 to 16 days on an average. It said there was no alternative to imposing congestion surcharge to compensate the ships overstaying there due to the strike, inadequate equipment facility and yard congestion. The Bangladesh side told the CFTC that following the short-term steps taken by the task force, the port authority was able to reduce congestion to a great extent. It said that ships had to stay in the port for maximum 10 days due to incessant rain and strong current in the Karnaphuli river, that should be termed 'act of God'. The ships are to stay at least six days for anchoring, loading, unloading and leaving as the Chittagong Port is a 'tidal port'. Besides, the CFTC has been taking 18 and 36 dollars for each 20 TEU and 40 TEU container as cost-recovery charge since 1995 which was not imposed on neighbouring India.

## Khatib

From page 1  
Obaidul Huq, who had been accused of inciting the incident, according to highly placed sources. Presided over by State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam, the meeting also reviewed the reply given by the Khatib who was asked to explain his role in the incident. He had denied his involvement. Maulana Nurul Islam told The Daily Star last night that the governing body members wanted more time to further review the nearly 60-page report. It was decided that any decision regarding this would be taken at the next meeting, likely to be held sometime early next month.

## AL-BNP dispute

From page 1  
and Parliamentary Affairs Minister and Finance Minister, is scheduled to meet on August 28. The stalemate over the issue began after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced formation of a seven-member Jatiya Sangsad Task Force in October last year. Headed by the Speaker, the Task Force comprised three MPs from Awami League, two from the BNP and one from the Jatiya Party. The Task Force was supposed to make recommendations for more effective functioning of the JS and strengthening the support services for Lawmakers and the JS Secretariat. Although the BNP appreciated the UNDP sponsored reform programme, it had rejected the Task Force on the ground that the party was not given equal membership with the Awami League (AL). The party said that the UNDP had given it a clear impression that the Task Force would comprise equal members from the Treasury and Opposition benches. The BNP does not consider the JP, a partner in the government, an opposition party. The BNP neither took part in the decision-making process of the Task Force, nor participated in foreign trips to study functioning of some Parliamentary bodies abroad until a three member Steering Committee was constituted on May 10 last. Following a series of negotiations involving the Speaker's office, the ruling party, the Opposition and UNDP over the last few months, the Steering Committee was formed to supervise implementation of the reform projects. Headed by the Speaker, the Committee comprises Chief Whip of Parliament Abul Hasnat Abdullah and Chief Whip of Opposition in Parliament Khandaker Delwar Hossain. The BNP, which earlier refused to work with the Task Force, became active under the