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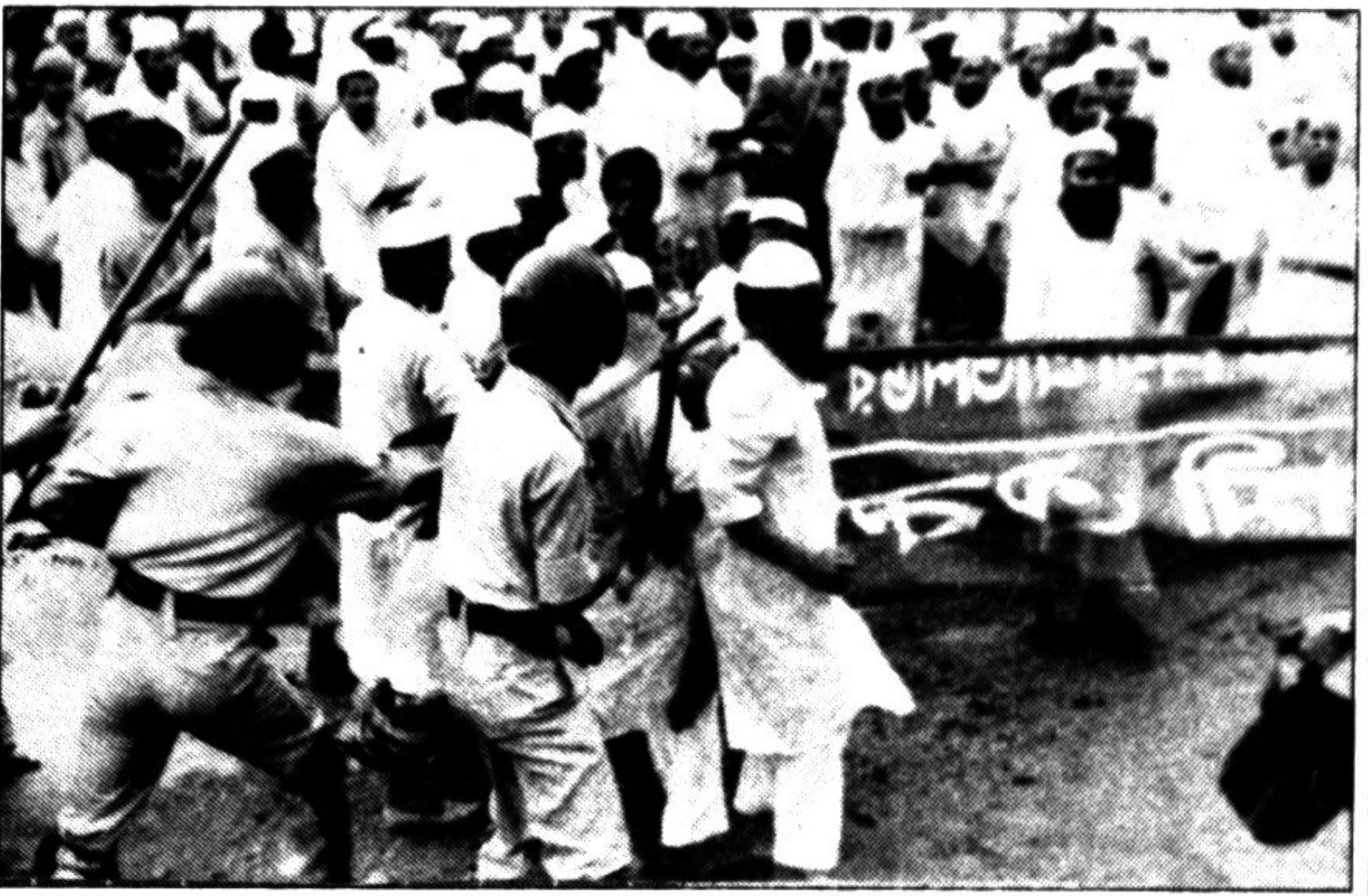


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Police dispersing activists of Islami Oikya Jote in Baitul Mukarram area for defying a ban on rallies and processions there yesterday.

— 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 they 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 Sattkania thana today, police said.

He was identified as Mostafa Ahmed, 30.

## Water contaminated

From page 1

total 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 redeeming 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

and increasing facilities for science research.

Evaluation of the job structure of the scientists, coordination of various research organisations and development of national technological level also came up for discussion.

The meeting laid emphasis on utilising the outcome of scientific research for eradicating poverty through increasing production.

The Prime Minister said it is necessary to adopt proper policies for scientific advancement of the country, and urged the scientists to come up with appropriate suggestions in this regard.

## SL sweep ODI series

Sports Reporter

Sri Lanka clinched the one-day series against India when the world champions handed the visitors a crushing seven-wicket defeat at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo yesterday.

Explosive opener Sanath Jayasuriya hammered a gusty 66 as the Lankans, chasing a modest Indian total of 238/7, raced to 241 to 241 for three in 41.5 overs to seal the three-match rubber with an unassailable 2-0 lead.

Hot on the heels of their sensational two-run win on Sunday, the all-conquering Ranatunga's men rose to the occasion, sending the beleaguered Indians to their seventh successive defeat.

Roshan Mahanama was unbeaten on 66 at the kill while Aravinda de Silva chipped in with an enterprising 52.

Earlier, put in to bat, the Indian innings was built around a disciplined 113 from opener Saurav Ganguly, his maiden one-day century.

He was identified as Mostafa Ahmed, 30.

## Water contaminated

From page 1

the way some of my neighbours who held and still hold important government positions reacted to the problem, it seemed they could not care less and as if they are immune to this danger," vented the exasperated sufferer.

He also observed that the policy followed by the laboratories like the one he sought help from is making matters worse. "You will see just below the comment of the scientist concerned there is a prohibitory note which says the report cannot be used for publicity. What is the use of a test if its findings cannot be disclosed to the public? How will the authorities go about solving the problem if they are not informed of it in the first place?" he asked.

Contamination of WASA's water is a twice told story. Already some awareness attempts have attributed the rise in the number of people suffering from diseases like jaundice, typhoid and dysentery to the presence of an extremely high level of dangerous elements in the water supplied by the authorities. Like the gentleman caller at The Daily Star office yesterday, most people are at a loss to figure out how long the government can continue to turn deaf ears to such a huge public problem. Random test of water from one area of the capital has made it quite clear what a huge disaster we are destined to court in the health sector unless the authorities wake up immediately to bring the WASA supplied water to a level that is not regarded unfit for human consumption.

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## 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 Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (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 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, minibus 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 alamot, concealing facts and diverting the case.

Judgements of both parts of Yasmin case will be announced on the same day, court sources said.

## 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 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

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 — two of the four brothers — and Ramzan robbed Tk 25,000 from Biplob, his son.

Huda, who runs a moderate business in the local bazaar, 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 mugger, 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.

Relying 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 he 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 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.

They asked if he could mention some names who were in flight during his trip to London on September 5. Aziz Bhai was learnt to have satisfied them.

Jamaat Bhai was learnt to have said that he knew none of those mentioned in the confessional statement, including Rezvi.

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