L'ORÉAL S

Water expert

**Amjad Hossain** 

Khan dead

Bangladesh Water Development

Board M Amjad Hossain Khan

died of cardiac arrest at a clinic

in Calcutta yesterday. He was

He is survived by his wife.

Namaj-e-Janaza of Amiad

Hossain will be held after Juma

prayers today at Baitul Aman

Jam-e-Masjid at Dhanmondi.

Born in Naogaon district,

He served as vice president of

Amjad Hossain also worked

Amjad Hossain gave his mite to

flood control, river training

and management and irriga-

International Commission on

Irrigation and Drainage and as

a member of the Commission's

Bangladesh National Commit

as adviser to Bangladesh gov-

ernment in bilateral talks with

India, Nepal, China and Bhutan

on the issue of water resources

development and flood control.

government service. Amjad, a

civil engineer with special de-

grees on agricultural hy-

draulics, joined a local engi-

He was a regular contributor

BSS adds: Dr Quaz

Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, an em-

inent economist and Chairman

of Bangladesh Unnayan

Parishad (BUP), has expressed

deep shock at the death of Am-

Showcause

From Page 1

that according to documents

available from the Dhaka

Education Board, Begum Zia's

Judge Abul Kashem was offi-

ciating for Abdul Mannan.

Fourth Assistant District Ju-

dge, Dhaka, who was on leave

ved the petition on Wednesday.

Advocate S M Nazrul Islam,

Advocate Abu Bakr Farhad,

APP; Advocate Rezaul Karim

Hiron, APP and Advocate Nur

Hossain Bolai are among the

said they filed the case in their

Advocate Suhrawardy mo-

birthday is September 5.

neering firm as chairman.

to The Daily Star.

jad Hossain Khan.

After his retirement from

tion for nearly 40 years.

former Chairman

two daughters and a son.

reports UNB.

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A Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for the BNPcalled August 24 hartal. -Star photo

### Petroleum dealers in Sylhet announce 3-day strike

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Aug 21: The Petroleum Dealers Association of Sylhet announced a threeday strike in the division from Sunday, according to press release issued today.

The release claimed that the government has cut down the commission of the dealers although it increased the price of the petroleum products.

The decision to observe the strike was taken at a meeting of the association today.

### GSP issue

From Page 1

the present state of fish export to European countries in accordance with their demands. UNB adds: Knitwear ex-

porters extend their total support to the government in resolving the GSP issue as the authorities moved towards cancelling 6910 certificates, axing the most fraudulent cases first.

Official sources fold the agency yesterday that the government is likely to involve the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), the main victim of the problem, in resolving the

### BNP rallies

From Page 1

processions in their respective areas, chanting slogans against the price-hike of petroleum products.

They also held rallies where the party leaders demanded of the government to immediately withdraw its decision to enhance fuel price and asked the BNP leaders and workers to make Sunday's countrywide hartal a success.

### **BUET** students

From Page 1

mounted a frantic search for the boys who jumped into the water after a game of beach football. Maruf did not know how to swim and he was washed away as soon as he hit the water. The others fought the waves but strong currents swept them away, witnesses were quoted as saying. They reportedly split from

the group of 49 students with four teachers who were on a study tour. They arrived at Cox's Bazar after visiting some industries in Chittagong and Kaptai. In the evening, some stu-

dents went to the beach and played soccer. But the four strayed and went for a swim despite being forwarded.

The namaz-e-janaja of Maruf Rahman was held yesterday after magrib prayer at the BUET central mosque

premises. His body was brought back to

the BUET campus at 5 pm. Maruf's father who was present in the mosque burst into

tears at the sight of his son's dead body. Later, his body was taken to his home. He was laid to rest at the Banani graveyard. The BUET authorities are

keeping in constant communication with the Cox's Bazar district administration for the latest development. This sad incident has cast a spell of gloom over the students, teachers, officers and employees of the university.

## Malaysia

From Page 1

the lower-paid foreigners, Tajol said the freeze will compel employers to give preference to hire locals.

The minister said those whose work permit applications had been approved would be allowed to come in. The ministry would also renew the work permits of those who are already employed in Malaysia legally.

Officials at the home ministry were not immediately available for comment.

### BNP joint meet today

A joint meeting of BNP's different front organisations will be held today (Friday) at 10 am at 29. Minto Road, official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, reports UNB.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will preside over the meeting.

Presidents and general secretaries of central committees of all front organisations have been asked to attend the meet-

### K M Obaid hospitalised BNP Standing Committee

member K M Obaidur Rahman MP was admitted to the National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases after he suffered a heart attack Wednesday night, reports UNB. According to a party press

release, the ailing BNP leader is

now improving.

### M K Anwar made BNP vice president

M K Anwar MP has been made vice-president of the National Executive Committee of BNP. reports UNB.

### WB questions

From Page 1 have access to such institutions and, hence, the rationale for building them with public funds is questionable," the WB ob-

It further said while the ADP for fiscal 1997-98 allocates a sizable share for priority areas, the quality does not appear to have improved.

"In fact, the quality problem could be getting worse with increase in the number and cost of unapproved projects and inclusion of many approved projects with questionable priority and public sector rationale", it

### Cocktail blast From Page 1

Hospital where he succumbed to injuries, police and hospital

sources said. A large number of autorickshaw drivers also joined the BNP procession.

When contacted, BNP city general secretary Dostagir Chowdhury said the rickshawpuller was killed when cocktails were thrown at his party's procession at Dewanhat.

He condemned the attack on the procession and demanded arrest of the killers of the rickshawpuller.

Meanwhile, the autorickshaws did not ply for the third consecutive day today that mounted sufferings of the commuters.

### Samira denies

From Page 1

gators said during the interrogation. Samira echoed the statement she made to police after Salman's death.

She also described everything that happened on the day of suicide from opening the door of Salman's room and finding him hanging to rushing him to hospital.

Samira explained the relationship between her and Salman Shah and denied the allegation of "killing" the popu-

lar hero. Samira told the CID investigators that she would have been the first to raise voice if her husband had been killed.

She also said she didn't know business tycoon Aziz Mohammad Bhai personally and there was no chance of quarrel between Salman and Bhai over

From the very beginning. Samira further stated Salman's mother, Neela Chowdhury, did not like her. "I don't know why she didn't like

Her mother Lusi, a Chinese by birth and a beautician in profession and wife of former national cricket team captain Shafiqul Haq Hira, also ruled out murder

### Autonomy to Betar, TV

### Commission submits final report to PM

The Commission on Formu lating the Policy Guidelines for Autonomy to Bangladesh Betar and Television submitted its final report to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday, reports UNB.

Receiving the report, the Prime Minister thanked the commission members for their efforts in completing it within the shortest possible time. She hoped that the report would be a creative one.

Commission Chairman Mohammad Asafuddowla formally handed over the report to the Prime Minister in presence of State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed.

### Jamuna Bridge to be commissioned by middle of '98

The long-cherished Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge will be commissioned by the middle of next year as about 87 per cent works on the project have already been completed, reports

This was stated in a review meeting on the JMB Project held at Prime Minister's office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday.

The bridge connecting the country's northern and eastern parts across the mighty river Jamuna will be commissioned along with the provision for railway.

Prime Minister Hasina directed the authorities concerned to expedite the work of gas line so that could be completed before commissioning of the bridge.

### Govt must reduce fuel price Ershad

By Staff Correspondent Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad yesterday said that the government will be forced to reduce the price of petroleum products through discussion in the Jatiya Sangsad.

"If we can play our respective roles in the parliament properly, the government will be forced to reduce the petroleum price", Ershad said in a statement.

### Dishonouring Nat'l Flag: 4 remanded

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Aug 21: The four persons arrested for anti-state activities were placed on a 3-

day police remand today. The four — Shamsul Alam, a peon at the ADM's office, Altaf Hossain, PS to a magistrate, and two artists Abdul Alim and llias — were arrested on Wednesday for dishonouring the National Flag.

Police also seized a National Flag inscribed with some slogans written in Arabic from the house of Shamsul Alam.

From Page 1

# US tomorrow

Khaleda leaves

for Pakistan,

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia leaves Dhaka tomorrow on a 15-day visit to Pakistan and the USA. A close aide of Begum Zia told UNB that she will pay a

three-day visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Pakistan Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif. During her stay in Islamabad, Begum Zia will exchange

views with the Pakistani leader on various bilateral matters as well as regional and international issues of common con-The BNP leader will then proceed to the United States to

attend the Convention of Fed-

eration of Bangladesh Associa-

tion of North America as chief guest in Los Angeles. Begum Zia will leave Dhaka for Karachi at 6:45 pm Saturday by a Biman flight. She will fly to New York from Islamabad on August 26 and will leave for Los

Angeles on August 28. The BNP chief will attend several party programmes, including seminars and conferences, in different American states.

### Workers gherao officials of Pak textile unit at CEPZ: 5 held

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Aug 21: Police cordoned off a textile factory, owned by a Pakistani industrialist, at Chittagong Export Processing Zone (ČEPZ) following labour unrest that forced suspension of production in the unit today.

Despite a ban on trade union activities inside EPZ, the workers of Institution Textile, a towel producing factory confined some officials at the factory yesterday evening demanding enhanced financial bene-

When police went to rescue the confined officials, the agitating workers attacked police and pelted stones at them while a wireless set was also snatched, police said. Police later resorted to lath-

and arrested five workers. The arrested workers were sent to the court today Police was deployed at the factory as tension prevailed

icharge to disperse the agitators

Meanwhile, five police personnel were injured when a van carrying them yesterday evening to the spot, met with an accident. Of the injured, one police constable Khorshed Alam.

20, died in the hospital this morning. However, CEPZ officials said other factories here were in production as usual.

## NU postpones

National University yesterday postponed its all examinations scheduled to be held on August 25 as the government declared the day as holiday on the occasion of Janmastami, a university press release said, reports BSS

The university announced a new schedule for the postponed examinations.

## IOJ rally permitted

hold their today's proposed rally in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh instead of Manik Miah Avenue on request from the government.

The present government believed in freedom of the speech through peaceful holding of meetings and rallies in a democratic manner. It is the duty of the government to avoid any untoward situation and to ensure security of the people, the press release added.

The government believes that the organisations concerned would observe their programmes in a peaceful manner. The government has requested all concerned to refrain from creating any situation for ensuring public safety and protection of public property.

UNB adds: Dhaka Metropolitan Police authority in a meeting yesterday at Rajarbagh police line auditorium briefed its officials about the preparations to guard against untoward incidents during the rallies of two rival groups. DMP Commissioner A K Al

Mamun briefed the officials in the meeting where all deputy commissioners, additional

tant commissioners, officersin-charge of different thanas were present.

Official sources said all the meeting venues would be ringed by police while several thousand law enforcers guard the capital today to fend off any trouble while the activists go to the meetings and return there-

The securitymen will also keep watch on Shikha Chirantan, the target of the mullahs, and not allow anyone inside the Suhrawardy Udyan.

They will also not allow any procession or demonstration around the Baitul Mukarram where Section 144 has been in force following a trouble at Eide-Miladunnabi function.

Police will also not allow anyone at the Sangsad Plaza and around the Prime Minister's Office at Tejgaon and her official residence Ganobhaban. beside the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, sources said.

Meanwhile, different rival groups paraded the streets in the city yesterday to drum up today's demonstrations.

However, no untoward incident was reported on the eve of the showdown.

## BNP urged to call off strike

tons and octane one lakh ton. The price of petrol has been increased by Tk 7.30 per litre."

The energy minister pointed out that diesel is used in all public transports, including river vessels, and in agriculture sector. Kerosene is used mostly by poor people. In contrast, petrol is used by the better-off people and mostly (60 per cent) by the government.

"Even the current adjustment of petroleum product prices will not allow the BPC to make profit. In fact, it will leave BPC near a break even position," he noted.

Tofael Ahmed said that the BPC had a long record of making significant profits in the past. In '82, '83, BPC's profit was Tk 60 crore; in '84, it was Tk 160 crore; in '90,'91, Tk 553 crore; in '93-'94, Tk 919 crore and in '95-'96 Tk 133 crore. The price of petroleum,

which was below 20 US dollars per barrel till June '96, soared up to 33 dollars in January '97. However, the price slowly came down to 24 to 25 dollars currently, he mentioned. But still the price is much

higher than that in our internal market. This has caused the BPC to run out of working capital. Now, it is going to the banks for money to buy oil," the commerce and industries minister "We had earlier thought

about this price hike. But as a newly elected government, we had to consider the public reaction then. Now we cannot sustain this loss any longer.' Tofael said, "even if BNP was now power it would have to take

the decision to enhance the price." Tofael urged BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia to withdraw her hartal call saying, "Why should you emulate the bad examples set by us while we were in the Opposition." "It is alleged that in the past, as Opposition party we had called hartals whenever a foreign dignitary was due to visit -Bangladesh," he said.

"On 24th August, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) chief is scheduled to visit Bangladesh, which has a crucial economic implication. It will be very embarrassing for both him and all of us if the respected Leader of the Opposition sticks to the decision of hartal on that day," Tofael added.

Kibria vehemently opposed any subsidy to the richer section of the population and said the losses incurred by the BPC would have to be recovered in the greater interest of the econ-"We are not in a position to continue to suffer the losses.

BPC is operating on loans from

the banks," the finance minis-

ter added.

### Recruitment

## Biman firm to hold exams

The Baily Star

By Staff Correspondent The board of directors and management of the Biman have taken a firm stand regarding the recruitment of young officers directly through competitive examinations.

Biman sources said the decision of holding examinations for the recruitment tomorrow has not been changed despite protest from the two employees and workers unions of the air-

The sources, however, said Bangladesh Biman Employees Union (BBEU), which is the CBA, had 'fruitful talks' with the management for resolving But the rival union,

Union (BBSU), had been strongly opposing the examinations for direct recruitment in the past, BBSU was the CBA for long. A senior Biman official, talking to The Daily Star said, We have no way other than di-

rectly recruiting efficient offi-

Bangladesh Biman Sramik

### AL, LDF call to unite against unholy forces'

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of Awami League and Left Democratic, Front (LDF) at a joint meeting yesterday expressed concern at the activities of fundamentalist and anti-liberation forces led by BNP.

They alleged that under the leadership of BNP, a conspiracy was hatched against the "Shikha Anirban," symbol of the spirit of Liberation War. They urged the pro-Liberation forces to unite against 'unholy

forces. The meeting was held at the residence of AL presidium member and Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, says a press release.

AL presidium member Suranjit Sengupta and LDF leaders Rashed Khan Menon Kazi Aref Ahmed, Haider Akbar Khan Rono, Morshed Ali, Monjurul Ahsan Khan, Ajoi Roy Aminul Islam Badsha and Moinuddin Khan Badal were present.

### **BNP** observes hartal at Feni

FENI, Aug 21: A dawn-todusk hartal called by district BNP was observed here today amidst sporadic clashes between police and BNP activists, reports UNB. Witnesses said hartal sup-

with police near Feni Medical College on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway. Police fired 22 rounds of bullets during the hour-long clash in the morning. BNP called the hartal protesting the arrest of Jubo

porters exchanged gunshots

Dal leaders Saifuddin Iran and Pintu on August 19. The pro-hartal activists blasted a huge number of homemade bombs at different places. A police van was damaged at Panchgachhia crossing. None was reported injured.

The pickets put barricades on the roads and damaged at least 15 vehicles on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

#### other plaintiffs in the case. Advocates Mohammad Mashiur Rahman, Faridul Alam Talukder and Robiul deputy commissioners, assis-Mahmud assisted them. One of the APPs, however,

yesterday.

personal capacity, not as state Making submissions before the packed court, the lawyers said under civil procedure order 39 rule 1/2/151 CPC, they are seeking the injunction to restrain the respondent from celebrating what they said her false birthday on the National Mourning Day. This is causing impediments to the plaintiffs'

### legal right to observe the mourning day, they maintained. Healthcare

eral consultation and treatment of other diseases. The centers will remain open from 8 am to 9 pm.

From Page 1

Other sources said a memorandum of understanding has already been reached between the Ministry of Health and the ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to eventually bring the 20 Health Ministry charitable dispensaries and eight family planning clinics in Dhaka city under the project. Another source said the Health Ministry's funds for these might also be diverted for the project after the five year period was over.

"If the project is unsuccessful at the end of the five year period, city corporation will run the centers," the source said.

### Zia murder From Page 1

from the case docket.

Police and court sources said the police investigation into the Zia murder case was postponed earlier in an order from home ministry on June 24, 1981. However, 13 army personnel

were sentenced to death by hanging by a military tribunal later in connection with the same incident.

### boys missing From Page 1 gaon; Sumon, S/O Abul Kalam,

296/B Khilgaon; Mostafa, S/O Sheikh M Siddique, 288/B Khilgaon; Hannan, S/O Mosadder Ali, 434/B Khilgaon; and Sohel Ahmed, S/O Shafful Alam, 298/B Khilgaon.

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### 20 injured as JCD, BCL clash at Edward College

PABNA. Aug 21: Twenty students were injured in a clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at Pabna Edward College today. reports UNB.

Campus sources said the clash erupted at about 12.30 pm when the activists of the two feuding student bodies were

preparing for holding rallies and processions on the campus. Of the injured, Rawshan, Jamal and Hamid were admitted to Pabna General Hospital.

### JCD ends sit-in in front of DITTIO DU VC's office

By DU Correspondent JCD, the student wing of the opposition BNP yesterday ended its three day sit-in programme in front of the office of the Vice Chancellor of DU Prof A K Azad Chowdhury protesting the presence of 'terrorists' on the cam-

The JCD held a rally in front of the VC's office during the sitin. The rally was addressed, among others, by Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney. Habib-Un-Nabi Sohel, Nasiruddin Aism and Selimuzzaman Selim.

Chhatra League (BCL). They urged the authorities concerned to arrest the terrorists of BCL for restoring congenial academic atmosphere on the campus.

The JCD leaders alleged that

the VC was giving shelter to the

'terrorists' belonging to the

JCD leaders said they would announce next programme from a rally on August 27 on the campus. **FEMA** 

#### From Page 1 tion Commission as returning officers instead of deputy commissioners, not appointing a political activist as polling agent and banning retired government officials from taking

part in elections for three years after their retirement. It said a candidate should be allowed to run for not more than three seats at a time instead of five.

To make the political parties

accountable, the FEMA recommended for enacting a law providing for the registration of political parties with the election commission and submis sion of annual statements of accounts duly audited by the auditors. FEMA Chairman Fakruddin Ahmed told the press confer-

nars at the divisional headquarters and discussion meetings with leaders of political parties and professionals. In addition, he said, they will exchange views at district

Feroz M Hasan read out the rec-

ommendation at the press con-

ference.

ence at Jatiya Press Club that to

mobilise public opinion in

favour of the recommendation,

they would organise six semi-

level with the local MPs, leaders of political parties and civic organisations. FEMA Secretary General

#### arrives in Dhaka tomorrow on a four-day visit to Bangladesh reports UNB. During his visit, the ADB President will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to discuss issues of mutual interests related to the bank's operations

ADB President Mitsuo Sato

ADB chief due

tomorrow

### in Bangladesh. Clarification

By Staff Correspondent

Anisul Huq, a BGMEA executive committee member, yesterday clarified his position on Wednesday's extraordinary general meeting of the association that witnessed a pandemo-

Huq. in his statement, said the president of BGMEA in his speech had denied having made any remark on doing business without the EU market in a press conference. But subsequently a former executive committee member of the association said in the meeting that the president had not literally meant excluding the EU market for Bangladeshi garments ex-

This created a confusion and I requested for a clarification," Hug said in his statement.

Later, another member abused the ex-president of BG-MEA personally and it was expected that the chairperson of the EGM would intervene and dissuade the speaker from abusing anyone personally, the statement said. This not being done. I had to

rector of Mohammadi Group. Huq said the meeting ended peacefully after he quickly regretted the interruption and called for restoring peace and unity, anticipating an annulment of the meeting.

object to this undemocratic ad-

dress," said Huq, managing di-

where, I will continue to protest, even if alone, to prove the point that the trade members need to maintain the right spirit and attitude," he added

"I still maintain that in any

undemocratic situation any-

Kibria From Page 1 671.38 crore excess, private banks Tk 665.62 crore, foreign banks Tk 676.52 crore and the

Development Financing Institutions (DFIs) Tk 245.47 crore. "Without any political undertone, I want to remind you that during BNP's rule, the condition of the DFIs was worse Credit expansion at that time reached a maximum of 7.5 per cent. Now it has reached 13 per

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, who was also present at the press conference, observed that the government cared a lot about

the businessmen's plights. "From the very beginning, the Awami League government had held regular monthly meetings with the chambers and incorporated many of their valuable recommendations in the government decisions. We try our best to address their problems and we will continue to do so. We're going to sit with them in a few days to discuss these problems," Tofael said.



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**Editor: Mahfuz Anam** 

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