



এটি সাধারণ পানীয় ময়

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JS goes into autumn session today

The Seventh Jatiya Sangsad goes into its autumn session at 4 pm today after a recess of about two months, reports UNB.

Although the session is likely to be of one week's duration, it would deal with some pressing economic and political issues, and several important legislations.

One of the main tasks left unresolved before Seventh Parliament is the formation parliamentary standing committees on different ministries.

The last budget session ended on July 10 with a note of optimism from both the treasury and opposition benches that the parliamentary committees, now long overdue, would be constituted during this session.

The two sides were learnt to have reached an understanding on the representation to the standing committees, to be headed by non-minister MPs instead of ministers.

However, during the long recess of parliament, there has not been any communication between the negotiators on the two sides, and the main opposition BNP has not sent the list of its MPs to be inducted into the standing committees on 35 ministries.

Law, Justice and Parliament See Page 12 Col 3

Lawlessness grips country, Khaleda tells Rotarians in Los Angeles

Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia said in Los Angeles yesterday that lawlessness was on the rise and human rights were being trampled every day in Bangladesh.

"Extortion, toll collection, campus violence, rape and political killings have become commonplace," the BNP chief said while addressing a conference of Rotarians in the Media Syndicate reported.

The news agency delivered a copy of Begum Zia's speech at the conference but did not mention the venue of the "Rotary International Conference."

Begum Khaleda Zia, now in a visit to the US, was also scheduled to open a three-day conference of the Federation of Bangladesh Associations in North America (FOBANA) in See Page 12 Col 6

US Open

Spirlea moves into 4th round

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan

NEW YORK, Aug 29: Irina Spirlea of Rumania moved into the 4th round of '97 US Open today defeating Lilia Osterloh in straight sets. Spirlea, who had earlier in the second round created quite a sensation by defeating the much-heralded Anna Kournikova in a lacklustre match 6-2, 7-5 against an opponent who committed as many as 10 double faults in a two-setter. At the time of filing this report, the Wimbledon runner-up Cedric Pioline has won his match against Lapentini in straight sets 6-0, 6-4, 6-2 and Woodforde of Australia was leading 3-6, 6-4, 2-3 against the former French Open champion Kafelnikov at Stadium 1. Tim Henman of Britain who accounted for Thomas Muster Wednesday will play W. Ferreira of South Africa at Stadium 2.

Inside Today

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Food Grain Situation Around the World

Column: Beneath the Surface by Abdul Bayes

Let Bangladesh Not be South Asia's Algeria

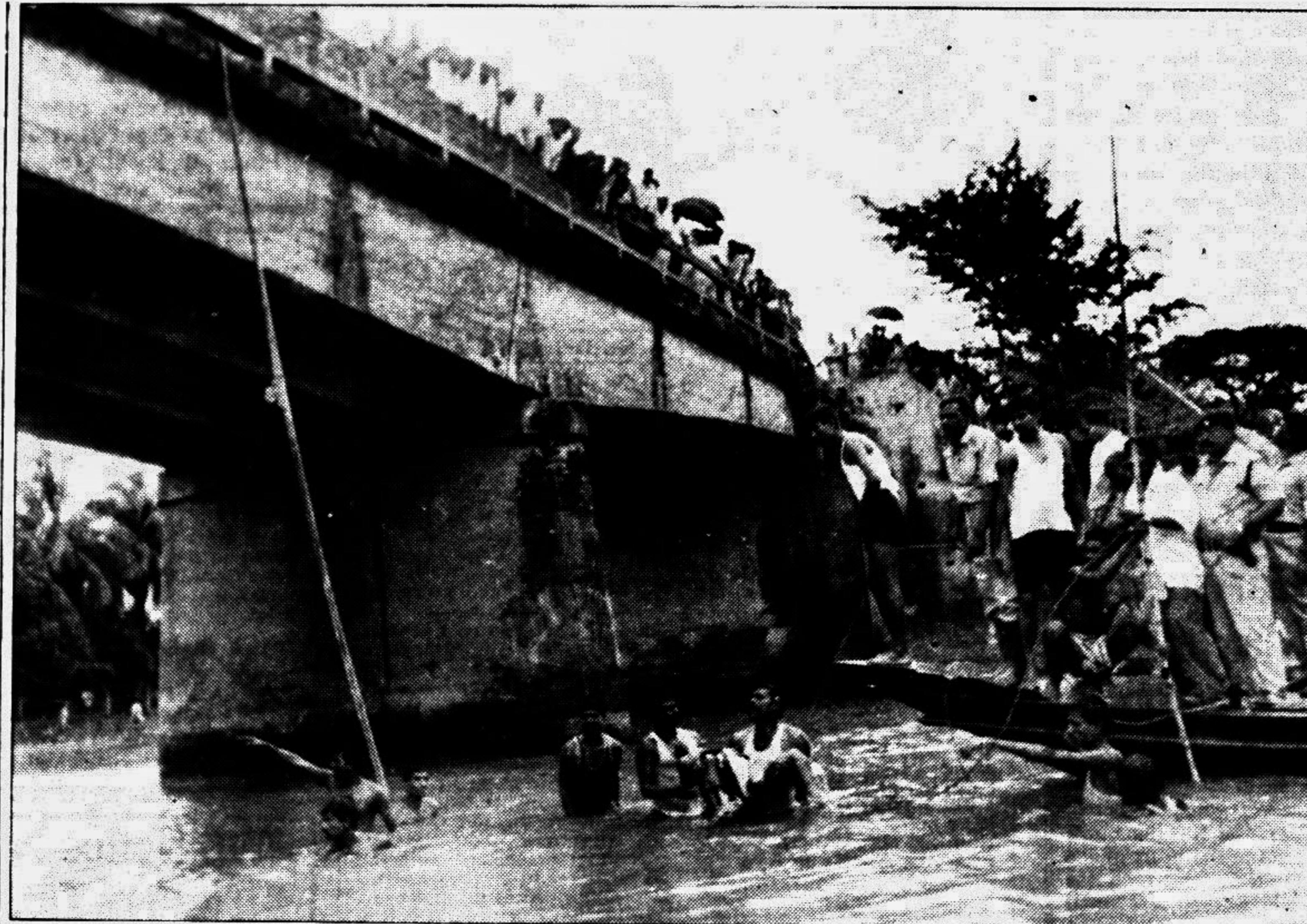
Column: In Fool's Paradise by Nadeem Qadir Page 4

Star Literature

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Business

Asian stocks slump Page 8



Rescuers carrying a body recovered from the Ichhamati river near Uthali in Manikganj where a bus plunged, killing at least 14 passengers yesterday.



Actress Shama killed as truck hits car

By Staff Correspondent

A promising young actress of the Dhaka filmdom, Shama, and two of her relatives were killed when a truck hit their car on Tongi Diversion Road at Tejgaon in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

Four others were injured in the accident that took place at about 3:15 am, police said.

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Attack on all things English!

No bar to withdrawal of Article 21 of CRC

By Mizzan Ali

The Law Commission (LC) says there is no constitutional or legal bar to withdrawal of the reservation on Article 21 of the Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC), 1989.

But, the Commission said, withdrawal of reservation on Article 14(1) of the convention has to be subject to certain conditions.

Article 14(1) of the CRC deals with a child's right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion while Article 21 provides for their adoption ensuring their best interest.

Bangladesh signed the CRC adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 20, 1989 with reservation in respect of Articles 14(1) and 21.

The government asked the LC to give its views on whether these two articles were in conflict with any law in force in the

country.

Article 14(1) of the CRC says, "States Parties shall respect the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion."

Regarding this provision, the LC observed, "If the government decides to withdraw the reservation in respect of Article 14(1) of the Convention, the withdrawal of the reservation in respect of freedom of religion has to be subject to law, public order and morality" to be in conformity with the Constitution.

Article 21 of the CRC says, "States Parties that recognise and/or permit the system of adoption shall ensure that the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration."

The pioneer newspaper also reported that Yadav told mem-

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NEW DELHI, Aug 29: An Indian government minister has launched an attack on all things English, including cricket. AFP quoting today's newspapers said.

Defence minister Mulayam Singh Yadav, an advocate of Hindi as India's national language, began his trade during a parliamentary debate Thursday when a speaker referred to five per cent of the population as corrupt.

"Do you want to know who these people are?" Yadav replied.

"It is those who speak in English, who abuse in English, who drink English liquor, who dance in English and abuse me in English."

The pioneer newspaper also reported that Yadav told mem-

See Page 12 Col 5

From Staff Correspondent

The country's southern parts experienced day-long gusty wind, drizzles and inclement weather due to a depression that crossed coastal areas early yesterday morning.

The storm moved to the Indian state of Orissa at 3 am and lashed Madhya Pradesh yesterday evening.

The capital city witnessed a gloomy weather under the influence of the monsoon depression.

Our Barisal Correspondent says, low lying areas of the southern districts of Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Pirojpur, Jhalakati and Barguna have been inundated due to heavy rain caused by the depression.

Water-levels in major rivers like Meghna, Padma, Arial Kha, Paira, Bishkhali, Sandha, Tetulia, Baleswar and Kirtankhola have marked sharp rise. The Bay of Bengal was also very rough.

See Page 12 Col 7

Setting up of instt of plant genetic resources, gene bank suggested

Star Report

The first ever national level workshop on "Plant Genetic Resources" (IPGR) concluded in the city yesterday with adoption of a set of recommendations that include setting up of a national gene bank.

The four-day workshop that began on Tuesday last expressing serious concern over the "genetic erosion" and "biopiracy" came to the conclusion yesterday evening that founding of an independent National Institute of Plant Genetic Resources can be a way-out to stop further extinction of local species.

The workshop, held at the conference room of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), was organised jointly by BARC, National Committee on Plant Genetic Resources

resources, national database and introduction of courses on PGR and biodiversity in educational institutions.

The concluding session was addressed, by among others, IPGR South Asia Coordinator Dr R K Arora, Scientist Emeritus of NARS and NCPGR chairman Dr Kazi M Badruddoza, BARC Executive Chairman Dr Zahurul Karim and NCPGR Member Secretary Dr Gul Hossein.

Scientist Emeritus Badruddoza stressed on legislative protection against what he said, piracy of genetic resources from the South by the North.

Talking to The Daily Star on the sidelines of the workshop, the Scientist Emeritus said, "We

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resources, national database and introduction of courses on PGR and biodiversity in educational institutions.

Political parties can play a vital role in this regard, they said while speaking on "Consideration for amendment of certain provisions of constitution for women empowerment in Bangladesh," at the city's WVA auditorium. The seminar was organised by Women for Women, a research group.

If women had one third representation in Parliament, the country would then prosper in many other ways. Women can hardly ventilate their problems

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See Page 12 Col 2

Formal talks today to finalise proposals for Teesta accord

LALMONIRHAT, Aug 29: A secretarial-level informal meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) between Bangladesh and India was held tonight at the Teesta Barrage rest house, Abashar, 64 kilometres from here, reports UNB.

The much-awaited secretarial-level formal talks of the JRC will be held tomorrow at the same venue to formulate the final proposal for an agreement on sharing of water of the Teesta river.

In the light of the decision of tomorrow's meeting, an agree-

ment is expected to be signed at the 33rd ministerial meeting of the JRC in New Delhi in November.

A 10-member Bangladesh delegation headed by Water Resources Secretary Dr ATM Shamsul Huda and a 9-member Indian delegation led by Water Resources Secretary Mata Prasad arrived here tonight and held the informal meeting.

Earlier, the two delegations flew to Saldpur from the capital in the afternoon and visited the canal of the Teesta Barrage project at Dhundibari in Jaldhaka thana of Nilphamari district.

During the informal talks, the officials mainly analysed data of the river's water flow of last 50 years, particularly the records of lean period. Local officials of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) assisted both the delegations.

An informed source told UNB that the Bangladesh side will highlight the issue of unilateral withdrawal of the Teesta water by India in lean season in the formal talks.

There are two barrages in the river which comes from Slikim, one at Gazaldbor in India and the other at Doani in Bangladesh, the distance between them being only 60 kilometres.

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Consumers owe Tk 800 cr to DESA & DESA owes Tk 730 cr to PDB

By Sharier Khan

drive among DESA workers in collecting the bills.

According to DESA records, all of its outstanding bills have piled up over the years as the gross collection and gross billing ratio steadily remained around a poor 80 per cent since 1992.

In fiscal 96-97, DESA's gross billing was Tk 874 crore and it collected Tk 708 crore.

DESA's performance, in terms of given targets and its achievements had remained far from satisfactory over the years.

The government had given a target of lowering the system loss of DESA to 22.82 per cent in 1992-93, but DESA could lower it to 31 per cent. In '93-94, the target was 22.34 per cent but it was lowered to 31.34 per cent; in '94-95, target 24.92 per cent, lowered to 30 per cent; in '95-96, target 22 per cent, lowered to 29.47 per cent and in '96-97, target was 23.96 per cent but it was lowered to 27.29 per cent.

DESA loses about Tk 400 crore in revenue because of system loss.

300 massacred in Algeria

ALGIERS, Aug 29: Attackers massacred at least 300 vil-

lagers, slitting their throats, decapitating many of them and then burning their bodies in the worst such attack since the Islamic insurgency began five years ago, villagers said today, reports AP.

The attackers placed the decapitated heads of some of the victims on the doorsteps of their homes in the village of Rais, in the southern suburb of Sidi Moussa, where the overnight attack took place.

The attackers, whom villagers described as hooded and armed with knives and axes, arrived in trucks and cars. After the attack, they set off explosives at some of the homes before leaving.

They also kidnapped about 20 young girls from the village, the residents said. The villagers all spoke on condition of anonymity, for fear of reprisals.

The violence in this North

See Page 12 Col 8

Low-lying areas of southern dists inundated

By Staff Correspondent

The country's southern parts experienced day-long gusty wind, drizzles and inclement weather due to a depression that crossed coastal areas early yesterday morning.

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'Representation of women in JS should be increased'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar here yesterday stressed the need for increasing women's representation in the Jatiya Sangsad for their empowerment.