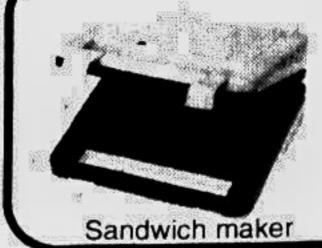


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PHILIPS

PM for reforms in land administration

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday stressed the need for land administration reforms and use of modern technology in land survey and record system to mitigate public suffering, reports UNB.

"Land administration, its survey and record are a complex matter. The use of modern tools and techniques will surely mitigate the suffering of the people and help better use of land," Hasina said reviewing the activities of the Land Ministry in Dhaka last noon.

The Prime Minister said, the country has limited land resources, but its population is ever-growing. The demand of land should be met through proper utilisation of the scarce

She said, vast tracts of land devoured by rivers through erosion remain unused in the river bed. These should be used by reclamation through proper river dredging.

The government has undertaken a plan to reclaim land from the rivers and negotiations are on with the Netherlands government to get assistance in this regard, Hasina told the meeting. She said that a process was

underway to reclaim land from the river Gorai through dredg-

In this context, she mentioned that the jetty extension project at the Mongla Port has

unions of Madhabpur and Chu-

The river water of Khwai,

Korangi and Sonai continued to

rise, of which the Khowai was

flowing 1.20m above the danger

spondent adds: Normal life of

the district was disrupted due to

The movement of transport

continuous downpour, onrush

between Feni and Ramgarh was

disrupted, as the road at Alutila

of hill water and landslides.

The Khagrachhari corre-

narughat thanas.

been implemented on the re-

claimed land. Hasina said that the reclaimed land could be distributed among the unemployed youth to engage them in various income-generating projects. She said, if the rural youth were offered income-generating opportunities, the rate of migra-tion to urban areas would definitely come down.

Turning to construction of housing complexes or apartments, she said, attention should be given so that there are enough facilities for education and recreation for the children. The environmental concern should also be taken into account in this regard.

The prime minister said that her government had undertaken projects for low-income groups and the Asrayan project for the landless people.

The meeting was told that under the distressed slum dwellers' multi-storied residen tial project, 438 six-story buildings would be built in the city's Bhashantek area.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr SA Samad, Planning Commission member Kazi Shamsul Alam. Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan and Secretary of the Department of Implementation and Monitoring M Saiful Islam.

and Koila went under flood wa-

Dighinala, Manikchhari, Mati-

ranga, Panchhari and Ramgarh

In Feni, the road communi-

cation between Parshuram and

Fulgazi thanas was snapped

and rail lines between Feni-

Parshuram and Feni-Bilonia

went under 3 feet of water, an-

other report said.

ceived here.

affected by the flood.

Gangachara thana

ing the last four days.

nava union.

The Teesta devoured about

The affected villages are

Dhamur in Gangachara sadar

union, Boirati, Kochuva in No-

hali union, Mahipur, Sankar-

dah in Luxmitari union, Sala-

pak. Joydev in Gosgontha

union, and Narshingh in Mor-

says: Further rise in water the

level of both the Ganges and

Gorai, aggravated the flood sit-

uation in Kushtia town and

says: The overall flood situa-

tion has deteriorated in the

district with the continuous

flow of hill water and incessant

rain. The Jamuna was flowing

7cm above the danger level yes-

disrupted as rail tracts in some

places on the east side of Siraj-

ganj railway ghat went under

water. Vast areas of Kazipur,

Chowhali, Belkuchi, Shahjad-

pur, Ullapara, Tarash and Sira-

jganj sadar thana were inun-dated.

the same purpose as SOFA.

The clarification said that

the two countries concluded a

SOFA for one year's duration

when a devastating cyclone

struck Bangladesh in 1991. At

that time a massive relief mis-

sion — Operation Sea Angels —

was launched. It included 7,500

military personnel and civil-

ians and provision of 120 mil-

lion US dollars in relief assis-

Bangladesh conduct limited

joint military exercises. This

year's US-Bangladesh exercises

focus on counter-narcotic activ-

ities, disaster relief, air/sea

rescue operations, building

three schools, and medical

Bangladesh and the United

States sign a temporary MOU.

which serves the same purpose

as a SOFA. It said, SOFA would

obviate the necessity to con-

clude a memorandum of under-

standing for each exercise.

For each exercise,

training and treatment.

It said, the US and

tance.

The rail communication is

Sirajganj correspondent

other than as of the district.

Another report from Kushtia

1,600 houses in the thana dur-

thanas were damaged due to on-

rush of water and landslides.

Roads in Mahalchhari

Flood in 10 districts

The alleged mugger, who was fatally injured in a mob beating near Nawab Yusuf market in the old part of the city on Mon-day, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) last

He was identified as Shah Alam, 25, police said. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. Two other associates of Alam were also beaten to death by the mob. Police yesterday identified the two others as

They were caught by the mob while they tried to escape after snatching Tk 4.5 lakh from a

Shafiq Ahmed, a businessman from whom the money was snatched, filed a case with Kotwali thana at about 11:45 pm Monday, police said yesterday. He alleged that four muggers snatched Tk 4.5 lakh from him at gunpoint.

None was arrested in connection with the incident.

One succumbs to bomb injuries

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, July 14: One person succumbed to bomb injuries at Barisal Medical College Hos-

The victim, Mamun, 25, was seriously injured when a bomb he was carrying in his pocket exploded during a chase by po-

Police chased the two groups of alleged terrorists as they were locked in clash in the town vesterday evening.

Barisal Medical College Hospital immediately after the inci-

Domestic help Hasan gives judicial statement

About one lakh people of 15 union in Feni sadar thana were Hasan, the domestic help of housewife Shirin Akhter who In Comilla low-lying areas was slaughtered by three in Homna, Daudkandi, Muradunidentified young men at her nagar and nearby thanas were flat at Khilgaon Chowdhury inundated with the rising water para Sunday, gave a judicial of Meghna, Gumti and Kathalia statement before a Metropoli rivers, according to reports retan Magistrate vesterday.

A report from Rangpur adds: Gangachara flood protection embankment is threatened by the erosion of river Teesta, now within a couple of days. only 10 feet away from the erosion side at Dhamur village in

The killers tied up Hasan's hands and legs and left him in another room while murdering Shirin Akhter, 35.

Shabujbagh police yesterday produced Hasan before the magistrate who recorded his statement under Section 164 of the

DC's office gheraoed in Khulna

gheraoed the DC's office demanding enquiry into Ratan Sen murder and fresh trial of the case, reports UNB.

They also held a rally at the DC's office premises and submitted a memorandum to the DC. Muhammad Nur Alam

nounced the next course of action programme to press the demand.

The programmes include a mass rally on July 20, token strike on July 26, blood donation on July 30 and paying wreaths at Ratan Sen Memorial on July 31.

Women's quota From Page 1

chairperson of the National Commission for Women, led a group of women protesters in a demonstration outside the Parliament building today. "The government should

have introduced the bill and then considered amendments ...," Giri said.

the independent Women's Political Watch, said a minority of men were afraid of losing their parliamentary seats to women. "They just don't want to share decision-making power with women," she said.

If the government can get the bill introduced, it believes it can pass it with the help of the main opposition parties -Congress and leftist groups.

EPZ workers

From Page 1

need for women's access to technology and credit in the informal sector, better transport and housing facilities, incentive schemes for employers to introduce health benefits and training for women workers and ensuring their security at

A number of government officials, labour leaders, development activists and labour experts also discussed on various issues on globalisation, labour management and industrial relations at the day-long semi-



French soccer coach Aime Jacquet (center) shows the World Cup to the crowd while French President Jacques Chirac (left) and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin (right) applaud during a reception at the Elysee palace yesterday. - AP/UNB photo

'Govt-NGO rapport needed for development'

Speakers at a roundtable discussion yesterday stressed the need for an effective tripartite partnership between the government, NGOs and development partners to attain sustainable development through poverty alleviation, reports

Pleading for establishing accountability of the NGOs involving the concerned beneficiaries, they said there is need for good rapport between the government and non-government organisations for increasing their capacity and quality of work and performances on

on "NGO-World Bank Collaboration in Development" was jointly organised by the Institute for Development Policy Analysis and Advocacy (IDPAA). Proshika and World Bank at the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Bhaban in Dhaka.

Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury moderator. Country Director of Mills, ADAB Chairperson and Proshika President Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed, Secretary of Bridge Authority Division Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury, and Additional Secretary (Planning) Shafful Islam took

Vice-President Mahbubul Karim made the welcome address while senior project officer of the World Bank's agriculture and natural resources unit

Begum Matia Chowdhury in her speech said that no endeavour to fight poverty or initiate any development programme is possible without democracy. Neither empowerment of the poor nor of women is possible at all, for which the country's NGO community are working for, if a democratic atmosphere does not exist.

She noted with utmost happiness that because of the establishment of democracy by the present government the NGOs could now work with full cooperation of the government and other social forces.

Referring to the existing good relations between the government and NGOs, Matia said even when they were in the opposition they worked with close cooperation with the NGOs, as the hard task of alleviating poverty is not possible on the part of the government alone. Our government has a positive observation on the services of NGOs," she added.

While explaining some aspects of the role of development partners and donor agencies. she said a democraticallyelected government should have the option to accept or reject any proposal. A wrong directive or advice may cause havoc to the people, she added.

While lauding the role of NGOs, she said "mushroom growth of NGOs is neither de-

France, England joint winners of WC Fair Play Award

ZURICH, Switzerland, July 14: World soccer champions France and England are the joint winners of the World Cup's Fair Play Award, world soccer's governing body FIFA said today, reports AP. Both teams averaged 828

points in the fair play classification during the tournament. which ended Sunday when France beat Brazil 3-0. Norway finished third in the

standings. The joint winners will each receive a trophy, individual medals for their players and 25,000 US dollars worth of equipment for youth soccer. The awards will be presented in Barcelona next January.

The fair play classification is based on a scale that rewards good sportsmanship and a team's positive approach to the game. Only teams that pass the first round qualify for the

Rebels kill 8 Indian soldiers in Manipur

GUWAHATI, India, July 14: Tribal separatists guerillas killed at least eight paramilitary soldiers today in an ambush in India's mountainous northeastern state on Manipur, police said, reports Reuter.

The unidentified guerillas, armed with guns, attacked a paramilitary road patrol party at Kotlang, about 30 km from the state capital Imphal, on the main highway.

Bangabandhu murder case

61 witnesses out of 72 called to make deposition, says IO

Of the 72 witnesses named in the charge-sheet in Bangabandhu Murder Case, 61 were called to make deposition before the District and Sessions Judge's Court which is holding the trial since early last year, reports UNB.

This was stated by Abdul Kahar Akand, investigation officer of the case, during cross-examination by the defence counsel for accused Taheruddin Thakur yesterday.

Replying to defence queries, the prosecution witness told the court that he took over the charge of investigation of the case in the morning of October 3, 1996, a day after the FIR was lodged by Mohitul Islam, resident personal assistant of Pres-

with Dhanmondi thana.

bandhu's residence at Road-32. Dhanmondi at 10:45 am on October 3.

He said he was serving as the officer-in-charge is Saturia police station when the killing took place in the early morning on August 15, 1975.

Taheruddin Thakur on October 2, 1996 in connection with the killing of four national leaders in Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

The defence counsel will

Khaleda: Code of conduct

From Page 1 mission, they will be held responsible for the dreadful consequence," she said in a state-

ment issued yesterday. Elaborating her allegation, the constituency despite her

The ministers are alluring the voters with many pledges and putting the local administration behind their party candidate", she said

that BNP leaders and workers were being arrested on false tacked, creating panic in the constituency.

lowed to continue, the question of a neutral election taking place does not arise," she added. Despite the Chief Election Commissioner's directives

Young man

From Page 1

killings could not be known immediately.

None, however, was arrested in connection with the killings till filing of this report late last night. Both the bodies were sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

BNP team

From Page 1 mands is that the ruling party Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah should immediately leave

stituency by ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers and persons enjoying similar cal activists until the by-polls and release the arrested leaders and workers.

equate deployment of law enforcers on the polling day, one magistrate in each polling centre, withdrawal of the government officials who might influence the voting and forming an election monitoring cell with representatives from the parties participating in the polls.

Replying to a question about the planned public meeting by Begum Khaleda Zia in the constituency, Bhuiyan said the opposition leader does not hold any executive power. So, her visit to the constituency will not violate the election code of conduct.

election issue," he said. The BNP leader said they will take necessary action if the Election Commission fails to

voting. He wanted the government of grave consequences if it "resorts

election victory." D-8 summit

smooth holding of the summit. The D-8 is comprised of Bangladesh, Malaysia, Pakistan, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Nigeria and Indonesia. Prior to the summit, official

From Page 1

level meeting will be held on November 24-25 and the council of ministers' meeting will be held on November 26.

of the D-8 member countries will also be held in Dhaka on November 23-25

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, Home Minister Rafigul Islam, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader, State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury.

fizur Rahman, Commerce Secretary Syed Alamgir Farrouk Chowdhury, Cultural Affairs Secretary Shamsuzzaman Majumder and senior officials of different ministries were also present.

ident Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, He said he visited the place of occurrence that is Banga-

Akand said he arrested

continue cross-examination when the court resumes at 10 am today.

the BNP chief said the ministers and other ruling party leaders were campaigning in party's repeated protests.

Begum Zia further alleged

charges while others were being threatened and their houses at-"If such a situation is al-

biul, a cousin of the victim found him dead when he went to wake Rajab up.

The motives behind the

Barisal. Other demands are: restriction on visits to the constatus, stop arresting the politi-

The BNP also demanded ad-

When asked by a correspondent. Bhuiyan denied any conflict between the family and supporters of former President Abdur Rahman Biswas and other local BNP leaders and workers, particularly on the election issue. "All are united on the by-

ensure free, fair and impartial

to rigging and snatches the

A three day cultural festival

The meeting was attended by

Foreign Secretary Musta-

banning unofficial visits to the constituency by the ministers, Begum Zia alleged ministers, state ministers and the Chief Whip of the parliament were conducting non-stop campaign

over the past few days.

though BNP brought the matter to the notice of the EC time and again. The situation has rather aggravated, she noted. "The EC's role is raising doubts if the heinous acts that took place during the by-polls

no change in the situation al-

She regretted that there was

case of Barisal too", the statement said The BNP chief also warned that the people will not accept any act of rigging in the Barisal by-election and demanded that

She also demanded withdrawal of cases against her partymen, release of those arrested, action against the election code violators and arrest of the AL

The BNP chief claimed her party was cooperating in the holding of a free and fair byelection in Barisal and pledged

BUET

"We are finalising the draft of the letter seeking reconsideration of Syndicate's decision of April 26 on withdrawal of our resignation letter," said one of the 13 teachers talking to The

necessary formalities. The resignation of the 13

joint resignation letter in March protesting against the

teachers of the department was

accepted by the Syndicate on

April 26 last. They submitted a

Sonali Bank

adequate capital and poor control over operation, felt that the 'UK operation was unsupervisable.' It was more so because of difficulties in obtaining accu-

May last year to explain the situation to SB, BB and the finance ministry and to know how SB wants to solve these problems. SB told the BOE team that it wanted to retain an authorised presence in the UK and would, therefore, pursue authorisation as a subsidiary.

SB was allowed six to 12 months to prepare a business plan for a subsidiary. SB presented two such plans, one in October, 1997 and another in

But both were of poor quality. As a result, SB was allowed

The BOE now says that if the plan is not acceptable. SB may

not be granted additional time. It has also suggested that the SB and the ministries concerned should seriously consider the cost of establishing and maintaining a banking presence in the UK and assess whether there is adequate business available to justify these

As an alternative, the BOE suggested that SB's current business could be run from a non-authorised subsidiary and SB could also operate a representative office.

The BOE has already identified that SB's London General Manager has been cash constrained and as a result, sufficient funds are not available to hire key staff, appoint and use advisers appropriately or restructure current staff.

Ctg flood From Page 1 killed in a landslide at Shapla

pur of Moheskali thana under

Cox's Bazar district last night

while two other family mem-

bers were injured, police sources said An army driver drowned when his truck skidded off the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar road inundated by flood water at Kaochia of Satkania under Chittagong district, at around

curity sources said. Six other soldiers on board the truck were also injured, they said. In another incident, a villager Moklesur Rahman, 30,

drowned in flood water at

12:30 pm today, police and se-

Narayanhat under Fatikchhari thana this morning, police District administration sources said road link between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar snapped this morning at Nolbil of Chakaria. The road at Ram-

also went under water, they Most of the low-lying areas of Fatikchhari, Satkania, Mirersharai, Banshkali, Anwara Hathazari and Sandwip have

At least 10,000 people were

marooned on Sandwip island.

The roads at Sandwip town

been submerged.

garh under Fatikchhari thana

went under knee-deep water as the onrush of tidal water damaged the embankment at three points in Harishpur union. The low-lying areas of Ramu

and Chakaria under Cox's

Bazar district were also inun-

troops into Bangladesh without passport and visa as well as entry of equipment and supplies

to earlier clarification on this issue and said, "SOFA agreement does not entail or imply a security commitment or military alliance, establishment of military bases, or development of rest and recreation facilities

for the US military personnel." joint military training exer-

tablishes agreed procedures governing the movement of US personnel and supplies in a host nation for an exercise.

Bangladesh and the United

States, on different occasions,

The US spokesman referred

The US government has Sta-In its June 18 clarification,

Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771. Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

dies at DMCH

By Staff Correspondent

at Barisal

pital last night.

Housewife murder

By Staff Correspondent

arrest any of the killers till vesterday. The Detective Branch is expected to take up the case

Meanwhile, police could not

Code of Criminal Procedure.

KHULNA, July 14: Bangladesh Chhatra Union today

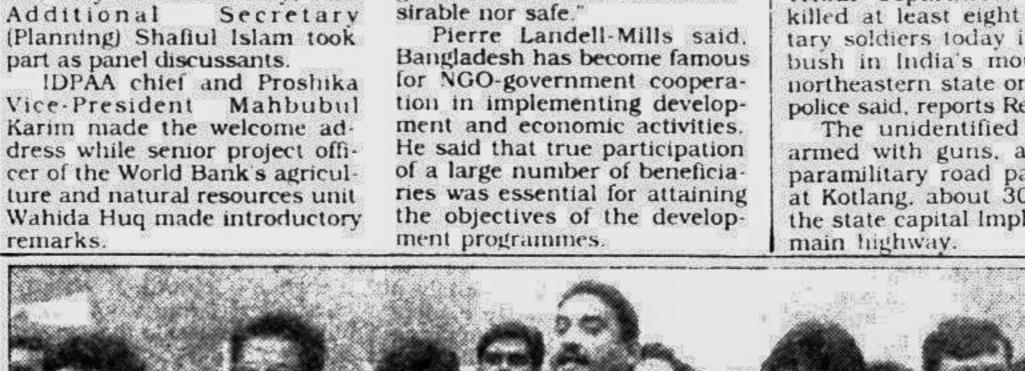
chaired the rally. At the rally, they also an-

An angry Mohini Giri,

Veena Nayyar, president of

ment of arrears in wage and absence of weekly holidays, she She also underscored the

work, street and at home. ing a successor, the sources



JCD brought out a procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for the July 16

- Star photo hartal called by BNP. Interim Regional Council

tify land ownership.

of the peace accord.

at a meeting at Khagrachhari assessed the situation and discussed their strategy and future course of action. They complained that the

From Page 1

delay was costing them grounds to their opponents. The government had only recruited police sergeants and constables from amongst the ranks of the former Shantibahini and the process of withdrawal of cases against them and PCJSS activists had

already begun.

ter" about the delay

members had been resolved, they said. Certain things like delay in finalising selection of tribal chiefs or Rajas in Khagrachhari and Bandarban slowed the process. The posts remained vacant because of legal tangle in find-

It is learnt that the tradi-

tional tribal chiefs are going to

But officials in Dhaka says

The problem of selecting the

there had been nothing "sinis-

from the tribesman and the settlers. Meanwhile, MC Van Wald Un Pragg, Secretary General of the Unrepresented Peoples and Nations, an organisation championing the cause of eth-

nic minorities, based in the

with government functionaries.

He had also been to the Chit-

tagong, it is learnt. The organi-

Mr Pragg had been in touch

Netherlands, is in the city.

the interim RC has also delayed

the formation of the Land

Commission, a vital component

carry out a survey in the three

hill districts to determine lands

rights, a cause of complaint

The Commission would

sation had been in close touch with the PCJSS in the past. The PCJSS leaders were scheduled to meet him, sources in the organisation said. The government last week

have a role in the tribal region withdraw restrictions on foras members of an advisory eigners visiting the region. UNB adds: Three MPs of the committee. They will also cer-Chittagong Hill Tracts, summoned by Prime Minister The delay in formation of

Dhaka on Sunday.

member Interim CHT Regional Council. Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, minister without portfolio Dipankar Talukdar, Chairman of the Task Force on Refugee Affairs and Bir Bahadur came to

They are believed to have

several rounds of meeting with

Law Minister Abdul Matin

Khasru and state minister for

Sheikh Hasina, are now in the

city for finalisation of a 22-

planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir. The tribal leaders met with the Prime Minister Tuesday night, but the outcome of their discussions were not immediately known.

UNB correspondent from Khagrachhari reports: The 3 MPs of the Chittagong Hill Tracts carried a list of names for formation of the 22-member Interim Regional Council.

in Laxmipur and Mirersharai are going to be repeated in the

violation of the election code be stopped immediately.

terrorists.

to continue the same.

From Page 1

Daily Star last night. Vice Chancellor of BUET Prof Igbal Mahmud, when contacted over telephone, told this correspondent that he will call a Syndicate meeting soon after the 13 teachers complete the

new rules of admission test introduced from this year. The BUET authorities were forced to suspend classes from June 17 to July 13 as a section

of students refused to attend classes during the World Cup.

From Page 1

rate and timely information from SB and the Bangladesh Bank. A BOE team visited Dhaka in

February 1998.

till September to make its final

It has also said a mixture of interference and 'very slow de-

cision taking by Head Office have limited the actions taken and that the general manager in London is indecisive due to fear of political interference.

SOFA: US for talks have signed MOUs for conducting joint exercise which serve

by US troops without undergo ing customs clearance, procedures, explained the Foreign Office source.

tus of Forces Agreements with many nations with which it has friendly relations and conducts the US embassy said SOFA es-

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail,

Injured mugger

Shahjahan and Babul.

man.

Mamun was admitted to

development initiatives. The roundtable discussion

was the chief guest while senior research fellow of BIDS Dr Atiur Rahman worked as the the World Bank Pierre Landellthe Jamuna Multipurpose