

# The Daily Star

**BUY NOW - PAY LATER**



**Whirlpool**  
HOME APPLIANCES  
USA  
Refrigerator  
Transcom Electronics Limited  
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA

**KALMAR-SISU**  
ALL TYPES OF CONTAINER  
HANDLING EQUIPMENT  
(NEW/USED)  
**THE GANGES LIMITED**  
DAC: 9552383, 9561251  
CTG: 500035, 710707

VOL. VIII NO. 181 REGD. NO. DA 781 INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> SRAVAN 11, 1405 BS DHAKA SUNDAY JULY 26, 1998 RABIU SAANI 1, 1419 HIJRI 16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

## Ties with Dhaka cordial, says Vajpayee

NEW DELHI, July 25: Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee today described as "cordial, constructive and cooperative" the Indo-Bangladesh relations which, he said, have recently been reviewed during Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to New Delhi.

"We will continue to discuss all aspects of our bilateral relations in an atmosphere of trust and friendship, motivated by the desire to cooperate," he said in an interview with BSS.

Vajpayee said the treaty on the sharing of the Ganges waters had settled a long-standing irritant in Indo-Bangladesh relations in an amicable manner. India, he added, had welcomed the signing of the Chittagong Hill Tracts accord as a "positive and bold step taken by the Bangladesh government."

Asked whether efforts should be made to have access to the river, he said:

## Move for collecting resignation letters causes discontent among BNP MPs

By Nazmul Ashraf

The move for collection of resignation letters from BNP lawmakers has caused discontent among many party MPs who feel that such a decision should have been taken by the party's parliamentary wing, sources in the party said.

This section of the party legislators also think it is "untimely" to go for resignation from the Jatiya Sangsad at the moment when the party is not prepared for an all-out street agitation.

"Collection of resignation letters is likely to start only after it is approved by the BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP)," said a top leader of the main opposition party.

The National Standing Committee of BNP at its meeting on Wednesday decided that all the party MPs will deposit their letters of resignation from the Jatiya Sangsad with party officials.

## BNP postpones planned agitation programme

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has postponed its planned demonstrations across the country tomorrow and its programme to *gherao* the offices of Deputy Commissioners in 21 greater districts from August 5 in view of the deteriorating flood situation, a party press release said last night.

The demonstration programme was announced earlier to protest the alleged torture on Bengali settlers in the CHT. The



Flood victims at Sirajdikhan in Munshiganj are collecting drinking water.

— Star photo

## Terminal at New Mooring Bids likely to be invited by Oct

By Special Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 25: Stacks of containers, spilling all over the Chittagong Port, make it difficult for everyone — the operators, stevedores, captains of ships and officials — to cope with the situation.

Overrunning its capacity of handling some 200,000 containers annually, the port faces a logjam of ships awaiting impatiently at the outer anchorage.

The delay and the slow pace of handling — seven to eight per day against 30 containers at Singapore — shifts the burden of extra costs to the consumers and exporters.

"Unless we stretch the capacity of the port, have new facilities, we are going to be penalised by the shippers, the nation counting more bills for the delay," Deputy Shipping Minister

Saber Hossain Chowdhury says.

Unfolding a plan to expand facilities, he told a group of newsmen visiting the port today that a consultant would be appointed soon to pave the way for inviting bids for a terminal at New Mooring by October.

Talking to them at the just opened ministerial office in the port area, he said that Tk 1100 crore required for building the terminal would come from the coffers of the port itself.

"For the first time, we are going ahead with a long term plan, instead of ad-hoc programmes and indecisions, to prepare the port to face the challenge of the next century," Chowdhury said.

The modernisation and expansion programme also underlines the need for more

equipment for the port, set up in 1887 replacing the ancient mariners' staging post dating back to the fourth century.

The deputy minister said the growth of container traffic by 20 per cent annually would mean that even after raising the capacity of the port with the new terminal and equipment, the sheer volume of traffic — some 700,000 — would require more terminals.

The government decided to accept the offer from Stevedoring Services of America, Bangladesh, a joint venture between the US company and the Orient Maritime, to 'build, own and operate' a terminal at Patenga. It is designed to handle some 300,000 containers annually, still leaving more containers to be handled by the

See Page 12 Col 1

## Shibir-BCL clash Islamic Varsity closed for 7 days

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 25: The Islamic University was closed today for seven days following gunfights between the activists of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS).

The students were asked to vacate the dormitories by noon today.

The decision was taken last night at an emergency meeting of the Syndicate held at the Vice-Chancellor's office.

The classes will resume on August 2.

The meeting also decided to ban all sorts of political activities on the campus till August 3 'to restore peace' on the campus.

Fifteen people, including 6 teachers and 3 students, were injured in gunshots during clashes between the two rival student organisations on Wednesday and Thursday.

Vice-Chancellor Md Kayes Uddin has formed a five-member inquiry committee to investigate the incidents of violence. The committee has been asked to submit report by August 6.

## Flood engulfs more areas in city

By Staff Correspondent

The flood situation took a serious turn inundating fresh areas in 18 districts yesterday.

Thirteen more died in different districts, raising the death toll to 73, officials in the Relief Ministry Control Room said.

Of the 13 new deaths, six were reported from Madaripur, four from Sherpur, two from newly hit Brahmanbaria and one from Jamalpur.

The flood water hit 96 lakh people of 8.68 lakh families in 1,733 unions of 34 districts, officials said.

They said the situation deteriorated in Dhaka, Jamalpur, Narshingdi, Manikganj, Narayanganj, Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Munshiganj, Gaibandha, Sirajganj, Kurigram, Pabna, Bogra, Chapalnawabganj, Comilla, Chandpur and Brahmanbaria.

The districts where the flood situation improved are: Sherpur, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Joypurhat, Naogaon, Nilphamari, Cox's Bazar, Chit-

tagong, Rangamati, Bandarban, Feni, Moulavibazar, Habiganj and Magura.

The situation in Netrokona and Mymensingh remained unchanged.

Flood waters entered some low-lying areas in the capital city of Dhaka including Jatra-bari, Sabujbagh, Khilgaon, Goran, Meradia and Badda yesterday.

The overall situation is likely to worsen further in the next two days as all the major rivers in Brahmaputra, Ganges and Meghna basins are expected to rise further, said a forecast of the Flood Information Centre.

The break up of death figure shows that 11 people have died in Chittagong, 10 in Madaripur, six each in Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Rajbari and Jamalpur, five each in Gaibandha and Sherpur, four each in Kurigram, Dhaka and Comilla, two in Brahmanbaria and one each in Bogra, Naogaon, Rangpur and

See Page 12 Col 1

## PM visits Comilla, Feni

MURADNAGAR (Comilla), July 25: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today visited some flood-hit areas in Comilla and Feni districts to see the damage caused by the flood, reports UNB.

She visited Muradnagar thana of Comilla and Parshuram of Feni where embankments of the rivers Gumti and Muhuri have been washed away inundating a vast area.

Hasina addressed two gatherings of flood victims and distributed relief materials among them at different spots.

"We have come here to see your condition, your fight against flood and stand beside you during your bad days," she told the gatherings.

Hasina said the government has taken urgent steps to face the crisis.

See Page 12 Col 7

## Stabbed young woman dies at DMCH

By DMCH Correspondent

A young woman, who was stabbed by a young man in the city's Kamalapur area on Friday, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday. Hospital sources identified the dead as Nazma, 20.

One Aidul allegedly stabbed her at around 8 am on Friday in the Kamalapur area when she turned down his proposal to have sex with him.

Nazma was admitted to the DMCH in a critical condition where she succumbed to her injuries early yesterday morning. The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

When contacted the duty officer at Motijheel thana said last night that they had not received any complaint in this regard.

## Date for SSC exam results yet to be fixed

By Staff Correspondent

The date for announcing results of the SSC examinations is yet to be fixed, according to sources in the Education Ministry.

Earlier, it was reported by a news agency that the results are likely to be announced today.

When contacted over telephone, board officials as well as the ministry officials said that the date for announcing the results were yet to be fixed.

Some officials, however, observed that the results may be declared either on June 30 or in the beginning of the next month. Results of the SSC examinations of all the five boards will be announced simultaneously, they said.

## 28 other cadres feel deprived 75 pc DS level posts kept for BCS (admn)

By Mizan Ali

About 75 per cent posts in the rank of deputy secretary have been reserved for the BCS administration cadre and the former secretariat cadre, according to new guidelines for promotion to higher posts in the administration.

The new guidelines for promotion to the rank of deputy secretary and above, prepared by the Ministry of Establishment, were gazetted on February 11, sources said yesterday.

There are 29 cadres in government service, of which the former secretariat cadre and the BCS administration cadre have been merged into one cadre.

Officials belonging to the other 28 cadres, however, questioned the rationale behind reservation of the posts for a particular cadre.

Among the 71 officials, who were promoted to the rank of deputy secretary on Thursday, 53 belong to the BCS administration cadre, the sources said, adding the quota restrictions prevented some meritorious officers from entering the policy making pool of the government.

Some of them expressed their resentment over the government notification on reservation of quota for the BCS administration cadre saying that the matter was already being dealt with by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Establishment Ministry.

"How did the Ministry of Establishment notified the guidelines when the matter was already referred to the committee," an official asked.

The Prime Minister following a meeting with officials of the 28 cadres in January last, had asked the parliamentary standing committee to prepare guidelines for recruitment and promotion to higher posts, the sources said.

When contacted Asaduzzaman, MP, who heads the committee, told The Daily Star that the committee started work only one and a half months back.

Asked if the committee was preparing guidelines he said, "It is still at a preliminary stage." He, however, refused to comment on the gazetted guidelines.

See Page 12 Col 4

## Judicial inquiry into 'murder' demanded

### Police can't probe misdeeds of other policemen: Rubel's father

By Staff Correspondent

The father and other family members of Shamim Reza Rubel yesterday demanded a judicial inquiry into his death in the custody of Detective Branch police in the city on Thursday.

"We will not accept any police investigation. Police cannot properly investigate the misdeeds of other policemen," the bereaved father of Rubel told a news conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Abdur Rob, a 66-year-old retired government official, sought justice for the 'murder' of his son, a 24-year-old BBA student of the Independent University.

He said that his son was never involved in student politics nor was an activists of any political party or its front or-

ganisation.

Rob named six plainclothesmen, accusing them of murdering his son. They are DB Assistant Commissioner Akram Hossain and the five

## Khaleda seeks President's intervention

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday requested President Shahabuddin Ahmed to intervene in protecting the nation from the 'oppressive' government, reports UNB.

She was addressing a gathering near the Siddeswari residence yesterday.

who were remanded for five days on Friday in connection with the death of Rubel, he said.

"Who are the criminals? My brother Rubel or the policemen who tortured him to death," asked Naznin Akhter, the only sister of Rubel, as she broke into tears.

Naznin, who teaches Economics at the city's Furana Palatan Women's College added, "What will we teach our students when people in the administration could kill a brilliant student in a democratic society?"

Rubel's father and brothers, narrating the whole incident said, the "police torture on Rubel was an act like that in the mediaeval era." They urged the Prime Minister and the Home Minister to take action.

See Page 12 Col 4

## Shahbazzpur Gasfield Tender to be floated 'to match' Unocal's proposal

By Sharier Khan

The government has decided to float a tender to 'match' a proposal given by US oil company Unocal to develop the Shahbazzpur Gasfield.

If no other foreign company can match the proposal of Unocal, the government would go for signing a final agreement with the US company which has been pursuing this project for more than a year now, sources said.

If any company can match the proposed of Unocal or give a better project outline, the government would first ask Unocal to compete with that. If Unocal fails to compete with the new proposal in terms of price and technical issues, the government would start negotiation with the better bidder.

"This is basically an eye-wash to award this gas field to Unocal. In this bidding, the government will offer a few weeks time for the other oil companies to submit their pro-

posals," said a source. "Unocal took a long time to prepare its proposal and it invested a lot of money for this scheme. Can any company match its offer in such a limited time frame?"

A high powered committee headed by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister took the decision to float the tender a few days ago. It now awaits Prime Minister's approval.

The government initiated a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) with Unocal a couple of months ago violating its own policy regarding leasing out gas structures or blocks to foreign companies, the sources said. The government's policy allows only "solicited bidding" to choose investors for different blocks or gas structures.

The PSC followed a one-year Letter of Intent (LOI) given by the government to Unocal to study and submit plans for the Shahbazzpur gas field, violating See Page 12 Col 4

## Maharashtra govt trying to brand Indians as Bangladeshis: Basu

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, July 25: The Left Front government in West Bengal and the Shiv Sena-BJP coalition government in Maharashtra are locked in a war of words over the latter's move to expel Bengali-speaking people from the state (Maharashtra) for deportation to Bangladesh.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Gopinath Munde has said his government was expelling "illegal residents" identified by police and after necessary orders were obtained from the authorities.

On the other hand, West Bengal government said many of the people identified by Maharashtra government as Bangladeshis were actually from West Bengal.

"We do not know whether these people were given the scope to prove their nationality. The process of eviction by Mumbai (Bombay) police is based only on suspicion against Bengali-speaking people," Budhadev Bhattacharya, the West Bengal state home minister said.

Most of the people expelled by Maharashtra, says West Bengal government, are Bengali-speaking Indian Muslim citizens who are employed in zari trade, gold and diamond units in Mumbai.

Over the past two days two separate groups of people whom Maharashtra government calls Bangladeshis were put into trains and sent to West Bengal

under police escort. Bhattacharya said, while there was no question of sheltering any Bangladeshis in West Bengal, genuine Indian nationals cannot be put through this ordeal.

The confrontation between the two state governments on this issue came to limelight when thousands of people stopped a train at Uluberia station near Calcutta on Thursday and forced their way into a compartment carrying 34 alleged Bangladeshi immigrants and freed them from a group of Maharashtra policemen who were going to Indo-Bangla border at Haridaspur.

State chief minister Jyoti Basu, made the proposal

## VC's proposal to reduce DU tuition fees rejected

By DU Correspondent

Student organisations at the Dhaka University yesterday rejected the Vice-Chancellor's proposal to reduce Tk 240 from tuition fees and other charges.

The VC proposed to slash the examinations fee (course system) by Tk 100. The examination fee would be Tk 700 instead of Tk 800 as proposed earlier, he said.

The examination fee was Tk 600 in 1997-98 session.

The VC also proposed that the charge for the students' identity cards would be reduced to Tk 10 from Tk 50 and the education development fee would be Tk 200 instead of Tk 300. The education development fee has been newly-introduced in the current session.

The VC, Professor A K Azad Chowdhury, made the proposal

at a meeting with the leaders of the student organisations.

Gonotantik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), Bangladesh Chhatra Federation (BCF) and a section of the general students under the banner of a resistance

See Page 12 Col 2

## Shibir enforces strike at CU

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 25: Islamic Chhatra Shibir enforced a day-long strike at Chittagong University today protesting the authorities' decision to raise tuition fees and other charges.

No classes were held although the offices at the administrative building remained open.

## Urgent Notice Regarding Change of VAT Registration Number

Sub: Regarding New 10-digit VAT Registration Number to be effective in place of old 8-digit VAT Registration Number from 1st January 1999.

It is notified for information of interested esteemed individuals and firms for Value Added Tax (VAT) registration, Turnover Tax and Cottage Industry enlistment that, new form "VAT-6" has been prepared for VAT registration, Turnover Tax and Cottage Industry enlistment in the 1998-99 financial year Budget. This form will be applicable only in case of new application.

- In respect of the new form, customers will be given new 10-digit VAT registration number instead of old 8-digit VAT registration number.
- Administrative steps have been taken for those presently holding old 8-digit VAT registration number to automatically change the same into 10-digit number. Both old and new VAT registration numbers will remain parallally effective till 31-12-98. From 1st January 1999 only the new number will be effective and old number will not remain valid from that date.
- 8-digit VAT registration holders are requested to contact their respective Commissionerate/Division/Circle from October '98 for collecting 10-digit new VAT registration certificate. For further details in this regard, the nearest VAT office or the undermentioned address or phone number may be contacted.

First Secretary Phone: 9330934  
Second Secretary Phone: 406416, 412212  
838120-6, Ex-226  
838120-6, Ex-(248-339)  
DFP-15732-20/7 G-1682

## Inside Today Article

Barisal by-polls

Was it Free and Fair?

by Nurul Kabir Page 4

Focus

Law and Our Rights

Legal status of the governments in Bangladesh Page 5

Business

BGMEA dissatisfied with softer ministry stand against US quota manipulators

India plans to issue work permits to illegal aliens

Sight fall in CSE index Pages 6, 7, 8

Sports Exclusive

Part two of Bangladesh cricket coach Gordon Greenidge's interview appears on page 13. Part one was published yesterday. Pages 13, 14, 15