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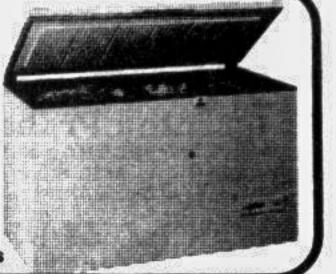
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Dispute over jalmahal

Police, landless people in Satkhira clash: One killed

From Our Correspondent

SATKHIRA, July 27: At least one person was killed and several others were injured today when a group of landless people clashed with police here over the leasing out of khas jalmahal (government-owned water-

The landless people claimed four persons including a child were killed in police firing. They also claimed at least 100 people were injured in the clash, some of whom are under treatment at Satkhira and Khulna hospitals.

The dead was identified as Jaheda Khatun, 22. Her body was with the landless people and police could not recover it

to send the body for autopsy The local people claimed that the other three dead included an unidentified child, Mohammad Hossain and Abdus Sabur. They also claimed that police snatched the bodies.

But the district administration denied that anyone was killed in police firing. The District Commissioner of Satkhira told The Daily Star over telephone that the landless people had brought out a procession with the body of one woman. But he could not confirm whether she was killed in police firing or by the firing of the landless people who, he claimed, were also armed.

He said 18 policemen were injured in the clash. District

From Page

heated exchange of words as

Speaker GMC Balavogi's re-

peated appeals for order went

asked the government to spell

out its stand on the issue. Par-

liamentary Affairs minister

Madan Lal Khurana said Home

Minister LK Advani would col-

lect information from Maha-

rashtra government and would

make a statement in the house

reply, members belonging to

left parties, Janata Dal and

Muslim League staged the walk-

manth Chatterjee told reporters

that "we have evidence that

most of these so-called

Bangladeshis are actually In-

police decided to put off the de-

portation of alleged

Bangladeshi nationals follow-

From Page 1

gust 1, and a token hunger

strike from 10 am to 4 pm on

August 2 at Aparajeya Bangla.

The programme was announced

from a rally yesterday at

Aparajeya Bangla on the cam-

include rallies at university

halls from July 28 to August 1

rally at Aparajeya Bangla on

August 1 and a token hunger

strike at Aparajeya Bangla on

nounced at a rally in front of

the DUCSU building during the

strike. Besides, an alliance of

four student organisations-

Bangladesh Chhatra Federa-

tion, Biplabi Chhatra Moitri,

Jatiya Chhatra Dal and Chha-

tra Oikkya Forum-brought out

a procession and held a rally in

front of Madhu's canteen, de-

manding withdrawal of the DU

Bangladesh Chhatra League

(BCL) brought out a procession

and held a rally on the campus,

urging the authorities to accept

called upon the student organi-

sations and general students

not to go for strike but to sit

across the table with the au-

thorities for a 'reasonable solu-

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)

led by City unit president

Nasiruddin Pintu brought out a

procession on the campus and

later held a rally in support of

the students' demand. Witnesses

said most of those attending the

tivists prevented GCO activists

at Mohsin Hall and Ziaur Rah-

man Hall on Sunday night from

participating in a scheduled

procession. BCL activists also

abused GCO workers at Sal-

imullah and Surya Sen Halls

while they were organising pro-

dents of Jahangirnagar Univer-

sity have supported the move-

ment of DU students. They

urged the DU authorities to ac-

cept the demands of students.

Meanwhile, some 1600 stu-

cessions in those halls.

says a press release.

Sources said that BCI ac-

A faction of the BNP-backed

The BCL leaders, however,

the demand of the students.

The ruling party-backed

authorities' decision.

tion to the problem.

rally were outsiders.

The programme was an

August 2.

The programme of the GCO

Tuition fees

Meanwhile, Maharashtra

Outside parliament, So-

Dissatisfied with Khurana's

As opposition members

unheeded.

tomorrow.

dian nationals."

administration officials said the jalmahals were leased out from 1986 to 1994. A group of landless people filed a suit against such leasing of jalma-hals in 1995 and the High Court

gave a verdict in their favour. But later, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in another judgement allowed leasing out of jalmahals to private parties, according to the of-

Accordingly, the administration leased out the jalmahals to private parties in May without rehabilitating the landless people who used to fish in the waterbodies.

When officials went to demarcate the jalmahal area vesterday, the agitated landless people gathered together and a clash erupted between them and the police present on the spot.

They burnt down a police camp and at one stage police opened fire, local people said.

Local people alleged that the leases of the jalmahal had been harassing the landless for sometime to evict them from the area. They also allegedly set some of the houses of the landless on fire.

The landless people have called a dawn-to-dusk hartal tomorrow in Satkhira and demanded withdrawal of the DC and SP of the district within the next 24 hours.

ing a restraint imposed by the

Deputy Commissioner of

Bombay police KL Prasad said a

copy of the court order was

awaited and it would be studied

by law experts. He said 96 peo-

ple identified as illegal

Bangladeshi settlers were de-

ported under police escort in

timated one lakh Bangladeshis

were residing in Bombay ille-

Friday had passed an order re-

straining the police authorities

and other respondents from de-

porting three petitioners from

India to Bangladesh or any

other country. Justice

Samaresh Banerjee said the pe-

titioners would not leave West

Bengal or change their resi-

produced voters' lists and other

documents to show their clients

among the 34 people whom Ma-

harashtra government had put

on a Calcutta-bound train alleg-

The Maharashtra govern-

ment is reportedly planning to

challenge the Calcutta High

Court order staying the deporta-

tion. Gopinath Munde, The

Deputy Chief Minister, said he

would write to West Bengal

Chief Minister Jyoti Basu on

Judicial body

From Page 1

commission as stated by the

Background of the incident,

How and when the incident

The actual cause of the inci-

The person or persons re-

And to make recommenda-

Deputy Secretary (Political)

Commission was

tions to prevent such incidents

of the Home Ministry, will ex-

tend necessary secretarial as-

sistance to the Commission in

formed under Section 3 of the

Commissions of Inquiry Act,

1956 (VI of 1956), said the noti-

It said all provisions of sub-

sections (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) of

Section 5 of the Commissions

of Inquiry Act, 1956 will be ap-

BBA at Independent University.

died on July 23 in DB custody

Rubel's father

From Page 1

of his son, causing his death. He

also noted that although

Akram is one of the six accused

named in the FIR, the police au-

Shahidul Islam noted that as

the case is under investigation.

he is sending the petition to the

Investigation Officer.

Metropolitan Magistrate

thorities are yet to arrest him.

Detective Branch Police.

following alleged torture by the

Rubel, a final year student of

plicable for the Commission.

conducting the inquiry.

government is to find out:

sponsible for the incident.

The jurisdiction of the

the issue of deportation.

interest

took place.

in future.

fication.

ing they were Bangladeshis.

The three petitioners were

Counsel for the petitioners

dence till further order.

were Indian nationals.

According to Prasad, an es-

The Calcutta High Court on

three days starting on July 20.

Calcutta High court.

Lok Sabha walkout



Flood waters behind the Rampura TV station in the city yesterday.

- Star photo

Cabinet meets Directive for post-flood programmes

A meeting of the Cabinet held in the city yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair reviewed the overall flood situation in the country, reports BSS.

The meeting directed the ministry concerned to take up an emergency programme for post-flood rehabilitation of agricultural sector and erosionaffected people.

The Cabinet also approved the Bill for Amendment of Bangladesh Law (Revision and Declaration) Act 1973.

Shazneen

From Page 1

was brutally murdered at their Gulshan residence on the night of April 23 last

The CID investigation into the gruesome murder has so far revealed that contractor Hasan masterminded the killing of Shazneen, a student of class nine at Scholastica School.

Security guard Humayun Kabir and maid Minu in their judicial statements had named Hasan as the mastermind of the murder.

Hasan allegedly organised the crime by involving confessed killer Shahid, his supervisor Badal, guard Humayun Kabir, carpenter Shoni Ram and maids Parvin and Minu. All the seven people are now imprisoned at the Dhaka Cen-

Hartal

From Page 1 there is no law and order in the

country. It said in last two years 86 people were killed in police custody. The meeting alleged the government is creating panic and misusing the police in violation of the Constitution and existing laws.

The alliance called upon the people to raise their voice against such anarchic situation by observing the day-long har-

tal on July 30. The meeting was attended, among others, by Anwar Zahid, Mohammad Kamruzzaman. Abdul Kader Mollah, Saifuddin Ahmed Moni, Miraz Abbassi, Mainuddin Bhuyian and Shamim Al Mamoon.

Meanwhile, the seven-party rejected the judicial enquiry commission to investigate into

the Rubel Murder Case. A meeting of the alliance at 29 Mintoo Road said it is an eye-wash to form a commission headed by a former judge when people, political parties and social organisations are demanding a 'judicial enquiry' for speedy and fair trial

The government yesterday constituted a one-member judicial enquiry commission headed by Justice Habibur Rahman Khan, a retired judge of the Supreme Court.

Dhaka-Ctg highway

metric tons of rice and Tk five lakh for distribution through deputy commissioners among the flood hit people in different districts.

The ministry earlier granted Tk 64 lakh and 25 thousand along with 4150 tonnes of foodgrains for the flood-affected

Karim said the relief activities of the ministry will continue till the situation improves. Meanwhile, disaster man-

agement officials said the situation in three districts -Madaripur, Gaibandha and Faridpur — was alarming. The PM's press secretary and

the disaster management ministry sources said the situation deteriorated in Dhaka, Ja-Narshingdi. malpur. Manikgani, Narayangani, Raibari, Munshigani, Sherpur, Shariatpur, Sirajganj, Bogra, Comilla, Chandpur, Brahmanbaria and Habigani districts.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) yesterday said that waters from upstream areas raised water levels of the Padma and the Jamuna rivers further, worsening the flood situation in the capital and its adjoining central districts.

The flood situation in the south eastern hill basin covering Chittagong and the Chittagong Hill Tracts recorded improvement. The Meghna basin also registered improving trends.

The FFWC officials said that more low-lying areas around the capital will be inundated in the next 24 hours if the water levels continue to rise at its present rate in the Buriganga. Padma, Turag and Kaliganga

They said more areas will be inundated in the central districts as Brahmaputra

(Jamuna) river is flowing above the danger mark at Bahadurabad, Sirajganj and Aricha.

The Dharala at Kurigram, the Old Brahmaputra at Jamalpur and the Shitalakhya at Narayangani are also following above danger marks.

The Ganges (Padma) at Pankha, Goalundo and Bhagyakul, the Mohananda at Chapainawabganj and the Jamuna (little) at Naogaon are also flowing above danger marks. The Surma at Kanaighat, Sylhet and Sunamganj, the Kushiara and Amalshid and Sheola and Meghna at Bhairabbazar are also flowing above danger marks.

Death in custody **Processionists** baton charged

By Staff Correspondent Police dispersed procession of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal near the BNP office at the city's Naya

Paltan yesterday evening. Witnesses said Jubo Dal activists brought out the procession in the afternoon protesting the killing of Shamim Reza Rubel in police custody.

Police said they charged baton and hurled two tear gas shells to disperse the activists after the processionists reached in front of the BNP office at about 6:15 pm.

The activists hurled brickbats and were locked in chase and counter chase with police. At one stage the activists ran away from the scene.

While escaping the activists damaged a number of motor vehicles plying the roads during the time, police added.

None, however, was arrested or no case was filed in this connection till filing of this report last night.



Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the killing of Shamim Reza Rubel in police custody. — Star photo

method of torture.

However, if there is any truth in the DB's claim that Rubel had confessed possessing illegal arms, one has therefore reasons to believe that the said 'effective method' was applied

Police frequently conduct what they call 'tough interrogation.' This practice raises couple of questions: Do the police get any sadistic pleasure out of this method of interrogation? Or, is there any violence inherent in the mode of operation in the police force that turns 'educated' officials into inhuman

tough interrogation, are not legally entitled to torture any accused while conducting an interrogation? If the answer is yes, do the police consider themselves to be a 'force' beyond punitive measures? Perhaps, yes. None has so far heard in

Bangladesh that any police official has undergone any exemplary punishment which can prevent others from torturing an accused to death, or raping in their custody — be it jail or police station.

The death of Rubel in police custody can rightly raise a fresh

debate on the 'utility' of Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure under which police can pick up anyone on 'suspicion.' The police always defend Section 54 of the CrPC. Why? - May be, they have some

lar allegation that some law enforcing agency personnel use and abuse the provision to secure bribes from people. Widespread allegation is there that the police sometimes target people for money and arrest them under Section 54 only to bargain for the amount. In most of the cases, helpless people give money to escape further harassment.

But for Rubel and for many others in the past, Section 54 turned out to be a death trap. The provision of the law allows police to arrest people 'on suspicion,' while a sense of immunity prevalent among the law enforcing agencies permits them to torture innocent victims to death. Had there been no legal scope to arrest people on suspicion, in other words under Section 54, the police would not have the chance to torture citizens to death in the name of

in Khulna

KHULNA, July 27: A 13member advisory and consultant mission arrived in Khulna on Sunday for preparing a master plan for construction of the proposed bridge over the

Headed by Yuzo Akatsuka, Professor of the Faculty of Regional Development Studies of Tokyo University, members of the mission visited the proposed site and held talks with officials of the Mongla Port Authority and local administra-

here till the preparation of a master plan for construction of the bridge after studying the provision for road-cum-railway and the estimated cost of the bridge.

Khaleda

The BNP chief told them that her party would announce its own course of action for the planned social movement after consulting the representatives of various circles. She suggested that journalists, lawyers and other professionals also should take to the streets to make such a movement effective.

"Agitation only by the opposition parties may create an impression among the commonman that the move is designed to oppose for the sake of opposition only," she noted.

The former prime minister alleged that police dared to torture and harass innocent people as the government was using them for political ends. "Politicisation of police department has resulted in the 'broken chain of command in the department."

ernment for 'violating' the Constitution and said this had encouraged police to violate human rights while carrying out their duties.

Criticising the creation of Eagle Force in the police department, she said members of this force were enjoying "unlimited powers, abusing which they were picking up business men and other innocent people and torturing them for ransom." She also compared the Eagle Force with the Rakkhi Bahini formed under the past

"The AL has resumed its old practice of tyranny by establishing different forces in different names," Begum Zia remarked.

Turning to the Jatiya Sangsad, the opposition leader

She also reiterated that the government did not execute the four-point accord it signed with her party.

cised police excesses and suggested steps to resolve the ageold problem.

The BNP chief averted a direct reply when asked about her

In this context, the former prime minister said her government did not sign any sort of agreement with the US when its military forces joined the rescue and relief operation for the cyclone victims in 1991. "Responding to a US call, we just allowed its military forces to stay in the cyclone-hit areas of Chittagong and participate in

Asked about the just held parliamentary by-election in Barisal, she complained of large-scale repression by the government on her partymen

Autopsy

cant point for unearthing the mystery behind the killing." said an official of Criminal Investigation Department of police vesterday. The investigation team

again visited the residence of Rubel at Siddeswari yesterday and talked with his family members including father Abdur Rab and two brothers har and two sisters-in-law.

tion of the five arrested police personnel. On enquiry from investigation officer of the case CID's ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman, the arrested DB men were learnt to have said that Rubel sustained injuries when they dragged him.

Sources close to the investigation team said they will interrogate Akram Hossain who had verbally directed his subordinates to arrest Rubel although he denied his part in the

The CID team is likely to talk to Deputy Commissioner Syed Bazlul Karim and Additional DC Nuruzzaman about the incident.

19 killed, 35 injured in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least 19 people were killed and 35 others injured in road accidents in different parts of

the country yesterday.

Twelve people were killed when a bus hit a tempo on the Dhaka-BJMB highway in Kaliakoir thana of Gazipur district. In other road accidents, a

former comptroller of Jahangirnagar University was killed in Kaliakoir, three children were killed in Sylhet, two persons were killed in Brahmanbaria, and an old man was killed in Kushtia.

Our JU correspondent re-ports: The first comptroller of Jahangirnagar University (JU), Haider Ali Khan, was killed in a road accident at Kaliakoir at around noon yesterday.

The retired JU official is survived by his wife and a son. His namaj-e-janaza was held on the university campus and later was laid to rest at the university graveyard in the evening.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet adds: Three minor children were killed and 10 people injured in a road accident on the Sylhet-Beanibazar road in Sylhet yesterday morn-

Golapganj police said, a minibus with about 35 passengers on board skidded off the road at village Tolpur near Ranaping bazar under Golapganj thana at about 10:30 am

when the driver lost control. Our correspondent from Brahmanbaria reports: Two persons were killed and 10 others injured in a road accident at Khariala on Dhaka-Brahmanbaria highway under Sadar thana in Brahmanbaria yesterThe accident took place

Our correspondent from Kushtia reports: An old man was crushed under the wheel of a speeding truck at Chourhash

The dead was identified as Asgar Ali, 60, of Kumargara village under Sadar thana. Police seized the truck and arrested driver Akbar Ali who has been

UNB from Gazipur adds: Twelve people, including two women and a child, were killed and 15 others injured when a bus rammed into a tempo on Dhaka-BJMB highway at Sutrapur in Kaliakoir thana yes-

Five of the dead were identified as tempo driver Atar Ali, 35, Mostafa, 25, Salam, 35, Mujib, 15, and Rafigul, 20.

akoir, Mirjapur and Dhaka.

ganj-bound bus collided with the Kaliakoir-bound tempo while the bus driver tried to save a cow standing on the road

fell into the roadside ditch after the crash.

Traffic on the road was disrupted for about an hour following the fatal accident.

NCBs: Vested quarters

From Page term will expire next month.

How effectively these boards could function is now debated. But the common view is that the board members were mostly 'docile' and were either slow to react or never reacted to misdoings in the banks.

But since then two eventful years had gone by for the country's banking sector. A number of steps had been taken during this time to bring back financial discipline in the banks. As part of this, the Bank Reform Committee was formed. The Banking Division was dissolved and the Bankruptcy Act was enacted. Artha Rin Adalat has been set up. At the same time, the World Bank, in a bid to reform the institutions, had initiated the Commercial Banks Restructuring Project

(CBRP). As a result of these efforts, the patronised entrenched interest groups were exposed and they overtly pressurised the

banks and are still looking for political partners. Despite these efforts, the amount of classified loan increased and the banks are still

facing shortfall in their capital. The experience of these two years has proved that while institutional reforms are of utmost importance, it is the quality of individuals who can make a difference even with the ambit of a weak institution,

analysts point out. Bankers say although political pressure on the NCBs to provide loans continues, the banks' ability to resist such external pressure has increased because of good intention on behalf of the individuals and the finance ministry. The vested business groups

which had been thriving on un-

accountable bank loans have

now realised that it is impor-

tant to keep their candidates

both in the boards of the banks

in the NCBs is a must.

From Page 1 She also visited some floodaffected houses. She inquired about the condition of the

flood-hit people and assured

stopped at several points. The people were happy to find their prime minister at the time of their distress. They came close to her speed boat by small and mechanised boats.

member Amir Hossain Amu, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, City Mayor Mohammad Hanif, State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaleque, Hazi Mohammad Selim MP and Mokbul Hossain MP accompanied the Prime

The crunch came when the

money was out and the foreign

reserves shrank quickly. That

was the start of the financial

crisis, now turning into an eco-

nomic crisis, according to

better placed now to exploit the

situation provided "a positive.

stable economic environment"

policies that help growth with-

out high levels of inflation" was

pursued. And attracting mar-

kets for exports would also be

for growth," said McFarlane,

referring to the level of growth

and reasonably contained in-

moil, South Asia would have of-

fered "a positive contrast to a

very difficult situation in

Asia", according to McFarlane,

but the nuclear tension had

SOFA

"You have good conditions

With Southeast Asia in tur-

was ensured and economic

They said Bangladesh was

Grindlays: Investment lated and monitored properly.

Goode.

vital.

flation.

creating an environment in which foreign organisations can be successful." Secondly, he said, it was the local management team which was making the most out of it.

economic meltdown.

The crisis-ridden countries McFarlane said, were far from sale and consistent way building their economies "on high levels of investment, fu-

Pointing out that "much of the growth was financed from foreign borrowings", McFarlane said the problem stemmed from the nature of the borrow-

Short term as they were, he said, the nature of these foreign

"You can see the contrast between what happened to countries with very large foreign exchange reserves such as Japan, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and what happened to the rest."

ence was "the scale and reliance" on foreign borrowing. Chairman Goode called it "a financial crisis rather than an

From Page 1 Chowdhury said on various oc-

marred much of it.

discussion and criticism by different quarters, following media reports that it was 'under consideration.

signing of SOFA was 'under consideration. The SOFA also came up for

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

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Dhaka-1900 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motifheel 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

Rubel's death: A few questions From Page 1 would perhaps contest a popunot, are they really aware of the and so on. fact that they, even if convinced

Explaining the extent of 'tough interrogation,' a police official meanwhile told The Daily Star that one of their interrogation methods was 'so effective that anyone would confess in a couple minutes anything you want to make him say. He did not disclose the

on him during interrogation.

hoodlums with legal arms? If professional reasons. But none

about the necessity of so called

interrogation.

Rupsha Bridge Japanese team

From Staff Correspondent river Rupsha.

The team is expected to stay

From Page 1

She also blamed the gov-

Awami League government.

accused the government of making the House totally effective by its practice of telling lies and depriving opposition lawmakers of their rights there.

Earlier, Begum Zia listened to the journalists on the death of Rubel in police custody and other acts of police excesses. The journalists bitterly criti-

party's position on signing the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with the United States.

the relief operation."

From Page 1

Iftekharuddin, Mohiuddin Ba-Police continued interroga-

Today, the sources said, the CID team will interrogate SI Shahnur, who was the duty officer in the DB office at Mintu Road, Inspector Aminul Islam, who went to DMCH when Rubel was rushed to the DMCH and Constable Nazib who was the driver of that car which was used to picked up Rubel.

when a speeding truck collided with a local bus. The bus lost control and plunged into a roadside ditch

The identity of the dead could not be known immedi-

bazar, two kilometre from Kushtia town yesterday morn-

sent to jail hajat.

The injured were rushed to different hospitals in Kali-Witnesses said the Siraj-

at about 11 am. Both the bus and the tempo

and also in the regulatory body,

Bangladesh Bank, according to banking sources. This realisation has dawned more so because of the recent role of the central bank to assert itself in a number of foul plays in the banks.

As a result, strong lobbying is now going on, both in the media and in the political camps, to push people with "weak commitment and low moral standing", the sources said. They added that these vested groups, finding the finance ministry's position incompatible with theirs, are even trying to influence the highest office of

the government. Experts now view that the situation has come to such a point that a little push can bring a qualitative change in the banking sector and for that appointment of the right people

PM: Flood

them of all possible help. Hasina distributed sarees, lungis, chira, rice and lantern among the flood-stricken peo-During the one-hour trip she

Awami League presidium

From Page 1 .

The ANZ supremos also replied to queries on the Asian

elling high levels of growth".

borrowings lacked "long-term productive capacity".

McFarlane said the differeconomic crisis"

The private sector was borrowing heavily, funding property development in a financial system that was not being regu-

casions till recently that the