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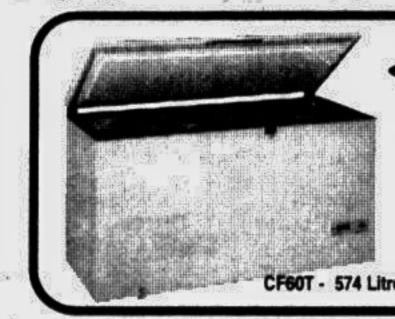
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## Kashmiri militants gun

JAMMU, India, Aug 3: Militants massacred 37 labourers today in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, police and witnesses said, reports

A police spokesman said two gangs of militants, fighting against Indian rule in the neighbouring province of Kashmir, carried out two attacks within hours of each

Twenty-six men died after the early hours of the morning, tied up their victims with rope, and opened fire with automatic

20 kilometres (12 miles) for Another witness said: "The men rounded up 29 men who were working on a road near

paign

Chamba. They were sleeping outdoors when they were woken up, tied and shot." Chamba, near the Himalayas, borders Kashmir. Kashmiri militants have carried out a series of massacres in recent months as part of a cam-

had survived the attack with

wounds but had to walk around

sovereignty. Police said another group of

militants shot dead 11 other road workers in the adjoining village of Satrundi. Three others were wounded.

meet held

By Staff Correspondent The 11-member Syndicate of

BUET under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor of the university held a meeting yesterday and also discussed the issue of reinstatement of the 13 teachers who had resigned earlier, according to official

A decision on the issue is likely to be taken when the Syndicate resumes its adjourned meeting at 7:30 pm today. The meeting of the Syndicate yesterday lasted for about an hour, meeting sources said.

The issue of reinstatement of the 13 teachers was included in the agenda of the Syndicate meeting following a fresh move taken by the administration to resolve the crisis at the Architecture Department.

As part of the move, the 13 teachers were asked to write a 'presentable' letter to the VC withdrawing their resignation. Sources close to the 13 teachers. however, said that they fulfilled the condition.

The resignation of 13 teachers of the Architecture Department was accepted by the Syndicate of the BUET on April 26 last. They had earlier submitted a joint resignation letter in March protesting against the new rules of admission test introduced from this year.

#### Prokrichi

From Page 1 the release added.

"We have demanded cancellation of the new guidelines for promotion to the rank of deputy secretary and above, introduced for recent promotions to those posts," said a source present at the meeting.

"Demand was also made for cancellation of upgradation order for 321 posts of BCS administration cadre," said another source adding that the upgradation, however, has been withheld soon after the order was

The council proposed that promotion to the rank of deputy secretary and upwards should be open to officers of all cadre and non-cadre services and also to professionals on the basis of merit and fair competition, the source added.

The leaders of the council also suggested that elected representatives in the districts be given the responsibility of coordinating the development activities, the sources said.

"The Parliamentary Standing Committee will scrutinise the demands put forward by the coordination council and make recommendations for an early solution to the existing problems," said another source.

"The standing committee will also take opinions of other cadre services and may call the leaders of the coordination council if necessary," the source

Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Establishment Ministry. Asaduzzaman Khan, MP. presided over the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban

yesterday, sources said. The coordination council was represented, among others, by Engineer M Nurul Huda, Dr Rashid E Mahbub, Engineer Ruhul Matin, Dr Mustafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Agriculturist Nazrul Islam.

the death of a ruling party MP. Tafizuddin Master. RMG quota increase

#### S Q Chy sued on charge of blasphemy

MYMENSINGH, Aug 3: A lawyer today filed a case against BNP central leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury MP on charge of blasphemy, re-

ports UNB. Advocate Nazrul Islam Chunnu filed the case with a magistrate's court against the BNP leader for 'offensive comment against Islam and hurting the religious sentiment of the Muslims.

The plaintiff in his complaint said that Salauddin Quader Chowdhury reportedly stated that the "sixth farz" of the Muslims is to oust the

The plaintiff in his complaints said the report published in the daily Sangbad on July 30 was "direct insult to Islam and the news has directly affected my religious senti-

complaint further said there are five "farz" in Islam and there was no existence of a "sixth farz" in Islam.

hury through his statement intentionally had hurt the "religious sentiment of myself, my witnesses and all Muslims of the country. Ten people have been made

witnesses in the case and the magistrate fixed August 5 for the hearing of the case.

### demanding setting up of an EPZ in Tangail

TANGAIL, Aug 3: People spilled out on to streets from their respective workplaces here for an hour today demanding setting up of an EPZ and a tourism centre on the eastern side of Bangabandhu Bridge, reports UNB.

ent mosques of the district town and the dwellers started playing flutes together at 12:05 pm calling the people to come out of their respective workplaces in support of the demands.

As the siren sounded, all modes of transport stopped wherever they were and shops were closed. Teachers and students came out of their institutions in a unique gesture to

Officials, employees and workers of different government and non-government organisations also responded to the call.

People and vehicles stayed on the road, and shops and institutions remained closed until the siren and the flutes sounded again at 1:01 pm. Later, they resumed their works.

Tangail Zilla Unnayan Sangram Parishad organised the programme.

#### Firearms looted in Khulna yet to be recovered

KHULNA, Aug 3: The firearms and ammunition

owned Bangladesh Cable Shilpa Ltd at Shiromoni on Friday could not be recovered till to-

and two single-barrel guns and 450 bullets were looted by a gang of 15 men in the early hours of Friday.

A high official of the KMP said, police is interrogating the nine persons arrested in connection with the incident. The arrested persons include two activists of the outlawed Purba Bangla Communist Party.

#### Flood situation

Kaunia, 53.2 mm at Rangamati, 52 mm each at Bhairab and Kurigram and 51.5 mm at Bandarban during the last 24 hours till 9 am yesterday. Meanwhile, Relief Ministry

control room said there was no unchanged at 256.

Directorate said diarrhoea claimed three more lives in the last 24 hours and affected another 1,466 people in 37 floodhit districts. The flood situation is im-

proving very slowly in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Mymensingh, Madaripur, Rajbari and Pabna districts, said the Relief Ministry officials.

also in Jamalpur, Sirajganj. Netrokona, Faridpur, Sherpur, Chandpur, Brahmanbaria, Bogra, Gaibandha, Kushtia, Comilla, Sunamganj and Habiganj districts.

Districts where the situation has already become normal are Tangail, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Joypurhat, Naogaon, Chittagong, Ranga-mati, Chandpur, Cox's Bazar, Bandarban, Feni, Magura and

Relief Ministry officials said some 1.74 crore people have been affected by the ongoing flooding. Of them, only 1.25 lakh took shelter in 429 cen-



The relief goods which were supposed to be distributed yesterday remained stacked outside the Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in - Star photo Parliament.

#### Malaysian shipping line to launch service to Ctg this week

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 3: Malaysia International Shipping Corp. Berhad said today it will launch service to Chittagong this week, reports AP.

MISC, Malaysia's leading international shipping line will send its first freighter, the Bunga Mas Enam, from Port Klang on Saturday. The ship is due in Chittagong August 13 and back in Port Klang August 24. the company said in a state-

The service is jointly operated with Xpress Feeders Group Ltd., with both providing one compatible geared vessel each.

#### Container seized at Ctg port: 2 arrested

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Aug 3: Port personnel last night seized a loaded container of imported goods while it was being taken out illegally through the MPB gate without completing the

formalities. Though import documents said the container was carrying computer spares, it was suspected that it contained contraband items, port official said.

Two persons involved in this incident were handed over to port police. Port authorities formed a committee today to probe the matter.

A senior port official said the container was kept in safe custody inside the port terminal. It will be opened later in presence of the importer.

#### Garment factory employee gangraped in city By Staff Correspondent

A teenage garment factory employee was gangraped allegedly by a gang of eight men at Kalachandpur under Gulshan thana in the city in the early hours yesterday. The 16-year-old victim, a

resident of the area, was under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, police said. Four persons have so far been arrested for their alleged involvement in the incident. They were identified as Masud, Polash, Gomez and Provash, according to police.

A gang of about eight young men entered the victim's hut at about 1 am and raped her alternately throughout the night, police said.

The victim filed a case yesterday with Gulshan thana accusing eight persons including the arrested four under Women and Children Repression Act.

#### 2400 city phone lines out of order The Telegraph and Tele-

phone (T&T) Board is working to restore the 2400 telephone lines in the city, disrupted due to intrusion of flood waters in the cables, reports BSS.

A press release of the board

yesterday said, despite a restric-tion on digging roads during the rainy season, the board is trying to keep the phones working in different areas under its Dhaka South telecommunications zone, the press release

#### JCD-BCL clash in Sirajganj: 10 hurt SIRAJGANJ, Aug 3: At least 10 people were injured in a

JCD and BCL here today, reports UNB. The clash erupted at Station Road in the evening. Milan and Rajan, two JCD

activists, were admitted to

clash between the activists of

Sadar Hospital in critical condition. The clash began when the BCL activists reportedly attacked some JCD leaders and

Two homemade bombs were exploded and four shops damaged during the clash. Later, police brought the situation under control and recov-

#### Akash missile

ered two unused bombs from the

From Page 1

activists.

ishul" missile which could be used as a surface-to-air missile against aircraft and as a counter to sea-skimming mis-

Trishul (Trident), which uses solid fuel, has a range of up to 5.5 miles and can carry a warhead of 15 kilograms.

#### Rice for relief

From Page 1 said the report.

The probe body also held 10 staff members of the Narayanganj Pourashava responsible for the misappropriation. These 10 employees under

the guidance of the Pourashava's executive engineer, Hasibul Islam, were responsible for receiving and distributing 16 metric tons of rice sanctioned by the government for the town's 1.60 lakh flood victims. Of the sanctioned rice, nearly 11 mt have already been distributed. The accused Pourashava

employees are: Sharifuddin, Zakir Hossain, Mujibur Rahman, Shafiqul Islam, Mofijul Islam, Sajat Hossain, Nasiruddin, Moniruzzaman and Kazi Nazrul Islam. DC Abdur Rahman formed

the inquiry committee on August 1 following a news report on the irregularities appeared in a local daily. When contacted, the DC con-

firmed receiving the probe report and said stern action would be taken against all those responsible for the misappropriation of the relief item for the flood victims. Mueed Chy

#### From Page 1

the Special Affairs Division, Kazi Golam Rahman, has been transferred to the Ministry of Hill Tract Affairs as its Secretary in-charge. The following additional

secretaries currently posted as Officers on Special Duty (OSD) at the Establishment Ministry have been transferred to different posts: Abdul Malek as Member of

the Land Reforms Board, Abdur Rouf as Land Appeal Board, Md Khorshed Ansar Khan as Managing Director of Jiban Bima Corporation, Anwarul Haq Chowdhury as Vice-Chairman of Export Promotion Bureau, Azizur Rahman as the Secretary-General of Bangladesh Rural Development Board, Md Shafiuddin as Director General of Land Record and Survey Directorate, Sultan Mahmud Chowdhury as Chairman of WASA, Chittagong, Syed Abdur Rab as Member Land Appeal Board, Fazlul Haq as Director General of Youth Development Directorate and Abu Taleb as Director General of BSTI.

#### Khaleda

From Page 1 planned seven days back and arrangements were made to distribute relief goods to more than 2,000 flood victims.

They were informed at 2:30 pm that the party chief would not be able to come due to her illness, he said.

Nabiullah alleged that Salahuddin had created panic in some areas and informed Begum Zia that the situation was not favourable for her to attend the relief distribution programme.

Our staff correspondent adds: Begum Zia and the party's secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan later held a meeting with Nabiullah Nabi to discuss the situation that arose out of cancellation of her Demra trip. In the meeting, sources said, Khaleda Zia agreed to visit the flood-hit areas in Demra thana soon to distribute relief materials there.

Meanwhile, a BNP press release last night claimed that Nabiullah Nabi and other party leaders from Demra met Khaleda Zia and deposited sarees, lungis, chira, rice, breads, biscuits, saline and medicine to the party's relief fund.

Begum Zia will visit the flood-affected areas of the city's Ramna and Tejgaon thanas at 4 pm foday.

#### Satkhira clash

From Page 1 where their leaders announced

a half-day hartal in Satkhira town tomorrow and declared the DC, SP, and ADC (Rev) "unwanted" in the district.

The sit-in programme was announced earlier to protest killing of three persons in police firing during clashes over possession of a khas jalmahal at Baburabad in Kaliganj on July 23 and to press an eightpoint demand of the Bhumihin Uchched Protirodh Sangram Samonnoya Committee.

The demands include removal of the DC and SP of Satkhira. Witnesses said that thou-

sands of people had gathered near the venue at about 11 am to participate in the planned sit-

Police had cordoned off the Collectorate Building area When the demonstrators tried to move in, police resisted, caught Lutfullah and beat him. The angry demonstrators then attacked the court building.

Police then resorted to baton charge and fired shots, rubber bullets and tear gas shells to disperse the mob. Police also entered into the nearby residential area and the premises of the Palashpole School, chasing the demonstrators. The clashes continued till about 4 pm, witnesses said.

## DB men on remand

From Page 1 on which the CID was focusing

its investigation. The arrest of Havilder Qud-dus may provide clues in un-

veiling the facts behind the arrest and brutal murder of Rubel, CID sources said. The investigators were scanning the background of the remanded plainclothesman. "Nothing to speak very high," said an official when asked

> policemen. CID produced the five DB

about the records of the arrested

#### 53pc pass SSC exams under BOU

Results of the first batch of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations under Bangladesh Open University was announced in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The pass percentage is 52.92. A total of 12,494 students appeared in the examinations, of which 6,612 came out successful. Among the successful candidates 2,890 secured first division, 3,691 second division and only 31 third division.

Md Nurul Islam of Muradna-

gar DR Govt High School Tutorial Centre in Comilla topped the merit list followed by Jesmin Akhtar Khanam of Kendua Joyhari Govt High School Tutorial Centre in Netrokona. Muzahidul Haq of Akhaura Bangladesh Railway Govt High School Tutorial Centre stood third.

The BOU authorities advised the examinees to contact their respective examination centres or regional resource centres to collect their results.

No result will be available at Gazipur campus of the university, newspaper offices, Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television or the Education Ministry, said a BOU press re-

#### Doctors

From Page 1 Dr Hayat Mahmud Rusel General Secretary of DMCH unit of the Association said that the problem regarding intern doctors' pay arose following announcement of the new

pay scale by the government "The Pay Commission did not consider the fate of the trainee doctors who actually run the government hospitals. In the previous pay scale announced in 1992, the pay for the intern was raised to Tk 4000 from Tk 2,500," he added.

The Association will hold a press conference today at the Jatiya Press Club to announce an action programme.

men before the CMM's court yesterday and prayed for three days' remand. It was also men-tioned in the remand petition that the investigators got "some important information" re-

garding the murder. Besides, two petitions were moved for bail of the accused plainclothesmen and cancellation of the CID's remand peti-

Metropolitan Magistrate Anisuzzaman Monjur rejected both the petitions and granted two days remand for the accused plainclothesmen.

UNB adds: "We are still in confusion over the contradictory statements of the arrested DB men," said a CID official on condition of anonymity. Meanwhile, the one-man Judicial Inquiry Commission

comprising Justice Habibur Rahman Khan took statements of the five DB men again vesterday, sources said. Today, the Commission will record the statement of AC

Akram Hossain, the number one accused in the case filed by Rubel's father. A competent source yesterday said, departmental inquiry may start soon against Akram who reportedly owns huge property in the capital and also in his home district Tangail, in-

the district town. So far, the CID interrogated at least 30 people, most of whom are members of the Detective Branch.

cluding a multi-storied hotel in

#### Petrobangla

from negotiations in the Second Round Block Bidding and its experienced officials have lost their interest in such affairs," said a source.

Meanwhile, the energy ministry is toying with the idea of setting up a Hydro-Carbon Unit in the ministry to gradually shift PCD's task of supervising activities of foreign companies

The proposed Hydro-Carbon Unit may also act as a 'gas regulatory authority while the restructured PCD would act as a technical authority.

It is often said that the Magurchhara blowout incident during Occidental's exploration could be averted if Petrobangla could enforce proper monitor-

Currently, due to lack of manpower or planning, Petrobangla can not even assign a single official on permanent basis to the Saungu gas field, developed by

The present monitoring system is being undertaken on a makeshift basis.

## বন্যা কবলিত এলাকায় অগ্রণী ব্যাৎকের विद्याय याश कर्यज्

 দেশের বন্যা কবলিত এলাকার ক্তিগ্রন্থ কৃষকদের পুনর্বাসনের জন্য অগ্রণী ব্যাংক কৃষি ঋণ বিতরনে অগ্রাধিকার ভিত্তিতে বিশেষ কাৰ্যক্রম গ্রহণ করেছে। এ কার্যক্রমের আওতার শস্য খাতের পাশাপাশি মৎস্য চাব, চিংড়ি চাব, शालत शक्न- महिय, शत्र- मूत्रशी किना, मात्रिम विस्माहन

कर्मकारक अन সুविधा श्रमान क्या रूख । বন্যা দুর্গত খণ গ্রহীতা কৃষক সহ অন্যান্য গ্রামীণ लिनाजीवीरमत्र धरत्राजनीत्र यन जूविया धमारमद्र माश्रारम जूनवीलमुहे व्यानी नाररकत्र वरे कार्यक्रमत्र नका । व नामारत व्यानी नाररकत्र সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল শাখার ইভোমধ্যে খণ বিভয়নের বিভারিক নীতিন

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व्यागावाम क्यार बना जनुताय क्या ग्राह्म

विरम पर मुचिया निरम भूगर्गानिक स्ट्रांस न स्टाइस नामिक वर्षतिक जाउन यक्तिमा पराएक मानुन्।



**Editor: Mahfuz Anam** 

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# down 37 labourers

other.

separatist fighters entered the remote hill town of Chamba in

Police said three labourers

#### Girl kidnapped BUET Syndicate allegedly by her father's friends

By Staff Correspondent A school girl was abducted allegedly by her father's friend from the city's Modhubazar area Sunday afternoon. Police said the teenage girl,

daughter of one Mujibar Rah-

man, was abducted by her fa-

ther's friend Monir and one Jewel when she was playing in front of her residence. Monir and Jewel stopped their microbus in front of the house, dragged her into the ve-

A few days ago, Monir had

threatened Mujibar that he

would kidnap his daughter, po-

hicle and drove off.

report last night.

lice said quoting the FIR filed with Dhanmondi thana by the victim's mother, accusing Monir and Jewel. Police failed to rescue the girl and also could not arrest the accused till the filing of this

Magura clash MAGURA, Aug 3: At least 10 people were injured in a clash between the employees of Magura Pourashava and local shopkeepers at Viana Square

10 injured in

today, reports UNB. Traffic on Dhaka-Khulna highway was disrupted for about an hour as the angry shopkeepers put up barricade on the road. Witnesses said the clash

took place when employees of

the Pourashava tried to demolish some roadside shops in the area without any prior notice. According to Pourashava employees, three of their colleagues - Shahjahan, Sukkur

and Kalu — were injured in the

SOFA From Page 1 Inderfurth agreed with Ambassador Shehabuddin that there is almost no other important economic issue or matter pending with Bangladesh government and decisions on the remaining gas blocks will fol-

low in due course keeping in view the national interest of the country. As regards the Bangladesh government's decision not to sign SOFA which was designed to bring urgent relief to Bangladesh during national disasters, Inderfurth showed

He said that the agreement

was worked out through bilat-

eral discussions and under-

standing to help Bangladesh in

emergencies. Such agreement

exists with many other coun-

#### tries, Inderfurth said adding that the US government, however, understands the reasons for Bangladesh not signing it.

Pabna-2

profound understanding.

From Page 1 will conduct the byelections are now engaged in relief operations. Under these circumstances, the situation is not congenial for holding the elections, the press release explained

TORKO From Page 1 and apparel industry has taken

strong and permanent steps to

The Pabna-2 constituency

fell vacant on June 28 following

eliminate child labour from the industry. There are independent monitors who have verified that 94 per cent of all Bangladeshi textile and apparel factories are free of child labour. This is a policy goal specifically sought by the US in Bangladesh, as evidenced by the US urging and support for the 1995 memorandum of understanding outlining Bangladesh's agreement to eliminate child labour and to provide for their education. Second, following the elimi-

could not supply them additional products due to quantitative restriction imposed on Bangladesh. "The current quota system

nation of child labour, more US

companies were coming to

Bangladesh to buy more ready-

made garments, but the country

prevents Bangladeshi manufacturers from fully taking advantage of these commercial opportunities," the letter said. Third, Bangladesh requests this increase as a means of demonstrating to other nations

that the US welcomes efforts to eliminate child labour and is prepared to respond positively when adequate steps are taken. "We believe we are a model on child labour for other nations to emulate, and the US response to Bangladesh should make them more willing to address their own problems," the

Finally, Bangladesh requests this increase as a sign that the US is fully supportive of Bangladesh's democratic development. The increase would constitute less than one per cent of the

total US garment imports but

help the US government in-

350 million dollars a year.

crease the amount of revenue by

letter noted.

against Indian Awami League government.

Advocate Chunnu in his

The advocate said Chowd-

Work stoppage

Sirens sounded from differ-

press their demands.

From Staff Correspondent looted from the store of state-

Six rifles, two double-barrel

From Page 1 103.2 mm at Panchpukuria, 85 mm at Sunamganj, 57 mm at

report of flood related death yesterday keeping the death toll The control room at Health

The situation is improving

Moulvibazar.

