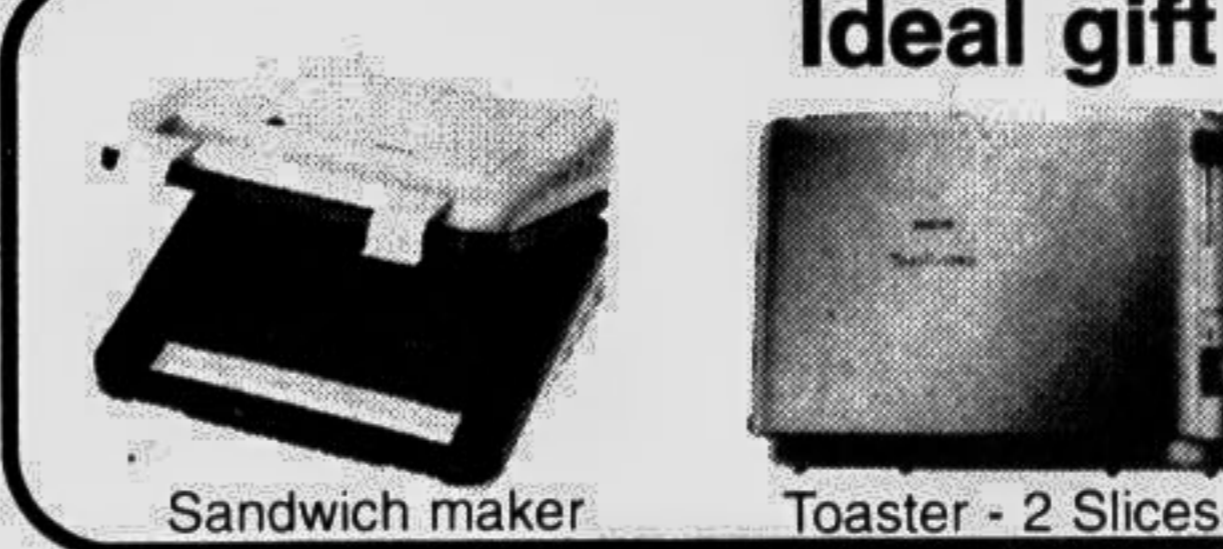




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PHILIPS

'No profession forbidden to women by Islam'

CAIRO, Aug 4: Amid growing public debate, a leading Egyptian cleric has ruled that there is nothing in Islam's holy book, the Quran, that bans women from becoming judges, reports AP.

However, Sheikh Mohammed Sayeed Tantawi also cautioned women against rushing to join the ranks of the judiciary. "The nature of the job does not suit that of a woman," said Tantawi.

His statements follows months of debate in Egypt over one woman's 10-year battle to be accepted as a candidate for a judgeship.

Many base their arguments on a Quranic tenet that holds that two women are equal to one man if they are called as witnesses in a court.

Textile workers making those industries losing concerns. Iqbal Majumdar, general secretary of Suta Bistrakal Sramik Karmachari Federation...

Jahangir said the government has a plan to offer a 'golden handshake' to 30 per cent of workers and employees of those mills to reduce their losses.

Their cumulative loss stood at more than Tk one thousand crore since independence of the country," he said adding that the government was no longer willing to increase their liabilities.

He further said, "We have categorically told the authorities of those mills that if they cannot run those at least on 'no loss no profit basis', the government would sell those out."

On the other hand Majumdar said, "If the government runs the mills properly, most of the mills can be profit making organisations."

The sufferings of the workers are mounting and they will take to the streets very soon," he said. As part of their agitation programme, the workers recently gathered at the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) office in the city.

According to the state minister, all the state owned textile mills except one in Chittagong are making losses. The Awami League government has so far closed down 9 state owned textile mills...

US team to visit N-test site, meet Vajpayee, Advani

WASHINGTON, Aug 4: Chairman of the US Senate Intelligence Committee Richard Shelby, accompanied by committee member Tim Hutchinson, will visit Pokhran nuclear test site during their upcoming trip to India and Pakistan, report agencies.

During their two-day visit to India, the Republican senators, besides going to the test site, are also expected to have talks with several leaders, including Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, home minister LK Advani and defence minister George Fernandes, congressional sources said today.

The sources said their visit was arranged following closed-door hearings in the Capital Hill over US intelligence failure in detecting the preparation for the Pokhran tests.

The two will be the first American senators to visit Pokhran after the May nuclear tests.

Another report says, the US State Department urged India and Pakistan yesterday to resume their senior level dialogue

and said both sides "should refrain from provocative actions as well as provocative rhetoric." Once the dialogue is resumed, it should be pursued 'imaginatively and constructively,' department spokesman James P Rubin said.

He said a US government message outlining these points was being delivered to both parties.

"We are willing to assist the parties in this process at the request of both parties. We don't offer to mediate unless requested by both sides," he said.

A report from Delhi adds: Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said today India did not need to carry out further nuclear tests and it would explore the possibility of signing a global test ban treaty.

But he added India reserved the right to review the decision if "extraordinary events" took place jeopardising India's "supreme national interests."

The Prime Minister said the country remained committed to international talks to decide whether it could eventually accept the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Vajpayee also rejected Pakistani demands for talks centred solely on Kashmir, saying other bilateral issues must also be addressed.

Vajpayee told parliament that India was not prepared to limit talks with Pakistan to Kashmir and instead favoured freezing dialogue on contentious issues such as the Himalayan state.

But in spite of the Pakistani attitude, India will continue its efforts (for a bilateral dialogue) as improvement of relations with Pakistan is very important.

Vajpayee also hinted for the first time that talks with his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif on the sidelines of SAARC summit in Sri Lanka last week had been a failure.

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Students clash with transport workers at Mirpur: 20 hurt

By Staff Correspondent At least 20 people including two policemen were injured and about 25 motor vehicles were damaged as a section of students of Bangla College and transport workers clashed at Darus Salam in the city's Mirpur area yesterday.

Besides, traffic movement on the road remained suspended for about three hours as the transport workers later put up barricade on the road protesting 'attack on them'.

Of the wounded, the two policemen - ASI Sahidul Islam and constable Mizanur Rahman of Mirpur thana - were admitted to Razarbagh Police Hospital, police said.

Akter, 22, a student of the college, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with head injuries, hospital sources said.

The clash broke out after a truck hit the private car of the Principal of Bangla College at Darus Salam at about noon.

The car was slightly damaged, police said. About 100 students then attacked a branch office of Inter District Truck Owner Association near the college.

The attackers damaged 18 trucks, one motor cycle, once car and two autorickshaws plying on the road, the transport workers alleged.

As the students and workers clashed, police charged batons, lobbed eight rounds of tear gas shells and fired three blank shots to disperse them.

BCL, JCD activists clash at JN Varsity College By Staff Correspondent Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal clashed on the Jagannath University College campus yesterday.

Kotwali police said the clash took place after two groups of students had an altercation during a scramble for depositing tuition fees at about 1 pm.

This turned into a clash between activists of the two rival student organizations. Both the sides hurled brickbats and blasted a number of crackers during the clash that lasted for about two hours, police added.

Police lobbed about ten rounds of tear gas shells to disperse the students. None was arrested.

Bus dacoity at Sanir Akhra

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 4: Dacoits in the guise of passengers boarded a bus and looted valuables of the passengers near Sanir Akhra on Dhaka-Narayanganj highway this afternoon, reports UNB.

Passengers said seven youths boarded the Dhaka-bound minibus from Narayanganj and swooped on them when it reached the area.

They decamped with the booty, including gold ornaments and cash, brandishing fire arms.

AC Akram From Page 1 remand. AC Akram is the only accused who is yet to be placed on remand.

The six remanded policemen are: Inspector Aminul Islam, SI Hayatul Islam Thakur, ASI Abdul Karim, Havildar Nuruzzaman, constables Parwez and Faruk. The two-day remand of five of them will end today.

CID sources said they will question the family members of Rubel after completion of interrogation of the accused policemen.

Besides, the investigators will also find out the people who reportedly witnessed the torture on Rubel in front of a crowd near his house at Siddheswari at about 7:30 pm on July 23.

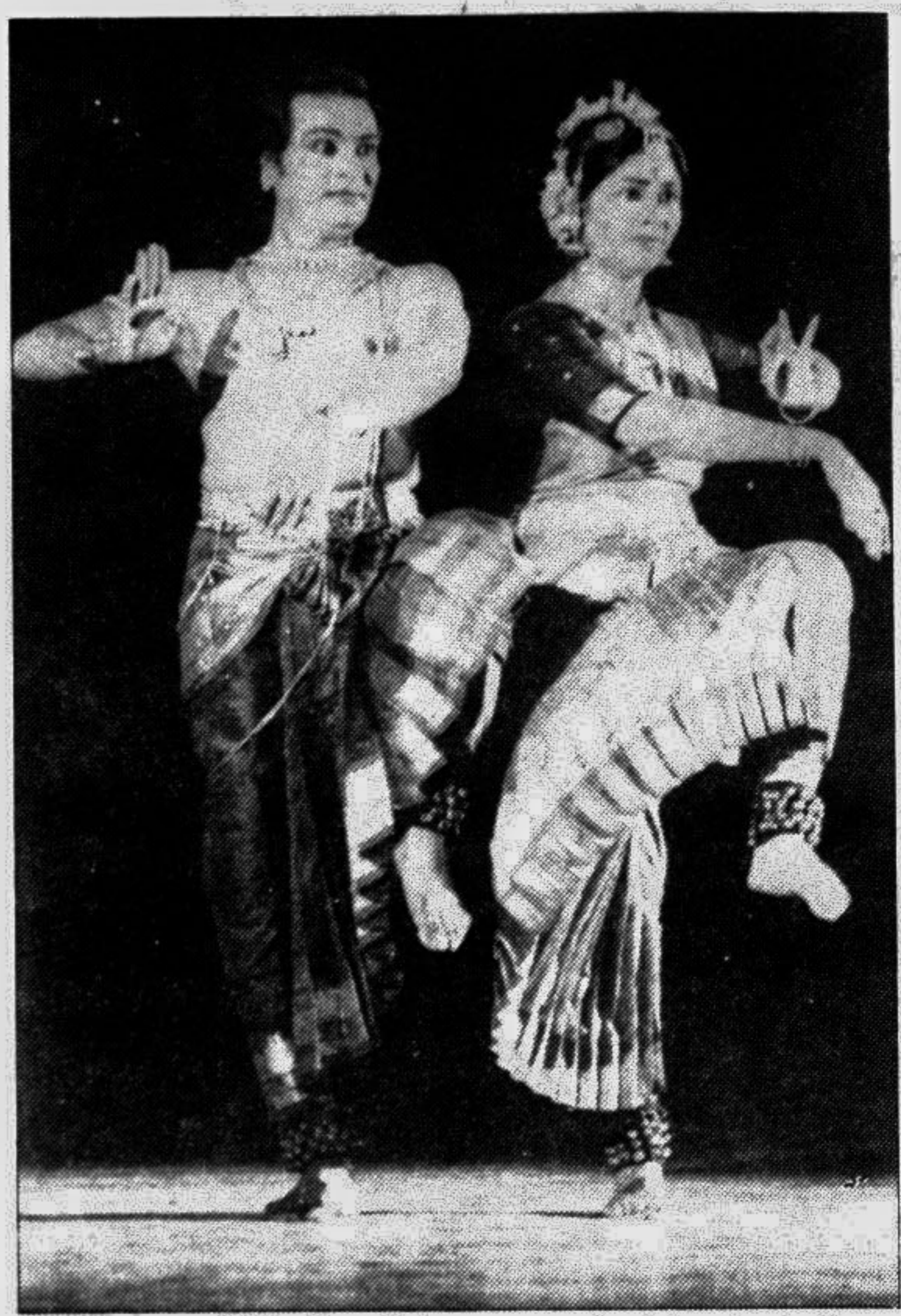
UNB adds: Police sources said they are examining Rubel's previous record and found three cases filed against him on charges of extortion and assaulting police.

Two cases, filed against Rubel with Ramna thana, were: Assaulting police constable Rabul Islam (No. 2556). The case (No. 82), filed on June 22, 1996 under Sections 332 & 333 is under trial at the CMM Court.

The second case (No. 14) on extortion was filed under Sections 143, 380 & 420 by a hotel owner on December 2, 1995. Later, the case was withdrawn after the two sides compromised after local mediation.

The third case (No. 87), filed with Cantonment thana on October 30, 1996 under Section 380 by a student of IUB accusing Rubel of stealing, was under trial at the CMM Court.

"We are verifying these cases," a senior police official told the news agency last night. He said even if the cases proved authentic, these will not have any impact on the Rubel killing case.



A sequence of Kuchipudi dance organised by the Indian High Commission at the National Museum auditorium in the city yesterday.

By Staff Correspondent Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia has called upon the people to prepare for movement against the 'misrule' of the present government, reports UNB.

You have to prepare for the next action programme to save the nation from the clutches of Awami League, forcing this government to quit," she said in brief speeches while distributing relief among the flood victims in the city yesterday.

The BNP Chairperson distributed relief goods among more than 4,000 flood-affected people at Tejgaon Community Centre High School, BG Press Primary School, Sher-e-Bangla High School and Women College at Modhubag and Nayatola Shishu Park at Maghbazar in the afternoon.

Relief theft From Page 1 The notice was served after a probe body report yesterday held the executive engineer and 10 other employees of the municipality responsible for misappropriating rice sanctioned for relief.

The probe body was formed with First Class Magistrate Nazmul Ahsan Majumder on August 1 following allegations of irregularities in distribution of relief goods.

JS body From Page 1 The chairman of the parliamentary body, Rahmat Ali MP of the ruling Awami League, told The Daily Star last night that members of the committee were expected to have a three-day discussion on the present state of law and order.

"The communiquees would also put forward suggestions to the Home Ministry as to how to improve the situation," he said.

Replying to a question, Major (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed MP, a BNP member of the parliamentary committee, said that the opposition would actively participate in the meeting. "We have no reason to keep silent at the meeting when the law and order have deteriorated sharply."

Time for judiciary From Page 1 The day were chaired by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and Justice Habibur Rahman who was Chief Adviser to the caretaker government in 1996. Seven papers were presented in the two working sessions, titled "Governance and Legislature" and "Governance and Judiciary".

Justice Habibur Rahman said that the judiciary enjoyed a good reputation. Whenever there was a crisis in the country people demanded a judicial inquiry. But he said, "Rot in the administration is contemporary need of the day all over the world. For the people of Bangladesh, who have suffered from autocratic rule for over two decades and were deprived of their democratic rights by usurpers, good governance was the promise that awaited fulfilment for a long time. Politics that allows people's will to prevail can ensure good governance to a great extent, he added.

Among others who presented papers were Dilara Chowdhury, Salma Khan, Barrister M Amir-Ul-Islam, B K Jahangir, K M Subhan and Krishna P Khanal.

PM: Rule of law From Page 1 The Prime Minister said rule of law goes hand in hand with democracy and is also important because it offsets a basic contradiction within democracy.

Hasina said in pursuit of good governance, strengthening of local government system has been given topmost priority by the government.

In this context, she mentioned some reform measures to strengthen and decentralise the local government.

She said, "We firmly believe that decentralised local government system is also the most effective mechanism of mobilising local support and resources by associating them in the decision-making process."

Empowerment of poor and the disadvantaged also can take place effectively under this system, she added.

The Prime Minister said to give better and prompt service to the people and maintain law and order, the public sector is being streamlined through administrative reforms, privatisation and training of public servants for skill development.

At the same time, she added, measures are being taken for addressing the cases of corruption.

About the importance of rule of law, Hasina said the government has set up a Law Reforms Commission to review the legal regime and suggest changes.

31 killed in Bombay bldg collapse

BOMBAY, Aug 4: Firemen and volunteers scurried with their bare hands today to clear debris from a collapsed building, discovering more bodies that took the death toll to 31, police said, reports AP.

In an overnight rescue mission, 22 people were taken out alive from the rubble of the building, which had been declared structurally unsound earlier this year. All but one were injured and hospitalised, mostly with head injuries.

Police feared 10 more people may still be trapped inside.

"In incidents like this before, even after two days we found people alive," said Deputy Municipal Commissioner Dinesh Jadhav. "There's still some hope."

Cranes worked under floodlights to remove large chunks of concrete to clear the way for rescuers pulling out victims.

Workers removed 200 truckloads of rubble throughout the day. Jadhav estimated another 500 truckloads of debris remained. Workers could hear moans and cries for help from under the blocks of concrete.

Sobbing relatives searched for missing family members among the injured who were being rushed to nearby hospitals.

3 held on charge of killing maid

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 4: Police arrested three members of a family on charge of killing their maid at Fatullah here Monday night, reports UNB.

Abdur Rashid, 45, his son Abul Kalam, 20, and daughter Ruma, 17, of Dopa Idrakpur in Fatullah thana were arrested after an autopsy report said that the maid had been strangled.

Fatullah police said Sheuli, 19, maid of Rashid, died on July 30. He filed an FIR with the local police saying that Sheuli died on stomach pain.

Section 54 From Page 1 involvement in the offence," he said.

When contacted, some legal experts noted that a provision in Section 54 has set a subjective standard which needs to be improved upon because it often leads to misuse of power.

Section 54 (1) says, "Any police officer may, without an order from a magistrate and without a warrant, arrest - first, any person who has been concerned in any cognizable offence, against whom reasonable complaint has been made or credible information has been received or a reasonable suspicion exists of having been concerned."

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Flood From Page 1 districts, where 75 temporary health centres were opened to treat the patients.

During last 24 hours, three more people died of diarrhoea and another 2,545 were attacked by the water-borne disease.

Medicine worth over Tk one crore has been sent to affected areas of four divisions and medicine worth about Tk 50 lakh is under prep.

Fifty lakh pieces of water purifying tablets donated by WHO will be made available to the Health Directorate today. The UNICEF has so far supplied 50,000 bags of IV saline and step has been taken to procure one crore packets of oral saline from UNICEF.

Probe bodies

From Page 1 Mostafa Rashidi (Shuja) and Mostafizur Rahman respectively.

The meeting emphasised the rapid and smooth implementation of the various projects, undertaken to develop the rail and road communication.

The meeting informed that some positive measures, including the improvement of the standard of service for the passengers heavy helped increase the transport of passengers and goods. An integrated programme for rail road and naval communication has already been taken up, the meeting observed.

Most Bangalees

From Page 1 did not honour the voters registration cards possessed by the alleged Bangladeshis and their pleas were not accepted.

Chattarjee demanded that the government should provide him with the copy of circular issued by the Home Ministry on the basis of which deportation of the foreigner was being executed.

Another CPI (M) member, Hannan Mollah, said most of the Bengali-speaking people being deported had gone to Maharashtra from Howrah and other districts of West Bengal.

He alleged that usually police demanded rupees 2000 to rupees 2500 from each of the detained Bengali-speaking people for their release.

If they failed to give that amount the police kept them behind the bar for 10 to 15 days following which they were deported. He said, adding that these people were taken to border and pushed inside Bangladesh.

Special court

From Page 1 blished, then the judge of such court shall be appointed from among the district and sessions judges or judges of the special court for repression on women and children.

Earlier, proposals were made for trial of the Rubel murder case in the High Court by invoking the provisions in Article 110 of the Constitution and also Section 526 of the CrP.

The idea of taking the case directly to the High Court was dropped considering the legal implication that this would deny the offenders the right to appeal to the High Court. The court of sessions judge is the 'court of first instance' for trial of murder case, officials pointed out.

BUET teachers

From Page 1 teachers was accepted by the Syndicate on April 26 last. The 13 teachers had submitted a joint resignation letter in March protesting against the new rules of admission test introduced from this year.

Satkhira

From Page 1 The bar association also brought out a procession in the town protesting the police action.

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reports: Advocate Mustafa Lutfulah, critically injured in Monday's police action in Satkhira did not regain consciousness at the Khulna Medical College Hospital till this evening, doctors said.

He is being given oxygen and is not out of danger, the doctors added. Some bones of his body have fractured due to beating, they said.

Lanka declares state of emergency

COLOMBO, Aug 4: Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga today declared a state of emergency throughout the country in a move seen by political parties as the first step to postponing crucial local elections, reports AFP.

Kumaratunga said the tough laws, under which police and soldiers may arrest and detain suspects for lengthy periods, were being invoked because she felt there was a 'public emergency' in the country.

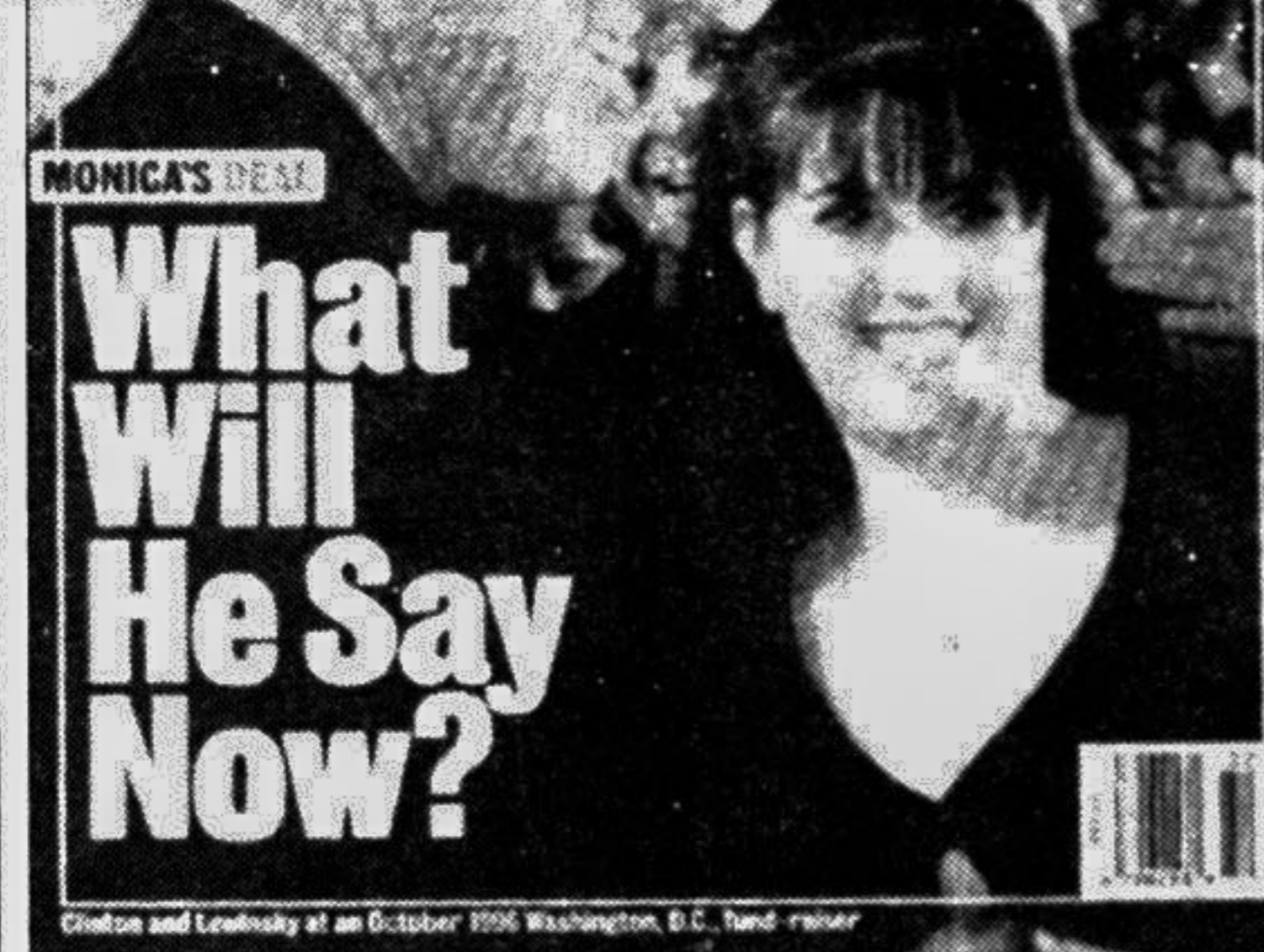
"It is expedient to do in the interest of public security, the protection of public order and the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the life of the community," she said.

The emergency declaration, announced in an extraordinary gazette notification, made no reference to postponing the council elections, but party sources said this could be done later.

Political sources said the move to impose emergency laws was aimed at postponing provincial council elections because the main opposition had refused to amend laws to delay the vote which is due on August 28.

The government had earlier argued that it was in no position to provide security for the August elections because large number of troops and police were tied down in the north of the country fighting Tamil rebels.

However, the constitution does not allow the government to delay the vote for the provincial councils, the highest level of local government, unless a state of emergency is declared across the country.



The cover of the August 10 issue of Newsweek magazine shows President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky at an October 1996 fundraiser in Washington, DC.

CJ turns down White House appeal in Lewinsky case

WASHINGTON, Aug 4: Turning aside an urgent White House appeal, Chief Justice William H Rehnquist cleared the way today for prosecutors to question White House lawyers about their advice to President Bill Clinton in the Monica Lewinsky case, reports AP.

Rehnquist refused to postpone a federal appeals court ruling that White House lawyers could not invoke attorney-client privilege and must answer questions before a federal grand jury investigating an alleged presidential affair and cover-up.

One of the lawyers involved, Lanny Breuer, was subpoenaed and ordered to appear today before the grand jury. Another presidential confidant Bruce Lindsey, will have to testify after he completes his recovery from back surgery last week.

Rehnquist's order was the latest in a string of court victories for Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, who has battled the White House over access to several key witnesses. The courts consistently have refused to tolerate any delays to his high-stakes investigation of

the President. The White House had sought a stay of the appeals court's decision on the lawyers' testimony until the full Supreme Court could consider a formal appeal in the fall. Presidential lawyers still plan to pursue that appeal.

Rehnquist handles emergency matters for the District of Columbia for the Supreme Court. The White House had the option of seeking help from any of the other eight justices, but officials indicated they would drop the effort for the emergency stay and just focus on the appeal.

"There is some disappointment here about that decision," White House spokesman Barry Toiv said after Rehnquist's decision. "This is a very important principle that we will continue to pursue."

Toiv said the White House concern was not about "one or more people testifying" but rather "the ability of not just this President but more importantly further presidents to have the benefit of the attorney-client privilege which is a bedrock of our legal system."

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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