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Loadshedding

grips country

again

gripped the country due to suspension of production in two

Yesterday's power genera-tion was 1700 mw against 2100

at both the units is likely to be

ply was less than 300 mw as

against the demand of 410 mw.

Most of the city areas are facing

loadshedding at least twice a

Gen (retd) Salam

joins BNP

Major General (retd) Mo-

Dhaka was worst hit as sup-

power plants, reports UNB.

Loadshedding has again

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CHT body meets to discuss RC today

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Aug 6: Chittagong Hill TractsPeace Accord

Implementation Committee headed by chief whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah will hold a meeting tomorrow at Chittagong Circuit House, official sources

The meeting scheduled to begin at 9 am is aimed at reviewing the overall progress in respect of implementation of the peace accord with the formation of regional council, official sources said.

Chief whip, who is the convenor of the committee will reach here tomorrow to preside

over the meeting. President of Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) Jotindrya Bodipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma arrived at Chittagong Circuit House this evening to attend the meeting.

Sources hinted that formation of the interim regional council, the Apex body of CHT. is likely to be discussed prominently in the meeting seeking to break the stand-off between the government and PCJSS over nomination of seven non-tribal members.

India lifts import ban on 2000 items from SAARC countries

NEW DELHI, Aug 6: Tea, coffee, rubber, onion and cotton are among the 2000 items on which India has removed import restrictions for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) members from August one, reports PTI.

The notification on the removal of quantitative restrictions on imports, maintained for balance of payment (BOP) position, was issued following a statement made by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Colombo last week during the tenth SAARC convention.

Vaipayee told the SAARC meeting that import curbs would be removed as a special gesture towards the members. See Page 12 Col 7

Bangladesh eligible for US food aid

WASHINGTON, Aug 6: The US government announced 18 countries and regions eligible for food aid under a new initiative announced last month by President Bill Clinton, reports

They are Afghanistan, Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia, Bangladesh, the Caucuses region, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Honduras, Indonesia, Moldova, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Peru, the Sahel region of Africa, southern Sudan, West Africa, and Yemen.

The announcement was made Wednesday by Agriculture Secretary Dan Glichman and J Brian Atwood, administrator of the Agency for International Development.

Jewellery shop looted in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Aug 6: A jewelleryshop was looted by a group of gunmen at Barik building crossing in the city last

night, police said. The gunmen stormed into the shop and took away 25 tolas of gold at gunpoint.

Inside Today

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Let There Be Light

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approaches Page 5

Business

CDA undertakes 5year master plan to implement Tk 474cr projects

Fund for long-term industrial financing awaits govt approval

DSE index marks slight rise Pages 6, 7, 8

Moves underway to award Block-10 to Unocal

By Sharier Khan

Moves are underway to award Block-10 to American company Unocal for oil and gas exploration, violating existing rules and regulations.

A top Unocal official told a group of editors Wednesday that the company, which was already awarded Block7, was waiting to be awarded Block-10. He further disclosed at the informal gathering that Unocal had already held negotiations

Block-10. Official sources said that moves were underway to award this block to Unocal within a few weeks.

with the government over

When the results of the Second Round Bidding was announced late last months, the

government put Block-10 out of the bidding without any explanation. In the bid results, nine companies were selected to finalise negotiations over blocks 3, 5, 6.7 and 8 and five companies were selected to settle partnership issues for blocks 9 and

Block-10 was initially offered to Shell and Cairn, a European joint venture, as the lowest bidder during the opening session of negotiations back in October-November last year. The offer remained standing

till January-February. Sources said that the government later allowed Unocal to modify the bidding documents so that it could be declared the lowest bidder. By

who was brought to the central

jail on July 4, was taken to

DMCH twice on Wednesday. He

was shifted to DMCH as he was

suffering from breathing prob-

doctors, said that in last week

on July Alamgir fell down from

a staircase in the Old Hazat

building where he was detained.

hands and legs. He, however,

did not inform the jail authori-

and his temperature shot up. He

had breathing problem on

Tuesday night, the official

Alamgir was taken to DMCH

where doctors gave him

medicine. But in the afternoon

he again fell sick at the jail See Page 12 Col 8

Hayatul Islam Thakur, ASI Ab-

dul Karim, Havilder Nuruzza-

man, Constable Parvez — before

court yesterday at the end of a

two-day remand. CID did not

move any fresh remand prayer

first time prayed for the re-

mand of AC Akram who al-

legedly ordered 'the plain-

clothes DB' team to arrest

Shamim Reza Rubel, a BBA fi-

nal year student of Independent

far denied his involvement in

vestigators would now cross-

check different information

See Page 12 Col 1

the arrest and torture of Rubel.

However, AC Akram has so

Police sources said the in-

The investigators for the

to interrogate the four.

University.

On Wednesday morning,

He suffered injuries in his

On Monday fast, he fell sick

The official, quoting Jail

lem at the Jail Hospital.

ties about his injuries.

modifying its proposal for Block-10, Unocal showed that it would conduct more seismic surveys and drill more well than Shell-Cairn, they added.

The entire bidding process was suspended at that time due to public criticism over its transparency and the Prime Minister had said that announcement of the bidding results was being delayed to ensure upholding the country's in-However, the bidding results

announced last month hardly reflected incorporation of anything upholding the country's interest, energy experts ob-

Leading geologists of the See Page 12 Col 1



Noted singer Kalim Sharafi rendering songs at a function organised by Shilpakala Academy at its auditorium in the city yesterday to mark 22nd Sraban, the 57th death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. — Star photo

Detained teenage boy 'succumbs to injuries'

By Staff Correspondent

CID seeks five-day

remand of Akram

By Staff Correspondent

A teenaged boy detained in Dhaka Central Jail succumbed to injuries'yesterday.

Alamgir, 15, son of Abdus Sobhan of Baliadanga in Thakurgaon, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital Wednesday afternoon. He died at about 3:40 am yesterday, hospital and jail sources

Hospital sources said injury marks were found on Alamgir's limbs. The actual cause of his death could not be known immediately.

Forensic department of the DMCH conducted autopsy of Alamgir's body. The boy was arrested near a

cinema hall in Savar on July 3 on charge of smuggling. Savar police said local people caught Alamgir with a bottle of Phen-A jail official said, Alamgir,

The CID moved a petition in

the CMM's Court yesterday for

placing AC Akram Hossain on

five days remand for interroga-

tion in connection with the

killing of Rubel in the custody

of Detective Branch police on

The court fixed August 9 for

Another petition was also

Meanwhile, four other DB

CID produced the four - SI

hearing of the remand prayer in

the presence of the accused,

moved on behalf of Akram, an

accused in the Rubel murder

case, for cancellation of CID's

men accused in the killing were

sent to the Dhaka Central Jail

court sources said.

remand prayer.

yesterday.

July 23.

Computer withheld Jordan's joy for 3 days

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET. Aug 6: It all happened due to computer error.

Ajmeri Binte Rejak alias Jordan who jointly stood first among girls in the merit list of the SSC Science group in Comilla Board this year, got her result three days after the official announcement.

Due to errors in the computers, results of 24 examinees including that of Jordan were dropped from the result sheet published by Comilla Board on August 2.

Thirty-nine boys and girls appeared in the SSC examinations this year from the Jalalabad Cantonment High School, Sylhet. Of them, results of only 15 were found in the official result sheet on the first day, school officials said.

The board authorities after getting complaints issued fresh result sheet showing Aimeri

They came only Relief: Homna to 'visit' MP rejects Rubel's house PM's claim

Star Report

Three men, claiming to be in 'overall supervision' of the Rubel murder case, visited the residence of Rubel's father at Shiddeswari lane in the city four days ago, his family said yesterday.

ited Rubel's family home reportedly carried identity cards of the Prime Minister's Secre-Rubel's family members said

The three persons who vis-

that they were not asked any questions by the team, which them only.

claimed to have come to 'visit' It, however, could not be confirmed whether any agency other than the CID has been

asked to inquire into the incident of Rubel's murder. There had been a noticeable See Page 12 Col 2

Flood situation in five districts unchanged prove, but at the downstream it 270. So far, 30 people died in

The overall flood situation in the country is likely to improve 'slowly' though rivers of all the four basins marked further fall at most points, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said yesterday, report

agencies The monsoon remains fairly active over Bangladesh and 10 rivers of Brahmaputra, Ganges and Meghna basins were still flowing above danger marks at 13 places.

Relief Ministry control room said flood situation remained unchanged in Dhaka, Chandpur, Shariatpur and Munshigani yesterday. Rivers around Dhaka and its

adjacent areas were still flow ing above their danger levels. The control room said with the more deaths reported from Dhaka the death toll rose to

By Staff Correspondent

lenged Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina's claim that adequate

relief materials have reached

of the main opposition party

and a former minister, last

night issued a press statement

on the flood situation and the

government relief operation in

his constituency - Homna

His statement, made after

his visit to the thana, says "the

flood has affected all the home-

steads there, leaving 2.5 lakh

population in a miserable state.

The flood left no dry place for

burial. But nothing has been

done on the part of the govern-

ment. Some leaders of the rul-

ing Awami League including a

See Page 12 Col 6

thana in Comilla district.

the flood affected people.

A senior BNP MP has chal-

M K Anwar, a vice-chairman

Dhaka alone. The FFWC forecast that the

flood situation in central parts of the country may remain unchanged while around the capital city it is likely to improve 's-

The situation in the upper parts of the Brahmaputra basin upto Gaibandha is likely to im-

Govt to import 5 lakh MT of foodgrains

The government has decided to import five lakh metric tons of foodgrains although the current stock of 7.25 lakh MT in godowns across the country is satisfactory, reports UNB. See Page 12 Col 2

PABNA, Aug 6: Prime Minis-

ter Sheikh Hasina here today

announced that the flood-af-

fected farmers will not have to

repay the agricultural loans for

vided with fresh loans and agri-

inputs to recoup their losses

and start their life anew, she

said during an extensive visit to

some flood-affected areas of the

"Flood is a regular phe-

The Prime Minister moved

nomenon in our riverine coun-

try, we have to live with flood

and face it with courage and for-

titude," she said, while address-

from one place to another, saw

for herself the damage wrought

ing spontaneous gatherings.

Farmers will also be pro-

one year, reports UNB.

district.

may remain unchanged. In Ganges basin, the situation as a whole is likely to improve, the FFWC added. The flood situation in the

upper parts of the Meghna basin is also likely to improve, but from Bhairab Bazar to downstream may remain unchanged. In Southeastern Hill basin,

the situation was normal as all the eight rivers there were flowing below their danger levels.

According to the FFWC, in Brahmaputra basin, the Jamuna recorded both rise and fall vesterday. It was flowing above the danger level at Aricha. The Buriganga was flowing above the red mark at Dhaka, the Shitalakhya at Narayanganj, the Turag both at Mirpur and Tongi and the Kaliganga at Taraghat points.

by the flood, talked to the af-

fected people and assured her

government's all possible help

ment had taken all possible

measures from the very begin-

ning of the flood to save the

people from the natural

been taken to provide the flood-

affected farmers with seeds,

fertiliser and other agricultural

dressed three spontaneous

gatherings at Sujanagar, Sat-

baria, and Kazirhat during her

day-long visit and distributed

relief materials, among the

See Page 12 Col 3

The Prime Minister ad-

Hasina said, measures have

She said that the govern-

to combat the disaster.

calamity.

Flood-hit farmers won't

have to repay loans

for one year: PM

hammed Abdus Salam yesterday joined Bangladesh Nationalist Party expressing his allegiance to the leadership of BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, reports UNB. Salam, former Chief of Gen-

eral Staff of Bangladesh Army, presented a bouquet to Begum Zia at her official residence at 29 Minto Road in the evening. Welcoming him, the BNP chief urged all nationalist

forces to join hands and salvage the country from the present situation. "BNP's door is always open

to nationalist forces. The opposition leader said the country's sovereignty is at

stake under this government. People want to get rid of this suffocating situation, she Begum Zia said: "There is no

sign of democratic practice of the government...Parliament is being made ineffective in a planned way.' Describing the socio-eco-

nomic situation as grave, the former prime minister said there is no security of the peop ple, prices of essentials are go-See Page 12 Col 6

Rift in Demra thana BNP

A serious rift has emerged in the Demra thana BNP following expulsion and counter-expulsion by rival groups, reports

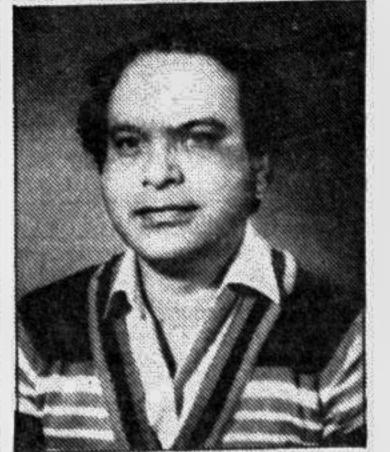
BNP Demra thana unit general secretary Nabiullah Nabi group yesterday expelled its president former MP Salahud-

din Ahmed. Nabiullah group took the decision at a meeting held at party office at Jatrabari in the afternoon with vice-president

Sheikh Shahabuddin in the chair. Salahuddin group also expelled Nabiullah Nabi from the BNP thana unit on Wednesday.

Nabiullah, a commissioner of ward number 86, claimed that majority members of the thana committee were present in the meeting. He also claimed that most of

the leaders and workers of thana BNP's front organisations weighted support in See Page 12 Col 8



Iqbal Sobhan made Editor of Observer

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury has been appointed as the Editor of the Bangladesh Observer, says a press release. Earlier, he was the Executive

Editor and Managing Editor of the Bangladesh Observer. Chowdhury is the sixth Editor of the country's oldest English aily. The Bangladesh Oberver, which was founded by la te Hamidul' Huq Chowdhury According to an order issued

by Khaled Hamidul Hug, Director of the Observer Group of Publications, Igbal Sobhan Chowdhury has been appointed as Editor of the Bangladesh Observer, Prof K M A Munim who retired from the post of Editor was made Chief Editor of the Chowhdury started his ca-

reer in journalism in 1971. He served as Diplomatic Correspondent and Chief Reporter of the Bangladesh Observer. Besides his professional re-

sponsibilities, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury is also involved

See page 11 col 8

Police Commission Report

Political interference, corruption crippled police administration

By Mizan Ali

Political interference and corruption have made the police department ineffective for protecting people and public property.' These have 'seriously affected the morale of the police force and in its chain of command', revealed the Police Commission Report.

The findings and recommendations of the Commission, shelved for about a decade, was obtained by The Daily Star vesterday. Justice Aminur Rahman,

who was chairman of the commission, said yesterday, "The Police Commission Report like many other reports was also shelved, after it was submitted to the government."

The 14-member commission formed in 1988 was the first of its kind after the independence of the country.

The condition of police department has not improved, it deteriorated instead, said Justice Rahman, now a Member of the Law Commission.

"We would always want the authorities to implement some of the suggestions it considers suitable for the government, the country and the people," he

"I am not aware whether the successive governments took into consideration or even thought about the findings and the recommendations of the commission," he added.

corruption is perhaps the distanding cause of po-nost our liveness as it alto-lice ineffect mates or at least gether incapacitie from acting detracts the polit ding to law, or functioning accordenate and from equity and conscience of right up holding the truth and rong," against falsehood and with reagainst falsehood and wherethe commission report

"Police after having served and oblived the ruling party ar its top le ders get well encour aged to a nass the reward by freely indiging in corruption with the result that the police corruption has not only mounted by has also allegedly reached up to all levels. See Page 12 Col 7

ment, social mobilisation to-wards efficient local govern-

ment system, role of civil soci-

Concerted efforts needed to ensure good governance cient public administration system, good political culture, commitment of the govern-

— Star photo

The three-day international seminar ended yesterday with a unanimous recommendation for national consensus towards achieving the goal of good governance, reports BSS.

protesting the murder of Rubel in police custody.

Scholars from home and seminar on good governance, for political and social commitment towards good gover-

abroad, who participated in the particularly stressed the need They also emphasised on the reflection of public mind in the

probable strategies towards

good governance as the people

as a whole was regarded as the

Local government division

principle force in society.

of the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives and the United Nations Development Programme's Dhaka office jointly organised the seminar that was divided into nine sessions. Prime Minister Sheikh

Sammilita Nari Samaj staged a demonstration in front of DB office in the city yesterday

Hasina inaugurated the seminar on Tuesday at Sonargaon Hotel. Scholars, development planners, economists, chamber leaders, NGO representatives and representatives of foreign missions and UN offices in Bangladesh were present on the occasion. The concluding session of

the seminar was presided over

by president of the Federation

of Bangladesh Chambers of

Among others, Secretary of the Local Government Division

Hasnat Abdul Hye, UNDP resident representative David Lockwood, Prof Zarina Rahman Khan of Dhaka University and Dr Peter Lyon of England summed up the deliberations of the seminar. Participants at the seminar discussed the pros and cons of

rule of law, empowerment, effi-

ciency, accountability, trans-

parency, decentralisation and

participation of the people in

the development efforts leading

Commerce and Industry

(FBCCI) Yusuf Abdullah Ha-

Describing the seminar as a well-conceived effort to fulfil the need of the hour, the FBCCI president suggested that mismanagement and corruption must be uprooted from all levels first to move the country towards goal of good governance.

towards good governance.

"Political leadership must undertake this responsibility to see that the general mass is not hampered by mismanagement and corruption," he said, adding that institutional discipline and support were also equally necessary for achieving the goal. The FBCCI chief urged all

concerned with the government

vicious circle which were creating impediments towards the efforts for good governance in the country. Earlier, Prof. Zarina Rahman Khan said the seminar

and the political leadership to

help the nation come out of the

dealt with issues like governance and legislature, governance and judiciary, governance and public administration, governance and local government system, governance and economy, governance and civil society, and governance and international development community. She said the participants

particularly stressed on effi-

ety and local resource mobilisa-tion through an effective man-ner for achieving the goal of good governance in the country. Prof khan also said that the participants touched on various

aspects of the government and dealt in greater length with what should be done at present for enhancing the efficiency of the administration leading to a good government in the country.

mw on Wednesday. Power Development Board sources said, production at the 210 mw 5th unit of Ghorashal power plant remained suspended since Wednesday for maintenance work while the 210 mw power plant at Rouzan in Chittagong went out of order yesterday morning. The sources said, production

resumed within 72 hours.