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## Satkhira incident Begum Zia to hold public meeting today

From Morshed Ali Khan  
SATKHIRA, July 7: BNP  
Chairperson and Leader of the  
Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad  
Begum Khaleida Zia will hold a  
public meeting tomorrow at  
Baburabad where four landless  
persons were killed in police  
firing on July 27.

The four persons were killed  
when police tried to secure 1760  
acres of leased out land from the  
landless peasants who were  
living there since 1991.

Local opposition parties  
brought out several processions  
in the town today and chanted  
slogans condemning the "fail-  
ure" of the local administration  
in protecting the rights of the  
landless people and demanding  
trial of the killers.

Meanwhile, Health and  
Family Planning Minister  
Salahuddin Yusuf arrived in  
Satkhira this morning. He held  
meetings with the local admin-  
istration, political leaders,  
lawyers and journalists before  
leaving for Dhaka in the after-  
noon.

See Page 12 Col 3

## Death of teenage prisoner: Probe body formed

By Staff Correspondent  
A one-man departmental  
committee was formed yester-  
day to investigate the death of  
Alamgir, a teenage under-trial  
prisoner of Dhaka Central Jail,  
who died at the Dhaka Medical  
College Hospital (DMCH) in the  
early hours of Thursday, official  
sources said.

The committee headed by  
Deputy Inspector General of  
Police (Prison) Abdul Jahir  
started the investigation im-  
mediately, the sources said.

A constable of the Central  
Jail was suspended yesterday in  
connection with the death of the  
prisoner.

Alamgir, had fallen from a  
staircase at the old *hazrat* build-  
ing late last month. The constable  
was on duty at that time, the  
sources said but could not  
be identified.

See Page 12 Col 7

## Kidnapped college girl freed after four days

By Nazmul Ashraf and  
Ehsanul Haque  
They dared to abduct the  
college girl in presence of sev-  
eral hundred people and a cou-  
ple of policemen.

The abduction took place  
four days ago at a busy public  
place in the port city of  
Narayanganj. The victim was  
left alone by the kidnapers at a  
suburban area of the town yester-  
day evening.

For 19-year-old Rima, a de-  
gree student of Narayanganj  
Government Women's College,  
it was a nightmare in the cus-  
tody of the kidnapers. She  
looked battered, sitting at the  
Narayanganj thana. She was  
rescued by police last night  
from a scooter, abandoned at a  
place on the Dhaka-Narayanganj  
link road. Her father Abdur  
Rahman and brother Ratan  
were seen making abortive bids  
to rescue her.

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# Blasts near US embassies in Kenya, Tanzania kill 80

NAIROBI, Aug 7: Two power-  
ful bomb blasts tore into the  
United States embassies in  
Kenya and Tanzania today,  
killing up to 80 people — at least  
four of them Americans — and  
injuring more than 1,100, re-  
port agencies.

More than 60 were killed  
and 1,100 wounded in Nairobi,  
Red Cross and ambulance offi-  
cials said. At least seven were  
killed and 72 hurt in Tanzania,  
officials said.

"We fear the worst. By the  
time the rubble is cleared, we  
expected to find more dead,"  
said Red Cross spokeswoman

Nina Galbe.  
In Nairobi, three American  
officials were confirmed dead  
along with one dependent of a  
US government employee, a  
State Department official said.  
Two other American officials  
were listed as possibly dead and  
another was unaccounted for  
and presumed dead, the official  
said.

No Americans were killed in  
the bombing near the US Em-  
bassy in Tanzania, but three  
Tanzania guards at the embassy  
and two Tanzania employees at  
the embassy were killed, the de-  
partment official said.

In Washington, US President  
Bill Clinton condemned the  
"acts of terrorist violence" as  
"abhorrent and inhumane."  
"We will use all the means at  
our disposal to bring those re-  
sponsible to justice no matter  
what or how long it takes," he  
said.

A State Department official  
confirmed bombs caused the  
two explosions. The agency  
called the blasts, which oc-  
curred five minutes apart, "ter-  
rorist attacks."

"It was definitely a bomb,"  
said a US Embassy official in  
Nairobi, who refused to identify

himself. "You can see a huge  
crater behind the building, and  
a bomb went off at the embassy  
in Tanzania at the same time."  
In Nairobi, the blast at 10:35  
am (0735 GMT) toppled the four-  
storey Ufundi Cooperative build-  
ing toward the embassy, which  
was badly damaged. Coopera-  
tive Bank House, with govern-  
ment and private offices, also  
was damaged.

The blast shook shattered  
windows as far as 10 blocks  
away. Several people aboard  
two passing buses were killed by  
shrapnel, witnesses said.  
Bloodied clothing and papers

littered the streets. Crowds  
crawled over a mountain of  
twisted and broken concrete  
and metal looking for victims,  
calling out and waving their  
arms for help to free trapped  
people.

Bodies were draped out of  
windows in a charred bus. Shat-  
tered cars were left smoldering  
on the street amid the debris.  
Dazed and bloody survivors lay  
on the ground until led away.

Passers-by helped rescuers,  
and ferried the injured to hospi-  
tals in cars. More than 1,000  
people were being treated in  
three hospitals.

"We've seen already 350 plus.  
We've admitted at least 40 ... We  
have run out of space com-  
pletely," Dr. Frank Ngu, a  
doctor in one of the hospitals,  
told CNN. "The large crowds  
came in within the first two  
hours of the explosion."

In Dar es Salaam, a sus-  
pected car bomb exploded in the  
US Embassy parking lot, wit-  
nesses said. At least nine people  
were killed and 16 injured, they  
said. Official confirmation was  
not immediately available.

Nearly two-thirds of the em-  
bassy was destroyed, witnesses  
said. Cranes were hurried to the

site to tear apart wreckage in  
the search for survivors. Many  
cars were in flames.

There was no claim of re-  
sponsibility. However the Is-  
lamic Jihad vowed last week to  
strike American interests be-  
cause some of its members were  
arrested in Albania and  
handed over to Egypt, according  
to a report Thursday.

Kenyan President Daniel  
Arap Moi issued a statement  
condemning the attack and said  
the authorities would do any-  
thing possible "to bring the per-  
petrators of the heinous crime to  
book".

## Third meeting of CHT body No progress in formation of interim RC

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Aug 7: The  
third meeting of the Chittagong  
Hill Tracts Peace Accord Im-  
plementation Committee was  
held at the Chittagong Circuit  
House today.

The meeting discussed vari-  
ous issues relating to imple-  
mentation of the peace accord  
but did not take any decision,  
meeting sources said.

The meeting presided over  
by convenor of the committee  
and Chief Whip of the Jatiya  
Sangsad Abul Hasanat Abdullah,  
was attended by among other  
members president of Parbatya  
Chattagram Jana Sanghati  
Samity (PCJSS) Jotirindra  
Bodipriya Larma alias Shantu  
Larma, Minister for Hill Tracts  
Affairs Kalpa Ranjan Chakma,  
Chairman of the Task Force on  
Tribal Refugees Dipankar  
Talukder, Mayor of Chittagong  
City Corporation Mubaidin  
Chowdhury and MP from Ban-

darban hill district Bir Ba-  
hadur.  
Secretary of the Special Af-  
fairs Division Kazi Golam  
Rahman and Divisional Com-  
missioner of Chittagong Shak-  
wat Hossain were also present  
at the meeting that continued  
from 9:30 am to 4:15 pm with a  
break for three hours.

Briefing newsmen after the  
meeting, Chief Whip Abdullah  
said that the meeting was fruit-  
ful and held in a cordial at-  
mosphere.

The meeting discussed those  
points only which were not yet  
implemented, Abdullah said  
and left the place hurriedly.

When newsmen following  
him asked a question, he  
replied "The interim regional  
council will be formed soon."

He claimed that the differ-  
ence of opinion between the  
government and the PCJSS  
Chowdhury and MP from Ban-

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Chowdhury and MP from Ban-

## Floods Heavy rain poses fresh threat

Heavy monsoon rain in the  
upstream regions of the country  
yesterday posed a new threat to  
the overall flood situation, re-  
port agencies.

The flood situation in the  
upper part of the Brahmaputra  
above the Siraganj district, the  
upstream of Meghna basin in  
greater Sylhet were likely to  
deteriorate again.

Flood Forecasting and  
Warning Centre (FFWC) yester-  
day said the situation in down-  
stream of these basins as well  
as central parts of the country  
may remain unchanged.

In the Ganges basin the sit-  
uation, as whole, will continue to  
improve while around Dhaka  
city the improvement may take  
place slowly, it said.

Giving reasons of rise of wa-  
ter level in upper regions of the  
two basins, an FFWC official  
said water flow in the down-  
stream of these basins became  
slowed down and water is also  
coming from the upstream.

Relief Ministry control  
room said the flood situation in  
Dhaka and its adjoining areas  
See Page 12 Col 5

## President visits flood-hit areas in city

President Shahabuddin  
Ahmed visited some flood-hit  
areas in the city yesterday  
morning, discarding the nor-  
mal protocol, reports UNB.

During his two-hour visit  
starting from Sadarghat, the  
President went to Swarighat,  
Lalbagh, Gabtali and Amin-  
bazar to see the sufferings of the  
people caused by the current  
flood.

President Shahabuddin  
walked on the town protection  
embankment from Shahidna-  
gar to Lalbagh Fort and talked  
to the people.

He also walked along both  
sides of the Hakkul Ibad Bridge  
connecting Kamrangirchar and  
Lalbagh areas, and talked to the  
people living in slums of the  
area.

From there, the President  
went to the western side of La-  
bagh and later visited the Gab-  
tali and Aminbazar areas.



STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL: Flood-hit people scramble for cooked food at a shelter in the city's Lalbagh area yesterday.

## Viral fever spreading in city

By Ripon Baig  
Viral fever has become  
widespread in the city due to the  
floods. The number of patients  
is increasing gradually, doctors  
said.

Most of the cases of viral  
fever are reported from the city  
areas hit by flood. People are  
being affected by the droplet in-  
fection from the victims, ac-  
cording to doctors.

Dr Md Nazrul Islam of  
Dhaka Medical College Hospi-  
tal (DMCH) added three more  
reasons for the spread of the  
fever. These are: lack of ade-  
quate knowledge, poverty and  
congested accommodation.

This fever generally needs  
no medication. Patients get  
cured automatically after a  
certain period, he said. But a  
few may require medication  
who develop runny nose.

See Page 12 Col 4

## 30 leaders of Sylhet city BNP resign

From Staff Correspondent  
SYLHET, Aug 7: Thirty lead-  
ers, including the general sec-  
retary of Sylhet city unit and  
president and general secre-  
taries of 11 ward committees of  
BNP have resigned from their  
posts today to protest what they  
called a decision by the party's  
central leadership degrading  
the status of the city unit to a  
town unit.

A press release issued and  
signed by the central BNP sec-  
retary general Abdul Mannan  
Bhuiyan on August 4 stated that  
a full-fledged Sylhet city unit  
would be formed after 3  
months. The press release also  
said the decision had been  
taken as 27 ward committees of  
the newly-formed Sylhet city  
are yet to be completed.

The 101-member city unit  
was declared at the conference  
of the town unit on November  
15, 1997 with Ahea Reza  
Chowdhury as its convenor and  
Abdur Razzakh as general sec-  
retary.

Earlier, the committee was  
working as town committee.

## Indian national arrested with AK-47 rifle in Bandarban

BANDARBAN, Aug 7: Police  
arrested an Indian national  
with a sophisticated rifle and  
huge ammunition from a house  
at Alikadam Bazar in  
Alikadam thana here Thursday  
night, reports UNB.

The arms and ammunition  
included one AK-47 rifle, 159  
bullets and one grenade.

The arrested identified him-  
self as Debabapriya of Uday-  
pur in the Tripura.

In a confessional statement  
to the police, Jabapriya said he  
was an activist of the National  
Liberation Front of Tripura  
(NLFT).

A case was filed with  
Alikadam police in this con-  
nection.

## 4 new-born tiger cubs doing well at Mirpur Zoo

By Special Correspondent  
The four cubs of a Royal Ben-  
gal Tiger were doing well yester-  
day, five days after their  
birth at the Mirpur Zoo, their  
keepers said.

"We are taking all precau-  
tions so that the cubs remain  
fine till they open their eyes,"  
Dr Shaheduzzaman, a zoo vet-  
erinarian said. It would be pos-  
sible to determine their sex  
only when they open their eyes,  
he said.

Unless the cubs walk and  
move around, away from their  
mother, it would be extremely  
difficult to get anywhere near  
them, he said.

He said that the cubs born to  
Malati have been kept away  
from their father, Arjun, so  
that they remain safe from his  
unpredictable behaviour.

See Page 12 Col 1

## BIMSTEC states identify 6 areas of cooperation

The economic ministers of the  
BIMSTEC at a retreat in the  
Thai capital Bangkok yesterday  
decided to facilitate trade, in-  
crease investment and promote  
technical cooperation among the  
member states, reports UNB.

The meeting of the BIM-  
STEC, sub-regional economic  
cooperation grouping, compris-  
ing Bangladesh, India, Myan-  
mar, Sri Lanka and Thailand,  
also decided to design its activi-  
ties to form a bridge linking the  
ASEAN and SAARC.

The meeting was partici-  
pated by Thai Deputy Prime  
Minister Dr Supachal Panitch-  
pakol, Commerce Minister of  
India Ramkrishna Hedged,  
Chairman of the SPDC of  
Myanmar Brig Gen David O  
Abel, Internal and Interna-  
tional Commerce Affairs and

Food Minister of Sri Lanka  
Kingsly T Wickremaratne and  
Commerce and Industry Minis-  
ter of Bangladesh Tofail  
Ahmed.

While having a frank and  
cordial discussion, which  
touched matters of vital inter-  
ests of the BIMSTEC region, the  
leaders at the meeting agreed to  
prepare individual action plan  
to be discussed as inputs at the  
second BIMSTEC annual minis-  
terial meeting to be held in  
Dhaka on September 8-10.

The meeting decided that the  
economic ministers' meeting  
would be held at least once a  
year in order to follow up and  
accelerate the implementation  
of economic cooperation ini-  
tiatives.

A Senior Economic Officials'  
Committee will be established  
consisting of officials not below

the level of Secretary or an  
equivalent rank, the meeting  
decided.

Besides, various working  
committees for each area of co-  
operation would be established  
to enable these working com-  
mittees to draw up jointly an  
action agenda and monitor re-  
sults.

The meeting decided that the  
sub-regional economic group-  
ing would initially begin co-  
operation in 6 areas. These are:  
Trade and investment, technol-  
ogy, transportation and com-  
munication, energy, tourism  
and fisheries. However, the ar-  
eas could be extended whenever  
necessary.

It was agreed that responsi-  
bility of the initial sectors be  
delegated as follows: Trade and  
investment (Bangladesh), tech-  
See Page 12 Col 2

## Bangladesh poised to break out of low growth cycle: WB

Star Report  
The World Bank (WB) views  
that Bangladesh may finally  
break out of the low growth  
cycle, but warns that the level  
of investment may decline if the  
low level of import of invest-  
ment related goods continues.

Bangladesh appears to be  
breaking out of the 4-5 per cent  
annual real GDP growth to the  
5-6 per cent range. Prudent fi-  
scal and monetary management,  
return of political stability and  
relatively lower incidence of  
disruptions in Chittagong port  
operations have been impor-  
tant contributory factors," it  
observed in its recent periodic  
economic update.

But the Bank added that "The  
economy, however, continues to  
face significant challenges. The  
power supply is critical, the fi-  
nancial sector remains ext-  
remely fragile and misalloca-

tion and misappropriation of  
resources is a significant drain  
on the economy."

It noted that a number of  
macro-economic achievements  
like improving the budget  
deficit, keeping the external  
balances unaffected and a tight-  
ened monetary policy, has bri-  
dled the growth of broad money  
supply.

However, it said although  
the revised gross domestic in-  
vestment, at about 22 per cent of  
GDP in 1996, is considerably  
higher than previous estimates,  
there are indications that in-  
vestment levels are stagnant  
and could even decline if the re-  
cent trend in the reduction in  
imports of investment related  
goods, witnessed in FY98, con-  
tinues.

The Bank also said the in-  
creasing rate of inflation is also

a cause of concern which is  
driven largely by the rise in  
food prices.

It also questioned the sus-  
tainability of the strong export  
growth achieved in recent  
years, given a nearly eight per  
cent appreciation of the taka in  
real terms and significant ap-  
preciation of the taka relative  
to competitor countries such as  
Indonesia (556 per cent), Thai-  
land (52 per cent), India (9.9 per  
cent) and Pakistan (5.6 per  
cent).

About the turmoil in East  
Asia and its impact on the  
country, the WB said it has, so  
far, not affected Bangladesh's  
external balances and financial  
markets due to the country's  
extremely low exposure to  
short-term foreign debt, a non-  
convertible capital account and  
See Page 12 Col 5

## Clinton never asked me to lie about 'the affair' under oath: Lewinsky



Bill Clinton

WASHINGTON, Aug 7: In six  
hours of testimony fraught with  
peril for Bill Clinton, Monica  
Lewinsky told grand jurors her  
firsthand account of sexual en-  
counters with the president in-  
side the White House, a legal  
source said, reports AP.

The former White House in-  
tern testified "truthfully, com-  
pletely and honestly," her  
spokeswoman declared after-  
ward.

"Monica and her family are  
relieved that this ordeal finally  
appears to be coming to an end,"  
family spokeswoman Judy  
Smith said yesterday at a news  
conference shortly after Lewin-  
sky wrapped up her testimony.

Creating an indelible ac-

count that the president must  
confront before the same grand  
jury in 10 days, Lewinsky re-  
layed the same story she told  
prosecutors over the past week,  
a legal source familiar with her  
testimony said.

That account includes that  
they had several sexual encoun-  
ters inside the White House, in-  
cluding in a study near the Oval  
Office, and discussed how they  
could conceal their relation-  
ship. But she says Clinton never  
instructed her to lie under oath,  
the source said, speaking on  
condition of anonymity.

Reversing her own affidavit  
from earlier this year, Lewin-  
sky's account stands in stark  
contrast to the president's

sworn testimony — and a tele-  
vised statement — in January  
that he did not engage in sexual  
activity with Lewinsky.

The stakes couldn't be higher  
as prosecutors neared a decision  
on whether to send Congress an  
impeachment report that would  
cite possible perjury and  
obstruction of justice.

Lewinsky, 25, testified for  
some six hours before the  
closed-door panel. She made no  
comment to reporters and  
looked pale and dazed as she  
departed around 5 pm (2100  
GMT).

Monica Lewinsky testified  
before the grand jury today, her  
spokeswoman Judy Smith said.  
"She answered each question

truthfully, completely and  
honestly that was posed to her  
by the Office of Independent Coun-  
sel and also questions that were  
posed to her by members of the  
grand jury."

Earlier, CNN television —  
citing two unnamed sources —  
reported that Lewinsky