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NCBs to have new chairmen, directors this week

Star Report

The names of new chairmen and directors of the Nationalised Commercial Banks (NCBs) are set to be announced this week amid much speculations about the formation of the new boards.

Formation of the first board of the newly created Employment Bank has rather disappointed the banking circle who feel that the appointments were politically motivated.

It has been alleged that the authorities have dropped the name of a highly regarded teacher in favour of a ruling party leader, Abdul Awal, for appointment as chairman of the Employment Bank. Observers also feel that the appointment of directors of the bank, some of whom are also politicians, does not reflect a high commitment of the government to run the bank professionally.

Meanwhile, the government has appointed Dr Farashuddin as chairman of Sonali Bank. He will replace M Asafuddowla, . See Page 12 Col 2

SSC, HSC exams Making of merit lists faulty: BUET VC

By Staff Correspondent Vice Chancellor of BUET

Prof Iqbal Mahmud yesterday said that the present procedure for preparing the merit lists for the SSC and HSC examinations are faulty.

"The merit lists prepared for the SSC and HSC examinations presently, is not a merit list in the true sense. The procedure of preparing these merit lists is faulty," he said.

He was addressing the farewell and prize giving ceremony for the final year students of Chemical Engineering Department, says a press release.

Organised by the Chemical Engineering Alumni Association, the function was held at the auditorium of Civil Engineering Department. It was presided over by Dr Waliuzza-

Prof Mahmud said many of the students on the merit list get lost in their subsequent academic persuits. "Real meritorious students occupy their place," he added.

Security around US embassy in city tightened

Security measures in and around the US embassy as well as in the diplomatic zone in the city have been tightened following attacks on the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, reports

Apart from increasing the number of law enforcers, more plainclothes and chancery policemen have also been assigned to keep a sharp eye on the diplomatic areas.

Huge number of additional police forces were deployed at the local US embassy, American Club and the residences of the US ambassador and other senior officials. Ambassador John C Holzman, however, is

not in Dhaka now. Police started checking all cars and motorised threewheelers around the US Embassy from Friday night. Even photo journalists were not allowed to take snaps of the halfmast US flag in front of the Embassy building.

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Business

FEISCA adopts declaration: Include regional power grid proposal in SAARC action agenda

Web-site launched: DSE praised for reforms, automation

Both DSE and CSE indices fall Pages 6, 7, 8

Massive steps to rehabilitate flood victims, says PM

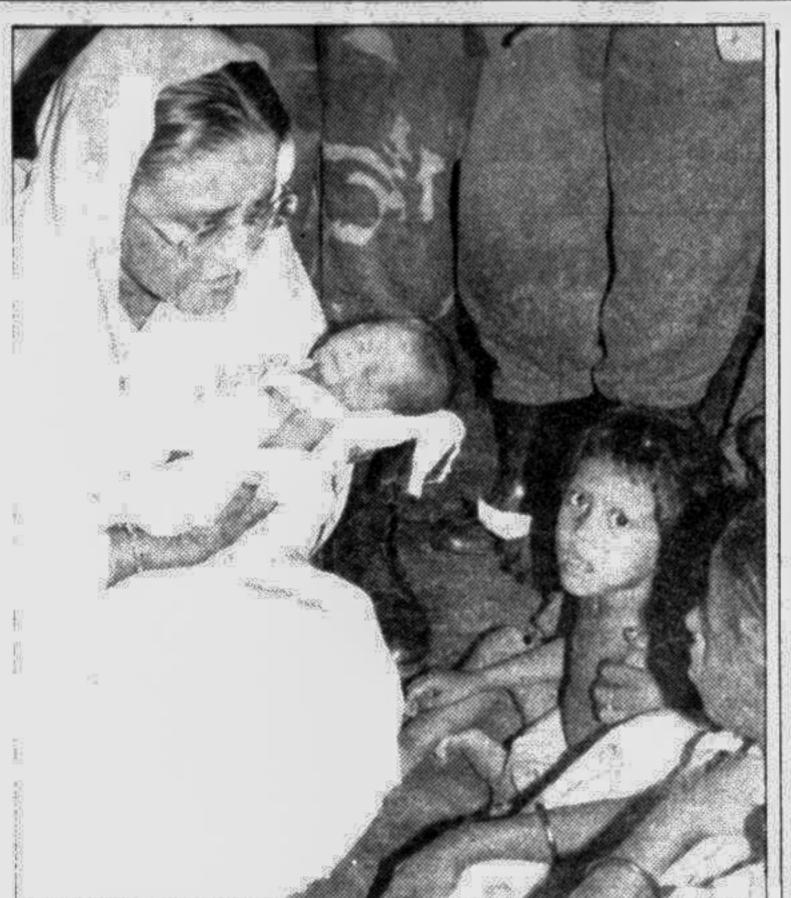
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited the flood-hit areas in the city, distributed relief among the af-

fected people, reports UNB. "We have also taken massive steps for post-flood rehabilitation and for checking the outbreak of diseases," she said while visiting the inundated areas on Demra and Sabujbagh thanas in the afternoon.

The government has taken adequate steps to reach relief materials to the flood victims and is taking best possible care to save the life of the people, she

The Prime Minister first visited Konapara in Demra thana, and then went to Dharmik Para and Sunnyatengra areas by a speed boat.

From the speed boat, she distributed relief materials among the affected people of these areas, inquired about their condition and urged them to face the natural calamity with courage. See Page 12 Col 7



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina took an infant in her lap at Mugdapara Community Centre, now a temporary flood shelter, yesterday. — Star photo

Clinton's Dhaka visit now uncertain

By M Anwarul Haq

US President Bill Clinton's proposed visit to Bangladesh has now become uncertain and in all likelihood may not take place, according to diplomatic

Clinton's proposed Bangladesh visit as part of his trip to South Asia is now "on hold", sources in the US Embassy in Dhaka said. "We have received no information relating to the itinerary of the President's proposed tour," one source

Deputy White House Press Secretary Barry Toiv told newsmen in Washington last week, "President Clinton's trip to India and Pakistan had iniof the year and is still under re-

Diplomatic sources said that Clinton's visit now totally hinges on the developments in India and Pakistan following their nuclear tests in May.

A Western diplomat pointed to Clinton's statement in Colorado, US, after the return of Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott from India and Pakistan. The President had then said. "I feel bad about this because I had a trip set up for the fall to India and Pakistan ... India already has a population of over 900 million, in 30 years it would be more populous than China, it already has the world's biggest middle class.

And Pakistan has well over 100 million people, and so does Bangladesh. So it is (South Asia) an amazing place.

Foreign ministry officials were still optimistic that the trip would take place. They, recently. The officials said that they were yet to receive any word on Clinton's itinerary or any diplomatic traffic related to the protocol of his visit. Normally, the US President's foreign tours are preceded by "a bulk of communications involving protocol, security, administrative details and other

however, said that they did not get communication or diplomatic signal from Washington

See Page 12 Col 6

See Page 12 Col 8

Flood waters receding slowly

Flood situation continued to improve slowly in all the districts except Brahmanbaria. where it remained unchanged yesterday, official sources said, reports UNB.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said the situation may deteriorate in the upper part of the Meghna basin. especially in Sylhet district, and is likely to remain static from Bhairab Bazar to downstream

The situation is likely to remain steady at the upstream of the Brahmaputra-Jamuna river while it may improve from Sirajganj to downstream. The flood situation may im-

prove slowly in the city and the central part of the country. The situation in the Ganges basin is likely to improve fur-

ther as a whole. According to the control room at the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, no flood related death was reported from across the country and the death toll remained static at

The Brahmaputra remained steady at Noonkhawa and Chilmari. The Jamuna was See Page 12 Col 3

Death of teenage prisoner: Probe body may submit report today

By Staff Correspondent The departmental committee set up to probe the death of Alamgir, the teenage undertrial prisoner at Dhaka Central Jail who succumbed to injuries on Thursday, is likely to submit its report today.

The one-man committee comprising DIG (Prison) Abdul Zahir yesterday interrogated a number of prisoners and jail officials. The DIG interrogated the prisoners who were in the same ward where Alamgir was detained, sources said.

Alamgir did not receive the injuries inside the jail, claimed an official. Quoting doctors, the official also said that Alamgir sustained the injuries before he was taken to jail.

When asked, he said the jail

Zaheda murder in Satkhira

Take case or face consequences, warns Khaleda

From Staff Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Aug 8: BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia today warned the local administration of serious consequences if the police does not accept the case regarding the killing of

Zaheda and three other landless persons were killed in police firing at Baburabad on July 27. The incident triggered a public outcry in the area.

Addressing a big public meeting at the Devishahar football ground near Baburabad, 22 km from the district town, she alleged that the government had unleashed terror

She claimed that people have "totally lost confidence in this govt" for its failure in different sectors. It has politicised

the administration, she alleged. She alleged that the government was contemplating handing over the country to foreign forces. "Janakantha (a national Bengali daily) has

Kaliganj police refused to accept a 'murder case' from Za heda's brother in which he accused ASP Azizur Rahman, Magistrate Sheikh Sohrab Hossain, former MP Munsur Ahmed, Moni Thakur and some others for killing his sister.

Since this morning, the district town resounded with the blare of loudspeakers announcing the arrival of the BNP leader. All along the road from Satkhira to Devishahar, hun-See Page 12 Col 2

half-an-hour, according to the

vestigators interrogated four

DB constables - Zakir Hosain,

Abul Kalam Azad, Kamrul Is-

lam and Mong - who were on

duty at the DB office on July 23

the day when Rubel was killed

in the custody of DB police. However, two DB Sub-in-

spectors who were asked by the

CID to report to the investiga-

tion tenth were yet to produce

themselves before the agency.

sources concerned said.

Earlier in the day, CID in-

Erosion threatens Rajshahi town protection

embankment From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Aug 8: The Rajshahi Town Protection Embankment is under threat because of erosion in the T-groin area of the dam by the river Padma, according to official sources

Rajshahi town remains below the water level of the Padma in the rainy season and any breach in the protection dam will inundate the whole town under at least two feet of water, the sources said.

The river erosion took a serious turn from yesterday when See Page 12 Col 4

JCD activist shot dead in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 8: An activist of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was shot dead and three others of the same party were injured when a group of young man opened fire on a Satkhira bound bus in Nijkhamer area under Batiaghata thana at about 11 am today.

The victim Ghazi Babul Islam Babu, 25, an activist of KCC Ward No 25, died on way to hospital while three others -Razzak, Kalam and Dulal were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries. Police said about 30 JCD

workers were going to Satkhira by the bus to attend the meeting of Begum Khaleda Zia. The attackers also exploded

crackers and damaged the bus. JCD blamed Jubo League for the attack but Jubo League denied the charge.

Wife stabbed to death allegedly by husband

From Our Correspondent MYMENSINGH, Aug 8: A housewife was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband at village Bailor Munipara in Trishal thana in the early hours

of today. According to police, Tofazzal Hossain stabbed his wife Anwara Begum, 25, indiscriminately when she refused to transfer the ownership of a piece of land to her husband.

Anwara died on the spot. Alamgir Hossain, the son of the victim, lodged a case with Trishal thana in this regard. Tofazzal fled the house soon af-

ter the incident. The body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) morgue for

autopsy. Police assoc team

to call on PM

By Staff Correspondent The office bearers of the

Bangladesh Police Association are scheduled to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today, according to official sources. Additional IG of Police BI

Siddiquee, Special Superinten-

tially been planned for the end Twin bombings: 132

killed in Kenya alone NAIROBI, Aug 8: Spurred by cries for help, rescue workers used backhoes and bare hands today to free people trapped under tons of steel and concrete shattered by two terrorist bombings at US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, report

The death toll rose to at least 139 in the 24 hours after the blasts, the US Embassy said.

The death toll in the Kenyan capital alone has reached 132 including 10 Americans, US ambassador Prudence Bushnell said today.

She told a news conference that an earlier figure of 108 dead given by the Kenyan government did not include 10 US citizens and 14 Kenyans killed in the US embassy itself.

tioning the authority of the

party chief down to long-stand-

ing rivalry in the party units

across the country. Besides, the

forecast of a lingering flood has

further contributed to the grow-

According to insiders in the party, the controversial deci-

sion regarding BNP lawmakers'

resignation from the parlia-

ing frustration.

Kenyan Foreign Minister Bonaya Godana told reporters earlier today that the explosion killed 108 people and wounded over 4000.

He said experts believed there were still around 40 bodies in the rubble and several others trapped. Godana said the huge blast damaged 40 buildings within

150 yards of the explosion, and appealed to companies not to return to them until they had been checked by experts. He said the dead and wounded numbered 4,257. Of 542 people admitted to hospi-

tals, 24 were in critical condi-

tion in intensive care units, he said. A virtually simultaneous

Rima's nightmarish experience

From Our Correspondent

lost everything. Can you return me all that I've lost? What's the use of writing this in newspaper pages? I know my losses will never be repaired", cried out Rima when approached to speak on her horrifying experience in four days of confinement by a group of terrorists in Narayangani.

her frequently.

Rima looked exhausted, pale and gloomy while sitting at Narayanganj police station this morning. She was sobbing most of the time while talking to The Daily Star. At times, she covered her face with hands.

The 19-year-old college student was abducted by a group of Narayanganj town in presence See Page 12 Col 4

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 8: "I've

On persuasion, she started speaking but emotion stopped

terrorists from a busy area in

CID, SB are 'dumping ground for disgruntled officers'

Investigations carried out by

Commission Report. The percentage of conviction in chargesheeted cases was 24.6 in 1980 which gradually declined to 6.13 in 1988, the report noted. The percentage has further declined to around five per cent now, official sources

at different levels, when con-

tacted by this correspondent, also acknowledged that the situation has hardly improved since the only Police Commission report was submitted in

"Investigations are mostly unsatisfactory and perfunctory," the Police Commission Report revealed.

The causes of unsatisfactory investigation as per the finding of the Commission are: inefficiency and lack of integrity of the investigating officers, undue interference from men of influence and authority including political leaders and senior

officers; lack of effective and serious supervision by senior officers; inadequate number of investigating officers against increase of crimes; lack of adequate and modern equipment including investigation kits and lack of cooperation from people. The specialised agencies of

are not manned by the "brightest officers." Rather, those have become the "dumping ground for disgruntled officers," the Commission report observed. The CID, according to the re-

See Page 12 Col 8

police like the CID and the SB

OWN A

PRESTIGIOUS OFFICE

dent CID MA Hannan, president and secretary general respectively of the Association, are expected to lead the 31-member

Intra-party feuds likely to frustrate BNP programmes

By Nazmul Ashraf

the decision, pressed by the Intra-party feuds are frus-trating a BNP plan to launch a hardliners, may lead to an outburst of the pent-up dissatisfacpost-flood agitation for realistion among the majority MPs ing its demand for a mid-term who are opposed to such a move The feuds range from ques-

at the moment The BNP Standing Committee decided on July 22 that all the party MPs would deposit their letters of resignation with party chief Begum Khaleda Zia who was empowered to submit those to the Speaker at an 'appropriate time.' But until yesterday, no move was taken to collect the resignation letters.

Sources said, the move to

held to endorse the Standing Committee decision. But there is every possibility that the controversial decision may face a tough resistance from majority of the lawmakers who find the move premature and suicidal, the sources added. Some of the aggrieved party MPs are learnt to have planned to challenge the Standing Committee decision by raising questions about the Committee's validity. Explaining the issue, they

said, the Chairperson of the

party is over-running by three

years in her position. There-

fore, the Standing Committee,

be increased to 160 million cubic feet (cft) from 60 million cubic feet by the end of the year, reports UNB. million cft, if necessary, said Richard Hiton, General Manwhile talking to a group of industrialists, foreign bankers and general managers of oil

Shell Company.

million cft gas for industrial Sangu gas are being distributed to commercial and industrial consumers in Chit-

He said Cairn's technicians have also found a huge quantity of gas in Semutang gas field in Chittagong Hill Tracts, but exploitation will be delayed as there is no project to use the gas.

to set up a 500 megawatt power plant to use the gas from the Semutang gas field, he said. Hitton said Cairn have no right to export the Sangu gas as per the PSC.

supplied to the national grid per day since June 10. Prime Minister Sheikh

SONARTORI TOWER Location: 12 Biponon C/A. Sonargaon Road 2-EXPRESS LIFTS WIDE STAIRCASE A -- 550 sft The government is planning DECORATED MAIN ENTRANCE B - 540 sft. COMMON TOILETS STAND- BY GENERATOR D - 415 sft. ADEQUATE CAR PARK E - 435 sft. MANAGEMENT OFFICE Sixty million cft gas is being F - 440 sft PANORAMIC VIEW LUCRATIVE PRICE HANDOVER JULY 1999 BETTER OPPORTUNITY bashati consortium TEL 9661333 868057 501773 ALPANA PLAZA (5TH floor) 51 New Elephant Road Dhaka -1205 BUILDER DESIGNER & DEVELO

ment is now the most crucial iscollect the resignation letters is appointed by her, is also inunlikely to begin before a meetsue before the main opposition See Page 12 Col 5 (PSC) Bangladesh will take 160 See Page 12 Col 2 ing of BNP Parliamentarians is party. Attempt for execution of Political parties must stop patronising armed cadres

By Staff Correspondent Speakers at a workshop on Towards a deterrorised campus" in the city yesterday said

strong over the years as they

were backed by the political

parties for their narrow inter-

est. Now, armed cadres have

found terrorism a profitable business and political parties that the educational institufound the terrorists their tools tions could be freed from terrorism and violence if the major to stay in or capture power. political parties stopped patro-nising their student fronts once The workshop organised by The British Council and the Centre for Alternatives was They said that armed cadres at the universities became

held at the Council's audito-It was participated by economist Prof. Rehman Sobhan, former VC of Dhaka Uni-

versity Prof Muniruzzaman

Social Science, DU, Prof. Asaduzzaman; Proctor of DU Prof. Nurun Nabi, Executive Director of CDC Mohammad Jahangir, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Prof Monwaruddin of Economics department, DU; Nayeemul Islam Khan of BCDJC and others. Prof. Rehman Sobhan said

Miah, economist prof. Muzaffar

Ahmed, Dean of the faculty of shape ever since. Today it is rare to see good students getting involved in stuthat violence on campus was in-

used by Monem Khan for his political gain. In turn, the terrorists, who had no ideology, were given financial benefits. He observed that terrorism has existed in student politics in that He said, till the sixties student leaders were good students.

See Page 12 Col 6

armed cadres," he said.

number of good teachers were

proved that the Prime Minister was a liar. Her Minister is also a liar. We learnt it from (press) reports," she said.

even on farmers and women.

Hearing on Akram's remand today

family.

Rubel's family refuses to talk to CID team By Staff Correspondent

tors after the Judicial Commis-The CMM's court will hear sion submits its report. The CID today a prayer from CID police team went to Rubel's house at for remand of AC Akram Hosabout 7 pm and left after about

Rubel murder case. The CID last week prayed for five days' remand of Akram for

sain, the main accused in the

interrogation. Meanwhile, a CID team visited Rubel's house at Siddheswari in the city yesterday evening. However, Rubel's family members did not want to talk to the investigators.

What shall I tell you now? You are yet to find out the reason why my son was arrested on July 23". Rubel's father Abdur

sources said.

Rob told the CID team. He also told the team that he

After interrogation by the See Page 12 Col 7 would talk to the CID investiga-**Police Commission Report**

By Staff Correspondent

police are "mostly unsatisfactory" and specialised agencies of police like the CID and Special Branch are manned "mostly by disgruntled officers." This was revealed in a Police

Some police officials serving

Gas supply from Sangu to be 160mcft by year-end

It can be increased to 200 ager of Cairn Energy on Friday

CHITTAGONG, Aug 8: Supply

from the Sangu Gas Field will

Sangu Gas Field Processing Plant in Fauzdarhat. The London-based Cairn Energy is exploiting gas from Sangu field in collaboration with US-based Helibarton and

marketing organisations at

Hiton said, according to the production sharing contract

and encouraging terrorism.

regime in the sixties. NSF was

the political parties decide to withdraw their support from He observed that the large demoralised by the dirty politi-

Workshop on 'Towards a Deterrorised Campus' Prof. Sobhan criticised teachers for what he said creating division among themselves troduced by NSF during Aiyub Prof . Monwaruddin blamed the major political parties for 'using armed cadres to stay in power.' "You can do nothing about campus terrorism unless