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PHILIPS

Cross-border shelling resumes in Kashmir

NEW DELHI. Aug 8: Indian and Pakistani soldiers resumed firing mortar shells at each other across their disputed frontier today and at least nine soldiers in both countries were killed or wounded, local news agencies reported, says AP.

Officials in Islamabad did not immediately comment on the claim by an Indian government spokesman that seven Pakistani soldiers were either killed or injured in the firing, which was reported by United News of India and Press Trust of India news agencies.

Friday's lull in nine days of firing ended early today when Pakistan soldiers fired mortar shells into India-held Kashmir, UNI said. Indian soldiers retaliated with artillery fire, destroying 12 bunkers and killing or inflicting the casualties, it

Two soldiers were also injured and five bunkers were destroyed in India during the exchange of fire, it said.

On Friday, a Pakistan Cabinet minister said that 130 Pakistanis, mostly civilians, were killed by Indian firing in the last nine days. The figures were significantly higher than previously reported. Also, 425 others, mostly

civilians, were wounded. Majeed Malik, the minister in charge of Pakistani policy on

Woman held with gun at Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 8: A patrol team of port police recovered light gun with four bullets from a house in Ushapara and arrested one woman in this connection, reports BSS.

Police identified the woman as Noorjahan.

Alhelal directors 'surprised'

The Board of Directors of the Al-helal Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd. has said it was "surprised to see an announcement in several leading newspapers on Friday of the so-called promotion and appointment of Mr Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury to the position of Editor of the Bangladesh Observer in place of Mr KM A Munim who has reportedly been made a Chief Edi-

According to a press release issued by the Board on Friday, "The said changeover is reported to have been made on the authority of an Office Order dated 6th August, 1998 issued by Mr Khaled Huq, one of the six directors, stating that as Prof KMA Munim has expressed his inability to discharge his responsibilities as the Editor of the Bangladesh Observer, the management is pleased to promote and appoint Executive Editor and Managing Editor Mr Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury as the Editor of the Bangladesh

Observer". It went on, "The said order alleged to have been issued by Mr Khaled Huq in the name of the management of the Al-helal Printing & Publishing Co Ltd, is without any authority, illegal and void. Furthermore, the Board of Directors has never received any request from Mr Munim to relieve him from the duties of Editor in view of his inability to discharge his responsibilities. Rather there is reason to believe Mr Munim was forced to vacate his office under duress which is totally unacceptable. The Board has not relieved Mr Munim of his responsibilities as the Editor of the Bangladesh Observer or appointed any other person in his place. Mr Munim cannot evade his responsibility and shall be held accountable for his ac-

"The alleged illegal order issued by Mr Khaled Huq is a manoeuvre to deflect and defeat the order of the Hon'ble High Court passed on 13th July, 1998 in which Mr Munim, as Editor of the Bangladesh Observer, has been ordered, among others, including Mr Khaled Huq, to submit to the court appointed auditors, all registers, documents, vouchers etc. to audit the accounts of the company which have remained unaudited and suppressed for the last six year. The said alleged illegal order issued by Mr Khaled Huq also violates the undertaking given by his lawyers in open court before the company Bench of the Hon'ble High Court not to disturb the status quo in the newspaper, in response to a petition filed by the company before the Hon'ble Court to direct that no change in the post of Editor and Printer & Publisher be made till the holding of the Annual General Meetings [which have not been held since 1992] and election of the new Board of Directors to run and manage the affairs of the company effectively.
"In view of the situation that

has been created in defiance of the undertaking given in court. the Board of Directors resolve to take necessary legal steps to have the illegal order issued by Mr Khaled Hug set aside and to restore the status quo till the accounts of the company have been audited and the Annual General Meetings have been held for which the Hon'ble Court has already appointed a Chairman.".

The Indian toll touched 58. including 16 soldiers, until Fri-

AFP from New Delhi reports, in Kashmir, reports said today.

Intra-party

From Page 1 valid as per the party constitu-

holding a national council after every two years, there has been no council of the BNP 1993. The delay is because council sessions of party units across the country were not held, it was learnt. More than half of the party's 70 organisational units throughout the country are still run by ad hoc committees, because of long-standing conflicts in their leadership. BNP's vital force, its student

rival JCD factions but is yet to iron out the rivalry.

thana unit in the city has also emerged as a fresh trouble in the party. Despite her talks with the conflicting groups in Demra over the past few days, she could not resolve the crisis till yesterday. Similar problems are also there in the party unit in Chittagong, Khulna and many other places.

"Against the backdrop of all these things, the party is by no means, fit to launch a massive street agitation for a mid-term election," a senior BNP leader commented.

Baburabad.

istration is still confronted with protests from all the local civic bodies. Members of the local press club in a resolution have boycotted 'development news' involving the DC and the SP of Satkhira.

Several local political leaders who gave support to the landless peasants during the protests have been charged with fictitious offences", it was learnt. The Daily Star's Satkhira correspondent, Abu Ahmed, has been charged in

The local people have renamed Baburabad as Zahedanagar.

NCBs

From Page 1

who will go out on August 31

The same holds true for the

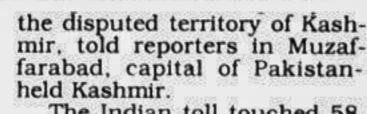
These names are much bet-

The tenure of the present directors will expire in two phases, on August 11 and Au-

The Bank Reform Committee and the Bangladesh Bank have separately sent two lists of probable chairmen and directors to the finance ministry. The ministry in turn has sent a list of ten chairmen and 40 di-

It was learnt that the list glish dailies and three from

vernacular dailies. some of the existing directors of the NCBs may be retained in the



Hindu hardliners have given India's nationalist-led government a six-month deadline to contain separatist violence

tion, they argued.

Despite a compulsion for

wing - Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) — is facing armed conflicts between its two factions. The rival groups clashed several times on the Dhaka University campus and were once locked in a first fight in presence of the party chief at her Minto Road official resi-

Khaleda Zia talked with the

The conflict in BNP's Demra

Criticising Khaleda Zia's recent moves, guided by the hardliners and keeping the tested senior colleagues in the dark, another leader observed that she was gradually falling into the grip of hardliners most of whom have a track records of changing party and lost the last general elections for their failure while in power.

Khaleda

From Page 1 dreds of men, women and chil dren lined up to greet her. A local Jatiya Party MP,

Shahadat Hossain, also joined the rally to express solidarity with the landless people of

Meanwhile, the local admin-

four such cases by police.

ending his two-year term. The new name has brought some relief to experts. But they say, much will depend on whether the new chairman will be able to steer the bank out of danger before the next general election.

other new chairmen to be appointed in the rest three NCBs. in the list there are names of persons like Dr Mozaffar Ahmed of IBA, Dr Shamsul Huq of University Grants Commission, A Quoreshi, former MD of Sonali Bank, Kazi Baharul Islam, Golam Kibria, AZM Nasiruddin and Al-Hossainy, and Khaled Shams.

ter than the previous ones," said one banking expert talking to The Daily Star, "we have been seen how the boards (of NCBs) acted during the past two years. Unless, the new directors and chairmen can show some more commitment and moral strength, the banking sector as a whole would land in trouble."

gust 31.

rectors to the prime minister.

also contained the names of five journalists, two from En-

It is also speculated that next board.



Participants in a workshop on 'Towards A Deterrorised Campus' jointly organised by the British Council and the Centre for Alternatives at the British Council auditorium yesterday. - Star photo

3 students beat up shopkeeper at DU hall

By DU Correspondent

A shopkeeper was severely injured when he was beaten up allegedly by some activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at the Bangabandhu Hall of the Dhaka University Friday night.

The victim was identified as Monir. Sources said that the BCL activists became furious as Monir was late to serve them

Pankaj Mallik. Lipton and Mithu, the three BCL activists, allegedly took Monir inside a barber shop of the hall and beat him mercilessly. Monir was later sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Pankaj, a third year student of Mathematics and a resident of Jagannath Hall of the university, was arrested from Bangabandhu Hall yesterday noon. Pankaj also reportedly hu-

miliated the provost of Bangabandhu Hall, Dr MA Aziz, in the hall premises. Witnesses said that the provost went to Room No 216 of the hall when he came to know

that the residents of the room had beaten up the shopkeeper. The provost, finding Pankaj in the room, asked him to leave

the hall immediately as he was not a resident of the hall. But Pankaj refused to leave the hall saying the provost

could do nothing if he did not leave the hall. The provost then asked the on-duty policemen stationed at the entrance of the hall to ar-

rest Pankaj. When contacted, Ramna police said no specific charges were brought against Pankaj till writing of the report last

US embassy

From Page 1

Besides the US Embassy, security measures of the Italian and Thai embassies have also been strengthened.

The security was tightened in Thai Embassy after a bomb threat was made following the signing of extradition treaty between Bangladesh and Thailand.

The security was tightened in the Italian embassy following its request to the Foreign Ministry after a hijacking took place in front of the embassy building recently.

Flood

From Page 1

steady at Bahadurabad and Sirajganj while its water level recorded a fall by 3 cm at Aricha. It was flowing 27 cm above the danger level, FFWC said.

The Dharla at Kurigram registered fall by 20 cm, Teesta by 2 cm at Dalia while it remained steady at Kaunia. The old Brahmaputra slightly fell at Jamalpur and fell by 10 cm at Mymensingh. The Buriganga remained

steady and was flowing 11 cm above the red mark. The Sitalakhya at Narayanganj recorded slight fall and was flowing 59cm above the danger mark. The Turag registered slight

fall both at Mirpur and Tongi. The river was flowing above the danger level by 72 cm at Mirpur and 49 cm at Tongi. The Kaliganga at Taraghat recorded fall by 5 cm and was flowing 54 cm above danger level. In the Ganges basin, the

Padma recorded fall by 1 cm at Pankha, by 4 cm at Hardinge Bridge, by 5 cm at Goalundo, by 2 cm at Bhagyakul. It remained steady at Rajshahi. The river was flowing above red mark by 38 cm at Pankha,

41 cm at Goalundo and 49 cm at

Bhagyakul. In the Meghna basin, the Surma recorded further rise by 24 cm at Kanaighat while it fell by 6 cm at Sylhet and 4 cm at Sunamganj. It was flowing above red mark by 48 cm at Kanaighat and 7 cm at Sunamganj.

Twin bombings: 132 killed From Page 1

blast beside the US embassy in Dar es Salaam killed at least eight people. Tanzanian doctors

Godana said the bombing was carried out by international terrorists detonating a car bomb. As the United States rushed

medical supplies and investigators to Africa, President Bill Clinton pledged to bring the terrorists who bombed US embassies in two countries to justice 'no matter what or how long it takes. Clinton vowed today not to

contingent of US troops over-"To turn our backs on those taking risks for peace, to weaken our opposition to terrorism - that would give terrorism a victory it must not and

will not have," the president

said in a live radio broadcast

from the Oval Office.

pull back a single diplomat or

Questions by reporters about the vulnerability of the two US installations that were attacked. Pickering said: "Bombproof is a relative term. Tell me what size bomb and I'll tell you what the proof is."

We have a set of standards

From Page the water level of Padma began to fall.

Erosion

In the last 36 hours, about 90 feet area of the T-groin was washed away by strong currents, officials said. Water entered about 120 feet

inside the embankment on the eastern side of the T-groin at Srirampur. Two-third area of Shimla Park was eroded by the To check the erosion, Water

Development Board has been placing cement blocks in the area. Some 300 policemen were deployed in the area and movement of people were restricted

Deputy Commissioner Kazi Farid Ahmed claimed that the erosion has been checked to a large extent.

City Mayor Mijanur Rahman Minu alleged that the authorities failed to take any measures to protect the dam in time though warnings were given earlier.

which believe deals with most of the difficulties, if not all of the difficulties, that we expect to face, and it is clear that these two buildings did not meet our

current standards", he said The 'apparently coordinated' attacks in Kenya and Tanzania marked an unprecedented simultaneous assault on US sites said Thomas Pickering, the State Department's undersecre-

tary for political affairs. The FBI dispatched dozens of agents and bombing and evidence specialists to the two East African nations to assist in the investigation.

Aircraft took off from the

United States, Europe and elsewhere in Africa bearing medical supplies and other equipment, along with replacement personnel for the two em-Pickering, the Undersecre-

tary of State for Political Affairs, refused to speculate on who might be responsible, pointing out that the United States receives 30,000 terrorist threats each year. However, other US officials pointed as a potential suspect

exiled Saudi dissident Osama

bin Laden, who has threatened

a holy war against US troops in his homeland and Americans elsewhere overseas. Bin Laden is also suspected of backing other terrorist acts around the world, including the 1996 Khobar Towers attack in Saudi Arabia that claimed the

lives of 19 US airmen. Sangu

From Page 1

Hasina is expected to inaugurate the commercial operation of the Sangu Gas Field in near future.

The commercial supply of gas was scheduled to start on April 22, but was delayed due to certain technical fault. There are 848,000 million

cft gas reserve in the field, of which 80 per cent will be explored. Bangladesh will get only 30 per cent of the gas while Cairn

will have the rest 70 per cent, according to the PSC. Bangladesh government will buy the gas from Cairn at a price of 230 US dollar per thou-

Nightmarish experience

From Page 1 of several hundred people Monday evening. The kidnappers freed her on Friday.

"I was first taken to one Sardar's house at Lakkhankhola in Bandar thana. There I was guarded by the five kidnappers. They tried to take my consent to marry Shah Alam, the gang leader who proposed me on many occasion in the past five years. As I rejected, they threatened to kill my father and brothers", narrated Rima with

fear still written on her face. The next morning, a Kazi was called at the Sardar's house for the proposed marriage. "They compelled me to sign the marriage documents... I had no other option...", said the helpless girl adding that she did not give her verbal consent to the

forced marriage. Apprehending trouble, the abductors shifted Rima to other places in Rupganj, Gazipur, Dhaka, Fatullah before freeing her in Chashara area of Narayanganj town. They used different cars to carry the vic-

During the four-day confinement at different places, Rima said, Shah Alam stayed near her all the time and the others remained around. "I was under constant threat to go for compromise. They forced me to pose for close photographs with Shah Alam", she said. They also threatened to kidnap me from the wedding ceremony whenever my father arranges my marriage" "I may suffer seven-year im-

prisonment. But I'll see you on release", Rima quoted Shah Alam as saying. At one stage, an angry Rima asked the SP and other police officials present at the thana.

"How can I and my family feel secure when the terrorists kidnapped me from a public place and killed a brother of mine one and half-a-year ago?" "How can we move freely as we're to use the road in front of Shah Alam's house in Deobhogh?"

The SP, HM Nooruddin assured all possible security to the family and sought its cooperation. He also issued an instant order to the OC to nab the criminals in 24 hours. None was, however, arrested till 11 to night... Police today produced Rima

recorded her statement. The magistrate also ordered a medical test of Rima before she is handed over to her father. In her statement, Rima named five persons - Shah Alam, Mithu, Feroz, Mosharraf

in the court where a magistrate

and Arman as her kidnappers. The kidnappers are members of an armed gang sheltered by a powerful quarter in the district town. But they had to free Rima following a move initiated by some powerful men in the government, sources said.

Police claimed to have rescued Rima from the grip of the kidnappers at Dhaka-Narayanganj link road and said the criminals managed to flee. But Rima told the magistrate, "I was taken to Chashara by the kidnappers, who left the spot on arrival of the Officer-in Charge (of Narayangani thana)." After her medical test Rima returned home at 8 tonight. But

her return brought no pleasure

for the family, still shocked by

what happened to Rima and frightened by threats from the kidnappers. Rima's brother Ratan said they continued to receive "messages to compromise and not to confront."

Armed cadres From Page 1 cal activities of a few teachers

over election and other issues. He urged the political parties to dissolve their student fronts. Mahfuz Anam said it was

unbelievable that a few terrorists were controlling the universities and the large number of students and teachers could not do anything about them. The universities were supposed to give leadership and teachers were supposed to set examples of morality. Instead, teachers were backing terrorists, he

The workshop is a follow-up of a detailed survey on terrorism at the Dhaka University by a student of the University Abdullah-Al-Hasan Shamim. The survey, conducted in two

a. There are some 70 to 80 automatic firearms on the DU b. Firearms can be "rented" for Tk 35 for two hours in Jessore, Chittagong, Dhaka and

phases in 1995 and 1998, found

some startling facts. These are:

other places Terrorists collect funds through illegal drug trade at Kantaban, Nilkhet, Palashi and Curzon Hall d. One can get admitted to the

60,000. e. Terrorists also collect money by getting contracts to kill other people. Such contracts are usually made for Tk 20,000 to 30,000.

DU illegally for Tk 40,000 to

cadres at the DU, belonging to different political parties. g. Teachers' groupings have helped create terrorism. h. Some 10 Godfathers con-

f. There are around 14 armed

trol the armed cadres at DU. Some 54 students were killed by terrorists between 1942 and 1997.

Violence entered student politics in an organised manner during Pakistan era. Terrorism was introduced to control student's anti-Aiyub movements.

Intra-party clash 11 more BCL leaders held at Gazipur

GAZIPUR, Aug 8: Police arrested 11 more leaders of pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL) for their alleged involvement in an intra-party clash in the district, reports UNB.

The arrested leaders include vice-president Atiqur Rahman, AGS Farid Hossain of Kazi Azimuddin College Chhatra Sangsad and BCL college unit president Ranjit Shaha. They were produced before the court

A motor cycle was also seized. The clash between the two groups erupted Tuesday over establishing their supremacy in Gazipur

thana premises protesting the arrest of the VP, AGS and the college unit president. Police, so far, have arrested 19 people after the intra-party

demonstrated at Joydevpur

Some BCL workers today

Chhatra League workers also brought out a procession and held a rally at Battala in the

Clinton

From Page 1

vital logistics. No spadework for the Clinton visit is yet on," an official concerned with protocol said. An advance security detail

been no other follow-up. President Clinton's proposed visit to Bangladesh was due to take place not only in concert with his visit to India and Pakistan but was also planned, keeping his participation in the APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) summit in Kuala Lumpur from November 17 to

there is still a 'slim chance' that Clinton may make a brief South Asian trip if his participation in APEC stands. However, the programme is only possible if it is announced within this month.

A diplomat, however, said

PM: Post-flood steps

From Page 1

"We have to live with floods and other disasters, we have to face them with courage for our survival," she said while addressing a spontaneous gathering at Konapara.

She said her party will al-ways stand beside the people during their bad days. The only objective of the present government is to serve the people, Hasina said calling upon her party leaders and workers to continue their service for the flood victims.

She also called upon the af-fluent section of the society to stand beside the flood affected

people and help them.

Responding to the opposition leader's allegation of misappropriation of relief goods, she said the thieves can not tolerate good work. "While they were in power they plundered people's money and now they think others like them."

Hasina alleged that the for mer government distributed the money of Prime Minister's Relief Fund among the ministers and MPs and there is no account of that money.

The ministers and MPs of the former government were given Tk 25 lakh each, she said alleging that the money was misappropriated by them.

From Konapara, the Prime Minister went to Mugdapara in Rubel's family

From Page 1

CID investigators yesterday, the four DB constables gave their statements before the Judicial Commission comprising Justice Habibur Rahman Khan.

The commission has di-

rected the CID to produce before

the commission the persons who had witnessed the alleged torture on Rubel at the DB office, official sources said Besides, the judicial commission has completed recording statements of Rubel's family

members and some others in

the locality who witnessed the

torture on Rubel in front of his

house few hours before his death in custody. UNB adds: The Commission also took views of some eminent personalities — renowned lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain, Chairman of the Editorial Board of Daily Ittefaq and New Nation Barrister Mainul Hosein, Executive Editor of Daily

and former public prosecutor advocate Abdur Rezzak Khan. Their suggestions, particularly on Section 54 and about reforms in the police administration and criminal laws, will be incorporated in the report of

Janakantha Borhan Ahmed

The Commission, which was initially given 15 days to submit its report, is likely to urge the government to extend the time by a few more days. Talking to newsmen at the

the Commission.

was almost at the last stage. The former High Court judge said he neither had affiliation with any political party in the past, nor he has any new.

Commission's office yesterday,

Justice Habibur Rahman Khan

hinted that his investigation

Sabujbagh thana and distributed relief among the flood victims, who took shelter at Mugdapara Community Centre. She also visited the flood af-

fected areas in Madya Bashabo, Uttar Bashabo, Goran, Sipahibagh, Khilgaon and Rampura. At Mugdapara Community Centre, she took a new born

baby in her lap, inquired about the condition of the mother and also talked to others. Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif, State Minister for LGRD Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Deputy Minister for Shipping Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Habibur Rahman

Mollah MP, A K M Rahma-

tullah MP and Awami League

leader Abdul Mannan accom-

panied the prime minister. Matin Chy blamed for creating rift in N'ganj BNP

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 8: A faction of local BNP today accused former home minister and BNP leader Abdul Matin Chowdhury of creating rift in the party, reports UNB. They also demanded his re-

A procession was brought out in the town. Later a rally was held with MA Majid in the chair. Speakers at the rally sought intervention of BNP Chairper-

moval from the party.

nan Bhuiyan in settling the Atahar Hossain Shamsu, Anwar Hossain Khan and Jannatul Ferdaus addressed the meeting.

son Begum Khaleda Zia and

Secretary General Abdul Man-

From Page 1 doctors only check the prisoner thoroughly if they find any external sign of injury or if the

new prisoner informs them

about his or her problems.

Probe body

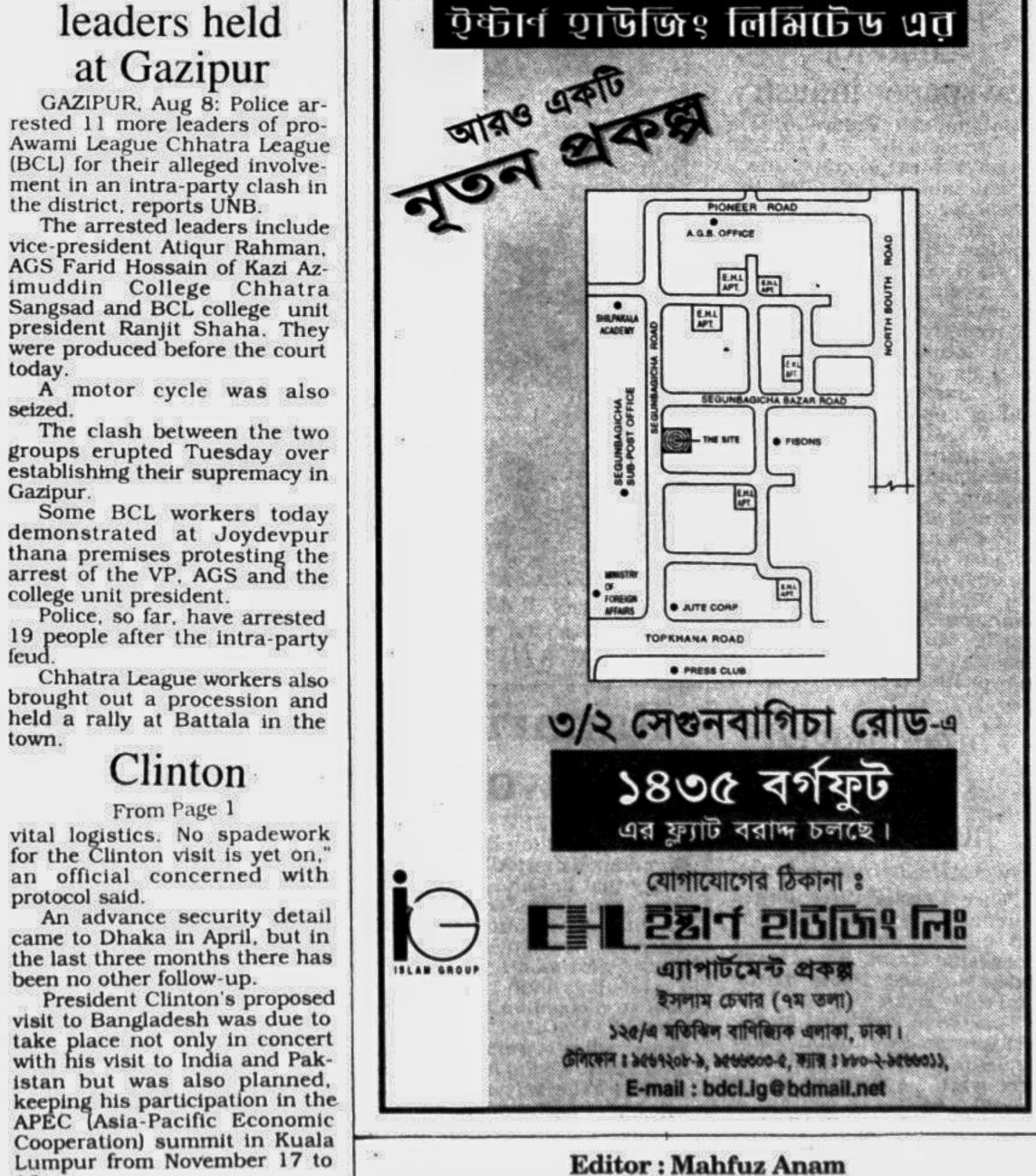
The injuries on Alamgir's limb could not be seen as it was covered by his clothes, he said. When contacted last night, Savar police again denied that Alamgir was assaulted in their custody. Alamgir was arrested by Savar police on July 3 for

allegedly possessing Phensidyl Meanwhile, SI Nurul Alam of Lalbagh thana, the Investigating officer of the case, told The Daily Star last night that he is waiting for the autopsy report to proceed with the investi-

CID, SB

From Page 1 port, is in a "most unsatisfactory state of affairs". Besides the agency is "staffed mostly by disgruntled officers who have failed or have been found unsuitable in other branches of

the police work". According to the report, the Special Branch is staffed at the mid and lower levels by "disgruntled officers of average or below-average calibre although it needs the brightest and the most intelligent officers because of the special nature of the job."



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