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Improving trade imbalance with India

'Removing tariff barriers, getting zero-tariff access needed'

Immediate steps to remove tariff and non-tariff barriers and providing zero tariff for Bangladeshi products to get ac-cess to the Indian market are needed to improve the country's worsening trade imbalance with India, reports UNB.

The views came from a joint seminar on 'Indo-Bangladesh Trade' at the FBCCI auditorium in the city yesterday afternoon. Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and Centre for Development Research Bangladesh (CDRB) organised the seminar with FBCCI president Yusuf Abdullah Haroon in the chair.

M Kabir Hasan, Associate Professor of the University of New Orleans presented the keynote paper. In his deliberation, Kabir

Hasan said: Bangladesh should, among other things, devalue its

Boatman shot Young man dead by KNM killed in Ctg security guard

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: A youngman was killed by his rivals in Moghaltuli area under Doublemooring thana last night, police said

Sirajul Islam, 24, was attacked by his rivals at 10-30 pm while he was walking on the street, with some of his friends. police said

The rivals used lethal weapons during the attack, police said that the attack was a sequel to previous enmity.

Local people said the victim was killed due to an intra-party rivalry of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

Khaleda goes to Bogra tomorrow

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begun Khaleda Zia will visit the flood-hit areas in Bogra district beginning tomorrow, reports

During her three-day visit to the district, Begum Zia will distribute relief goods at various points of Sariakandi, Gabtali, Dhunat and Kahalu thanas, party sources said.

She will return to Dhaka on Thursday.

Anup Chetia From Page 1

Chetia and allowed the authorities to supply his recent photographs and thumb impression to the Indian authorities.

When the trial of the ULFA leader resumed yesterday, Chetia requested the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Habibur Rahman not to supply his photographs and thumb impression to the

Indian authorities. Bangladesh recently received a request from the Indian government through Interpol to supply recent photographs and thumb impression of Anup Chetia.

The prosecution lawyer submitted that the Bangladesh government also received a re-

The ULFA leader requested the court to allow him to stay in Bangladesh at least until 2005, confidently saying that "India will be divided into many parts within 2005."

currency further, stop border smuggling, seek reduction in tariff and non-tariff barriers on Bangladeshi exports to In-

Encouragement of more Indian investment into Bangladesh and making the SAPTA more meaningful and opera-tional are two other things could be followed for a better trade situation with India, he

Speaking on the occasion as chief guest, commerce secretary Syed Alamgir Farooq Chowd-hury said huge trade deficit does not mean that Bangladesh gave India any special advantage nor India forced anything on Bangladesh.

He said to change the present situation and catch a huge neighbouring market, Bangladeshi exporters should change

The focus of our exporters is

From Staff Correspondent

guard of Khulna Newsprint Mill

(KNM) shot dead a boatman yes-

terday morning at Khalishpur.

boatman, identified as Salah-

uddin 38, was shot dead by KNM

security guard Obaidur Rah-

when the boatman was al-

legedly stealing gewa wood from

the eastern bank of Bhairab

river under Khalishpur thana

His wife, Shefali Begum, has

filed a case in this connection.

Draft Nat'l Land

Utilisation Policy

to be submitted

to PM by Dec

formulation of National Land

Utilisation Policy yesterday

decided to submit the draft pol-

icy to the Prime Minister by De-

meeting of the committee at the

Land Ministry with State Min-

ister for Labour Alhaj Rashed

working group to take step to

complete the draft within the

He urged the division con-

cerned of the ministry, orgnisa-

tions and the representatives of

NGOs to send their views re-

garding the policy to the Land

submit their recommendations

to the steering committee

within the first week of October,

finalise the draft policy at the

next meeting by October after

scrutinising the recommenda-

din Chowdhury, ADB represen-

tative Begum Kushi Kabir.

farmers' representative Harun-

or-Rashid Hawladar were,

Referring to the demand of

Our Staff Correspondent

adds: The association suggested

some reforms including upgra-

dation of the post of officer-in-

charge of thana to first class

gazetted post, according to offi-

the association about a gov-

ernment decision to create

some new posts for training of

police personnel, the sources

association met the prime

minister. They included IGP

Mohammad Ismail Hussain,

president of the association

Additional IG BI Siddiquee, its

general secretary Special Su-

perintendent of CID MA Han-

nan Khan, DC Detective

Branch, B Karim, ADC Detec-

tive Branch, Nuruzzaman, DIG.

Dhaka Nurul Alam, DC Protec-

tion Matiur Rahman, SP

Narayanganj, Nuruddin, DC

North PR Chandra and DC Traf-

nor the home secretary was pre-

Neither the home minister

fic Mushtaque Ahmed Khan.

sent on the occasion.

A total of 31 members of the

The prime minister also told

cial sources.

the association for setting up a

staff college for police, the

prime minister said the gov-

ernment would think about it.

among others, present.

The working group will

The steering committee will

Ministry by September 9.

said an official handout.

He directed the committee's

It was decided at the second

cember 31, reports UNB.

Mosharaf in the chair.

stipulated time.

The steering committee on

KHULNA, Aug 9: A security

According to police, the

The incident took place

Hijackers From Page 1

After the plane had been sevthemselves, the women and children were taken off the

Later, security agents detained all disembarking adult males who had been on the plane to check their handwriting and find out whether it resembled that of the note.

ily-armed squads of expert marksmen from Moscow's elite Alpha anti-terrorist unit, armoured vehicles and ambulances to Moscow's airport for domestic flights at Domodiedovo, south of the capital.

note on the floor during the flight demanding that 621,000 rubles (100,000 dollars) be left in the plane's toilets after landing ... she gave it to the pilot, the spokesman said.

The note had also demanded another plane to fly the supposed hijackers to a third, unspecified country.

Intern docs

secretary of the movement council, in a written statement, demanded reintroduction of a pay-scale and doubling of their remuneration.

ing the accommodation problem of the intern doctors and

tually run the government hospitals."

Dr. Nurul Anwar and Dr. SM Akmol Ali. Co-chairmen of the movement council, also spoke in the conference.

RC has been delayed, he said without elaboration.

PCJSS leader Jyotirindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma had told newsmen that formation of the RC was not even discussed. He had said that only the issues related to full implementation of the CHT accord were discussed.

The sources said Shantu Larma is coming to the capital sometime this month to discuss formation of the interim RC.

meeting the two sides had placed their respective agenda related to implementation of the accord.

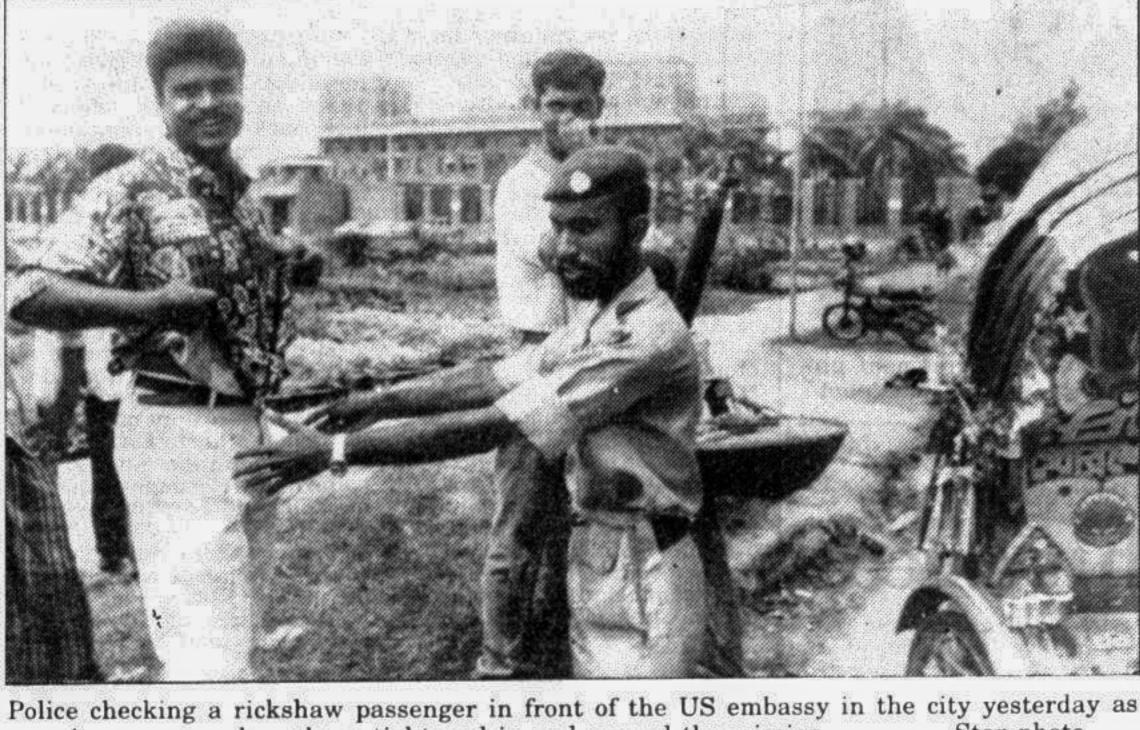
The sources said that the PCJSS leaders had reportedly expressed concern at the mushroom growth of NGOs in CHT and urged the government to prepare a guideline for their functioning. They also wanted posting of

tribal people in the administration in CHT. But it was rejected.

Issues relating to rehabilitation of refugees and displaced persons also came up for dis-

rations for 64,433 returnees week. The returnees would conary 27 next year.

The 1948 members of the Shantibahini who surrendered would continue to get rations until further order. Similarly 26,000 settler families who live in the 'cluster village's would also continue to get their rations until further order, the sources said.



security measures have been tightened in and around the mission. - Star photo

Bangladesh to get British 'millennium gift aid'

Britain will provide 'millennium gift aid to 80 countries, including Bangladesh, under its Millennium Gift Aid scheme, reports UNB.

The eligible 80 countries were specified in Regulations laid by the Treasury on July 31, said a British High Commission press release in the city vesterday.

Members of the public of those countries will be able to donate money to assist education, health and anti-poverty programmes under the scheme Under Section 48 of the Finance Act 1998, Millennium

Gift Aid tax relief is available to

donors who give 100 pounds or

more to support anti-poverty or educational projects in the world's poorest countries. Tax relief can also be given for single cash gifts of 100

Mannan Bhuiyan assigned to resolve conflicts in N'ganj BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has been assigned to resolve the party conflicts in Narayangani

One faction in the district is demanding expulsion of BNP standing committee member and former home minister Abdul Matin Choudhury from the party on charge of causing split the party and its front organisations in the district.

This group, led by Abdul Majid, former convener of the district BNP, held a demonstration in the town on Saturday and published a poster that also described Choudhury as a corrupt minister in the past BNP government. The posters were also hung at the buildings surrounding the party's central office and some other places in the capital.

Most of them were later removed

Last night, Mannan Bhuiyan held a meeting with the leaders of rival groups in Narayangani However, the outcome of the meeting could not be known.

5 get life-term for murder in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Aug 9: A court here today sentenced five people to life imprisonment for murdering a man in 1990, reports

The five - Saiful alias Sumon, Shahidul Islam alias Bipul, Haider Ali, Fazlur Rahman and Taizal Islam — were also fined Tk 10,000 each, in default to suffer one year more imprisonment.

Of them, Shahidul Islam was tried in absentia.

In his verdict in the sensational Bisarat Ali murder case, Additional District and Sessions Judge Abdur Razzak, however, acquitted seven other accused.

According to the prosecution, Bisarat Ali of Dutiapur in Kotchandpur thana was murdered by the accused in front of his minor son at Baliadanga on June 2, 1990.

The victim was on his way to the market to buy some materials for his mother's qulkwani. On the same day (June 2), a murder case was filed with the Kotchandpur police.

On June 10, 1990, the accused persons distributed a poster claiming responsibility of the murder and termed the incident an internal conflict of Purbo Bangla Sarbahara Party. They also claimed that Bis-

arat Ali was a member of the

outlawed party. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting. said a party press release yes-

ing Committee on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at a meeting held in the city yesterday stressed the need for evolving ways to overcome the curse of nuclear war, reports BSS.

with committee President Dr Mohammad Selim in the chair, the meeting observed that there should be a consensus to achieve the goal, a Sangsad Secretariat press release said.

diffuse the tension generated in the region following the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan. Discussions took place on the nuclear tests carried out by the two countries in the sub-

matter. Different aspects of the foreign policy also came up for

discussion. The meeting called upon all concerned to abandon nuclear arms race and put up greater emphasis on poverty alleviation, development of human resources and achieving economic

Committee members — Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury. Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, M Morshed Khan, M Shamsul Islam and Nurul Islam Nahid participated

in Khulna

KHULNA, Aug 9: A young girl was gangraped at Basupara here

Police said that four young men allegedly dragged the girl out of her house and raped her

According to an FIR, one of the four accused is a leader of the city unit of Jubo Sanghati. All the accused are still absconding, police said.

Rape: 3 arrested in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 9: Police arrested three persons from different areas of the town last night on charge of raping a 21year-old woman at around 9 pm yesterday. The arrested — Mohammad

Sabuj, 18, Abdul Hossain Mridha, 18, and Abdul Matin, 17. — were produced before the court today. The victim, now a resident

in the city's Saidabad WASA Colony, came to visit her estranged husband, Mohammad Wahid, at Masdair under Fatulla thana yesterday, police

She was gangraped near Mantu Garments Factory in the town allegedly by the arrested three after the victim's former husband had requested them to escort her to the bus stand. The woman, later, lodged a

case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 1995, with Fatulla thana.

Rima From Page 1

Meanwhile, Rima's elder brother Ratan today alleged that politically influential high-ups of the town have been pressuring them to withdraw the abduction case and to compromise with the culprits who abducted Rima.

the town," he said

She was released on Friday reportedly in face of pressure from their 'godfathers'

He said their family has been suffering from extreme insecurity.

"It is highly risky for us to go replaced by four 'windows' on out in this situation as we are the Trader's Workstation (TWS). up against the top terrorists of With elementary knowledge of

BJP govt in fresh trouble

Jayalalitha rejects pact on water dispute

MADRAS, Aug 9: A powerful ally has challenged India's minority government by rejecting a pact on a water dispute involving two southern states, officials said today, reports AFP. The regional AIADMK party said it would not accept a panel

to be headed by prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to settle the dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka over the waters of the Cauvery river running through both provinces. Jayalalitha Jayaram, the AIADMK leader, who wants

more water for her home state of Tamil Nadu, said the pact endorsed by heads of both the states was a 'betrayal of interests' of the farmers of her state. "It is totally unacceptable," Javalalitha said in a statement Jayalalitha wants Vajpayee to draft a law ensuring that

Tamil Nadu is given water by Karnataka. She argues farmers in Tamil Nadu are facing starvation and poverty because of lack of water for their crops. The Times of India newspaper said AIADMK's rejection of

the pact "amounted to a political challenge since the government is dependent upon the support" of the party.

PTI adds: Congress president Sonia Gandhi today launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led coalition government at the centre for clinging to power at the cost of escalating prices, de-teriorating law and order situation and economic prosperity.

Addressing a public meeting, organised by Mumbai Regional Congress Committee to mark the 56th anniversary of 'quit India' movement at the historic August Kranti Maidan in Mumbai, she said the Vajpayee government was only interested in raking up non-issues such as nuclear explosions.

Unless benefits of economic reforms reached the masses the nation's freedom was incomplete, Sonia said, "Today, after five decades of the country's independence, the same people who were opposed to Mahatma Gandhi's ideals were ruling the country," she said speaking in

Flood

From Page 1 at the upstream is also likely to deteriorate slightly.

However, the FFWC said, the situation in other areas in the Ganges basin, except the districts along the Padma, is likely to improve. Flood situation may im-

prove at the upstream of the Brahmaputra-Jamuna while from Sirajganj to downstream it may remain unchanged. Static situation may prevail from Bhairab Bazar to down

stream in the Meghna basin. The flood situation in the city and central parts of the country is likely to improve slowly, the FFWC said.

Meanwhile, 35 people have so far died of diarrhoea and 57,011 others affected in the flood-hit districts, the health department's control room An official handout quoting

reports received by the control room said yesterday 1,139 people were attacked by diarrhoea and no death was reported in last 24 hours. It said 3,473 medical teams

comprising 1,666 doctors are working in 37 flood affected districts where 75 temporary treatment centres were opened. The Health Department has taken various measures to face the aftermath of the flood. The

situation is being monitored

round-the-clock. From Page 1

five days' remand. The court yesterday granted a three-day remand and ordered CID to interrogate Akram 'carefully,' the sources said.

Besides, two petitions were moved on behalf of Akram, one for bail and the other for not placing him on remand. Both the prayers were rejected by the

In the petitions it was said that Akram was suffering from piles and high blood pressure.

At one stage of the hearing, Akram, standing in the dock took the court's permission and said, "I have lost my son. So I can feel the pain. I want trial of Rubel killing. But no innocent person should be punished."

Hunger strike From Page 1

to organise the planned hunger BNP representative in the Alliance, Shamsul Islam Khan,

told the meeting that he would let the others know about the party's final position on the date after consulting the party chief, the sources said, adding that the programme may be announced in a day or two. Later, Shamsul Islam

briefed Begum Zia about the meeting. She suggested organising the hunger strike on August But the date will be finalised after consultation with the Alliance members, BNP sources

Probe report

From Page 1 from a stair case at the Old Hajat building on July 28.

The incident took place when a constable chased a number of prisoners of the ward as they were bathing after the designated time at about 12:30 pm. The constable was later closed on August 7.

A number of prisoners fell down, including Alamgir, as all of them tried to escape the scene at a time. But Alamgir did not inform the jail authorities that he was hurt in the incident, jail sources added.

Meanwhile, Savar police continued to deny the allegation that Alamgir was beaten up in their custody. Alamgir was arrested by Savar police on July 3 for allegedly possessing a banned syrup.

The one-man committee comprising DIG (Prison) Abdul Zahir yesterday interrogated more prisoners and officials of the central jail. The submission of the committee's report has been delayed as the committee was yet to receive the autopsy report till last night, sources

Secys meet

From Page 1

Mohammad Ali, a cadre of the erstwhile Civil Service of Pakistan, is due to leave the government next month when his two year extension runs out. He is not likely to get an-

other extension because of the incident, the sources said. The secretaries yesterday discussed at length their relations with the ministers, who were made chief executives of their ministries under a revised

Rules of Business after the

Awami League came to power. Earlier, Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rab had a row with shipping secretary Mufazzal Karim on the issue of sending two officials on training before he (Kariin) went on leave preparatory to retirement on August 5. He was not given any

extension. Before the meeting of the secretaries yesterday afternoon, a group of secretaries also vented their grievances to State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, a former CSP and secretary to the

government. About half a dozen secretaries attended the meeting at the Statistical Bureau with Dr

Alamgir. He reportedly advised his former colleagues not to take any hasty and unilateral deci-

During the informal meeting, with Cabinet Secretary in chair, the secretaries complained of what they said interferences by ministers in their work. Such a situation would only widen the distance between the government and the administration, they report-

edly observed. Automated trading

From Page 1 The DSE has not also been able to properly train and educate its surveillance and monitoring officials to cope with the new system. The CSE took two months to train its surveillance

The bourse is set to begin the new trading day at 10.30 am and trading of all the listed securities will continue till 3.30 pm before the half an hour post-

personnel.

closing session. "The post-closing session will enable the traders to buy or sell at the closing price before winding up the business," according to a top DSE broker.

Almost 140 to 150 brokerage firms are expected to participate in the live auction today.

Around 185 connections are ready under local-area network (LAN) lines and another 50 under wide-area network (WAN).

The trading booths will be

The Public Order Book View icons will have options for buying and selling orders. Similarly, there will be toolbar options for new spot market or-

computers, one will be able to

enter the system using the tool-

der, new block market order, new oddlot market order etc. "Every trading would be executed with the blink of an eye, leaving no scope for front running as every transaction would bear the client's code and after every five minutes, the DSE All

Share Price Index will automatically be calculated and available on the screen," says DSE Chairman Rakibur Rahman. "There will be no room for ma-

nipulation. He said it is a milestone in the history of Bangladesh's capital market. "The bourse is now all set to become part of the

global market as an investor will be able to trade on the DSE from anywhere in the world," the DSE chief said.

tions of the working group. Committee Vice-chairman quest to hand over Chetia to the Land Secretary Muhammad Indian government through In-Omar Farouque, membersformer Secretary AK Kamalud-

PM: Police officials

said that a few police personnel

might be involved in the inci-

dent, but the entire police force should not be blamed for it. The association members observed that a conspiracy was being hatched since the present government came to power to create a gap between the police and the members of public. They further said that the conspirators became adamant and intensified their activities following the annulment of the

the Bangabandhu Murder Case. They said that the pledge of the present government had been fulfilled with the curbing of crimes in society in the past two years. They said a large number of criminals were arrested during the last two years. The officials told her that ef-

fective measures had been

taken to regain the confidence

of the people in the police force.

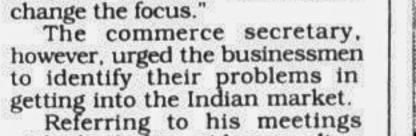
Indemnity Act and starting of

They also vowed to discharge their duties and responsibilities properly. Sheikh Hasina referred to the traffic jam in the city and asked them to streamline it. She observed that unnecessary jam was created by keeping

buses on roads.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail,

Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net



getting into the Indian market. Referring to his meetings with the Indian side regarding implementation of the SAPTA arrangements. Chowdhury stressed the need for overcoming Indian phobia that Bangladesh could be used as the channel of Chinese goods to the Indian market if all the tariff, nontariff barriers were withdrawn.

to get into the US and European

change the focus."

markets, he said. "We have to

He sought suggestions from the businessmen on other exporting items which should get zero-tariff facility in getting access to the Indian market.

CDRB president Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly delivered the welcome address while FBCCI vice-president Kazi Shafiqul Islam give the vote of thanks.

> were thoroughly searched and no bomb was found. eral hours on the ground, and the hijackers had not identified

The alarm summoned heav-

"A flight attendant found a

From Page 1

The six-point demand also include introduction of a guideline for employment of newlypassed doctors in clinics providing abundant supply of drugs and other goods in hospitals, appointment of more doctors in government hospitals, resolv-

introduction of referral system. Dr. Hayat said, "In the previous pay-scale announced in 1992, the pay for an intern was raised to Tk 4,000 from Tk 2,500, but in the recent announcement the Pay Commission did not consider the matter of the trainee doctors who vir-

PCJSS From Page 1 chiefs in Bandarban and Khagrachhari the formation of the

After Friday's meeting

They said that in Friday's

cussion. The sources said supply of from India were delayed for two months. It would resume in a tinue to get rations until Febru-

> The Judge, after examining the charge sheet and hearing the witnesses, sentenced five people to life-term in prison.

pounds or when smaller payments have reached 100 pounds or more in aggregate. Similarly, under Section 47 of the Finance Act, tax relief

can also be given to businesses which donate gifts in kind, the form of stock or used plant and machinery, for medical or educational purposes in those countries. Countries within the scope of the scheme are those eligible

for lending either by the Inter-

national Development Associ-

ation (IDA) or jointly by the

IDA and International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), both organisations of the World Bank. The countries will remain eligible for the new tax relief throughout the duration of the scheme. Additional countries which qualify in future under

the criteria set out in the Regu-

lations will also be eligible from the date of qualification. Welcoming the announcement. British Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown MP, who proposed this in the last budget, said the Millennium Gift Aid scheme will enhance the value of their donations by allowing these to be made free

opportunity to make their donations under such terms between now and the end of 2000. Islamic Varsity

He hoped that people wil

take advantage of this unique

KUSHTIA, Aug 9: Islamic University reopened today amid tight security, reports The university was closed July 24 following a series of

clashes between activists of

Chhatra League (S-P) and Is-

reopens

lami Chhatra Shibir on July 22-23. Authorities also banned meetings and processions on the campus from July 24 to August 31.

A huge contingent of police

was deployed at different points

of the University to avert fur-

ther trouble. Police were also

seen checking identity cards of

the students at the entry points of the campus. One gets 17-yr

RI for rape MYMENSINGH, Aug 9: A man was handed 17 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) by a special court here today for

kidnapping and raping a girl in

1994, reports UNB.

The special court on women and child repression control delivered the judgement of the sensational Shilpi kidnap-rape case in a crowded courtroom. District and Sessions Judge ANM Boshir Ullah sentenced Abdul Jabbar of Pannan village

in Iswargani thana to the RI for

abducting and raping Shilpi. daughter of Minnat Ali of the same village. Jabbar brought Shilpi, 20, to Moulvibazar on the pretext of giving her a job in a garment factory on May 12, 1994. He raped Shilpi confining her to a room for five to six days and

After a year of frantic effort,

Shilpi fled from Ashik and dis-

closed everything to police who

then sold her to one Ashik.

later arrested Jabbar and Nurul Islam, and chargesheeted them. The judge, after examining witnesses and relevant papers, convicted Jabbar and acquitted Nurul Islam of the case in the absence of enough evidence to prove the charge against him.

ALCWC meets

A meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) will be held at Gonobhaban at 7 pm today, reports UNB. Awami League President and

JS body for evolving ways to overcome curse of N-war The Parliamentary Stand-

Held at the Sangsad Bhaban

It described as "timely" the initiative Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had taken to

continent and the role played by the ministry of Foreign Af-Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad explained the position of the government on the

in the discussions. Young girl gangraped

From Staff Correspondent last night

alternately in a coaltar mill.

From Our Correspondent