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Ershad's remark amounts to contempt of court, say top lawyers

By Staff Correspondent
Some leading lawyers of the country yesterday condemned the statement of former president HM Ershad in which he said that he had set up seven benches of the High Court but they were "spoiled by the conspiracy of a group of people including President Shahabuddin Ahmed."

Ershad's statement was published in an English daily yesterday. The lawyers in a joint statement said, "The statement prima facie amounts to gross contempt of Court as it casts serious aspersions on the historic Judgement of the Appellate Division in the Eighth Amendment case, and on the judges, one of whom has been named, who were parties to that judgement."

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NGO activities in 3 hill dists suspended

KHAGRACHARI, Aug 11: The government has suspended all activities of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in the three hill districts, reports UNB.

Official sources here said the NGO activities were restricted by an order issued by the district administration.

The order was issued following a directive by the Home Ministry. Special Affairs Division conveyed the directive to the district administration.

However, the suspension will be in force until a new guideline for the NGOs is formulated, the sources said.

When contacted, an official of the BRAC working in Khagrachari said it had suspended all its activities in the district.

Body to probe destruction of valuable national documents formed

The government yesterday formed a three-member probe body to investigate the destruction of valuable national documents during the tenure of the past governments, reports BSS.

An official handout said that the Ministry of Information was informed that a number of documents, posters, films, still photographs, audio and video tapes, press photos, documentary films and special news bulletins related to the history of the liberation movement, War of Independence, life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his contributions to the nation were destroyed during the tenures of past governments.

The high-powered probe body, headed by additional secretary of the information ministry, will submit a detailed report, identifying the persons responsible for the incidents by August 31.

New chairmen of Agrani, Janata banks

By Staff Correspondent
The government has appointed two more chairmen of Nationalised Commercial Banks (NCBs), according to official sources.

Matiur Rahman, a former secretary and chairman of Privatisation Board, has been appointed chairman of Agrani Bank. Health Secretary Mohammad Ali has been appointed chairman of Janata Bank. Ali's contract appointment.

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Alternatives

The Alternatives page on campus — "Towards a Safer Campus" — will be published tomorrow

Full-scale gas supply from Sangu

Consumption & payment to be difficult for govt

The government will face extreme difficulty in consuming and paying for gas from the Sangu field when its British developer Cairn Energy starts supplying the full quantum of gas from December next, sources said.

Cairn Energy intends to increase gas supply from Sangu from December to 160 million cubic feet gas per day (mmcf) from the present level of 60 mmcf. Simon J Thomson, assistant to the Chief Executive of Cairn, told The Daily Star during a visit last week.

Petrobangla sources, on the other hand, said that the existing infrastructure could not even properly distribute the 60 mmcf although there was a huge gap between demand and supply of gas.

In order to consume Sangu gas, production in several gasfields under Petrobangla have been reduced.

"It would be impossible for Petrobangla to actually consume and utilise Sangu's 160 mmcf gas in December without further reducing gas production at the state-run gasfields," said a source. He added that the situation would have been much productive had the government implemented projects like the

Meghnaghat power plant earlier.

The gas produced at the state-run gasfields like Titas, Bakhrabad and Jalalabad is cheaper than Sangu gas by about 100 per cent.

As per the agreed gas pricing formula, the price of Sangu gas during the June-August quarter is around 2.25 US dollars (or around Tk 110) a unit (one thousand cubic feet). In contrast, the local sale price of gas is Tk 56. Therefore, greater quantum of gas purchase from Sangu would mean a bigger loss for the country. The loss would

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AC Akram given division in jail

By Staff Correspondent
AC Akram Hossain, principal accused in the Rubel murder case, has been given division as a first class prisoner at the Dhaka Central Jail.

A court order to this effect was given yesterday. A petition seeking division was moved in the CMM's court on behalf of Akram last week.

The court asked Pallabi thana to give a report on the status of Akram, Assistant Commissioner of Detective Branch. The OC of Pallabi thana submitted the report yesterday, court sources said.

Akram is now under treatment at the prison wing of PG Hospital. He was brought to the hospital on Monday as he fell sick. He is on a three-day CID remand since Sunday.

CID Investigating Officer of the murder case yesterday submitted a petition before the court saying that Akram was handed over to prison custody as he was sick.

According to court sources, the report from Pallabi thana mentioned that AC Akram's fa-

ther was a food inspector in Calcutta. Later, in his retired life, he was a Union Parishad Chairman in Tangail. It added that AC Akram is a first class government official and his relatives are in prestigious positions.

CID officials said they did not interrogate the principal accused yesterday. However, they questioned six DB plainclothesmen in connection with

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Tenure of judicial probe body extended

The time-limit of the Judicial Enquiry Commission to probe the death of IUB student Shamim Reza Rubel in DB police custody has been extended by 15 days, said a PID handout yesterday, reports UNB.

The first 15-day tenure of the one-man inquiry commission expired yesterday.

Assets of police officials: No circular from home ministry

By Staff Correspondent
Police will submit statement of their assets as per the circular issued by the Cabinet Division for a few months back, Inspector General of Police Ismail Hossain said yesterday.

The circular seeking statement of assets was issued for all the cadres of government officials," the IGP told The Daily Star.

"No separate circular has so far been issued from the Ministry of Home Affairs for submission of statement of assets of the police officials," he said in reply to a question.

However, Home Minister Rafiqul Islam, addressing a press conference on July 29 following the killing of Rubel in DB custody, had asked police officials to submit statement of assets by August 31.

The minister gave the directive in response to questions from journalists about measures to probe alleged 'illegal amassing of wealth by police officials.' The press conference was also attended by among

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Drug dealers kill boy, now threaten mother

By Special Correspondent
A vicious gang of drug dealers who had beaten to death a 15-year-old shoe factory worker on July 23 in the city's Siddique Bazar area for his alleged refusal to work as a 'carrier', are now threatening the boy's mother for filing a case against them.

The boys mother, Anwara Begum, filed a murder case with the CMM's court yesterday after Kotwali thana refused to accept the case.

The gang, allegedly led by Ripon and Suruj, both residents of Alubazar at Haji Osman Ghani Road, is well known to Kotwali police which had refused to accept the murder case, Anwara Begum told some newsmen who visited her at her house yesterday.

The widow said her only child, Abdul Kuddus, who had never seen his father who died when she was eight months pregnant, was beaten by the drug dealers, tying him to a lightpost on July 23 morning when he was on way to the shoe factory at Siddique Bazar.

The gang beat Kuddus claiming that he was a police informer.

They made the swoop on the 'suspect' after their brief sojourn in police custody on charge of dealing in drugs. Their surrogates hauled Abdul



Abdul Kuddus
Kuddus on his way to the factory.

He was publicly bludgeoned to death, tied to a lightpost and hit hard with hockey sticks, as a warning to other 'traitors', Anwara said quoting the people who witnessed the murder.

She came to know about the incident at 10-30 am from her neighbours after returning home from her regular job of taking children to school. Her neighbours told her that some 'maastans' had severely beaten her child in front of Agrani Club at Siddique Bazar.

When she rushed to the club, See Page 12 Col 8

From RU Correspondent
RAJSHAH, Aug 11: The OC of Motihar thana and four BCL leaders have been injured in factional clashes since last night at Rajshahi University.

The injured leaders are Sakhawat Hossain Shafig, Abdul Gaiyum Ron, Mohammed Ali Lon and Anwar Hossain. The officer-in-charge (OC) of Motihar thana was also injured

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Suspected ULFA rebels blow up oil refinery in Assam

GUWAHATI, India, Aug 11: Suspected tribal militants today blew up a state-run oil refinery in rebellion — wracked northeastern state of Assam, report agencies.

Police said they suspected separatist militants were responsible for the explosion which set off the blaze that damaged at least five of the Indian Oil Corporation's (IOC) seven storage tanks before it was brought under control.

"A loud sound was heard and immediately fire broke out at the depot at around four o'clock in the morning (2230 GMT Monday)....." a senior police officer in Nagaon, the nearest town, told the news agency by phone.

"We suspect guerillas of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) must have carried out the bomb blast," he said.

The ULFA, formed in 1979,

has in the past targeted oil installations in the oil-rich state. It accuses the federal government of exploiting the state's rich mineral resources while ignoring the region's economy.

IOC officials in Guwahati, Assam's capital, said fire fighters had controlled the blaze and that no one had been injured.

They said the storage depot, which is located between the main highway and a railway track nearly 100 km (63 miles) east of the state capital was IOC's distribution centre for petroleum products supplied to eastern parts of the state.

"It is a small depot and so normal supplies will not be affected," an IOC official said.

State Chief Minister, Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, said the government had information that militants were planning to strike before India's Independence Day on August 15

Transport workers threaten strike in Ctg, Sylhet divns from Sept 6

By Staff Correspondent
The Eastern Committee of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samikha Federation (BSPSF) yesterday said it will go for a non-stop strike in Chittagong and Sylhet divisions from September 6 if their 10-point charter of demand is not met.

Prior to that, it will observe a 48-hour strike in Sylhet division on August 17 and 18 and a 24-hour strike in Chittagong and Sylhet divisions on August 25. BSPSF leaders told a press conference at the Jatuya Press

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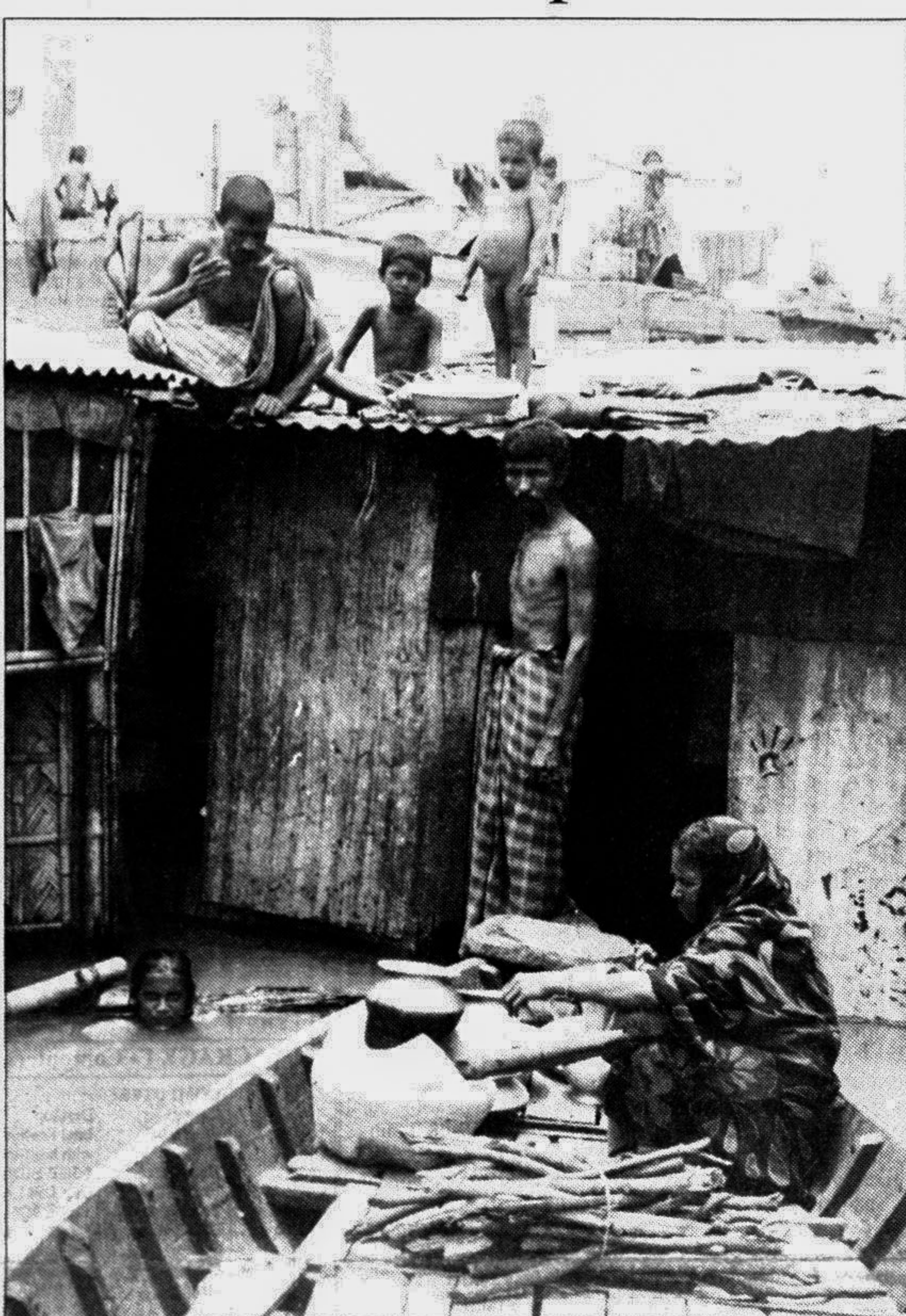
BCL factions clash at RU: 4 leaders, OC injured

From RU Correspondent
RAJSHAH, Aug 11: The OC of Motihar thana and four BCL leaders have been injured in factional clashes since last night at Rajshahi University.

The injured leaders are Sakhawat Hossain Shafig, Abdul Gaiyum Ron, Mohammed Ali Lon and Anwar Hossain. The officer-in-charge (OC) of Motihar thana was also injured

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Unusual rush of patients at ICDDR,B



LIVING WITH FLOOD: A family has taken shelter on rooftop at Kaliganj in Gazipur district while their food is being prepared on a boat.

By Naimul Haq
An unusually large number of diarrhoea patients are seeking treatment at the ICDDR,B in the city over the last two weeks.

"At this time of the year, we don't receive so many patients. We received 614 patients on Monday and discharged 434 of them the same day," said Dr Md Abdus Salam, Chief Physician of the ICDDR,B the only specialised hospital for treatment of diarrhoeal diseases.

Dr Salam said, this is definitely an unusual number of cases. Normally, diarrhoeal epidemic is noticed during September and October. To handle the situation, additional funds are being sought from donor agencies.

"Normally, we require 1.2 million US dollars annually to provide hospital services here. But due to the unusual rush of patients, we may have to seek at least half a million dollars extra," he added.

During a visit to the hospital See Page 12 Col 1

Rain: Major rivers swell again

Monsoon rain across the country raised water levels in most points of the major rivers in all the four basins yesterday and officials feared that the flood situation in central districts may deteriorate again, report agencies.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said the Brahmaputra-Jamuna and the Padma recorded rise at all but one point. The rivers of Meghna basin also rose in most points in Greater Sylhet. The rivers in the southeastern hill basin, however, saw both rise and fall at different points.

The forecast said the flood situation in the Ganges basin, including the districts along the Padma river, is likely to deteriorate slightly today.

It said Brahmaputra-Jamuna would continue to rise in downstream areas including at the Aricha point. The situation in the upper part of the Meghna basin in Greater Sylhet may remain static but the situation is likely to improve a little in areas from Blairab Bazar to downstream.

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Health Secy may seek extension of leave

By Special Correspondent
Health Secretary Mohammad Ali is planning to seek extension of leave which ended yesterday.

He went on leave for seven days after a row with Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf last week.

He reportedly called the minister a 'liar' during a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on health ministry.

When contacted Mohammad Ali said he is contemplating extension of his leave.

Since his row with the minister some senior ministers met

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Minor boy abducted

Miscreants abducted a minor boy from Uttar Kafur in the city's Cantonment area on Monday, reports UNB.

Police said the miscreants picked up Shahin, 10, son of Anwar Hossain of 506 Uttar Kafur, when he was playing at a nearby playground in the afternoon.

They were now demanding a ransom of Tk 50,000 from his father, police said.

A case was filed with Cantonment thana. But the police could not yet rescue Shahin.

DSE: Trading smooth but index down

Star Business Report
Trading was smooth and without any technical disruption on the second day of the online transactions at the Dhaka Stock Exchange yesterday.

Prices of most stocks were declined by small margins, but trading volume increased slightly.

The benchmark DSE All Share Price Index dropped by 4,757 points on the day from the opening 652.05 to 647,293 at close.

Unlike the first day, all the listed securities were open to business. The number of brokers who took part in trading also rose yesterday, to over 120 from 104 the previous day.

DSE officials said the problems that had occurred on the first day had been taken care of and that things were now back on track.

They also said that the SEC chairman and his surveillance team visited the exchange.

"Tandem officials are

Sandwip town areas flooded

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Aug 11: Tidal waters entered through breaches in an embankment inundating the low-lying areas of Sandwip this afternoon, forcing hundreds to take shelter on higher land, local people and officials said.

Tidal water entered the town and other low-lying areas through the broken points of an embankment, they said.

The Sandwip protection embankment suffered breaches during the recent flood that ravaged vast low-lying areas there rendering a large number of people homeless.

The tidal water this afternoon even entered the Sandwip thana office and other nearby houses, officials said.

Normal life was paralysed at Sandwip town due to the inundation.

Meanwhile, Chittagong city and its adjoining areas also saw intermittent rainfall today causing waterlogging in the low-lying areas.

Met Office recorded 69 mm rainfall in the past 24 hours till 6 pm today.

Trader stabbed to death in city: 2 held

By DMCH Correspondent
A young trader was stabbed to death by a gang of assailants at Mir Hajibagh under Demra thana in the city yesterday evening.

Local people caught two of the alleged killers, identified as Kamal and Babul, and beat

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RAJUK Commercial Plot Auction Notice

This is for information of all intending persons that most suitable Commercial Plot more or less 4 (four) Bigha (comprising plot Nos 34, 36, 38 & 40 on Poet Farrukh Sharani and plot Nos 61, 63, 65 & 67 on Airport Road) having road facilities on two sides by Dhaka-Mymensingh road in Nikunja North, Dhaka will be allotted for 99 years lease on open auction for constructing of a hotel of international standard.

Prescribed application form with terms and conditions may be obtained from Sonali Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch, Dhaka on payment of Tk 5,000.00 (Taka five thousand) only in cash (non-refundable) from 13-08-98 to 30-08-98 during office hours and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estate) from intending person up to 1.00 PM on 31-08-98. Applications are to include a Pay Order/Bank Draft of Tk 50,00,000/- (Tk fifty lakh) as earnest money.

The auction will be held at 11-00 AM on 02-09-98 in the conference room (3rd floor) or Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka.

Chairman
Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha
Dhaka.

DFP-17307-11/8/98
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