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BSB to file cases against 14 cos to recover

TK 193.52 cr loan

Bangladesh Shilpa Bank in a bid to recover its outstanding loan amounting to Tk 193.52 crore from 14 companies has decided to lodge bankruptcy cases against those, reports UNB.

Legal notices have already been issued against the companies and their directors, said a press release today (Wednesday).

The companies against which the bank decided to file cases are: Bangladesh Solvent Oil Ltd, Sirajganj (Tk 50.98 crore), Zahid Wire and Allied Industries Ltd, Bogra (Tk 40.69 crore), Sarathi Textile Mills Ltd, Jessore (Tk 26.26 crore), Crescent Textile Mills Ltd, Pabna (About Tk 23.58 crore), National Electric Company Ltd, Gazipur (About Tk 22.80 crore), National Oxygen Ltd, Chittagong.

Countrywide loadshedding 350 mw

By Staff Correspondent

The country suffered a loadshedding of 350 mw of electricity yesterday, officials of the Power Development Board said.

"Loadshedding is mainly caused as the 210mw power plant at Ghorashal," is out of order," one official said.

The power station at Ghorashal went out of order on August 5 and is expected to be repaired by August 15," the official said.

Of the total load shedding yesterday, the city alone suffered a shortage of about 150 mw, PDB officials said.

The "PDB plants generated 1950 mw of power yesterday against the national demand for 2300 mw."

"After every four years, the power plants are needed to be overhauled," said a high official, adding that this could not be done due to shortage of power generation capacity of the country.

7 NCB directors' tenure expires

By Staff Correspondent

The government is yet to appoint seven directors of the Nationalised Commercial Banks (NCBs) although the tenure of seven expired on August 11.

The list of the probable candidates is still awaiting the Prime Minister's approval. Sources said, the delay in appointment will not affect normal activities of the banks.

"The boards of NCBs consist of seven members each," said one source. "A quorum is still possible to take any decision or to hold board meetings."

The seven directors whose tenure expired are: two directors of Sonali Bank, Dr Atiur Rahman and Nurul Quyum Khan, two of Agrani Bank, Sushil Ranjan Hawladar and Mahabubur Rahman, two of Pubali Bank Dr Ashrafuddin Chowdhury and Prof Nazma Rahman and one director of Janata Bank Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya.

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Announcement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a two-page special Alternatives section on "Towards a Safer Campus" Pages 6-7.

Star Weekend Magazine

On the 23rd of July, 24-year old Rubel, a final year student of IUB was picked up from the lane outside his home in the afternoon by plainclothes policemen. By nightfall he was declared dead. Read this week's in-depth cover story about Rubel's horrible and untimely death.

Inside Today Article

The Afghan Scene: Who is Really Winning the Game?

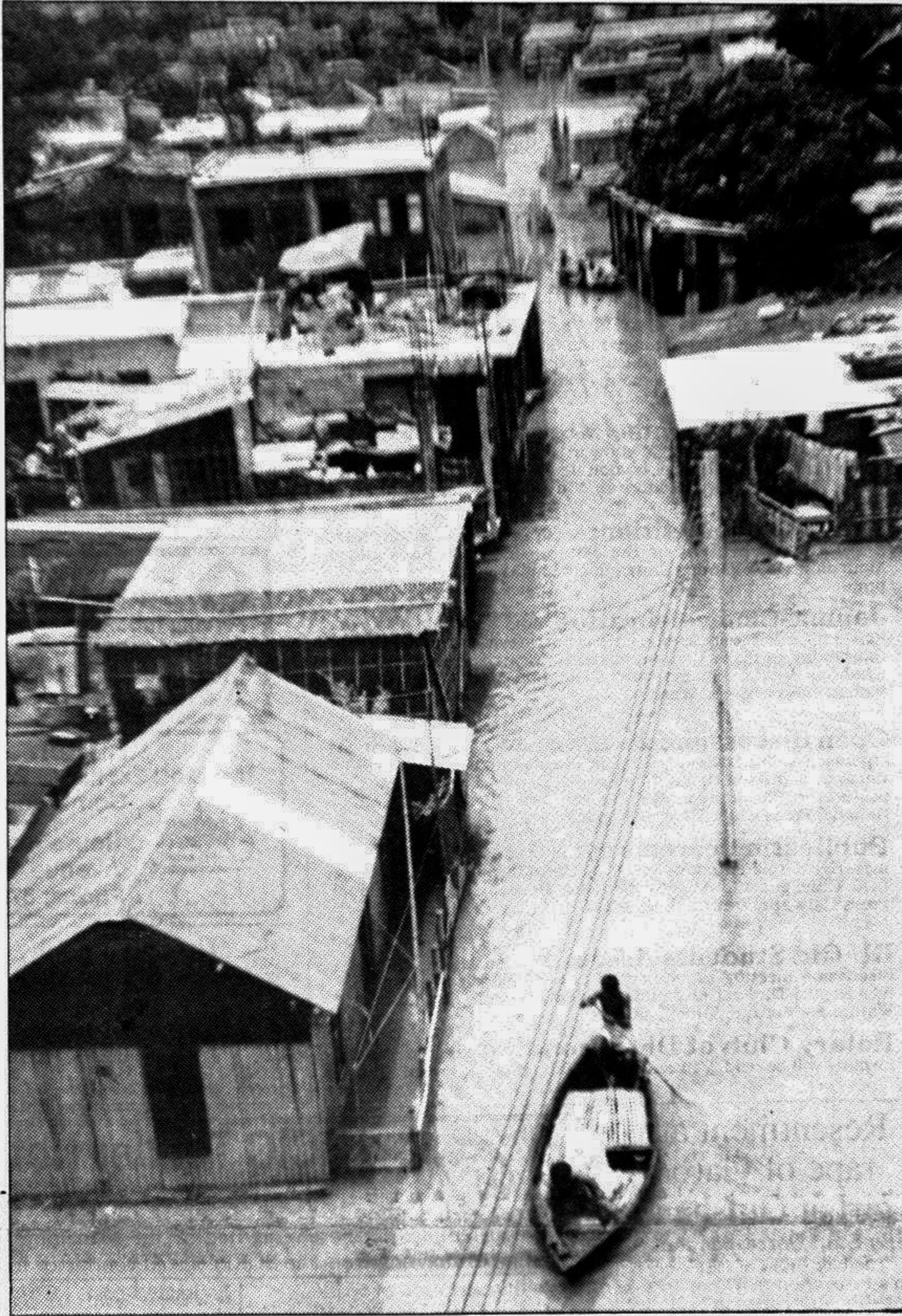
by Barrister Harun ur Rashid Page 4

Business

Star special on automation of stock exchanges

DSE price quotation Pages 8, 9, 10

Rain may worsen flood situation



PLIGHT OF FLOOD VICTIMS: Boats have replaced rickshaws and tempos on roads in Kamrangirchar on the outskirts of the city. — Star photo

Heavy to moderate rainfall may again worsen country's overall flood situation, according to a bulletin of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) issued in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

Eleven rivers in the four basins are flowing above the red mark at 17 points, said the FFWC monitoring report.

It said several rivers, especially in the South Eastern Hill basin, registered sharp rise yesterday following heavy downpour and onrush of hill waters.

Downpour at many places over the Brahmaputra and SE Hill and light to moderate rain at many places over the Ganges and Meghna basins were recorded in last 24 hours till 9 am yesterday.

Flood situation in nine districts remained static yesterday while it improved slightly in 13 districts, said the Relief and Disaster Management Ministry control room.

The control room said the situation improved slightly in Dhaka, Pabna, Narayanganj, Rajbari, Narsingdi, Mymensingh, Comilla, Netrokona, Madaripur, Brahmanbaria, Moulvibazar, Sunamganj and Habiganj.

The situation remained unchanged in Faridpur, Shariatpur, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Jamalpur, Bogra, Sirajganj, Gaibandha and Chandpur districts.

The FFWC said the flood situation at the upstream of the Brahmaputra-Jamuna river is likely to remain steady while at the downstream upto Aricha may deteriorate slightly.

The situation in the Ganges basin as well as the districts along the river Padma is also likely to deteriorate further. The FFWC said the flood situation in the upper part of the Meghna basin may remain unchanged while from Bhairab Bazar to downstream may improve slightly.

According to the bulletin, the Brahmaputra-Jamuna recorded rise at all points. The Padma also recorded rise at all points, except Goulundo where it remained steady. Rivers in Meghna basin registered rise and fall. Most of the rivers in South Eastern Hill Basin recorded sharp rise.

Rivers flowing above the danger level are Jamuna at Bahadurabad and Aricha, Buriganga at Dhaka, Shitalakha at Narayanganj, Turag at Mirpur

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Schemes under HANA US defence team to complete survey by August 27

By Staff Correspondent

The United States Defence Department team which is now in the country is expected to complete its disaster assistance study mission by August 27, sources said.

The 10-member team arrived at the beginning of the month to conduct a survey to prepare schemes under the Humanitarian Assistance Needs Assessment (HANA) programme. The team is due to prepare a five-year plan for providing humanitarian and disaster assistance to Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, confusion was created following reports in a section of the press that Bangladesh signed an agreement on HANA with the US on July 29.

Signing of the agreement was announced by the visiting US defence team at a press briefing on August 5. But there

was no announcement from the government.

When contacted, Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman said that there was an agreement through exchange of diplomatic notes were signed by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and Charge d Affairs of the US embassy Theodore Nist on July 29.

When his attention was drawn to newspaper reports which said that no announcement was made regarding signing of the agreement and that the matter of signing of HANA came up at the Awami League Working Committee meeting on Monday, Abul Hasan replied: "We are not bound to reveal what transpires in Working Committee meetings. It, therefore

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Illegal loans to 2 IFIC Bank directors HC asks BB to show cause within 6 weeks

By SC Correspondent

The High Court has ordered Bangladesh Bank to show cause as to why it should not be directed to take prompt action against IFIC Bank, its directors and officers concerned for giving loans illegally to two sponsor directors.

The show cause order was issued following filing of a writ petition on Tuesday relating to illegal loan facilities taken by two sponsor directors of IFIC Bank, Sohail F Rahman and Salman F Rahman of Beximco Group.

Returnable within six weeks, the HC ordered Bangladesh Bank to show cause as to why it should not be directed to take "prompt and effective action" against IFIC Bank and its directors and officers concerned under the Banking Companies Act, 1991, in particular sections 45, 46, 47 and 109 thereof and

other applicable laws, for the protection of the rights and interests of the shareholders and depositors of the said bank.

A Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Khandker Mahmud-ul Hasan and Justice Md Latifur Rahman also directed the Bangladesh Bank to show cause as to why it should not be directed to take immediate measures to prevent continuing breach of law by IFIC Bank and to suspend the members concerned of the Board of IFIC Bank.

Two shareholders, SA Azim and Shahidul Islam, and two depositors, Alauddin Ahmed and Anis Ahmed Khan, of IFIC Bank filed the writ petition implicating Bangladesh Bank, represented by its Governor, IFIC Bank as respondents, and M Aga Yusuf as proforma-respondent.

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Four prisoners escape from court hajat at Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 12: Four under-trial prisoners escaped from the Court hajat in Sylhet after stabbing two havildars and throwing chilli powder on three other on-duty constables this afternoon.

The havildars are in critical condition at the operation theatre in the Osmani Medical College Hospital, police sources said tonight.

All the five police men have been put under suspension, police officials said.

The four prisoners, along with many others, were brought to the Court hajat in the Collectorate building to be produced before court in connection with different cases.

The four were Babul and his brother Tojummul Ali Alias Birol, sons of Aslam Ali of village Silam, Sylhet Sadar thana, Khallur Rahman and Shamsul Islam, both from Barlekha thana of Moulvibazar district. At about 3.20 pm, they came in

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Ghazi Shamsur Rahman dead

Ghazi Shamsur Rahman, eminent jurist and author, died at BIRDEM hospital here at 8:30 am yesterday. He was 77, reports UNB.

He was admitted to the hospital on Sunday with complications in his pancreas.

Ghazi Shamsur Rahman was earlier sent to Singapore for treatment but taken back as the doctors there gave no hope of his recovery.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers. Leading hydrologist Dr Ainun Nisat of BUET is his eldest son.

He will be buried at Banani graveyard after namaz-e-Janaza at Baitul Mokarram Mosque after Jehr prayers today.

Born in village Maltia in Dumuria thana of Khulna district in 1921, Ghazi Shamsur Rahman completed his MA in English and LLB and later joined the judicial service.

He became a popular and prominent figure for his special way of deliberation on laws in electronic media.

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AL planning to hold public meeting in city Sunday

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League is planning to hold a big public meeting in the city on Sunday in a fresh bid to reactivate organisational units and clear its stand in respect of some much talked-about issues.

According to party sources, Prime Minister and AL chief Sheikh Hasina is expected to address the meeting, just a day after the National Mourning Day. She is likely to dwell on important issues like progress of investigation into Rubel murder case, police firing in Sathkira, signing of an accord with the US on HANA, tackling of flood situation and relief operation.

The decision to organise such a meeting in the city was taken at the party central working committee meeting held at the Prime Minister's official residence on Monday.

Though the city unit of AL was entrusted with the task of mobilising people for the meeting, the rank and file in the city unit was not so enthusiastic about it, insiders said.

A number of city AL leaders told The Daily Star that the vital unit of the party was feeling frustrated in the absence of a full-fledged committee even more than a year after its last council.

Case filed against AC Akram, 2 others for torturing DU student

A criminal case was filed against AC Akram Hossain, Inspector of DB Ziaul Hasan and OC of Ramna thana Rafiqul Islam for physically torturing a man in police custody, reports UNB.

Mustafizur Islam Mamun, who completed his LLB (Hons.) from Dhaka University, filed the case with the CMM's court yesterday.

The plaintiff said he was arrested by the city unit of Madhu's Canteen on Dhaka University campus on May 11, 1998 without any warrant of arrest or specific charge. He was taken to DB office immediately after the arrest and accused Akram ordered other accused to torture him. He said he was then beaten mercilessly and was about to die following the torture.

Mamun said he was later produced in the court. The CMM's court has sent the case record for judicial enquiry.

Bangabandhu Murder Case Motive was to annihilate Mujib's family: Spl PP

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was perhaps killed for giving us freedom, a flag, a language and a place in the comity of nations, Special Public Prosecutor Serajul Haq told the trial court yesterday, reports UNB.

"Why was he killed? There can't be any killing without motive.... the motive was to annihilate Mujib's family," said the renowned criminal lawyer, rubbing his eyes filled with tears, while submitting his arguments at the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Court.

He spoke of the contents of the FIR, competence of Muhiul Islam in lodging the *ejhar*, causes of delay in filing the case and truthfulness of the charges brought against the accused.

After completion of cross-examination of 61 prosecution witnesses that took about a year, the prosecution side yesterday came up with arguments to establish the involvement of the 19 charged accused in the killing of Bangabandhu and his family members on August

15, 1975. "We will have to take into account who was killed. That is relevant and most important because everyday thousands of people are killed in this world no one cares.... the victim is Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," he said.

The lawyer said, "I went to Italy and got into a taxi. The taxi driver asked me where I was from. I said, Bangladesh. The taxi driver said get down from my taxi, I will not carry you, you have killed the man who did justice for you."

"The killing of a possibility was a tragedy, not killing of a man... Bangabandhu was possibly killed for his life-long struggle to give us privilege," he added.

Huq said Mujib has suffered for us, he may not deserve a monument, but not killing in this manner.

There remains a motive behind every killing and probably Bangabandhu's youngest son, 10-year-old Russel, was also killed only to exterminate "Mu-

jib's blood." "It was nothing new in the history, Bahadur Shah's sons were killed and two sons of Richard II were also killed."

He went on to ask, "My valiant soldiers (accused), was it necessary to killed Russel?" The special PP said, "Killing of Mujib was a reasonable malignity. Ikhtiaruddin Mohammad Bakhtiar Khilji was also killed in the same manner."

Describing the killing of Mujib as a dastardly act and cowardice, Huq said, "I have never seen such coward soldiers in my life. I can expect such thing from criminals, not from soldiers. Are soldiers trained for that? Does we spend money for that?"

After killing Sheikh Kamal and Bangabandhu, the special PP said, "our brilliant soldiers" went inside a room to kill the women there.

He said motive sometimes is not pronounced but remains engraved in action. The killing, starting from the first victim in the house, Sheikh Kamal, and

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Govt has failed to tackle flood situation: Khaleda

BOGRA, Aug 12: BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today criticised the government for what she said its failure to tackle the country's flood situation, reports UNB.

"Miseries of the flood affected people have intensified because of the government's mismanagement and lack of responsibility," she said addressing a wayside meeting at Kalbilpur in Sonatala thana.

The flood-stricken people are passing the days in a sub-human condition for want of relief materials, Begum Zia told the meeting.

"We cannot remain silent at this situation. BNP is extending its alout cooperation with its

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23 fishermen missing as boats capsized in Bay

CHITTAGONG, Aug 12: Twenty-three fishermen were missing in the Bay after two fishing boats capsized near Sonachhora in Banshkhali coastal area last night, reports UNB.

MV Farhana and MV Josna sank with 47 fishermen aboard at 3 pm during heavy rain that turned the sea rough, but 24 of them were rescued by nearby fishing boats.

Of the missing, six fishermen were in MV Farhana and 17 in MV Josna.

Local administration continued the search for the missing fishermen. Rescuers of Chittagong Port have been sent to the spot.

Kidnapped Ctg businessmen freed

CHITTAGONG, Aug 12: Three businessmen of the port city, who were kidnapped 10 days ago, were released by kidnappers in Razuan thana today, reports UNB.

The said Shahinul Islam, Shahidul Alam and Abid Hossain were released at Holodia in Razuan thana at 3:15 pm.

The businessmen were kidnapped on August 2 from Eidgah area for a ransom of Tk 20 lakh.

The kidnappers brought them to Holodia this afternoon by a microbus to realise the ransom. But they soon fled the scene sensing presence of police

Move to hasten process of depositing resignation letters by BNP MPs

By Nazmul Ashraf

A move is underway to hasten the process of depositing with the BNP chief the party lawmakers' letters of resignation from the Jatiya Sangsad with a section of the MPs opposing the party decision.

Some of the BNP MPs who pioneered the move, are preparing to deposit their letters of resignation from the Jatiya Sangsad with party chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia, party sources said. A few of them have already handed over their resignation letters to the party whips.

The BNP Standing Committee decided on July 22 that all the party legislators would deposit their resignation letters with Begum Zia through Opposition Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain. The committee also empowered the party chief to submit those to the Speaker at an "appropriate time."

Khandakar Delwar Hossain told The Daily Star last night he had given guidelines to the BNP whips on preparation of the party MPs' resignation let-

ters and collection of those. Asked how many of the party MPs have so far deposited their resignation letters, he said, "Most of the letters collected are with the whips. A few have reached me as of today."

He also quoted the whips as saying that they were facing problems in collecting the letters as most of the party lawmakers are now busy in relief operations in flood-hit areas. "The flood is delaying the process."

Replying to another question, Khandakar Delwar said they started working on the format of the resignation letters early this month and the process of preparing and collecting those started a few days ago.

The standing body decision, that faced instant opposition from some influential members in the highest decision-making body, later caused frustration among most of the party MPs who thought that such a decision should have been taken by themselves and that the step

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Rubel's father says We are confused about CID investigation

By Staff Correspondent

Rubel's family once again avoided CID investigators when they went to their house yesterday to record their statements as witnesses to the Rubel murder case on July 23.

The family members expressed their reservation on giving statements, raising questions about the "sincerity" of the investigating agency.

Abdur Rob, father of Shamim Reza Rubel, reiterated his earlier grievances regarding the arrest and murder of his son in Detective Branch custody.

"We are in real confusion. I don't understand what the CID investigators have done so far to ensure justice for my son's murder," Rob told The Daily Star last night. "I don't feel confident the way the investigation is progressing," he added.

A CID team led by investigat-

ing officer ASP Munshi Atiqur Rahman visited Rubel's house at Siddheswari at about 6 pm yesterday. Abdur Rob told the CID team to contact them on Saturday next.

Earlier on Saturday, the CID also met Rubel's family with the same purpose but did not succeed.

Meanwhile, AC Akram Hossain, the principal accused in Rubel murder case, was improving at the prison wing of PG Hospital, sources said.

A CID official said last night that following an order of the court, Akram was officially under the prison authorities since yesterday. The CID will pray to the court to place Akram on remand after his recovery from sickness.

The CID investigators yes-

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