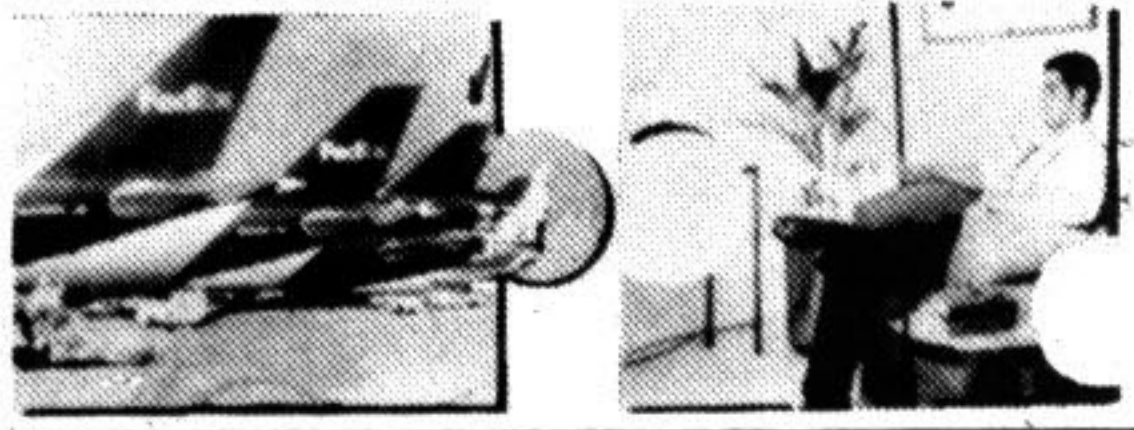


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## Khaleda demands all-party relief committee

BANCHHARAMPUR, Aug 14: BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today demanded of the government to immediately form an all-party relief committee to help the flood victims across the country, reports UNB.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament made the demand during her relief operation at Banchharampur. Thana Parishad premises in the afternoon.

She also demanded of the government to open gruel kitchens for flood victims as well as to initiate post-flood agriculture rehabilitation programme.

"The government has failed in mitigating the sufferings of flood victims", Begum Zia told a big crowd at the Thana Parishad ground before distributing relief among the victims.

"An all-party relief committee be immediately formed for proper distribution of relief and saving the people," she said.

The BNP chief said her party has suspended all political programmes and engaged itself in conducting relief activities across the country.

"BNP will carry on with the relief operation until the flood water recedes," she told the

## Matiur Rahman

From Page 1  
known and respected businessman, joined active politics and was elected an MP in the 1996 elections from the Awami League. He was appointed a Deputy Minister nearly one year back.

Matiur Rahman, a veteran journalist was both the founder editor and founder-publisher of Bhorer Kagoj which was launched in February 1992.

Journalists and employees of Bhorer Kagoj yesterday accorded a farewell reception to its outgoing editor.

Among others, managing editor Benajir Ahmed and Assistant Editor Mozammel Hossain addressed the function.

In his speech Matiur Rahman thanked the publisher and chairman of the editorial board and all journalists, colleagues and friends for the cooperation he received during his editorship of the paper.



The Hindu community brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday marking Janmastami, the birthday of Lord Krishna. — Star photo

## Janmastami celebrated

The Hindu community yesterday celebrated the Janmastami, birthday of Lord Sri Krishna, throughout the country with great enthusiasm, pomp and religious fervour, reports BSS.

In the capital, the central Janmastami Celebration Committee organised a 'Geeta Jagya' at Dhakeshwari Mandir in the morning and brought out a big procession in the afternoon.

Similar programmes were taken in Chittagong, Narayanganj, Barisal, Khulna, Jessore, Faridpur, Comilla, Mymensingh, Tangail, Sylhet, Gazipur, Rajshahi, Dinajpur and Rangpur districts, according to reports received in Dhaka.

In the morning, President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Begum Shahabuddin Ahmed ex-

crowd and asked her party leaders and workers to stand by the distressed people.

Begum Zia alleged that the flood-affected people are passing their days without food and shelter. In absence of medical treatment and medicine, many are dying of diarrhoeal diseases, she said.

Begum Zia reiterated that she would launch anti-government agitation immediately after the flood and urged the people to join the agitation.

Earlier, Begum Zia boarded a launch from Meghna Ghat and reached Banchharampur around 5 pm. On the way, she was greeted by party supporters at Ram Prasad Char, Chandanpur, Homna and Ghagutia.

## Police yet to nab 4 criminals who escaped from Sylhet court hajjat

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 14: Police could not yet nab the four criminals who escaped from the Sylhet Court hajjat after stabbing two havidlers Wednesday afternoon.

However, police officials here claimed that adequate measures had been taken to arrest the fugitives.

Security personnel along borders in the Habiganj, Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and Sylhet districts have been alerted, they added.

Police also raided a number of places in all the four districts in the last three days and pasted posters bearing photos of the four criminals on walls in the town, seeking people's cooperation in arresting them.

The officials further said that two havidlers and four constables who were on duty at the jail hajjat at that time have been put under suspension.

They are, havidlers Brindaban Sutradhar and Kabiruddin Sarker and constables Montaj Ali, Jagesh Chandra, Shahidur Rahman and Abdur Rahim.

The policemen who were stabbed by the criminals while fleeing the hajjat are now under treatment at the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

## Ministers, AL leaders visit Tungipara

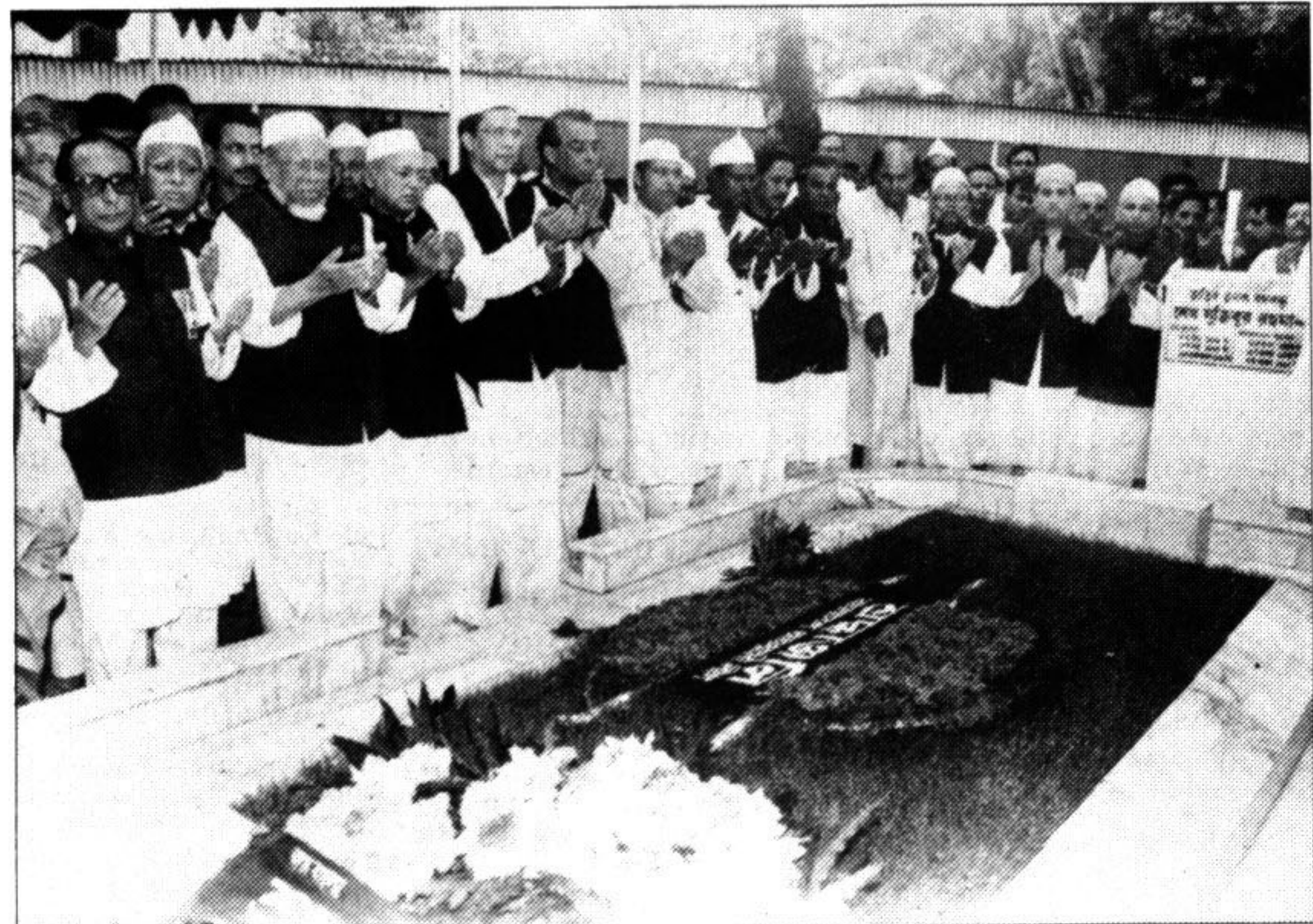
Ministers and Awami League leaders yesterday visited Tungipara and paid homage to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB.

They offered *fateha* and placed wreaths at the mazar of the Father of the Nation and observed a one-minute silence.

A *milad mahfil* was also held there said an official handout in the city.

The ministers included Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Salahuddin Yusuf, Tofael Ahmed, Abdur Razzak, Begum Motia Chowdhury, Engineer Mosharrar Hossain, Abdul Mannan, Rafiqul Islam, Anwar Hossain and Noor Uddin Khan.

Other visitors included Suranjit Sengupta, Mohammad Hanif, Prof Abu Sayeed, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, KM Jahangir, Prof Zinnatunnesa Talukdar, Dr Amanullah, Satish Chandra Roy, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Abdul Jalil, Zohra Tajuddin, Farooq Khan, Ivy Rahman and Advocate Shahara Khatun.



Ministers and Awami League leaders offering *fateha* after placing wreaths at the mazar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Tungipara yesterday. — PID photo

## Garments worker gangraped in city

By Staff Correspondent

A garments worker was raped for three days in the city's Badda area allegedly by a gang of four men.

Police said the gang held hostage the 22-year-old married woman inside an under construction building at Badda since Monday night and forced her to take sedatives.

Then the gang of four — Berek, Hamid, Monir and Monsur — raped her for three days before releasing the victim early morning Thursday, police said.

Shabubagh police, quoting the FIR filed by the victim, said Berek, whom the victim used to know before, took about Tk 15 thousand from her in last January saying that he would manage a better job for her.

But Berek did neither manage any job for her nor had he returned her the money during the last seven months. Following this, the victim lodged a General Diary (GD) with Shabubagh thana charging Berek for embezzlement of her money a few days back.

The young woman found Berek and Hamid on a road in Kamalapur area while she was walking back home from her work at about 9 pm Monday.

Berek and Hamid told her that they wanted to resolve the matter immediately through negotiation and asked her to go with them at Berek's Madhya Badda house, police added.

The victim, along with the two, started for Berek's house on board an autorickshaw. Berek and Hamid, however, stopped the vehicle beside a road in Badda area from where Monir and Monsur, both relatives of Berek, got in the vehicle.

The gang stopped the autorickshaw near the under construction building and dragged her to the second floor of the building at about 10 pm, police said.

None, however, was arrested in connection with the incident till filing of this report last night. The victim filed a case accusing the four under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 1995 with Shabubagh thana on Thursday.

## Babul Shaha

From Page 1

Shaha and his brother Nepal Shaha, are absconding since the killing.

Only two of the five accused Bipul Shaha's mother Manju Shaha and his another brother Gopal Shaha, were arrested. They were refused bail by a court following hearing of the case on Sunday.

Madhabi also alleged negligence by doctors in the treatment of Babul at Enam Clinic at Savar. Doctors at the clinic attended my husband after around half an hour of his admission. Doctors advised us to take my husband to a Dhaka hospital when they became sure that he would not survive," she alleged.

When contacted, OC of Savar thana Chowdhury Tariqul Alam said that they were trying to nab the terrorists. "We hear that Bipul Shaha has fled the country, but we will leave no stone unturned to ensure justice," he said. The investigation officer of the case was not available at the thana on Thursday and Friday.

## Rubel's family

From Page 1

When the home secretary's attention was drawn to the necessity of a court order, he said, "It would have been better if they could obtain permission from the CMM before taking him to the hospital".

There is no precedence of taking any accused to hospital at the instance of the home ministry or the law ministry without permission of court at a time when a case was pending home ministry officials told this correspondent.

## National Mourning Day

From Page 1  
nephew Sheikh Fazlul Haq Moni and brother-in-law and cabinet colleague Abdur Rob Serniabat were also killed. In all 23 of his kins were murdered on that night.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the eve of the National Mourning Day.

Paying rich tributes to the memory of Bangabandhu, President Shahabuddin Ahmed said, the tragic death of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, along with members of his family in the hands of some misguided army personnel is a shameful chapter of our national history.

"Time has come to build the nation to the expectation of the people. We have to invigorate ourselves today with the hope of a new life by forgetting the political as well as personal bitterness of the past in the greater interest of the nation," he said.

In her message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called upon the people to a vow afresh to work untidely to build a 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by the Father of the Nation.

"Our collective homage to the great leader can be worthy only through establishment of people's rights to food and ensuring a better life for them", she said.

Elaborate programmes have been chalked out to observe the day at state level. Various socio-

cultural and political organisations have also undertaken separate programmes.

The day's programme will begin with President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placing wreaths at Bangabandhu's portrait at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi.

Sheikh Hasina will then fly to Tungipara in Gopalganj at 9:45 am in a helicopter to place wreaths at the mazar of Bangabandhu there.

Our Gopalganj correspondent reported that she will also inaugurate a loan distribution programme at the local circuit house and a blood donation programme at Bangabandhu's mazar premises. She would leave for the capital in the afternoon.

The state-run Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar are putting up a series of special programmes on this occasion. National dailies will bring out supplements highlighting life and works of the great Bengali leader.

The day's programmes include *milad mahfil*, *Quran-khwant*, *desistute feeding*, *discussion meetings*, *wearing of black badges*, *screening of documentaries* and *placing of wreaths at Bangabandhu's portrait*, at his mazar and also at the Banani graveyard of other martyrs of August 15.

Awami League's programmes include hoisting of the National

Flag and party flag at half mast and black flag atop all AL offices, offering *fateha* at Banani graveyard and *desistute feeding*. The party will also bring out a mourning procession from the city's Suhrawardy Uddyan at 4 pm.

Awami Jubo League will organise a discussion meeting in the city on August 18. The Prime Minister is expected to attend the programme as chief guest.

Sammlita Sangskritik Jote will bring out a mourning procession from TSC of the Dhaka University at seven in the morning today.

Nazrul Institute will hold a discussion meeting and a *milad mahfil* at the Kabi Bhaban at 10 am. Bangabandhu BCS Officers' Welfare Association will hold a discussion meeting in the city at 4 pm. Bangabandhu Jubo Parishad will place wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at the Bangabandhu Museum at 7 am today.

The Liberation War Museum will organise a week-long exhibition on "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman: Life and Work" from today.

Other organisations which have chalked out detailed programmes include, Bangladesh Muktyojdha Sangsad Jubo Command, Bangladesh National Museum, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Scientists' Association, Bangabandhu Research and Library Council.

## All power projects

From Page 1

ject although PDB started the final negotiations with US company AES. Sources said the project that has been delayed because of prolonged disagreements between the PDB and AES — would be delayed further as the disagreements were still there.

"It now appears that this delay is actually caused by the consultant of the project who had set the guidelines for negotiations and the technical aspect of the project," said an Energy Ministry source.

"Many crucial parts of the negotiations for Meghnaghat and Haripur power projects remain unclear," he added.

"Some progress has been made regarding the Haripur power project — which is also led by AES. Negotiations between AES and the Power Cell of the Energy Ministry remained stuck up for a long time over difference of opinion regarding the 'heat rate' of power to be produced in the project.

"The heat rate, a crucial technical issue, was not determined by the consultant. Therefore, AES insisted on a certain heat rate. Power Cell on another rate. Finally, they both agreed on a certain rate after prolonged negotiations," the source added.

But now this negotiation has got stuck up again as AES and Titas disagree over who would be the gas regulating authority. AES believes that Titas should control the gas pressure to be supplied to the Haripur power plant while Titas thinks that AES itself should undertake this job. "This is yet another case of Consultant's sketchy work. It had properly outlined these details, negotiations would have had been shorter," the source noted.

Now it is likely that Power Cell would seek intervention of the Energy Ministry to resolve the difference of opinion.

The barge-mounted Khulna 110 mw power unit, that was supposed to be launched this month, will take yet another month due to some technical problems.

Another 110 mw barge-mounted power project by Smith Co-generation has been severely affected due to failure of the company to manage fund. The deadline for completion of this power unit expires Monday next.

As per the agreement between PDB and Smith Co-gen-

eration, the private company will have to pay a fine of 10,000 US dollars a day for the delay in completing the project.

Sources said that Smith Co-generation has now approached the PDB and agreed to pay the daily fine and start the project from this month. It is expected that the company would be able to complete the project by February-March next and it would pay a fine equivalent to about Tk 9 crore at that time.

PDB's project to set up a 132 kv power supply line between Comilla and Baraaulia. Chittagong was scheduled to be completed last month. But due to slow progress, it now appears that the line would not be completed before December. Once this line is set up the two power units of Raozan can generate power up to its capacity. Although the two units, combined, can generate 420 mw — they are producing a maximum of 300 mw due to lack of inter-district power supply line.

"It is now clear that we will not see any of the power projects in time. But as a couple of barge-mounted plants would start operation soon, the power supply situation would temporarily improve next summer. But power shortfall would be 'all-time-worst' in the year 2000," an energy expert said.

## Sylhet transport strike called off

SYLHET, Aug 14: Transport workers today called off their indefinite strike on Sylhet-Sunamganj road after 17 days, reports UNB.

The transport workers enforced the strike on July 28 after the court rejected the bail petition of a driver in a road accident case.

They also withdrew their planned 48 hours transport strike in Sylhet division, scheduled to begin on Monday.

The decision to call off the strikes was taken last night after a meeting between Divisional Commissioner M Habibur Rahman and Poursashva Chairman Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran at the local circuit house.

Local political leaders, Poursashva Chairmen, DCS, SPs and leaders of transport workers of the districts were present at the meeting.

## Arms recovered in Jhenidah

By Staff Correspondent

Police in Jhenidah district yesterday recovered a huge quantity of illegal arms and ammunition left by some members of the outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (Haque group).

ASP Nazrul Islam, who led the operation at Shanbandha village in Kaliganj thana of the district, told The Daily Star over telephone last night that the criminals fled the scene leaving behind their arms sensing the presence of the police team at 4.30 pm.

The recovered items, included: a country-made LMG, two guns, an Indian shot gun, one pipegun, a three-foot-long *ram dao* and cartridges.

The criminals numbering six to seven were attempting to attack a village arbitration, the ASP said.

## Landslides kill 58 in UP

NEW DELHI, Aug 14: At least 58 people have been killed by landslides in the Himalayan region of the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, the Star News television channel reported today, quoting state officials.

The satellite channel said 36 bodies had been recovered in the region around Ukhimath, a town on the route to the Hindu pilgrimage centre of Kedarnath.

## Dhaka WASA

From Page 1

Supply of water by WASA in the city is affected during the dry season because of loadshedding. It is also affected due to low voltage and other problems during most of the year.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already sanctioned Tk 22 crore for procurement of 100 generators," another source said. The rest 100 will be procured under a Swedish grant, the source said.

Cost of operating the pumps with diesel generators will be less than that with electricity during the peak hours because the PDB rate of electricity is "very high" during the peak hours, the sources added. These automatic diesel operated generators will also be sound and proof, and will not disturb the residents near the pump houses, they said. There are 235 water pumps in the city.

## Allegation of inciting unrest Yangon jails 18 foreign activists, expels them

YANGON, Aug 14: Eighteen foreign activists were sentenced to five years in prison with hard labour today for handing out democracy leaflets, but will be deported from Myanmar tomorrow, reports AP.

Moments after a judge sentenced the activists to prison, an official from the Ministry of Home Affairs read an order rejecting the sentences and saying the activists would be expelled on the condition they would not violate Myanmar laws again.

He asked diplomats from the six Asian and Western nations from which the activists came to arrange for their deportations tomorrow.

The defendants, who appeared solemn when the judge read out the five-year sentence, jumped up, embraced each other, shook hands and thanked those around them in

the courtroom after the deportation order was announced.

The six Americans, three Malaysians, three Indonesians, three Thais, two Filipinos and one Australian were charged, after six days of questioning and investigation, with violating section 5) of the 1950 Emergency Provision Act.

## Rima abduction case: None arrested yet

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 14: Police is yet to nab any of the five accused in the Rima abduction case. 11 days after the incident took place and seven days after victim was rescued.

Sadar thana police admitted the kidnappers' presence in the town but said they could not catch them despite raids in the areas they resided and their possible hideouts.

SP Abdur Rahman had ordered the OC of Sadar thana to arrest the culprits within 24 hours. The order was given on the day Rima was rescued from Chashara area in the town.

Reminded of the order, Investigating Officer (IO) of the case Maminur Rashid told The Daily Star today he was not aware of it. Neither the SP nor the OC was available for comment on the issue.

The IO said he had conducted raids in Chashara, Uklipara, Khanpur and Deobhogh areas in the town since he took over the charge. He said he heard about the presence of the accused in the town. "I'm facing problem in catching the accused as I don't recognise them. It's taking time because I am to depend on sources", explained Rashid, adding that he is a newcomer in the thana.

Rima, a 19-year-old college student, was kidnapped from a busy public place in the town on August 3. The kidnappers set her free at Chashara on August 7, after her 'forced marriage' with the gang leader, Shah Alam.

Meanwhile, Rima is yet to become normal. She is under treatment, said her brother, Ratan.

Ratan also alleged they were still under pressure for withdrawing the abduction case and go for a compromise on the so-called marriage of his sister with the principal accused in the case.

"Instead of the influential persons, our relatives are now being used to contact us on the matter," he said.

## US embassy

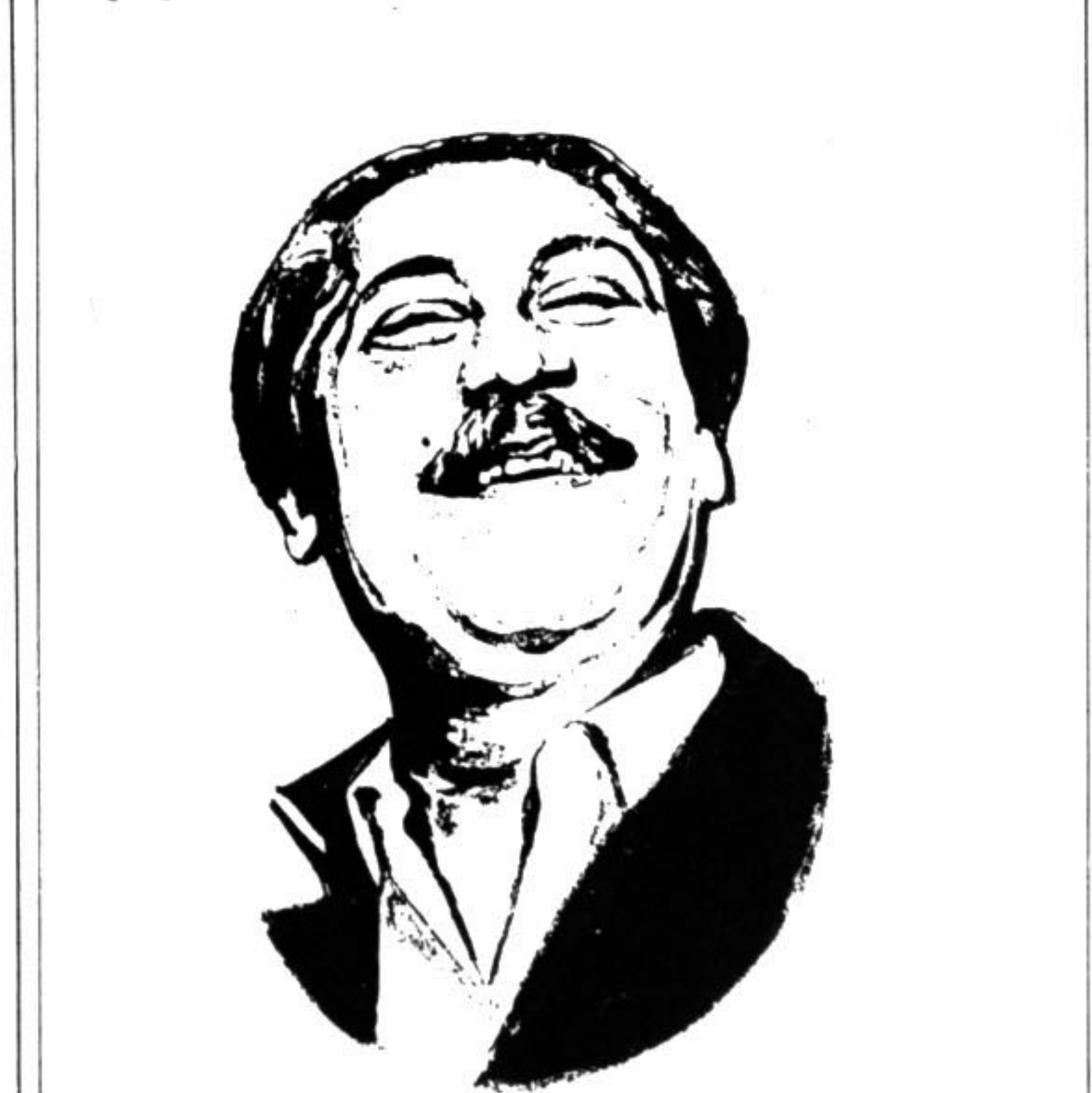
From Page 1

lice said that the youth, who was on alcohol, would be produced before the court today.

"We have deployed sufficient force at all points of the embassy," a police official said yesterday.

US embassy officials when contacted declined to comment.

জাতির জনকের স্বপ্নের সোনার বাংলা গড়ে তোলার ক্ষেত্রে বাংলাদেশ শিল্প ব্যাংক আপনার সহযোগী।



বাংলাদেশ শিল্প ব্যাংক

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