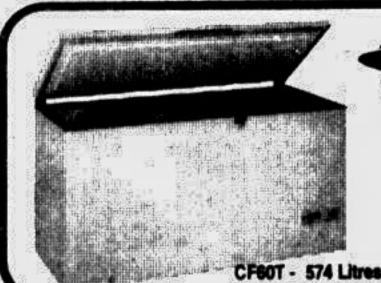


Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd. Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 9565114, 9883927, 9130647, 894213, 808803 DEPZ 9338931 Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108 Khulna, Tel: (041) 725008, N'Ganj, Tel: 9714336

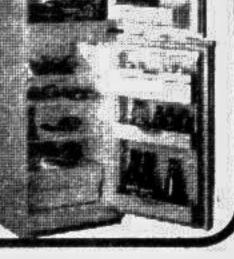


### Refrigerator & Freezer

Instalment facility available

Transcom Electronics Limited
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances. USA Dhaka: 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg.: 716353, 723578

Khuina: 720304 Bogra: 6215



ICC roundtable in city told

# PARC should go for small but urgent reforms first

The Public Administration Reforms Committee (PARC) should not go for all-out reforms at a time, but implement some small yet urgent changes as a first step, reports BSS.

This was observed by the participants at a roundtable on "Reforms in public administration in the context of economic globalisation", organised by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), in the city vesterday.

The discussants said the Commission must identify the areas where it should work

The Commission should move on its agenda gradually and frame some interim recommendations to see how these work, they said.

Presided over by ICC, Bangladesh, president Mahbubur Rahman, a good number of distinguished participants comprising former ministers, members of parliament, economists, lawyers, editors, former and on-the-job civil · servants, leaders of different chambers and top businessmen discussed the issue.

Former deputy prime minister Jamal Uddin Ahmed, former finance ministers AMA Muhith and Saifur Rahman. former foreign minister Dr Kamal Hossain, parliament member Morshed Khan, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts SM Akram, former and present chairmen of NBR

The Appellate Division of

the Supreme Court has fixed

November 15 for disposal of the

petition for leave to appeal by

Maj Gen Moinul Hossain

Chowdhury, now Bangladesh

High Commissioner to Aus-

tralia, challenging supersession

by two of his juniors — Maj Gen

A S M Nasim and Maj Gen

Mahbubur Rahman — in the ap-

pointment of Chief of Staff of

fore the Appellate Division on

August 12 after a writ petition

was rejected by the High Court

earlier, a press release said yes-

tion that Maj Gen Moinul Hos-

sain Chowdhury had joined the

Pakistan Army in 1962 and

participated in the Indo-Pak

war in 1965. He was given the

gallantry award of Bir Bikram

by the Government of

Bangladesh for his role in the

War of Liberation. He was pro-

moted to the rank of Major

General in 1980 and thereafter

he was appointed ambassador

Maj Gen Mahbubur Rahman,

both junior to Maj Gen Moinul

Hossain, were made Chief-of-

Staff on August 27, 1996 and

June 3, 1997 respectively with-

out proper consideration of the

case of Maj Gen Moinul Hossain

Floods may drag

The water held back onshore

It could be a rise in the water

for more than a month is rais-

ing a number of questions,

level of the Bay of Bengal, at

least a metre higher than the

normal astronomical tide, that

is holding back the water re-

portedly due to Tsunami effect.

fect, follows tremors in the sea

bed, that release huge amount of

energy, producing mountainous

the coast, he said citing reports

that there had been a quake in

the sea bed off the Nicobar is-

land in the Bay of Bengal last

Rahman said "The quake may

have created the blockage in the

ter from the upstream are also

contributing to the worsening

of the situation, he said. The

slow rush of water downstream

is posing the question that

something may have gone

100 hurt

From Page 1

tivist was killed in bomb ex-

plosion early last month as a

sequel to a clash between ac-

tivists of two rival unions. So

far, about 50 cases have been

filed with various thanas in the

city by the rival groups accusing

each other. However, no action

has yet been taken by police in

this regard.

drainage of flood water.

wrong, Rahman added.

"We need to study it," Sajedur

But the rains and rush of wa-

It affects wide areas along

sea wave triggering sea surges.

The Tsunami, a heaving ef-

From Page 1

tide last week, he said.

Sajedur Rahman said.

Maj Gen A S M Nasim and

on deputation.

It was submitted in the peti-

The petition was moved be-

the Army.

terday.

Shah Abdul Hannan and Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury, Daily Star editor Mahfuz Anam, MCCI president Laila Kabir and FCCI president AK Shamsuddin and chairman of Public Administration Reforms Commission ATM Shamsul Huq took part in

the discussion. Earlier, ICC president Mahbubur Rahman gave reasons for why the reforms in public administration is needed, the present state of public administration and the possible obstacles in the way of the reforms.

He stressed the need for firm and clear political commitment, downsizing of the government and ensuring accountability and transparency in enforcing the reforms.

He also suggested that the recruitment and selection of officials should be based on merit rather than quota system and promotion on the basis of performance. Rahman called for involving the trade bodies. NGOs, professional associations, interest groups and political parties in the reform process. He also pleaded for more privatisation of utility services. de-politicisation of the administration and easing of burden

on the Prime Minister's Office. PARC chairman ATM Shamsul Huq said a culture of good governance should be developed in the country. He blamed the past military regimes for destroying the development and growth of civil administration in the country.

Chowdhury, it was argued on

promotions to the superior

posts of the Army, not being

connected with the rules of the

discipline of the Armed Forces,

is justiceable under the writ ju-

risdiction under Article 29 and

other articles of the Constitu-

tion. The matter also involves

the question whether approach-

ing the Supreme Court under

writ jurisdiction involves any

breach of discipline, the peti-

Sharif appeared on behalf of

CU tense

From Page 1

youths damaged three univer-

sity buses on the campus, fired

several gunshots and attacked a

university shuttle train at

damaged the windowpanes of

the buses and train and later hi-

jacked a microbus of some visi-

tors and took it to the Central

Shaheed Minar and opened fire

from the vehicle, the sources

far been reported. Additional

police forces were deployed on

Islami Chhatra Shibir ghera-

oed the residence of the pro-vice

chancellor of the university on

the campus in protest against

lice in a drive this evening re-

covered a large number of hand

bombs, mobile phones and

chargers from a number of cot-

tages of the Chhatra Shibir ac-

tivists, the sources added.

Following the incident, po-

the incident.

However, no casualty has so

Meanwhile, activists of the

The angry youths badly

the petitioner.

Fatehabad station.

tion submitted the press release

Dr Kamal Hossain and H R

It was further argued that the

behalf the petitioner.

Maj Gen Moin's appeal

Disposal of petition

challenging

supersession Nov 15

By Staff Correspondent

Huq said the PARC will ar-range discussion, seminar and dialogues of this kind to seek opinion and suggestions of the cross section of people to for-mulate recommendations for the administrative reforms.

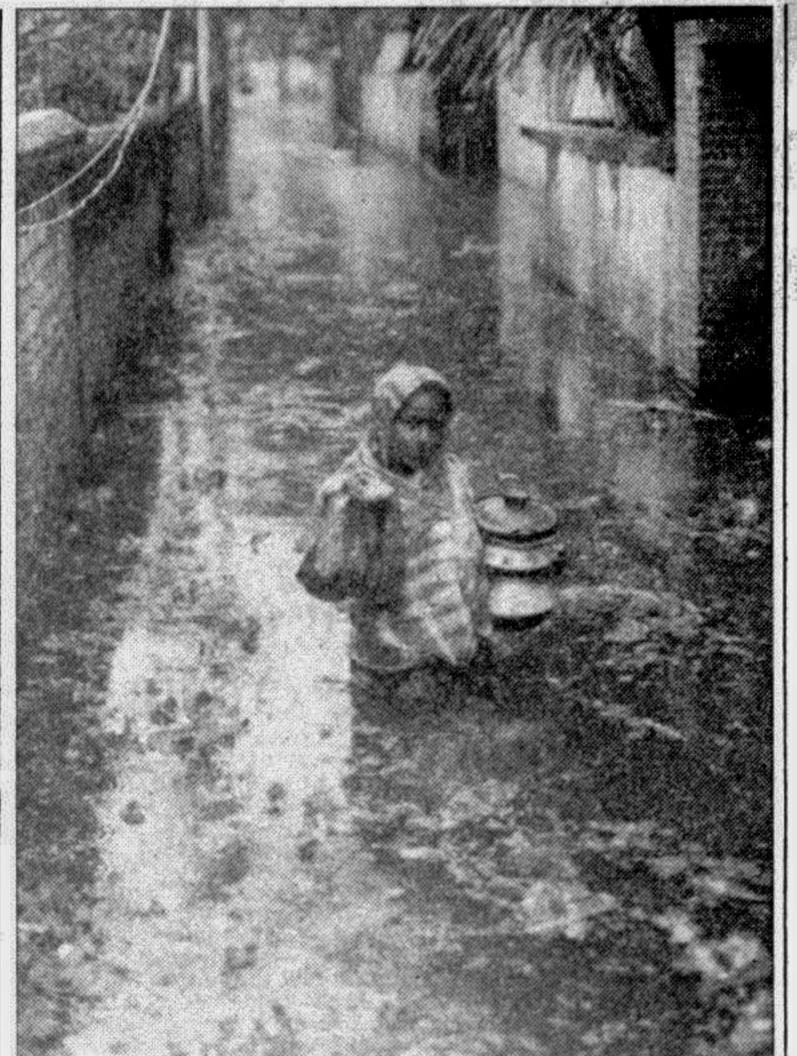
He said the government is serious about going ahead with the reforms in the administration and sought cooperation in smooth functioning of the

Commission. Kamal Hossain said there is no reason why the ruling party and opposition can not reach a consensus on speeding up of the administrative reforms. He asked the PARC chairman to find out people in all political parties who want reforms.

Referring to the combined opposition to building a private terminal at Chittagong Port, Morshed Khan said, "While we lack unanimity on major national issues, we are united in actions detrimental to national interest."

SM Akram, MP, said the local government should be given more power to initiate reforms in administration. He said since eight out of the 15 members of the PARC are bureaucrats and the time frame for the Commission to bring about reforms is not long, the Commission is unlikely to make headway in reforming the administration.

He also criticised the interservice rivalry for disrupting the smooth functioning of the civil administration.



Fahmida has to have her food cooked in a neighbour's kitchen as her house in a flood-hit area in the city has been submerged by flood waters. -Star photo

#### One policeman killed, 50 others hurt in road accident

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Aug 17: One police constable was killed and 50 constables were injured in a road accident today at Gopalhati under Pathia thana on the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway.

The dead was identified as Abul Hossain. Seven of the injured persons were rushed to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in critical condition while 22 others were admitted to the Natore Sadar Hospital. Others were treated at the Puthia Thana Health Complex.

The police personnel came from Dinajpur to perform duties at Bagha of Rajshahi where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was scheduled to visit today. But the PM's visit was cancelled due to inclement whether. The accident occurred when they were returning to Dinajpur to-

According to police, the accident occurred when the driver of the police van lost control of the vehicle and it fell into a

roadside ditch. DIG, Rajshahi Range, and SP of Rajshahi visited the place of accident and the injured po-

#### licemen in the hospitals. Flood damages

From Page 1

of relief materials among the vulnerable groups. The cabinet also decided to

prepare a coordinated plan for development of the country's north-western zone, utilising Jamuna bridge that has connected the western part of the country with its eastern part. In this regard, the Prime

Minister asked all the ministers to come up with their respective plans with special attention to development of agriculture. Once a coordinated plan is adopted, it would be submitted to the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) for consideration, the meeting resolved.

The Cabinet also approved an amendment to certain provisions of a law to accommodate a recent IMF decision increasing the country's borrowing quota from the Fund.

#### 5 court employees suspended for preparing false evidences

CHITTAGONG, Aug 17: Five employees of the District and Sessions Judge Court were suspended today on charge of preparing false evidences leading to the release of eight ac-

hammad. Sessions Assistant Mohammad Shahjahan and eons Mohammad Omar Khan,

Mohammad Zahurul Islam gave the suspension order after the allegation brought against them was primarily proved.

dences.

Toslimuddin, Nasiruddin, Fazl Haq. Ayesha Bibi, Kaoser Bibi. Mohammad Aminur Rahman. Mohammad Iftekhar and Mohammad Shah Alam.

### Baburabad

The farmland, they said, was fraudulently declared as

tion submitted a memorandum to the President praying for necessary help, compensation and medicare for the affected and injured landless people on humanitarian ground.

out to them on a regular basis, they told the President.

The President said that he

Among others, local MP Shahadat Hossain, former minister Tariqul Islam, former MP Dr Gazi Abdul Haq and Satkhira Municipality Chairman Abdul Jalil were present on the occasion.

#### Bangabandhu Murder Case

### Possibly Huda was entrusted with the job & sent by Farooq: SPP

All the waters of the Pacific Ocean will not be able to wash the sins. but the tidal wave coming from the Bay of Bengal in the form of rule of law will bring you (killers) to book, reports UNB.

This was stated by Special Public Prosecutor Serajul Huq

in his argument in the Bangabandhu Murder Case on the second day yesterday referring to the killing of Bangabandhu's 10-year-old son Sheikh Russel during the August 15, 1971 car-

The prosecution began its argument on Wednesday at the court of Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Kazi Golam Ra-

"Why have you killed Russel? Was it really necessary to kill that minor?" Huq asked those accused of killing Bangabandhu and his family mem-

Quoting a statement of Justice Kayani of Pakistan that our soldiers are so courageous that they have invaded their own country," he said here also "our brave soldiers could not pardon a minor boy like Rus-

The special PP termed the August 15 killing "the direst cruelty" and said: "Let the passage of remorse stop, so that I can utter the truth.

Wondering why Bangabandhu went upstairs before his killing and closed the door of his bedroom for a while, a weeping Huq himself guessed the answer: "Probably to say his last prayer" knowing the fate he was going to face soon.

Bangabandhu came out after a short while from his room and faced the killers, he said quoting the statement of PW-1 Muhitul Islam.

The cross-examination by the defence lawyers, the SPP argued, has proved that there was

no counter-fire from the Bangabandhu's house.

About a reported (by PW-1) conversation between Major Bazlul Huda and Major Farooq in front of Bangabandhu's residence on August 15 morning, when Major Huda told Farooq "all are finished," Huq said possibly "Huda was entrusted with the job and sent by Farooq."

On a suggestion by the de-fence lawyers during the crossexamination of PW-1, the SPP said where from the witness would show papers that he took admission in hospital. "If I can't show my marriage document, does it prove I am not married?" he argued.

About another suggestion that the same Awami League government had continued after the killing of Bangabandhu, the SPP said: "Taheruddin Thakur does not mean the whole Awami League.

"It was a figment of imagination that the whole Awami League was behind the killing of Mujib," he said. "Mir Zafar didn't fight with his 25,000 troops against 1,200 soldiers but that doesn't mean the whole Bengali nation was responsi-

Referring to another suggestion that former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger would have been made an accused in the case. Huq said "if the defence have any evidence, they can produce the same in court. He added: "Probably the de-

fence has knowledge about his (Kissinger's) involvement in the killing of Bangabandhu." Justifying the truthfulness of the content of the FIR filed

after 21 years of the gruesome murder, Huq said PW-1 Muhitul Islam, who lodged the FIR, did not narrate any story, he stated what he had witnessed.

He added that the PW-1 had

stated that he heard the voice of Bangabandhu and after a while the sound of firing and thereafter silence. "Probably that was the eternal silence of

Bangabandhu."

Referring to another defence suggestion why Sheikh Hasina had not filed any FIR, the SPP said if Hasina would have gone to lodge the FIR, she could have "shed four drops of tears" but that would not be an FIR.

On another suggestion that Hasina had initiated the case after assuming power, the septuagenarian lawyer asked: "Is it a crime for a daughter to seek justice for the killing of her fa-

To another defence suggestion, he said: "Awami League stands for justice and has given leadership to the country. Mujib gave the leadership and leaderships spark from heaven.

Referring to PW-I's statement that after the killing of Bangabandhu he had heard hue and cry by female inmates of the house, which the defence side claimed was not clear to them, Huq said: "They willingly prefer not to understand. Willing suspension of belief."

During the argument, the SPP referred to a statement of PW-1 that injured Sheikh Naser wanted water but he was replied with bullet. Hug said: "I don't know what

soldiers were of Yazid, but here they were Bengalis. How come they could become so cruel? I don't understand. Advocate Serajul Huq was

happened in Karbala, but this

was more cruel. In Karbala, the

assisted by Additional PP Kamrul Islam and Adv Mosharraf Hossain Kajal Huq will continue his argu-

ment when the court resumes today at 10 am.

Then Clinton was expected

to give a nationally televised

statement tonight to the Ameri-

can people, in an effort to con-

trol the damage from more than

six months of insisting he did

not have sexual relations with

the person he at one moment re-

ferred to as "that woman, Miss

did not know what Clinton

would say in the testimony,

said nonetheless he believes

McCurry, while insisting he

ment to reporters.

# Clinton gives testimony

From Page 1

Push-in

and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury and Civil Aviation Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain attended the meeting. The meeting was told that

300 so-called Bangladeshis have recently been sent to Calcutta from Maharashtra for deportation to Bangladesh. Of them 17 have been identified as Bangladeshis'.

The meeting was of the view that none of them would be accepted, the source said, adding "According to our information. no Bangladeshi is living in India illegally." the meeting declared. If the Indians suspect illegal Bangladeshis are living there, they (India) have to go by established international procedure, the meeting said.

Identity of the persons concerned must be established to the satisfaction of Bangladesh before any such move is taken.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh has communicated to India that Delhi should not take any unilateral decision on the question of so-called Bangladeshis.

The meeting was briefed on the preparation on the border in the event of any attempt of 'push in' from the other side. Replying to a question, the

source said the border is 'quiet' He said until yesterday, there was no incident of push in. "Till today we have not been officially informed of the presence of Bangladeshi living in India illegally."

## Crab export

From Page 1 farmed crabs and some catches

from the nature, to be fattened at farms. From the wild the crabs are

brought to the ponds where they are reared and fattened for some time before attaining the export size and weight up to 230 grams.

The exporters blamed red tapism for hindering the permission. But officials said every as-

pect of conservation of the crabs would be taken into consideration before a decision is taken. It would not take much time for giving the permission, they added.

#### Wall collapse From Page 1

is under PDB. PDB officials, however, said

they only conduct the 'electrical operation of the station.' The responsibility of 'maintenance of the sub-station' lies with DESA. Local people rushed to the

spot and conducted rescue operation before police and fire brigade arrived, witnesses said. They recovered the bodies of Nurul Amin, Amena Begum and the girl from under the col-

lapsed wall, witnesses added. The bodies of Nurul and Amena were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. But the body of the girl was yet to be sent till the writing of this report last night. An unnatural death case was filed with Pallabi thana in this regard.

#### From Page 1 pected to deliver a brief state-

expected to admit what advisers

called an 'inappropriate', and physical, relationship with Lewinsky when she was a 21year-old unpaid White House intern. But they said he would insist

he did not commit perjury when he denied an affair with Lewinsky in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case last January. Lewinsky, now 25, told the grand jury earlier this month of numerous sexual encounters with Clinton inside the White House, sources have said Clinton became the first sit-

ting US President to give sworn testimony before a grand jury in which he is accused of crimes. His testimony was expected to take several hours. Once it was completed his lawyer David Kendall was ex-

that Clinton "needs to talk to the American people.

Lewinsky".

He said Clinton, his wife and their 18-year-old daughter Chelsea are now expected to depart on Tuesday instead of tonight for a vacation on the Massachusetts island of Martha's Vineyard.

# আপনি কি পার্সোনাল কম্পিউটার ব্যবহারকারী

#### আপনি কি Y2K সমস্যা সম্পর্কে অবহিত?

Y2K সমস্যাটি कि এবং কেন \$ কম্পিউটারে তারিখ লেখার জন্য এতদিন পর্যন্ত ৬ অংক ব্যবহৃত হয়ে

**जामरह। जर्थार ১৬ फिरमबर्स ১৯৭১. এ छात्रिचिए मिया दस** ১৬/১২/৭১ दिरमत्व, या दख्या উठि९ दिन ১৬/১২/১৯৭১ यन्त्रमाटि । বর্তমানে ব্যবহৃত ফরম্যাট অনুযায়ী বছর লেখা হয় চার অংকের বদলে শেষোক দুই অংক দিয়ে, যেমনঃ পয়লা জানুৱারী ২০০০ সাল লেখা হবে ০১/০১/০০ হিসেবে, या ১৮০০ वा ১৯০০ वा अन्। य कान শতাব্দীর পয়লা জানুয়ারী বুঝাতে পারে। সুতরাং, তারিখ সম্পর্কিত যে कान भगनात क्लाज किल्लिक जाति कारत यात्राकुक विद्यापे। अपिर विश्ववाानी जारमाकृत मुडिकात्री ও वर्षम जारमाष्ट्रिक Y2K(Year 2000 Problem) বা Millenium Bug হিসেবে পরিচিত।

Y2K সমস্যা এড়াতে আপনি কি করবেন?

যদি আপনার পার্সোনাল কম্পিউটারে তারিখ সম্পর্কিত কোন जिंदिन गंगना ना कता इग्न जत्व किन्निউটারটি Y2K সমস্যায় আক্রান্ত হওয়ার সম্ভবনা কম। অবশ্য কম্পিউটারটি সম্পূর্ণরূপে Y2K সমস্যামুক্ত কি-না, তা আপনার কম্পিউটার সরবরাহকারীর काष्ट्र तथरक रक्तरम मिम।

নতুন কম্পিউটার, কম্পিউটার নিয়ন্ত্রিত যন্ত্রপাতি এবং সংশ্রিষ্ট जन्गाना ইলেক্সনিক যন্ত্ৰপাতি কেনার সময় Y2K Compliant বা Y2K সমস্যামুক্ত হওয়ার শর্ড জুড়ে দিন এবং পরীকা করে সরবরাহ

नम्रायटर्नम् सम्रा अकिन हनाकानीय नयस स्थानास्यानं कसम्ब ३

Y2K সেল, বাংলাদেশ কম্পিউটার কাউলিল वाड़ी नर-७১/७, जड़क नर-७, धानमंखि आ/७, ठाका-১२०৫ জোন ঃ ৮৬২৪১০ ফ্যাক্স ঃ ৮৬৩৭৭৩ ই-মেইল ঃ bcc@bdonline.com

न्जून गंजाभीत छालक्ष याकाविनाय किन्निष्ठे । तित्र प्रक्रिक श्रयुक्ति (वर्ष्ट् निन, আর আপনার ব্যবহৃত সফটওয়্যার ক্রটিমুক্ত রাখুন।

Y2K সমস্যা নিরসনের বিষয়ে জাতীয় পরামর্শক কমিটির পক্ষে বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয় DFF-17839-17/8

**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-

6-1861

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

# Rubel's brothers

From Page 1

earlier refused to talk to the CID investigators alleging 'biasness' of the agency towards the principal accused in the case Akram Hossain, a DB assistant commissioner.

Akram is still under treatment at the prison cell of PG Hospital. He was sent there August 10, one day ahead of the expiry of his remand for interrogation by the CID. Meanwhile, the CID investi-

seven people detained along with Rubel at the DB office on July 23. CID went to the Dhaka Central Jail to question the seven, according to police sources Besides, the one-man judi-

cial inquiry commission yes-

gators yesterday interrogated

terday recorded statements of three DB personnel. Inspector General of Police Ismail Hossain also appeared before the commission yesterday to give his opinion regarding Section 54, the system of remand and matters relating to police custody.

## Rupganj dam

From Page 1

under tremendous pressure from 10 to 11 feet high water, he said, adding the WDB had been working for the dam since mid-

up the WDB officials in a roundthe-clock vigilance at the trouble spots, he told The Daily Star last night The DC of Narayanganj, Abdur Rahman, however, said the

situation was under control as

An army team was backing

the cracks were repaired with sand bags. The Agrani project has two components - the Narsingdi-Narayangani Demonstration Project (NNDP) and Narsingdi-Narayangani Irrigation Project (NNIP). The cracks were de-

tected at the NNDP area, the DC "To repair each of the cracks. insurmountable difficulty is be-

ing faced", the DC said. He further said that there were some 500 industries including those of textiles, spinning, garments, jamdani and weavers.

### Outsiders

From Page 1 UNB adds: Police arrested an outsider from Suryasen Hall of Dhaka University yesterday following a dispute between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and outsiders at the

Hall sources said a group of outsiders had beaten Parvez. also an outsider, and handed him over to the on-duty police

Khaleda's demand From Page 1

ernment machinery be keep on full alert to face any eventuality from further deterioration of flood situation. About the BNP's allegation of irregularities in the distribution of relief materials, the

Press Secretary said: "It is not correct." He said relief goods were being distributed properly and there was no report of any inad-

equacy or corruption. Asked about another demand by Begum Zia for opening gruel kitchen to feed the flood victims, he said: "At this stage, I don't think this will be neces-

He, however, added that the government will do "whatever is required for the interest of the distressed humanity. In this context, he quoted Prime Minister Hasina that none should do politics capital-

> Floods From Page 1

ising on flood.

"So far 77,002 people have been attacked by diarrhoeal diseases since July 15 and 45 of them died," said an official at the control room of the Health Directorate. The official further in-

formed that 2,436 people were affected by diarrhoea in last 24 hours till 12 yesterday noon and two of them died raising the death toll to 45. Meanwhile, another official at the Health Directorate said that cases of fever, dysentery

and worms were also being re-

ported from across the country.

According to the physicians the fever is caused by an "allergy" that develops after the victims, specially children, remain in water for a long time.

cused on bail, reports UNB. The suspended employees are Bench Assistant Nur Mo-

Monir Ahmed and Mohammad Nurul Alam. District and Sessions Judge

He also filed a departmental case against the employees and asked the Bar Council to cancel the licences of the lawyers of the eight accused granted bails on the basis of the forged evi-

The eight accused are -

From Page 1 landless families have been living for many years on yearly ease-outs.

jalmahal three months back and the vested quarter played a major part in it. The members of the delega-

Eviction should be stopped and the land should be leased

would look into it.

position about machinery.

# Meghnaghat plant

certain model of ABB equipment for the proposed plant. PDB said, since AES had mentioned a model, the US company must provide ABB machinery. AES argued that PDB could not dictate such terms since its original proposal had kept some flexibility

also said that AES would pro-

vide machinery made by Euro-

pean multinational ABB or

equivalent. It also specified a

After long negotiation PDB sought battles. intervention of the Energy Ministry early this year. Afterwards, these issues

for changing machine configu-

rations.

went up to the Cabinet Purchase Committee. The committee gave its green signal in favour of AES but put two conditions that AES must agree to a 10 month initial operation period (IOP) during which AES would provide electricity free of cost and that it must provide machinery built by European multinational company ABB. AES instantly agreed over

the IOP and zero tariff issues

but it reiterated its earlier

At this point, in June last, the Purchase Committee withdrew the condition of providing ABB machinery and asked PDB to complete the negotiation.

Accordingly, PDB invited

AES in the first week of July

and asked it to clarify certain technical details. "After three meetings between PDB and AES, it now appears that the major differences have been taken care of," said a source.

The final agreement between

AES and PDB will take place

only after successful final nego-

tiations, the source said.

As per the schedule for the project, AES must complete financial arrangements within six months of signing the agreement. It will be given 20 months time to set up the gas turbines for the plant. At the present pace, the project is likely to be completed in 2001, one year behind the original schedule.

The Meghnaghat project is partially financed by the Asian Development Bank and the