

The Daily Star



এটি সাধারণ পানীয় নয়
পাকা আমের রসে তৈরী

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,
BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
OF DIFFERENT TYPES.

NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
199, TEJGAON I/A, DHAKA.
TEL: 805957, 807363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

VOL. VIII NO. 205 REGD. NO. DA 781 INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> BHADRA 5, 1405 BS DHAKA THURSDAY AUGUST 20, 1998 RABIOUS SAANI 26, 1419 HIJRI 16 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS: PRICE TAKA 9.00

Criterion to identify loan defaulters changed

Star Report
The Bangladesh Bank has changed the criteria to identify loan defaulters.
In a circular issued yesterday, the central bank said from now on a loan will be considered defaulted only from the date of its being classified.
This replaces the existing criterion that said a loan would be defaulted from the date it becomes overdue.
According to the existing rules of the Bank Company Act, term loans become classified after six months of being overdue, government loans turn over due.
See Page 12 Col 5

JS body rejects finance ministry's evaluation report on economy

By Staff Correspondent
The parliamentary standing committee on finance ministry yesterday rejected an evaluation report on the country's economic situation prepared by the ministry.
The committee unanimously rejected the report on the ground that it did not reflect properly what the parliamentary body had wanted to know from the ministry, meeting sources said. "Besides, the paper was an unsigned one," said a ruling party legislator.
The Finance Secretary admitted at the meeting that the report should have been signed by the Finance Minister. "Finance Minister S A M S Kibria did not appear at the meeting although he was informed."
See Page 12 Col 2

Judicial body to record statement of Rubel's mother

By Staff Correspondent
The judicial inquiry commission will record the statement of Jahanara Begum, mother of Shamim Reza Rubel, within a day or two, sources close to the commission said last night.
The one-man commission comprising Justice Habibur Rahman yesterday decided to record her statement after she gave a statement to the CID under Section 161 of the CrPc on Tuesday, the sources added.
In her statement to CID, Jahanara mentioned the name of one Mukul Begum, a local leader of the ruling party, whom she visited twice after getting the news of Rubel's arrest on July 23. Her statement to the CID may give a new dimension to the case, the sources said.
Asked why the commission See Page 12 Col 6

Star MAG TOMORROW

Tapan Kumar Shil is literally rotting to death. He is suffering from the effects of over exposure to high degree radiation. Unfortunately it was a Bangladeshi business firm which paved the way for Tapan and a several other dilutees like him to be exploited by its foreign counterpart. This week's cover story takes a closer look not only into Tapan's misfortune but also at the state of safety regulation in our country.

Inside Today Article

Straws in the Wind
Column: Between the Lines
by Kuldeep Nayar
Page 4

Focus
Flood: Management not mitigation can be the solution
Page 5

Business
Proposed jute policy sees hope in privatisation
Communists vow to oust Yeltsin over 'hasty' routine devaluation
DSE price quotation
Pages 6, 7 & 8

Floods damage crops worth Tk 700 cr on four lakh hectares

By Shehab Ahmed
It threatens Aman, the winter rice that constitutes the bulk of the country's rice output.
Some 9.5 million tonnes of Aman rice had been targeted to be produced during the current fiscal.
At least 20 per cent Aman seed beds were washed away by the floods, the officials said.
Early flooding also damaged broadcast Aman, which is water resistant, growing in the wetlands of Comilla, Dhaka, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Faridpur, Barisal and Khulna regions.
They compete with water to grow. At least 22 per cent of broadcast Aman failed to survive the rising water level this time, the estimate said.
The recurring floods have also washed 12-14 per cent of Aus paddy.
Jute escaped with minor damage, only seven per cent went under water before farmers could harvest the golden fibre.
Floods sweeping more than half of the country since mid-July have damaged at least Tk 700 crore worth of crops on 400,000 hectares of land, according to preliminary an estimate prepared by the Agriculture Extension Department.
"Our assessment shows that till the first week of August, 760,000 hectares of land were submerged and damages to the cereals have been the most," a senior official of the department preferring anonymity said.
At least 350,000 tonnes of rice have been lost, including Aus, the summer rice withering under water before they could be harvested.
The assessment showed that besides Aus, broadcast Aman, transplanted Aman, their seed beds, jute, vegetables and other crops were lost or damaged.
The losses could go up further if the floods roll on till mid-September, as forecast by the meteorologists.

Burden of proof in cases of police torture LC proposes amendments to Evidence Act, 1872

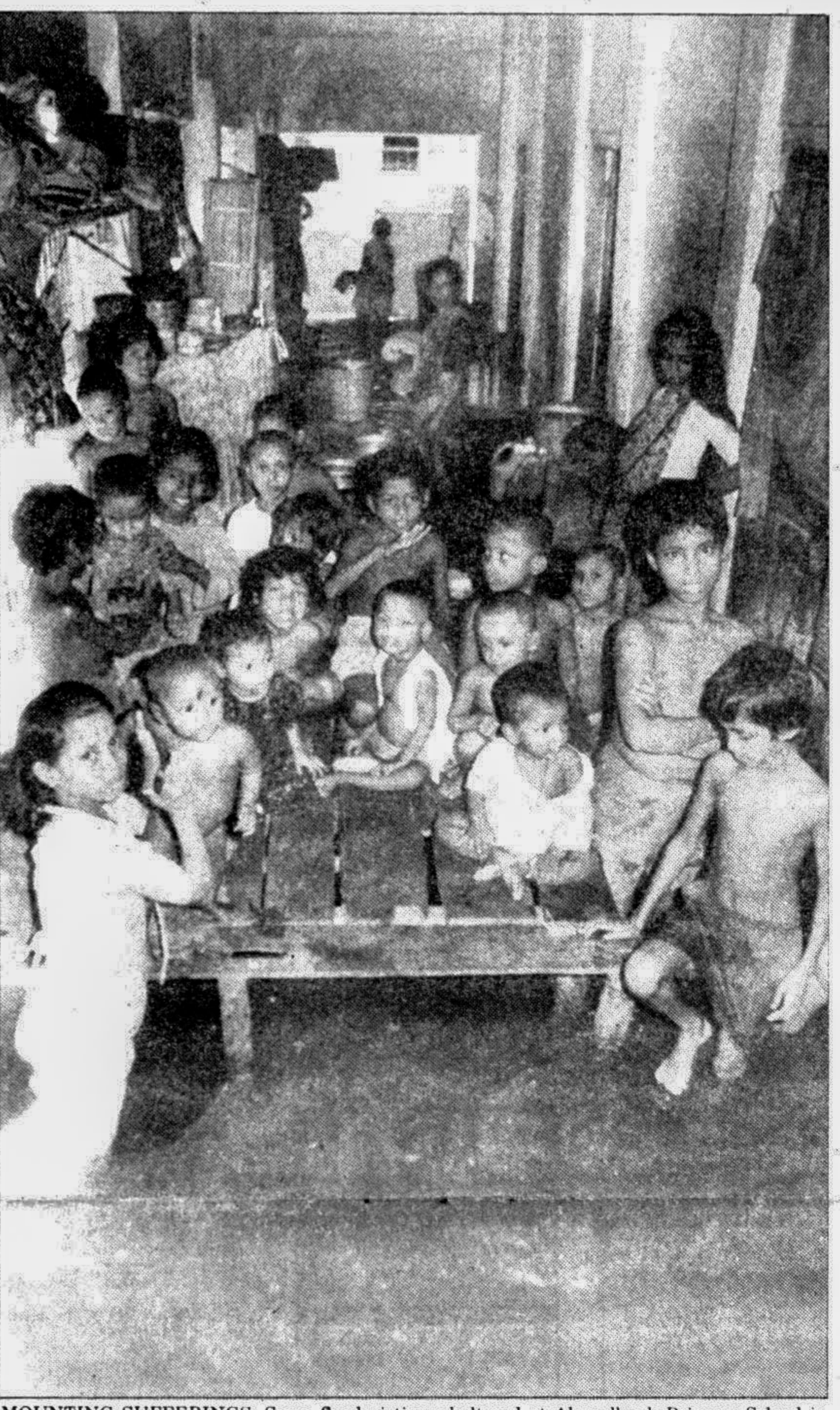
By Mizan Ali
The Law Commission has proposed amendments to provisions relating to the 'burden of proof' in the Evidence Act, 1872, according to official sources.
"There is a need for such a special provision in view of the incidents of torture on persons in police custody that surface to public view from time to time," the LC observed in its working paper on the proposed amendment to the Act with regard to burden of proof in cases of torture on persons in police custody.
Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, a member of the LC, told The Daily Star that the proposed amendment would bring about radical change in the Evidence Act.
The working paper on the proposed amendment to the Evidence Act prepared by the LC suo moto will be circulated widely to obtain opinion from members of the public, including lawyers, judges and professionals before it is sent to the government," he said.
In a criminal case, the burden of proving the guilt of the accused is invariably on the prosecution according to the scheme and various provisions of the Evidence Act.
As law stands now, the burden of proving as to who has caused the injury to the person in police custody squarely lies on the prosecution. "Police personnel prosecuted often escape conviction for want of evidence," the working paper noted.
In this connection, the LC working paper cited the recent Sheema murder case as an example.
The LC proposed insertion of a new section after Section 114 of the Evidence Act, the working paper noted. The proposed Section 114 (A) says:
"(1) In a prosecution of any police personnel for an offence constituted by an act alleged to have caused bodily injury to a person, if there is evidence that the injury was caused during a period when that person was in the custody of the police, the court may presume that the injury was caused by the police personnel having custody of that person during that period."
(2) The court, in deciding whether or not it should draw a presumption under sub-section (1), shall have regard to all the See Page 12 Col 7

Export target for '98-99 raised to \$5.8b

The government has refixed the current fiscal year's export target at 5.8 billion US dollars to maintain the annual growth rate of 12.4 per cent, reports UNB.
The new target is 170 million US dollars higher than the original target fixed earlier.
This was decided at a meeting of the Task Force on Export in the city yesterday with Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed in the chair.
The export target for the current 1998-99 fiscal year has been fixed at 5.63 billion US dollars according to the five-year export target of the Fifth Five Year Plan that began in 1997.
The total export of the terminal year of the plan was fixed at 8.1 billion US dollars maintaining an average growth rate of 12.5 per cent.
Proposing the upward export target, the Commerce Minister said the country has achieved export growth at the rate of 16.81 per cent in the last financial year and 13.8 per cent in 1996-97.
He said despite the economic recession in Asia, Bangladesh is performing very well in export and maintaining higher growth rate than the target.
Tofael said the present government is committed to continue support to all genuine exporters. "We are contemplating to provide more incentives to the exporters for diversifying the export basket and expanding the volume of export."
He called upon the exporters and business leaders to utilise fully the opportunities generated in and outside the country for bolstering the export. He said the government is very much sincere in solving the problems which are hindering export expansion.
The meeting discussed about issuing GSP certificates to the handloom textiles exporters and asked the Textiles Secretary to convene a meeting with the handloom textiles producers.
See Page 12 Col 8

Where nurses do doctors' duty

By Naimul Haq
Eleven-year-old Mamun was screaming in pain and then fell unconscious as a male nurse was trying to stitch his grievously injured left foot at the emergency ward of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.
Mamun had a two-inch deep cut in the foot after he fell from a makeshift bamboo bridge at Nawabganj at Dohar, about 12 kilometres from the city.
None of the attending doctors came to see him. Babu Begum, a neighbour who brought Mamun to the DMCH told this correspondent, "I repeatedly requested for help but no doctor came, saying they were too busy," she added.
For about 10 minutes, this correspondent watched the nurse trying to stitch the foot of Mamun, lying unconscious on a stretcher. His foot was profusely bleeding. But no doctor came.
When this correspondent inquired, one of the attending doctors, Wadud Ahmed said, "We have too many patients to see here. How many do you think we can handle at a time?"
During a visit to the DMCH emergency ward from 1:30 pm to 3:45 pm, this correspondent witnessed many attendants of patients expressing their utter helplessness and disappointment amid a chaotic situation.
"I cannot believe that doctors were asking me to wait while my sister is suffering from acute respiratory problem. At least there should be some arrangement to provide oxygen prior to the actual treatment but none attended my sister," said Rehana in tears.
Some of the critical cases were referred to relevant wards without verification of the nature of ailments by doctors at the emergency.
The doctors were occasionally seen busy checking 'tickets' of the patients.
When asked why they were checking tickets instead of attending the patients on the corridor, Jallil, one of doctors said, "We should make sure that papers are in correct order, or things may go wrong."
Maksur Rahman, one of the male nurses said, "All minor injuries, like Mamun's, are attended by male nurses."
"This is injustice to the patients," DMCH Director Col. Badrul Munir told this correspondent when contacted later.
The DMCH Director said, "All emergency patients should be attended or their treatment supervised by the attending doctors. They are in the emergency for this."
He, however, said, "If they fail to attend patients you cannot blame them. It may be because there are too many patients. Only two medical officers are assigned in the emergency in every shift. This is not sufficient compared to the load of patients."
The load of patients in the DMCH emergency significantly increased over the years. On an average, one patient arrives at the emergency every minute. It was learnt from other sources. The authorities concerned See Page 12 Col 3



MOUNTING SUFFERINGS: Some flood victims sheltered at Ahmedbagh Primary School in the city have arranged a wooden platform for their children as flood water has entered the centre. — Star photo

Flood situation takes serious turn as fresh areas inundated

Onrush of waters from the upstream and significant rainfall in different parts of the country yesterday further aggravated the overall flood situation, officials said, report agencies.
Fresh areas in a number of places have been inundated.
Comilla, Barisal, Mymensingh, Habiganj, Pabna, Sylhet and Chandpur experienced heavy downpours during the last 24 hours ending at 9 am yesterday.
According to the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) officials, rivers in the four basins were flowing above danger levels at 19 points. It said the major rivers will continue to rise in next 48 hours till 6 am on Friday.
Disaster Management and Relief Ministry control room, Dhaka, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Faridpur, Madaripur, Rajshahi, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Bogra, Gaibandha, Kurigram and Brahmanbaria.
The situation remained unchanged in Mymensingh, Netrokona, Sunamganj, Habiganj, Shariatpur and Pabna.
Improving trend was shown in Comilla, Chandpur and Moulvibazar, said the Relief Ministry control room.
The Narayanganj-Narsingdi Agra Irrigation Project is facing a threat as breaches have developed at many points on its surrounding embankment following heavy downpour.
The rise in water level of the river Sitalakkhya aggravated the situation. Panic gripped the people living in and around the project areas as water may enter the areas through 15-20 cracks on the embankment. The project was established in 1984 with the financial assistance of Japanese government.
Kandapara area in Tarabo union under Rujganj thana is facing a serious threat where waters are entering the area See Page 12 Col 7

Special public prosecutor tells trial court

Killers took away ammunition from guards an hour before massacre

The army guards at Bangabandhu's residence could not resist the attackers as the ammunition of the guards were tactfully removed by the killers just an hour before they went there on August 15, 1975, reports UNB.
Quoting the deposition of PW-4 Havilder Qudus and PW-5 Havilder Gani, the special public prosecutor in the Bangabandhu Murder Case said, accused Hon Capt (ret'd) Abdul Wahab Joardar did not fire but had removed the ammunition from the guards.
Referring to Gani's statement, prosecutor Serajul Huq said, the army guards could not use their arms soon after Bangabandhu's house came under attack as Joardar took away the arms from him (Gani) at 4 am on the plea that he would soon replace those with new ammunition.
The army guards were also kept in confinement inside the guard room by a group of army soldiers till 7 am. Huq said revealing from cross-examination of Gani.
Coming up with his argument for the 4th day yesterday, Serajul Huq said the army guards had arms with them without ammunition and it proves that there was no counter-attack from the house.
Referring to a defence suggestion that nothing happened on August 15, Huq said, "It seems that killing of a President is not an incident... it is a regular phenomenon."
Revealing from a cross-examination by the defence lawyers, the prosecutor said Maj (Ret'd) Dalim along with Maj Bazul Huda did not loiter on Road-32 riding on a motorbike on August 14 afternoon, rather they made recee a day before the occurrence.
Although the duty in the President House was from 6 am to 6 pm and 6 pm to 6 am, Qudus on August 15 morning came at 5 am by the order of his superior to take over the charge as Bangabandhu had an early morning programme at Dhaka University on the day.
He referred to the 'advice' of Joardar to Capt Abul Bashar that "Sir, what has happened, has happened. It will not be wise to go against the wind, he said the advice was aimed at trying to prevent any action."
Finally, Joardar advised Capt Bashar not to go to Bangabandhu's residence at that moment saying that he would send the car at 11 to 11:30 am.
Referring to a conversation between PW-7 Capt Bashar and accused Major Bazul Huda, where Huda was quoted to be See Page 12 Col 4

Meghnaghat plant Negotiations with AES Corpn begin to finalise PPA

Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB) has started negotiations with AES Corporation, USA for finalising a 22-year Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), reports UNB.
The negotiations began yesterday at the WAPDA Building here, said a PDB press release.
PDB Chairman Nuruddin M Kamal represented the board in the negotiations while Harish Jaisinghani, Country Director of AES Corporation represented his organisations.
The negotiations were aimed at developing the Meghnaghat Power Project, a 450-Megawatt combined cycle power plant, to be built on a Build-Own-Operate (BOO) basis.
PDB floated a request for proposal for the development of this gas-fired power station on March 27, 1997.
Five international companies responded to it. Among these, AES Corporation USA was evaluated as the first-ranking sponsor.
The other companies are Energy Venture USA, Marubeni Corporation Japan, Midlands UK and Genting Syn. Berhad Malaysia.

Rape of three JU students: Provosts asked to submit report by today

By Staff Correspondent
The authorities of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday directed the provosts of all the four residential halls for female students to submit a report on the alleged rape of three students on the campus in the last three months.
"I am informed of the incidents," said Prof Azizul Haq Bhuiyan, Vice Chancellor-in-Charge of the University, talking to The Daily Star yesterday.
Prof Bhuiyan said he already directed the provosts to "identify the victims and submit a detailed report on the incidents by today."
"I am thinking of forming a probe body to investigate the incidents as the victims did not lodge any complaint with the authorities," he said.
"Earlier I had asked the Proctor of the University about See Page 12 Col 4

Indo-Bangla meet to check cross-border insurgency begins in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Aug 19: The fifth meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh joint working group began here today to discuss ways and means to check cross-border insurgency and smuggling, reports BSS.
Janibul Huq, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, is leading the Bangladesh team to the talks while the Indian side is headed by G K Pillai, Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry.
Other members of the Bangladesh delegation include Sirajul Islam, Director General (South Asia), Foreign Ministry, and Col Lenin Kamal, Director of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR).

Showcouse on Ershad, Editor of Observer for contempt of court

By SC Correspondent
The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday directed former President H M Ershad and the Editor, publisher and the reporter concerned of the Bangladesh Observer to showcouse by October 19 why they will not be charged with contempt of court for making, publishing and reporting a statement.
The statement, allegedly made by H M Ershad in a public meeting at Paltan Maidan on August 10 and published in the Bangladesh Observer on August 11, said that the judgement See Page 12 Col 3

Statement on appointment of NSU VC refuted

By Staff Correspondent
The press release issued by Rafiqul Huq, lawyer of the chairman of North South University Foundation Board, referring to the appointment of Vice-Chancellor Muslehuddin Ahmad, printed in some national dailies on August 18, is erroneous and misleading, said Anisul Huq, an advocate of Supreme Court, in a press release yesterday.
"With a view to clarifying the position and removing doubts in the minds of the public and NSU students and staff, which might have been created by this press note, I, Advocate Anisul See Page 12 Col 1