



Excessive rainfall causes severe traffic jam in front of Notre Dame College in Motijheel Commercial Area. — Star photo.

UNSC fails to endorse resumption of arms inspection in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 19: The UN Security Council on Tuesday expressed support for UN weapons experts but failed to explicitly endorse the resumption of inspections in the face of an Iraqi ban, reports AFP. Questions remained as to whether the 15-member Council had given a green light to the arms experts to resume intrusive inspections, which have been halted since August 6, and UNSCOM officials said that the situation was not clear. Western diplomats said that Council letters to the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) and International Atomic En-

ergy Agency (IAEA) were signed on Tuesday after Russia sought a delay for final approval until late Monday. In the letters, the Council's 15 members "reiterate their full support for the IAEA and UNSCOM in the full implementation of their mandates." The letters note that under UN resolutions, Iraq is obliged to provide the UN nuclear watchdog and UNSCOM with necessary cooperation for them to undertake their activities, "including inspections." Diplomats said that the original draft had contained a more explicit reference to the resumption of inspections aimed

at verifying the dismantling of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction. The UN special commission, headed by Australian Richard Butler, is tasked with ensuring the disarmament of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons and missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres (94 miles). The Council letters are a response to two from Butler and IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei who informed the Council last week that they could no longer perform their mandates because of Iraq's August 5 decision to halt cooperation with the inspectors.

Persis Khambatta passes away

BOMBAY, Aug 19: Persis Khambatta, a former Miss India, who was a navigator in the film Star Trek, died in Bombay following a massive heart attack, newspapers reported Wednesday, reports AP. Khambatta, 43, died Tuesday in a Bombay Hospital. She had undergone a by-pass operation in 1983. She is survived by her mother and a brother. Khambatta began modelling at the age of 13 and went on to win the Miss India beauty crown in 1965, dressed in off-the-rack clothes she bought in London at the last minute. She starred in a few Hindi language films in India and then went to feature in Hollywood productions such as "The Wilby Conspiracy," "Conduct Unbecoming" and "Night Hawks." Her biggest break as an actress was playing Lt. Aliea in "Star Trek — The Motion Picture."

More relief goods allocated for flood victims. The government Tuesday allocated 1,000 metric tons of rice and Tk 11 lakh for the flood victims of different districts in the country, reports UNB. The Disaster Management and Relief Ministry allocation included 200 metric tons of rice for each Munshiganj and Noakhali districts and 100 metric tons of rice for each Madaripur, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Gazipur, Kishoreganj and Gopalganj districts. Besides, Tk 2 lakh was sanctioned for each Munshiganj, Brahmanbaria and Noakhali districts while Tk one lakh for each Madaripur, Comilla, Gazipur, Kishoreganj and Gopalganj districts. With this new allocation, the ministry so far allocated a total of 43,012 tonnes of rice worth Tk 60.02 crore and cash Tk 2.70 crore. Besides, 1.49 lakh pieces of sarees, 39,659 pieces of lungis, 34,500 pieces of second-hand garments, 14,200 meters of fabrics, 8,130 tins of biscuits, other dry foods, containers and matches were also distributed.

Amendment to various laws demanded. A member of parliament and senior advocate has demanded that the "defective, colonial and anti-people laws" giving arbitrary power to the police be amended to suit the needs of a civilised society and stop violation of fundamental and human rights, reports UNB. Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, a former minister, in a statement Tuesday, said that if arbitrary use, abuse and misuse of laws by police are not stopped, a reign of terror may be established on the doctrine of "might is right." Rahman referred to several incidents of deaths due to torture by the police including that of Rubel, saying that unreasonable application of Section 54 of the CrPC, which was formulated in 1898, created a situation worse than that under the Special Powers Act. He urged the government and the Law Commission to take immediate steps to amend various legal provisions including Section 54 of CrPC to ensure the rights of the citizens in a sovereign and independent nation.

Eighth day of roadside stand-off. Doctors check health of Suu Kyi

YANGON, Aug 19: Her food running low, Aung San Suu Kyi was visited by her doctors Wednesday, the eighth day of a roadside protest against Myanmar's military regime ahead of a Friday deadline she has set for political change, reports AP. Myanmar authorities said they allowed Suu Kyi's two personal physicians to visit her Wednesday, in her van, parked on a bridge 32 kilometers (19 miles) west of Yangon and they planned to do so again Thursday. They also permitted the doctors to visit her Tuesday, during which the physicians informed Suu Kyi that her party's chairman, Aung Shwe, had met with Khin Nyunt, one of the most powerful generals in the junta that rules Myanmar, also known as Burma. It was the first meeting between National League for Democracy leaders and the top generals in the military government in more than a year. Meanwhile, the All Burma Students Democratic Front, an exiles' opposition group, claimed that authorities in the country's second largest city, Mandalay, were offering cash rewards for information on who had been placing anti-military stickers around the city. The placement of such stickers could not be independently confirmed, according to the ABSDF, the stickers called for protests against the military and to support Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, and the NLD. Suu Kyi and three colleagues have been camped in her van on a bridge outside Yangon since last Wednesday, when they were stopped by authorities during their fourth attempt in two months to travel to the city of Bassein to meet supporters. Bus passengers passing the site of the standoff said police have been stopping vehicles and randomly checking identification cards. Bus drivers have told passengers not to look out the window and wave at Suu Kyi. Suu Kyi's party did not comment on her physical condition. During the last standoff, she became ill with a high fever and dehydration after the government prevented her from obtaining food and water, according to the NLD.

Use of modern tech to contain forces of nature stressed

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak said yesterday the country must go for using modern technology to contain the forces of nature and find solution to the problems like flood and storm, reports BSS. "Our country is striving to achieve self-sufficiency in food and self-reliance in economy. But our efforts are nullified by recurring floods and storms, we must use modern technology to contain the forces of nature and find permanent solution to these problems," the minister said at an international seminar on geosynthetics engineering in the city. Geosynthetics with geotextile can provide variety of solution to a wide range of construction problems, river bank protection, river training, flood control, embankment protection and protection of other hydraulic structures. Besides, geosynthetics can be used in construction of roads, bridges, railways, tunnels, ports and airports.

Probe order into disappearance of Netaji won't bear any fruits

NEW DELHI, Aug 19: Union Home Minister L K Advani yesterday said no tangible purpose would be served by ordering a fresh probe into the mysterious disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose though there was no harm in doing so, reports PTI. One commission of inquiry has already probed Netaji's disappearance. What purpose will be served by another inquiry, he said answering queries by reporters about the forward bloc's demand for a fresh inquiry. Advani said there was also a demand for bringing ashes, believed to Netaji's, from Japan. The Home Secretary had been asked to consult the family members and followers of Bose on the matter before a decision in this regard was taken.

Mamata pays tribute to Bangabandhu

An influential Indian politician has stated that Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who united the whole nation for independence struggle in 1971 had added a unique chapter in the history of Bengali people, reports BSS. Ms Mamata Banerjee, MP, and President of Trinamool Congress while speaking in Calcutta on Tuesday at a memorial meeting said Bangabandhu's dream of an independent Bangladesh was realised through the sacrifices of the people, a message received in Dhaka said. Bangabandhu was "unfortunately" assassinated when reconstruction was going on in full swing in the war-ravaged country, Ms Banerjee lamented at the seminar on "Thoughts and views of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman" arranged in observance of the National Mourning Day in Bangladesh. Friends of Bangladesh, Eastern Region Association organised the seminar at an auditorium in Calcutta. She felt proud that under the leadership of Mrs Indira Gandhi people of India particularly the West Bengal extended necessary help to millions of Bangladeshis, refugees, during their war of independence. The assassination of both Mrs Gandhi and Bangabandhu are great loss to India and Bangladesh respectively, Ms Banerjee opined and said that there is a need for further strengthening of cultural and friendly relations between India and Bangladesh. She proposed to set up civic organisations in both countries comprising people of all walks to life to achieve this goal.

Absconding dacoit arrested after 12 years

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Aug 19: Golapganj police with the help of villagers Monday arrested a convicted dacoit who escaped from the Sylhet court 12 years ago. The dacoit was identified as Jamshed Rafique, one of his accomplices, was also arrested when they were committing a dacoity on two boats. During the dacoity, they opened fire on the boats, leaving four persons injured. According to villagers and police, the two boats carrying 10 businessmen and goods worth about Taka 5 lakh came under attack of the gang near the Golapganj thana ghat at about 8:30 pm. As the gang led by Jamshed opened several rounds of fire, four persons were wounded. They were identified as Mujibur Rahman, Lutfur Rahman, Rafique Ahmed and boatman Abdul Karim. Soon the villagers and a police team reached the spot and overpowered the dacoits. However, the other members of the gang managed to escape. On Tuesday, police caught another member of the gang, Yasin, from the nearby village Rustampur at about 5:30 pm. The injured businessmen and the boatman are now under treatment at the Sylhet M A G Osmani Medical College Hospital.

A police official said, dacoit Jamshed was serving 14 years' RI. He escaped from the Sylhet Sadar court 12 years ago on November 18, 1986 along with four others.

Transport strike paralyses Sherpur

SHERPUR, Aug 19: Road communication between the district and rest of the country was disrupted yesterday due to a transport strike, reports UNB. Sherpur Sarak Paribahan Samik Union called for the strike to protest the attack on a driver by a group of youth of Nakla thana on Tuesday. A message sent by State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed on the occasion was read out in the inaugural ceremony.

Sunamganj BNP leader joins AL

Iqbal Hossain Talukder, former convener of BNP Taherpur thana under Sunamganj district Tuesday joined Bangladesh Awami League, expressing confidence in the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, a PID handout said, reports BSS. Talukder expressed his allegiance to Awami League when he called on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at his residence in the morning.

Donation for flood victims

The officials and employees of Land Ministry and its attached departments and offices will donate their one-day salary to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, reports UNB.

WB Country Director says Bangladesh must enter into electronic commerce

World Bank Country Director Pierre Landell-Mills yesterday said inadequate telecommunication service is one of the major problems facing the country's entrepreneurs, reports UNB. Addressing a day-long workshop on "Electronic Information Networking and Year 2000 Demands," he said Bangladesh could make better use of the Internet to advertise its potentials abroad. "Bangladesh could use the Internet to advertise its cheap labour force, its goods which can be exported at a competitive price and invite foreign investment to the country," Landell-Mills told the workshop. Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and the World Bank jointly organised the workshop. He said Bangladesh could do all this very quickly, efficiently and at a lowest cost using the Internet facilities. Mills said Bangladesh must enter into the 'electronic commerce' as it is the most dominating factor in international trade. "It must be opened up to industrialists because it is necessary for them to compete the present-day world trade." Earlier, welcoming the participants of the workshop, DCCI President R Maksud Khan said Bangladesh should take advantage of the up-to-date information technology to boost its production and exports. "For this reason, the government has declared computer software and data processing as thrust sectors in both export and industrial policies." He reminded the country's entrepreneurs of the coming "Millennium Bug" which would make thousands of computers of the country malfunctioning unless steps are taken to prevent it. The inaugural session was also addressed by BSCIC Director Jamilur Rahman Khan and DCCI Director Aftabul Islam while DCCI Vice-president Zafar Osman offered the vote of thanks. Later, the World Bank country director switched on the Web Page of the Dhaka Chamber.

Study report identifies 60 options to reduce emission of greenhouse gases

The Bangladesh National Study Report on Asia Least-cost Greenhouse Gas Abatement Strategy (ALGAS) has identified more than 60 mitigation options to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) and minimise her contribution to the global warming and consequent effects of climatic change and sea level rise, reports BSS. The study report was released at a consultative committee meeting on the study findings organised by the Department of Environment (DOE) in association with ALGAS Study Consortium in the city Tuesday. Some of the options under energy sector are efficient power generation, dissemination of improved cooking stoves in rural areas, conversion of petrol driven cars to CNG driven cars, replacement of incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps, solar electricity with photovoltaic systems and phasing out two-stroke engines for four-stroke engines for auto rickshaws, efficient boilers, refrigerators, air-conditions and motors and metering of natural gas. In the forestry sector, the options are long, medium and short-rotation artificial reforestation in the hill forest lands, medium-rotation plantation in inland forest land, medium-rotation participatory coastal plantation and short rotation participatory woodlot plantation in little forest land and new Char lands. In the agriculture and livestock sector, some of the options are regulating flooding in

Protima Bedi feared killed in landslide

NEW DELHI, Aug 19: Renowned Indian dancer Protima Gauri Bedi had looked forward to a pilgrimage to meditate and commune with nature in the Himalayas. She was among 200 people listed Wednesday as missing and feared killed in a massive landslide, reports UNB. Colleagues said they hadn't given up hope that Mrs Bedi, 49, will be found when rescuers reach the remote valley in northern India where the pilgrims had been camped on their 24-day 400-kilometer (250-mile) trek to a Hindu shrine in Tibet. "I hope she has a jolly good laugh," about newspaper reports she may be dead, said Lynn Fernandes, who manages the dance school Mrs Bedi founded in 1990 in the southern city of Bangalore. "She'll get a kick out of it and come back laughing." "People like her just don't die easily. She is too much of a fighter," Ms Fernandes said in a telephone interview. Mrs Bedi was a leading proponent of classical Odissi dance, which she began learning only at age 27. She traveled abroad extensively, giving solo performances or leading a team of her students. She had been a model in her teens, and married popular film actor Kabir Bedi, from whom she later separated. Their daughter, Pooja Bedi, is one of India's most famous actresses. Their only son committed suicide last year in the United States.

Concern over rejection of SOFA with US govt

By Staff Correspondent Eight eminent citizens of the country have expressed concern over the rejection of the Proposed Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) with the US government in a statement issued recently, says a press release. They urged the government to ensure the independence of the country through military cooperation by accepting SOFA. In the statement, they demanded that Bangladesh should expand the scope of exercises and contacts of its defence forces outside the SAARC, particularly with USA, China and the Islamic countries.

Death condoled

State Minister for Land Affairs Rashed Mosharraf yesterday expressed his deep shock at the death of former parliament member Dr Nurul Islam, reports BSS. In a message, the state minister expressed his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

'Steps taken to develop socio-economic condition of women'

Labour and Manpower Minister M A Mannan yesterday said the government will ensure equal participation of women in every sphere of life, reports BSS. The government and trade unions are working closely to flourish public and private sectors," he said while inaugurating a four-day workshop on "International Confederation for Free Trade Union (ICFTU-Apro) — South Asia sub-regional planning" at a city hotel. Chaired by ICFTU-Be women's committee chairperson Jahanara Begum, the function was addressed by general secretary of ICFTU-Apro Takashi Izumi, ICFTU representative from India Ms Kanta, and member-secretary of ICFTU-Be Mamun-ur-Rashid Chowdhury. Trade union leaders Nazrul Islam Khan, Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar and Dr Wajedul Islam were present on the occasion. The Labour Minister said the government has taken measures to develop the socio-economic condition of women. The government has also adopted resolutions to ensure due quota for women in every sphere of life through amending the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention, he said. Mannan regretted that the trade unionists in our country have become political leaders neglecting their basic duties. He said the government is considering to suspend the trade unions in the banking sector as their members frequently ransack offices, misbehave with senior officials and indulge in malpractices. The minister said the government is very much aware of the interests of both the groups — the employers and the workers.

Zonta Club-IV distributes relief

Zonta International Club-IV distributed money among 70 flood-affected families in Shahjadar and Badda areas under Gulshan thana recently in view of the continued deterioration of flood situation in and around Dhaka city, says a press release. The amount was distributed by the members of the club.

Hasina hands over savings certificate worth Tk 1 lakh to Sabina Huq

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday handed over a family saving certificate for Taka one lakh to Sabina Huq (Shilpi), widow of Nuruzzaman Sharif, a former employee of Bangladesh Biman, reports BSS. During the handing over of the certificate at the Prime Minister's office, the mother and minor son of Nuruzzaman Sharif and Awami League president member Abdul Jalil were present. The wife of Nuruzzaman Sharif has already been given appointment to Bangladesh Biman following the instruction of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

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US Senator Richard Shelby visited the Liberation War Museum (Muktijuddha Jadughar) in the city on Tuesday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Office of the Executive Engineer (R&H) Workshop Division, Santahar, Bogra. R&H Tender Invitation Notice. 1. Tender Notice no : 03(three)/1988-99. 2. Name of work : Supply of spare parts for repair of Saviem truck No Rangpur Ta 4475 under Workshop Division, Santahar, Bogra, Road Division (R&H) during 1998-99 fiscal year. 3. Estimated cost : Taka 3,99,765/- 4. Earnest money : Taka 8,000/- in the form of BD (which can be changed in Santahar) from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh to Executive Engineer (R&H), Workshop Division, Santahar, Bogra. 5. Time for completion of work : 25 (twenty-five) days from the date of issue of work order. 6. Eligibility of contractors : From 'A' to 'C' classes of contractor of R&H directorate and 'D' class of Workshop Circle and 'E' general class of Workshop Division, Santahar, Bogra. 7. Offices where tenders will be received : Executive Engineer (R&H), Workshop Division, Santahar/Rajshahi/Ferry Division, Bogra/Sub-Divisional Engineer (R&H) Workshop, Sub-Division, Santahar, Bogra. 8. Offices where tenders will be received : Superintending Engineer (R&H), Workshop Circle, Bogra/Executive Engineer (R&H), Workshop Division, Santahar/Rajshahi/Ferry Division, Bogra. 9. Last date of selling tender : 01/9/98 (during office hours). 10. Date and time of receiving tender : 02/9/98 till 12-00 Noon. 11. Date and time of opening tender box : 02/9/98 at 12-30 PM. 12. Date and time of opening all tenders after collecting in sealed condition by the undersigned : 06/9/98 at 12 Noon. 13. Date and time of holding lottery (if necessary) : 06/9/98 at 1 PM. Mir Aminul Islam Executive Engineer (R&H) Workshop Division Santahar, Bogra DFP-17527-13/8/98 G-1871