

The Daily Star



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: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

Dhaka against all sorts of terrorism: FM

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said Bangladesh always opposes all sorts of terrorism, reports UNB. "We are always for peace and totally against terrorism," he told newsmen at the Zia International Airport on his return from Singapore.

Rubel murder Judicial probe body may seek more time

The one-man judicial commission probing murder of Rubel in police custody may seek further extension of time for submission of its report, according to sources close to the commission. The commission is considering seeking extension of time as the statement of Rubel's mother given to it and the CID earlier added a "new dimension" to the investigation, the sources said.

The one-man commission comprising Justice Habibur Rahman Khan was formed on July 27 and was first scheduled See Page 12 Col 8

Dhaka, Delhi agree to increase coop on security matters

NEW DELHI, Aug 21: The two-day meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) ended here last night with both sides agreeing to intensify further cooperation on the security related matters, reports BSS. Janibul Haq, joint secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs led the Bangladesh delegation while the Indian team was headed by G K Pillai. According to sources, the two sides discussed, among other issues, the demarcation of border, liberalisation of visa regime and trafficking of women and children. The Indian side gave an assurance to continue intercepting Bangladeshi women and children who are sent to Middle-Eastern countries for undesirable purposes. The Indian side raised the issue of detained ULFA leader Anup Chetia but Bangladesh made it clear that it would be subjudiced to discuss as the case is now pending before the court.

S'pore to back Dhaka's bid for UNSC seat

Singapore has responded positively to Bangladesh's request to back its candidature for a non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council (UNSC) for 2000-2001 term, official sources said, reports BSS. The sentiment of the city state was communicated to Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad during official talks held yesterday in Singapore with his Singapore counterpart Prof. S Jayakumar. The Singapore side also responded favourably to Bangladesh's candidature for the post of Commonwealth Secretary General, sources said See Page 12 Col 1

Inside Today Article

The Moral Dimension of Nuclear Proliferation
 Column: Perspectives by Brig (Rtd) M Abdul Hafiz Page 4

Star Literature

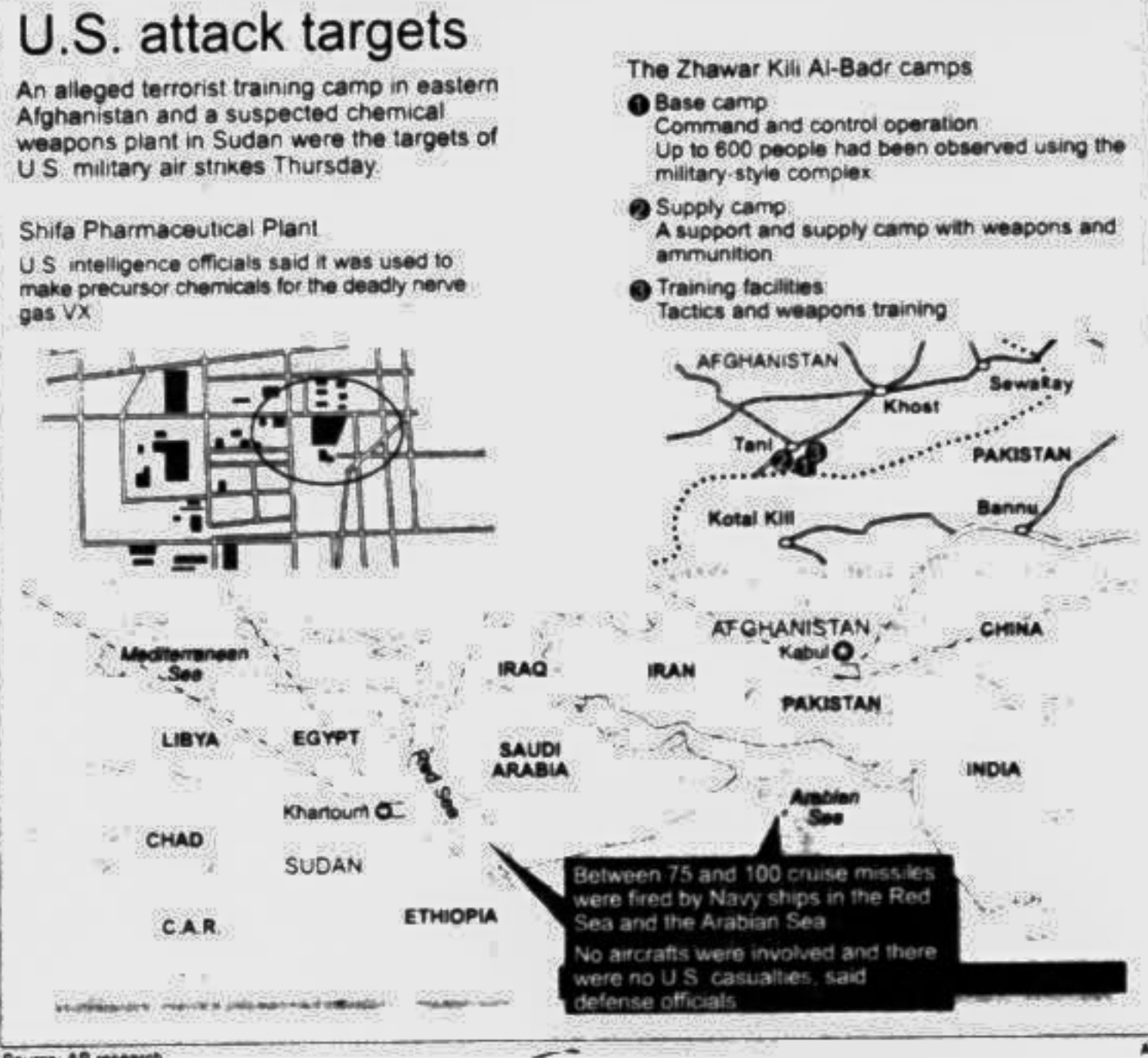
'Paris in August' by Adrian George; and Fall of a giant Pages 6 & 7

Business

Bank Reform Committee suggests formation of separate asset management companies to recover bad loans

Security Council extends its trade sanctions on Iraq Pages 8, 9

Beginning of lengthy war against terrorists: Clinton US missile attack: 26 killed in Afghanistan, 6 in Pakistan



US STRIKE TARGETS: A closer look at the US military attack targets in Afghanistan and Sudan. — AP graphics

Flood situation to worsen in Dhaka, surrounding dists

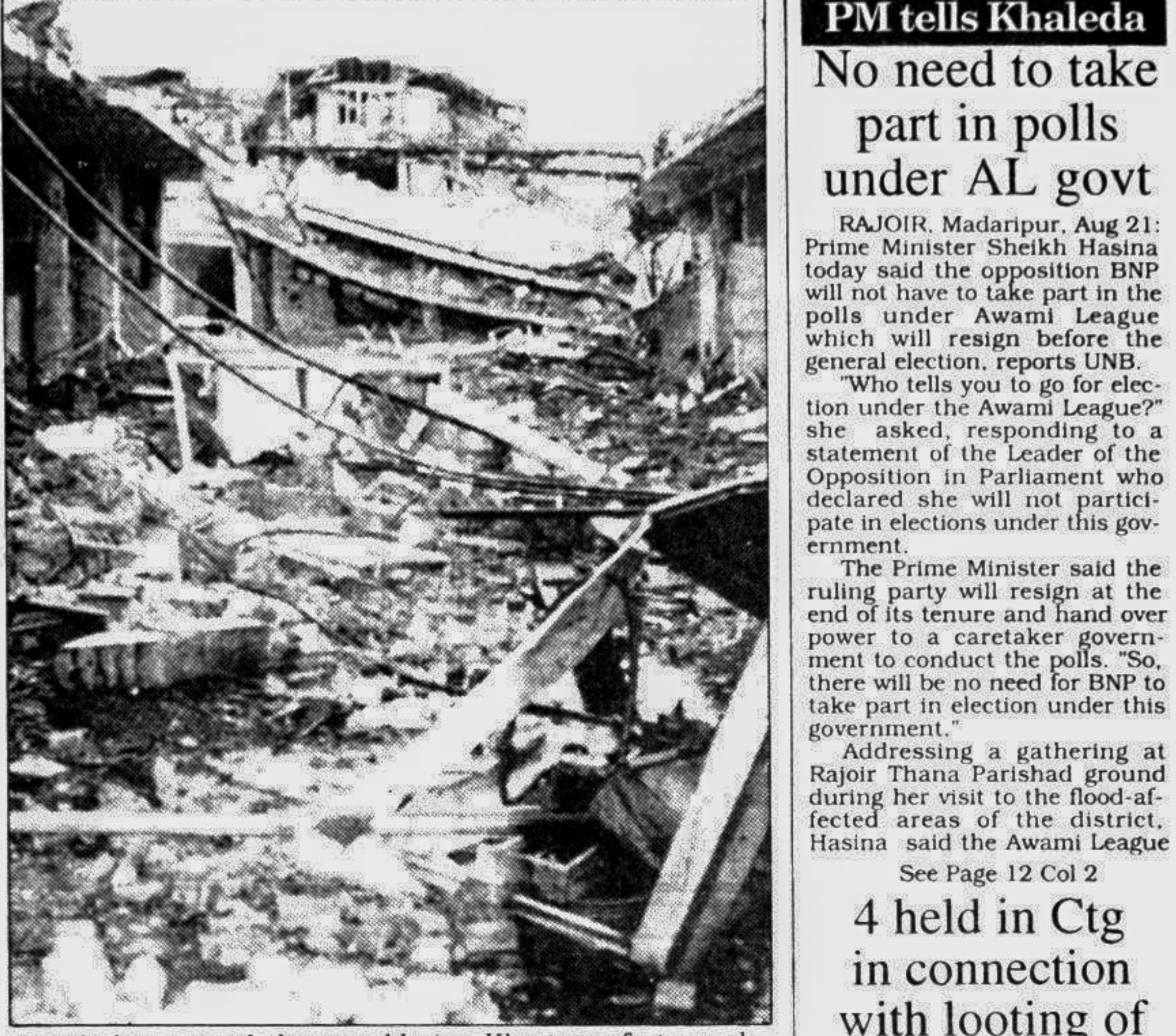
Rain and onrush of waters from the upstream aggravated the flood situation in 16 districts yesterday, report agencies. Fresh areas were flooded as water levels of most of the major rivers continued to rise. Twelve more deaths were reported, raising the death toll to 322. Of the 12 flood related deaths, five were reported from Dhaka and three from Gazipur. Four others died of diarrhoea. Fertiliser supply to the northern region of the country from Jamuna Fertiliser Factory remained suspended as road communication between Tarakandi in the district and Bhuapur in Tangail was snapped yesterday morning. Train services between Jagannathganj ghat and the district town remained suspended for the second consecutive day yesterday. Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said the situation along the river Padma, downstream from Bhairab Bazar in Meghna basin

ISLAMABAD, Aug 21: The US missile strikes on alleged terrorist targets in eastern Afghanistan killed 26 people and injured around 40, Afghan sources and hospital officials in Pakistan said today, report agencies. So far 21 bodies had been recovered but the final toll may go up, a Taliban spokesman told the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP). He said more than 30 people were injured in the missile strikes in Khost, around 75 miles south of Kabul. Hospital sources in the neighbouring Pakistani town of Miran Shah said at least five Pakistani nationals were also killed and eight were seriously injured in the US attacks. The bodies were taken to a state-run hospital in the northwestern town of Miran Shah, 12 miles from the Afghan border town suspected to have been one of the main sites of Saudi dissident Osama Bin Laden. A Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman said a US missile aimed at suspected terrorist

targets in Afghanistan landed in Pakistan, killing up to six people. Pakistan has lodged a protest with the US over the incident, and for the presumed violation of its airspace by US missiles, he said. "Pakistan expresses its indignation over the attacks no matter what justifications are See Page 12 Col 4
Pakistan retracts statement
 ISLAMABAD, Aug 21: Pakistan, retracting an earlier statement, said there were no casualties inside its territory after overnight US air strikes on a border region of neighbouring Afghanistan, report agencies. The retraction followed a telephone call from President Bill Clinton to the Pakistani Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif. Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Tariq Altaf said earlier Friday that five or six people were killed by a stray American missile. See Page 12 Col 8

5 electrocuted in flood-hit city slum

By Staff Correspondent. At least three women and two children were electrocuted and six others injured when a live electric wire snapped from a pole and fell on a slum submerged in flood water at West Razabazar beside the Panthapath in the city yesterday evening. The dead were identified as Sahaj, 15, Shimla 40, Moraheda, 38, Russel 11 and one-year-old Marufa. They all died on the spot, Police and Fire Brigade said. A Fire Brigade rescue team rushed two of the injured girls — Jahannara 25, and Piara—15 — to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Four others were treated at Samarita Hospital, close to the slum. It could not be known how the power line snapped. The shanty dwellers were living on makeshift platforms See Page 12 Col 3



Rubble lies around the smouldering Khartoum factory, allegedly manufacturing chemical weapons yesterday after it came under US air attack Thursday. —AP/UNB photo

Model PSC to be modified to allow gas export

Star Report. The sources said the model Production Sharing Contract (PSC) before inviting the winners of the second round block bidding sometimes next month. Sources said, the model PSC would be 'slightly modified' to give the foreign companies scope for gas export. Besides, a clause that allows the government to cancel a PSC in the interest of the public would be 'softened'. Foreign companies have been arguing about this clause saying that it would discourage them in investing in Bangladesh. Proposals for amendment to the model PSC have been prepared and those would be sent to the Cabinet. The government approved the model PSC in late 1996. The sources said the model PSC is likely to be modified in the light of the government's experience about the existing PSCs signed with Cairn and Occidental. The existing PSCs have 'weakness' in defining 'negligence' and 'immediacy', the sources said. Both these definitions became important issues in dealing with Occidental following the Magurchhara incident and with Cairn's budget hike for Sangu. A government committee earlier found that Occidental's negligence was responsible for the Magurchhara blow-out. But the government never proceeded with that charge as negligence was not defined in the PSC. Similarly, Cairn could not See Page 12 Col 8

Cargo services: Biman's quest for more partners

By Shehab Ahmed. Bangladesh Biman is seeking more partners to expand its air freight services following a successful tie-up with Korean Air, Biman officials said yesterday. "We are talking with a number of airlines including British Airways and Emirates, exploring the possibility of more joint-ventures to haul cargo," Group Captain Rafiqul Islam, Managing Director of the Biman, told The Daily Star. He said the joint-venture with Korean Air had been successful since it started a year ago. Since the joint-venture was launched on August 19 last year, Korean Air has replaced its Airbus A 300F to meet the growing demands and is now hauling 50 tonnes of cargo per week. During the last one year, Korean Air has ferried 787 tonnes of dry cargo, mainly ready-made garments, to Bangladesh's biggest market, the United States, via Seoul. It also brought in 902 tonnes of imported cargo, Biman officials said. On its part, Biman ferried 850 tonnes of cargo, mainly garments. It earned about 649,009 US dollars from the joint-venture with Korean Air, the officials said. Under a special arrangement with Biman, Emirates is now carrying 20 tonnes of dry cargo from Dhaka every week. Biman is currently negotiating for a formal joint-venture, when the weekly haul could be increased to 60 tonnes, they said. Emirates is expected to expand its air freight services, operating four to five flights a week, they added. The Biman officials further said that preliminary talks have been held with Uzbekistan Airways, British Airways, Emirates and Royal Jordanian Airlines on freight hauling. The talks with Uzbekistan Airways did not make any See Page 12 Col 1



A HELPING HAND IN NEED : Flood victims at Kalma village under Louhajang thana in Munshiganj district receiving cash money in chest-deep water. — Star photo

Rolf Carriere tells The Daily Star Unicef now plans edn for child workers in tanneries, houses

By Staff Correspondent. Encouraged by the success of the programme to put child labourers of garments factories in schools, Unicef is now planning a similar strategy to help the children working in tanneries, automobile garages and households. "We are now discussing the issue with business leaders in the tannery sector. They are keen to join the bandwagon because the corporate sector realises that businesses stand to gain more by not using child labour," said Rolf C Carriere who has just ended his tenure as the representative of Unicef in Bangladesh. "Unicef is also looking at a programme to end child prostitution in Bangladesh. We have already analysed the situation and the opportunities. We are also gaining experience from the situation in Thailand and the Philippines on child prostitution," he said in an interview with The Daily Star. Carriere also talked about the successes of and challenges before Unicef in the development of the children. He represented Unicef in Bangladesh for six years. "I first came here for a week in 1978 on my way to Indonesia and thought I would like to work in Bangladesh," recalls Carriere. "When I was asked to be the representative here, it was a dream come true because it offered a tremendous challenge See Page 12 Col 4

Fire in Qatari Airbus Investigation begins

By Staff Correspondent. A four-member committee yesterday started probing Thursday's incident of fire in a Qatari Airbus at Zia International Airport. The committee has sealed the Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR) known as Black Box and the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR) of the Airbus A300-600R to decode various flight information from the electronic devices, official sources said. The committee, formed immediately after the incident, was asked to submit its report within 20 days. It will find out the cause of the accident, assess damage caused to the aircraft and property and injury of passengers. P K Biswas, Deputy Director of Flight Safety and Regulations of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), is heading the committee which includes another CAAB official and two representatives from the aviation authorities of Qatar and the Qatar Airways. The wheels and the landing gear of the Airbus burst into flames as its pilot used brakes to avoid hitting a flock of birds during take-off at Zia at about 7:30 pm on Thursday. The plane, with 226 passengers and ten crew, was on a scheduled flight to Doha. Another Airbus of Qatar Airways took off from Zia for Doha at 2:30 pm yesterday with the passengers, sources at Zia said. Besides, a relief aircraft of the Qatar Airways landed at Zia late Thursday with engineers and spares for the affected Airbus, now waiting for a massive repair work near the Biman's hanger at the airport. CAAB officials said the affected Airbus will undergo See Page 12 Col 1

ANNOUNCEMENT
 How original are the thoughts of Prof. Md. Yunus? How effective and durable are they? Do his ideas constitute an alternative development paradigm?
 We invite our readers to a discussion on the "Economics of Prof. Md. Yunus: An alternative paradigm in the making?" being organised by the Centre for Alternatives and The Daily Star.
Venue: British Council Auditorium
Date & Time: Saturday, 22 August '98 at 3 PM
Speakers: Prof. Wahiduddin Mahmud, Hossain Zillur Rahman, Syed Hashmi, Ahmed Kamal, Sardar Aminul Islam, Atiar Rahman, Swapan Adnan, Muzaffar Ahmed and Prof. Anisuzzaman.

PM tells Khaleda No need to take part in polls under AL govt

RAJOIR, Madaripur, Aug 21: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said the opposition BNP will not have to take part in the polls under Awami League which will resign before the general election, reports UNB. "Who tells you to go for election under the Awami League?" she asked, responding to a statement of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament who declared she will not participate in elections under this government. The Prime Minister said the ruling party will resign at the end of its tenure and hand over power to a caretaker government to conduct the polls. "So, there will be no need for BNP to take part in election under this government." Addressing a gathering at Rajoir Thana Parishad ground during her visit to the flood-affected areas of the district, Hasina said the Awami League See Page 12 Col 2

4 held in Ctg in connection with looting of jewellery shops

From Staff Correspondent. CHITTAGONG, Aug 21: Police so far arrested four persons in connection with yesterday's looting of three jewellery shops at Mimi Super Market at Nasirabad in the city. Police recovered four pieces of looted necklace, Tk 20,000 and a Czechoslovakia-made pistol from the possession of one of the arrested persons, identified as Ehteshamul Haque Romel. They were arrested during raids at different places in the city last night. Police said that Romel was a See Page 12 Col 6

Attack on BNP relief team in city: 25 hurt

By Staff Correspondent. At least 25 people were injured when a group of armed men attacked some activists of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) while they were distributing relief materials among flood-hit people at Gulshan-1 in the city yesterday. Of the injured, eighteen were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Others were released after first aid at local clinics, hospital sources said. As per an earlier announced programme, some BNP leaders including former finance minister Saitur Rahman and some party activists started distributing relief materials in front of the DNC market at Gulshan at about 11 am, witnesses See Page 12 Col 7

Five killed in Daudkandi road accident

COMILLA, Aug 21: Five people were killed and 15 others injured in a road accident near Daudkandi on Dhaka-Chittagong highway this afternoon, reports BSS. Police said the accident occurred in front of Daudkandi Sonali Ansh Jute Mills, 25 kilometres from here this afternoon when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Noakhali collided with a truck. The injured were taken to Gouripur hospital and the dead were sent to Comilla General Hospital for autopsy. Police seized both the vehicles, but the drivers managed to flee. A case has been registered with Daudkandi thana in this connection.