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## 5-day drive No BNP MP deposited resignation letter on first day

By Staff Correspondent

A special 5-day drive to collect the resignation letters of BNP MPs yielded 'zero result' on the first day yesterday.

No BNP MP turned up at the office of the Chief Whip where a party whip, Major (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, was assigned to receive such letters on the first day of the drive to push the party decision of depositing the resignation letters of party MPs with the BNP chief.

When contacted last night, Major (Retd) Hafiz confirmed that the submission of BNP MPs' resignation letters at the Opposition Chief Whip's office was nil on the day.

Following a directive by BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia to speed up the process of depositing the resigna-

See Page 12 Col 6

JS body terms  
Atia forest  
ordn '82 'faulty'

By Staff Correspondent

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Forests and Environment yesterday observed that the Atia Forest (preservation) Ordinance, 1982 is a 'faulty' one and it should be amended.

The ordinance governs various aspects of Atia forest spread over areas including Shalikpur, Mirzapur, Madhupur and Bhulai.

Kader Siddiki, an Awami League MP from Tangail and a member of the parliamentary body, told The Daily Star last night that the committee had decided to convert the ordinance into a complete law 'removing its inconsistencies'.

In this regard, the committee has asked the secretary of the ministry to submit a report, accommodating the suggestions of the MPs concerned, within a month, meeting sources said.

Meanwhile, the ministry officials informed the JS body that some 29,201 metric tons of rubber worth over Tk 135 crore have so far been produced in the

See Page 12 Col 3

Yeltsin sacks  
entire govt

MOSCOW, Aug 23: Russian President Boris Yeltsin sacked the entire Russian government today, the Kremlin said, reports AFP.

Ex-premier Viktor Chernomyrdin, 60, who was sacked in March to make way for 35-year-old technocrat Sergei Kiriyenko, was named interim Prime Minister, a Kremlin official said.

The decision ends Kiriyenko's five-month tenure as premier marked by an unprecedented economic crisis which reached its peak last Monday when the government was forced to effectively devalue the ruble and default on its domestic debts.

According to the text of the presidential decree released by the Kremlin, Yeltsin declared the government of the Russian federation has resigned.

### Inside Today

#### Article

US Strikes in  
Sudan, Afgha-  
nistan: An  
Appraisal

by Barrister Harun ur  
Rashid  
Page 4

#### Focus

Day of resistance to  
violence against  
women

Let's not be silenced  
any more  
Page 5

#### Business

BTMC mills' fight for  
survival: Quaderia at  
Tongi tries to catch up

Tofail pleads for under-  
taking productivity as  
a movement

DSE price quotation  
Pages 6, 7, 8



Army personnel were sent to clear a traffic jam near Sonargaon on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday after some portions of the road went under waist deep flood waters (left) and stranded passengers at Kanchpur trying to avail boats to go to their destinations.

—Star photo



## Flood situation grim in 14 districts

# Capital's road links with Ctg, Sylhet snapped

By Staff Correspondent

bound transports have been detained at the northern end of the Meghna bridge.

Travellers to and from the city were using engine boats to cross the flooded portions of the highways, witnesses said. Boatmen churned out a good profit.

Road communication in Dhaka-Ashuganj and Dhaka-Brahmanbaria routes were also snapped yesterday as the highway has been damaged by flood waters at many points. To cope with the increasing rush of passengers, the Railway authorities added extra coaches to Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet trains, which also moved cautiously.

Army engineers were rushed to clear a huge traffic jam near Sonargaon on the busy Dhaka-Chittagong highway between Daudkandi and Madanganj and the Dhaka-Sylhet road at Shabazpur near Brahmanbaria.

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