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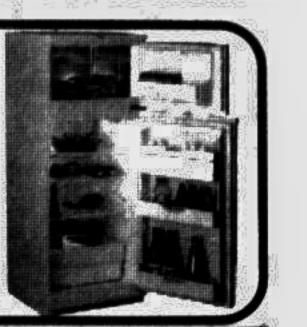


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# Floor crossing

# EC empowered to decide about JS membership, court told

Barrister Moudud Ahmed yesterday told a division bench of the High Court that the Constitution empowered the Elec-tion Commission to decide if the membership of Parliament is seized due to floor crossing, reports UNB.

Moudud was concluding his argument in the hearing of writ challenging the Speaker's 'failure to refer the dispute' relating to BNP MPs Dr Alauddin and Hasibur Rahman Shawpan to the Election Commission. The counsel referred to sev-

eral precedents and contended that the decision about retention of membership upon floor crossing could not be taken by the Speaker. The power of taking such action was entrusted with the Election Commission. Moudud strongly argued that

the Constitution has empowered the Election Commission to decide whether the membership of Parliament is seized due to floor crossing under Article The Speaker has been con-

stitutionally provided to refer the dispute arising out of floor crossing to the Election Commission under Article 66(4) added the counsel.

He submitted that the failure of the Speaker to refer the dispute to the Election Commission was malafide. The court is empowered to direct the Speaker to refer the dispute relating to the membership of Dr Alauddin and Hasibur Rahman Swapan to the Election Commission for deciding their fate. he said.

The hearing will resume tomorrow when Attorney General Mahmudul Islam will place his arguments.

# Corruption case against Sadek Hossain

By Staff Correspondent The Anti-Corruption Bureau filed a case yesterday with Motifheel thana against eight people including former State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka on charge of embezzlement of Tk

3.2 lakh. In the case, the Bureau alleged that Sadek Hossain along with former secretary of National Sports Council Fazlur Rahman Khan and six other people misappropriated the money during the 1995-96 fiscal year, Motijheel police said

last night. According to the FIR, the amount was embezzled showing forged allocations against 14 clubs and organizations.

# BCL activists stage sit-in at DU

By DU Correspondent

The activists of ruling Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) staged a sit-in demonstration in front of the DUCSU building vesterday noon demanding immediate formation of a fullfledged committee for its Dhaka University unit.

Talking to The Daily Star the BCL activists said they will stage another sit-in demonstration at Aparajeo Bangla at 11:00 am today. They submitted a memorandum to the President and General Secretary of the central committee yesterday

with the same demand. The BCL failed to announce a full-fledged committee for DU unit despite promising to do so earlier.

## Suu Kyi ends roadside standoff, returns home The appeal from Suu Kyi's YANGON, Aug 24: Her health party for her to end her protest came as political pressure was

failing, Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi heeded an appeal from her political party and returned home today afternoon ending a 13-day roadside standoff with the military government over her right to travel outside Yangon, reports AP.

Leaders of Suu Kyi's political party, the National League for Democracy, urged her earlier in the day to end the protest because of concerns over her health which had been deteriorating in recent days.

Suu Kyi's doctors said she was suffering from kidney problems, low blood pressure. dizziness and urinary tract problems when they were allowed to examine her Friday. Government officials said Monday that Suu Kyi returned to Yangon of her own free will with two personal physicians

## accompanying her in her van. Six policemen dismissed in Jessore

JESSORE, Aug 24: Six policemen, including an assistant sub-inspector (ASI), were discharged from their services yesterday for their alleged involvement in a murder case, reports UNB.

The action was taken by the Police Super of Jessore on completion of departmental

Police sources said Kalam Gazi, 80, of village Shahapurin Keshabpur thana of the district was beaten to death allegedly by the six policemen.

# **BAPEX**

From Page 1

two more wells in that area to expand data-base and increase gas supplies from that gas structure at a cost of Tk 60 crore. But till May, the government hardly paid any attention to the proposal but agreed to approve a smaller project to drill one development well.

The Prime Minister's directive gives a new signal to BAPEX which had never been given any attention despite the fact that it's a successful and cost-effective organisation." said a source.

Since BAPEX was separated from Petrobangla in 1989, it has only been given funds to drill three exploration wells although the government had adopted a policy to provide funds regularly to drill one well a year. Of these three, BAPEX struck gas in Shahbazpur (now

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numbers: 863035, 886061 and 9350017. The last date of

registration is August 29, 1998.

stepped up against the military regime when some 200 students in Yangon staged the first antigovernment street protest in two years. The crowd fled when truckloads of police arrived. No arrests were reported.

# JU classes

From Page 1 rape incidents on the campus

recently. Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) and General Students' Alliance brought out separate processions on the campus and gheraoed the Vice-Chancellor's office to press home their demands for punishment of those responsible for the attack on JU teacher Rehnuma Ahmed and the rape incidents.

The teacher, who was assaulted by the BCL leaders on Sunday, alleged at a press conference yesterday that she had received death threats from the BCL activists. "I demand justice and prompt action against the terrorists," Rehnuma Ahmed

Meanwhile, JU Teachers Association (JUTA) at a meeting threatened to launch an agitation programme if the authorities fail to take action within 72 hours against the 'terrorists' responsible for assaulting the teacher.

The JUTA also expressed solidarity with the students protesting against the rapes on

the campus. Meanwhile, the JU Syndicate, at an emergency meeting. condemned the attack on the teacher and expressed concern

### at the recent incidents at the university. Sanjay murder

From Page 1 Shibir workers at Chittagong

railway station on Thursday. He succumbed to his injuries at the CMCH on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya, Chhatra Union and Samprodaikota Birodhi Chhatra Oikya today held separate rallies on the campus and submitted memorandums to the DC and the Chittagong City Corporation Mayor demanding punishment to the killers of Sanjay.

Authorities said classes of the university will resume tomorrow after suspension for three days.

# Khaleda

From Page 1

for joining the post-flood movement to bring it down. She alleged that the government is spending crores of taka

in observance of various days instead of distributing relief materials among the distressed. "They are now busy in making fortune," she said. The BNP chief said the

movement was suspended due to flood. The pre-flood movement of BNP against terrorism and price-hike got encouraging response.

"The situation prevailing in the country is very grim ...," Khaleda said.

She said people marooned in the flood will have to be rescued and interest-free loan and agriculture inputs will have to be distributed among the farmers. Financial help will also have to be given to rebuild houses destroyed by flood.

She also demanded distribution of medicine free for treatment, especially for children affected by water-borne dis-

In the afternoon Begum Zia addressed rallies at Dhulsuroy. Ibrahimpur and Ishwar Chandra High School.

Chief Whip of the Opposition in parliament Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Harun-or-Rashid Khan, Farida Hasan, Shamsuddin Ahmed, Sirajul Islam Selim and Shirin Sultana accompanied the party chief.

# DND dam threatened

Flood waters overflowing Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Jingla in Sonargaon yesterday and (Right) trucks loaded with various goods stranded on the highway due to its inundation.

From Page 1

WDB head office said that the executive engineer concerned had gone to Simrail to visit the Pump House site there. He, however, confirmed that there was no danger till that time.

While visiting the Dhaka-Demra part of the embankment, which is also used for traffic movement, this correspondent saw that height of the dam varied at different points and flood water was almost at its level at places.

The road that links the Dhaka-Demra road with Matuail waste disposal area, went under one to two feet water. But till last night, garbage carrying trucks of Dhaka City Corporation plied on the submerged road, taking risk.

BSS quoting an ISPR press release adds: Two contingents of Bangladesh Army have been deployed to repair leaks in the Dhaka flood protection embankment at Jahanabad and Golartek, about two kilometers from Gabtoli (Mirpur). The army personnel sealed a

number of leaks by dumping sand-bags in cooperation with the local people. Two platoons of army engi-

neers were also deployed near Sonargaon on Dhaka-Chittagong highway to ensure traffic movement. The overall flood situation may worsen further due to 'ab-

normal tidal effect' in the estuary due to new moon, warned the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) yester-The tidal effect may aggra-

vate situation in Chandpur, Dhaka and central districts. Meanwhile, the flood situa-

tion in 14 districts deteriorated further yesterday. More areas along the Padma

and central districts, including Dhaka, have been inundated while major rivers in 20 points continued to flow above their red marks. Relief Ministry control

mained unchanged in six districts while improved slightly in nine others. Six more flood-related

room said the situation re-

deaths were reported from Mymensingh and Manikganj raising the toll to 339. The situation also worsened in capital Dhaka with inunda-

roads as both the Buriganga and Turag continued to swell and flow above the red mark. The FFWC forecast has warned that the situation in and around capital Dhaka is likely to deteriorate further in

Wednesday. The Buriganga is likely to rise by 5 cm and flow 62 cm above the danger level. The Turag at Mirpur and Tongi is also likely to rise by 5 cm each and flow 133 cm and 93 cm above the red mark respec-

next 48 hours till 6 am on

tively. Districts where the situation deteriorated today are Dhaka, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Narsingdi, Rajbari, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Pabna and

Chandpur. Relief Ministry control room said in Gazipur, Bogra, Sirajganj, Comilla, Laxmipur and Barisal the flood situation remained unchanged while improvement was shown at Kishoreganj, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Netrakona, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Noakhali, Brahmanbaria and Habiganj.

UNB from Sirajganj reports: The just constructed 100-year guaranteed groyen along the Sirajganj town protection embankment was damaged by strong current of the Jamuna river yesterday.

The ferry services at Pakshi Bheramara ghat were disrupted vesterday due to abnormal rise in water level of Padma, creating a severe traffic congestion

# on both sides of the ghat. Flood: Cabinet decision

In another development, the

cabinet has decided to review

the country's annual subscrip-

tions to various international

bodies. The decision stemmed

from the proposition that the

subscriptions to a number in-

ternational organisations were

ber committee, headed by the

cabinet secretary, has been

constituted to prepare a report

on the issue for consideration

of the cabinet. It will then take

ritius relating to avoidance of

In this regard, a four-mem-

not useful to the country.

a decision.

double taxation.

From Page 1

concerned to update the estimate of damages caused by the flood and give separate lists of requirements to Finance Minister S A M S Kibria. He has been given the responsibility of making the international appeal.

"Our first priority is food. Then comes medicine, cash, construction materials for renovation of houses and repair and reconstruction of roads and railway tracts, seeds and so on," Kibria told this correspondent last night.

damages caused by the flood and the items we really need to cope with it," the minister said. "I shall have an updated list of damages from the secretaries of different ministries tomorrow (Tuesday)".

sources, the government would seek assistance in the form of both grants and aids.

# Flood waters

when the water level peak of the Ganges coincides with that of the Brahmaputra as it did not 1988," he added.

above the danger level at Ba-hadurabad point for 26 days from July 8. At Sirajganj point. the Jamuna flowed above the danger level for five days from July 14 and again for nine days from July 23. The river again crossed the danger level at all points on August 12 last, said officials of the Water Development Board.

The Ganges is flowing above the danger level at Bhagyakul. Goalunda and Pankha since July 10, 13 and 18 respectively. At Rajshahi and Hardinge Bridge points, the river crossed the danger levels on August 19 and 20 respectively.

### Sammilita Nari Samaj demned various incidents in-(SNS) has urged the government to 'streamline the judicial systion of many new areas and tem', instead of formulating special laws, to effectively con-

tain repression on women. Addressing a rally at TSC is-

parties and socio-cultural organisations to unitedly stand against "all kinds of repression by the police and the government," the Samaj leaders demanded steps to ensure punishment of the oppressors, instead of merely formulating

Referring to Section 54 of the CrPC, they urged the government to scrap all black laws --- wife, child to ~ and demanded revision of existing laws' in the light of accepted international laws.

The SNS organised the rally in observance of the 'Nari Nirjatan Protirodh Dibas', comby some police personnel in Dinajpur on August 24, 1995.

the TSC.

containing the SNS demands.

# Tania

From Page 1

defence lawyer Sirajul Alam, Shipon said that he used to play with Tania in the court premises. His father is a shopkeeper in the area. He said that he gave the statement to the Magistrate alone.

In reply to another question Shipon said that he is currently in police custody. He met his mother a few times in the court premises.

# Streamline judicial system, scrap black laws: SNS

By Staff Correspondent

land on the Dhaka University campus yesterday, the SNS leaders said that various cases relating to repression on women were yet to have proper trial despite assurance from the Prime Minister in this regard.

Calling upon all the political laws for stern action against the culprits.

memorating the brutal rape and killing of teenage girl Yesmin Prior to the rally, SNS

brought out a procession from Shahbagh which went upto the Jatiya Press Club and ended at

The rally was conducted by Dr Naila Khan while Natasha Ahmed read out a declaration In the declaration, SNS ex-

things' to Tania. Police also asked him to be a witness in the

case, he said. In reply to questions from

# pressed concern and con-

- Star photo

cluding Zaheda killing in Satkhira, rape several women by NGO officials in Panchagarh, violation of some students at Jahangirnagar University. signing of HANA with the US and 'stagnation' of the case relating to the missing of Kalpana Chakma. The raily was addressed by

Samaj leaders Farida Akhter, Hazera Sultana, Shamsunnahar Jyotsna, agriculturist Firoza Begum and garments worker Ankhi Moni.

Among others, Shaheen Anam, Seema Das Shimu, Shahinoor Begum and Bahnni Shikha were present on the occasion.

# Murder case filed Husband poisons death in Khulna'

KHULNA, Aug 24: One Kulsum Begum, 30, and her twoand-half-year old child, Kamrul were poisoned to death by Kulsum's husband Jamir Ali Sarder on Friday, reports BSS.

According to a delayed message from Dumuria, Jamir Sarder, aged about 35 years, murdered his wife and child by forcibly putting pesticide in to their mouths. Both of them died in succession.

Deputy Commissioner, Khulna, when contacted over telephone this evening, told BSS that the Jamir Sarder of village Arasnagar of Dumuria police station on Friday poisoned his wife and baby Kamrul following a quarrel between the

The people of the area caught Jamir Sarder and handed him over to the police.

Deputy Commissioner Iftekhar Ahmed further informed that a murder case has been registered with Dumuria police station in this connection and further investigation is going on. The deputy commissioner refuted the allegation that the mother and the son committed suicide after starving and said that the murder was committed due to family quarrel.

## Govt plans to build flood shelters in each thana

The government is planning to construct at least one flood shelter in each thana for floodhit people.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria has been given the responsibility to assess the re-quirement of land and number of flood centres to be needed in the country, top official sources told BSS yesterday. Concerned ministers including home, agriculture, land and disaster management and relief will co-ordinate with the finance minister in this regard.

Donors' assistance will be sought to construct the flood centres after the assessment by the finance ministry, the officials said.

The plans to construct the flood centres like the existing cyclone shelters were also discussed at a cabinet meeting yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

## One gunned down by brother in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 24: Mohammad Rafiq was gunned down allegedly by his brother at village Chikdai of Raojan thana here this afternoon, reports BSS. According to district police,

younger brother of the victim, at one stage of altercation shot Rafique 32, killing him on the The body of the dead was

Mohammad Fakruddin, the

sent for autopsy, police said. adding that the killing was a sequel to family feud. A case was registered with Raojan thana in this connection, the sources added.

# HANA

From Page

prove the responses. These include: US donations of humanitarian equipment, exchanges of experts on humanitarian assistance, training of Bangladeshi officials in the US, Bangladesh-US joint military exercises on humanitarian relief and disaster relief training simulation. The experts pointed out that

rently underway in Thailand Laos, and Mongolia. They appreciated the government's assistance during

jects of this nature are cur-

humanitarian assistance pro-

their visit. The foreign minister thanked the United States for its intention to help enhance Bangladesh's capacity to face natural calamities and also to offer humanitarian assistance

during such times. Samad Azad was talking to journalists at his office after the briefing of the US team.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman and US Ambassador in Bangladesh John C Holzman were present during the

# Showcause

From Page 1

Meanwhile, a CID official said last night that they have already completed the handwriting tests of Havilder Nuruzzaman, an accused in the Rubel murder case, and Mukuli Begum, a local Awami League leader of Sidheswari area and also neighbour of Rubel's fam-

Besides, the CID is also likely to examine the handwriting of AC Akram and SI Hayatul Islam soon.

### সীমিত আয় সম্পন্ন মানুষের স্বপু বাস্তবায়নে ইষ্টার্ণ হাউজিং The cabinet yesterday approved, in principle, an being given to US company Unamendment to the Forest Law She distributed lungi, saree, "Over a dinner in the city ocal) and in Salda rice and cash among nearly Sunday, I had already appealed seeking conformity with the এককালিন মূল্য পরিশোধ করে for relief materials from the government's forestry policy 3.000 flood victims. and Forestry Master Plan. Addressing the people, donors. I am going to meet them ANNOUNCEMENT again Wednesday morning to The cabinet also approved Khaleda Zia said this is not a an accord between the governpeople's government and called communicate the extent of ments of Bangladesh and Mau-

বন্দ্রী, ঢাকা

This enraged Akram's sup-

porters of Siraj group.

Both sides used firearms and exploded crackers during the clash, police said.

porters who attacked the sup-

Witnesses said several cars and ransacked after police forces were withdrawn at around 8:30 pm.

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## পেতে পারেন— ৩ লক্ষ থেকে ১০ লক্ষ টাকায় ইষ্টার্ণ বনকুঞ্জ-২ ২ থেকে ৪ রুমের অ্যাপার্টমেন্ট এসক্যালেটর ও লিফ্ট সুবিধাসহ শীতাতপ নিয়ন্ত্রিত অভিজাত শপিং ইষ্টার্ণ বনবীথি कमर्श्व अवि पिकिन अथवा भागिए भिक् अथवा मुं छोरे। বনশ্ৰী, ঢাকা দোকানের জন্য প্রতি বর্গফুটে boo/- টাকা ছাড় SE MENT SHE वार्श वात्रुन वार्श निन বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন FIN 2317 213(b) (A) (A) (A) (A) আপন ঠিকানা গড়ে দেয় ইসলাম চেম্বার (৪র্থ তলা) ১২৫/এ মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ টেলিফোন : ৯৫৬৬৩৫৩, ৯৫৬৬৩০৩-৫ স্থ্যাক্স : ৮৮০-২-৯৫৬৬৩১১, ৯৫৬৬৩৫৪ E-mail : bdc|\_ig@bdmail.net

Khulna clash According to cabinet From Page 1 ent clinics at Khalishpur and Daulatpur. According to police, the clash began just after dusk between supporters of Akram group and Siraj group as a sequel to the election of the Peo-From Page 1 ple's Jute Mills Workers' Union "Severe flooding occurs held on August 10. KM Siraj was reportedly declared elected general secretary of the union after recounting of votes. But in the first counting The water of the Brahmapu-tra-Jamuna River remained Akram Hossain was declared elected to the post.

> Police were also attacked when they intervened to quell the situation. and roadside shops were looted

> > The clash was continuing till the time of writing this report tonight.