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Envoy summoned Delhi urged to take steps to stop push-in attempts

Dhaka yesterday urged New Delhi to stop attempts to push Indian citizens into Bangladesh.

The government of India has been requested to take necessary actions to stop such attempts of pushing Indian citizens into Bangladesh territory for the mutual interest of both the governments," BSS quoting a foreign ministry source said.

A series of attempts were made in the last eight days to push Indian citizens in the country, the source told agency.

Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Deb Mukharji was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday afternoon and conveyed the message, the source said.

Foreign Secretary

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Gen Nasim's petition dismissed

By SC Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday dismissed the petition for leave to appeal filed by former Chief of Army Staff Lt. General (ret'd) Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim against the High Court judgement.

The HC on December 8 discharged the rule nisi obtained in the writ petition filed by the former Chief of Army Staff on the grounds of maintainability.

By the judgement and order the division bench of the HC comprising Justice A M Mo-hammadur Rahman and Justice

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5 members of outlawed party gunned down in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 25: Five armed cadres of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party were gunned down at Gaikurh ward under Daulatpur thana early morning today.

Police recovered the bodies from the rooftop of a house belonging to one Abdul Gaffar.

The dead were identified as: Dulal, 27, Asadul, 28, Porha Khokon, 30, Rahim, 26, and Ibrahim, 28. All the deceased hailed from Arhonghata village under Daulatpur thana. The

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Rubel murder

Time for judicial probe body extended again

The term of the judicial Enquiry Commission, formed to probe the death of Rubel in DB custody, has been extended by another seven days, reports UNB.

The time-limit of the Commission has been extended following its request, said an official handout yesterday.

The duration of the Commission has earlier been extended twice, each time by 15 days.

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Ashuganj Ferry Ghat has gone under flood waters, and (right) Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Shabbazpur has been damaged by flood.



—Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Series of joint exercises planned 'Legal cover' for US military personnel being considered

By Anwarul Haq

Bangladesh and US are likely to go ahead with a number of joint military training programmes in the coming months after some legal tangles are settled mutually.

Sources in the foreign and defence ministries indicated that they were actively considering the US request for providing necessary legal cover for their military personnel who would be engaged in forthcoming joint military exercises with Bangladesh defence personnel.

The legal cover that is likely to be provided is diplomatic in nature and invokes a provision of the Vienna Convention. The provision, called "Administra-

tive and Technical Status", is a sort of diplomatic immunity that is generally extended to the administrative and technical staff working in a foreign mission.

A diplomat familiar with the Convention said it is a second category of diplomatic immunity extended to people involved in administrative and technical or secretarial work in missions and is not a total diplomatic immunity or a blanket diplomatic cover which is normally enjoyed by all diplomats engaged in professional work under the Vienna Convention.

Sources said that the US military personnel, if extended

immunity under the "Administrative and Technical Status", would be able to enjoy the required status for conducting military training programmes.

However, they would need to carry passports and require visas. A number of joint military training programmes between planned earlier, the two countries, have been put on hold as Bangladesh government is still to give the clearance for providing necessary legal status to US military personnel.

At least two military training programmes have now become uncertain due to procedural delay in according the necessary

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5 dist hqs under water: 15 dists worst hit Capital's road links with 19 southern dists cut off

Road communication between the capital and 19 southern districts was snapped last night as a bridge on the Daulatdia-Khulna Highway at Goalundo was damaged by flood waters, report agencies.

The district and thana administration with the help of law enforcing agencies are helping the Roads and Highways Department to repair the bridge in a bid to restore the road communication as early as possible, officials said.

The capital's road links with Chittagong and Sylhet remained suspended as flood waters inundated the highways at several points.

According to an official handout, on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway, small vehicles, including private cars, motorcycles and minibuses cannot

ply while movement of heavy trucks and buses were being disrupted.

Meanwhile, the overall flood situation in the country deteriorated further yesterday with the Padma continuing to rise and 'abnormal tidal effect' in the estuary near Chandpur.

Five district headquarters of Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Shariatpur, Chapainawabganj and Chandpur were inundated by flood waters while the situation aggravated in 15 districts.

The worst affected districts are: Dhaka, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Narsingdi, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Chapainawabganj, Pabna, Rajshahi, Comilla and Chandpur.

With fresh areas inundated in the capital, the city has also

come under threat as cracks are developing both at the DND and Dhaka city protection embankments due to gushing flood current.

Officials at the Water Development Board said all the leaks that developed so far in the two embankments were repaired. But they apprehend more cracks could appear any moment.

Engineering and infantry troops of Bangladesh Army are working round-the-clock in co-ordination with the local administration to protect the Dhaka City Flood Protection Embankment, the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway, Bhuapur-Tarakandi Flood Protection Embankment and Rajshahi City Protection Embankment.

The army is using sandbags

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Water level 65 cm above DND dam

By Staff Correspondent

Flood water along the DND embankment crossed the danger level and was flowing 65 cm above the red mark yesterday, official sources said.

"In at least three points, flood water along the embankment is flowing a few centimetre above the road level. However, sand bags have been put on the embankment at the three points," an official of the Water Development Board said.

One of these points are near the Apollo Industries under the Demra thana and the two others are at Shyambazar under Fatullah thana, sources said.

About six lakh people live in the vast area protected by the 30 km DND embankment.

Earlier, leaks developed at several points in the Dhaka-Demra and the Dhaka-Narayanganj parts of the dam. The leaks at Konapara, Demra, Aliganj and Munshikhola were

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Garments export faces uncertainty due to flood

By Staff Correspondent

Garments exporters are facing severe difficulties in sending consignments to Chittagong Port due to the floods and they are likely to lose export orders worth about 100 million US dollars, according to the BGMEA.

"Sending export goods to Chittagong has become uncertain due to disruption of road communication due to flood and severe traffic congestion on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway," BGMEA president Mostafa Golam Quddus said in a statement last night.

He further said that many export-oriented garments factories have been affected by the flood waters and are on the verge of closure.

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BDR jawan killed in 5-hour border clash with BSF

From Govinda Shil

HILL, Aug 25: One BDR personnel was killed and 10 were injured at Hill today in an exchange of fire between the Indian BSF and the BDR today.

Dr Iqbal Ahmed, a physician at Hill Health Complex, confirmed the death of the BDR personnel. Two of the injured, in a critical condition, were sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital and others were admitted to the health complex, he said.

The firing between BSF and BDR started at about 4:00 pm and lasted about five hours, sources said.

The incident took place when some people hurled stones

at an under-construction house of an Indian citizen on the no man's land, witnesses said.

Construction of the house on the no man's land continued even after formal protest by the BDR, sources said.

The BSF fired five rounds when stones were being hurled at the under-construction house. The BDR retaliated and the exchange of gunshots continued till 9:00 pm.

When contacted, Deputy Commissioner of Dinajpur Azizur Rahman confirmed the exchange of fire between the two sides. The incident centred construction of a wall by Indians along the no man's land.

More than a thousand civilians from Indian side intruded into Bangladesh territory and obstructed the repair work. They were backed by BSF, according to UNB.

Earlier, the BSF mobilised heavy troops along the border. They opened fire with mortars and machine guns on Bangladeshi workers engaged in the repair of the wall.

BDR official in Dinajpur reached by telephone said, "All through they (BSF) heavily fired on us. We just returned the fire in self defence."

"The BSF fired mortar and machine guns. But we refrained

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AL obstructing relief operations, alleges BNP

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has accused the ruling Awami League of obstructing its relief operations at different flood-hit areas and warned it against such practices.

Secretary General of the party, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement yesterday, alleged that BNP's relief activities were being blocked by the ruling party 'terrorists' in a bid to hide the government's failure in facing the flood situation.

In his statement, Mannan Bhuiyan mentioned Homna thana of Comilla district where, he said, there is no government flood shelter for about two lakh flood victims. In the last one and half-a-month's government allocation of rice for each person in the area was

See Page 12 Col 1

ICDDR,B treats hundreds a day Rush of diarrhoea patients 'alarming'

By Staff Correspondent

An unusually large number of diarrhoea patients are seeking treatment at the ICDDR,B in the city.

"We received 917 patients on Sunday, a record. Most of them were discharged the same day," said a doctor at the ICDDR,B hospital.

The doctor said, "The rate of patient influx is very alarming. On Monday, we received 908 patients. Diarrhoeal epidemic is noticed during September and October, but this time the numbers of patients is exceptionally high. The situation was not so even during the floods in 1988."

Two patients died on arrival

at the hospital on Monday.

During a visit to the hospital yesterday afternoon, more than 750 patients including women and children, mostly from flood affected areas in the city and its outskirts, were seen under treatment.

Hospital sources said that normally a severe case of dehydration is observed for about six to 10 hours under rehydration therapy after admission. Others are discharged soon after they recover. This way, patients are admitted and released round the clock.

Promila, suffering from se-

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Couple strangulated to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

A couple was strangulated to death allegedly by the divorced wife of the husband and his relatives at their flat at Goalnagar under Kotwali thana in the city Monday night.

Police identified the dead as Sadaruddin, 50, and Bilkish Banu, 30, second wife of Sadaruddin.

Sadaruddin's body was found inside a bathroom and that of Bilkish, mother of a six-month-old baby, was found in her bedroom.

The assailants did not do any harm to the baby, Nigar, who was lying in the room.

According to police, Sadaruddin had divorced his first wife Marjina Begum, 40, about two months back. But she continued to stay in Sadaruddin's flat.

Marjina's brother Ismail along with three others went to the flat Monday evening to negotiate the divorce-related matters.

Relatives of the victims alleged that Marjina along with the four killed the couple.

Khuku, a maid at the victims' flat, found the entrance open when she came for work at about 9 am yesterday, police said. She got inside and found the two dead, police said.

Marjina, Ismail and the three others have been absconding.

Police could not arrest any of alleged killers till the filing of this report last night.

The bodies were sent to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy.

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Transport strike in Chittagong, Sylhet divns

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 25: All types of vehicles except rickshaws and private cars, stayed off the roads as the transport workers called a 24-hour strike from 6 am today in Chittagong and Sylhet divisions to press home their 10-point demand.

Port sources said delivery of goods to and from the port remained suspended due to non-plying of trucks.

Buses both in the long routes and inside the city did not ply from Chittagong.

But no incidents of violence were reported from anywhere, police said.

The demands of the transport workers mainly include putting an end to the illegal possession of labour union offices by the terrorists and toll collection and not to treat

See Page 12 Col 7



A flood-damaged banana plantation and a vegetable field in Narsingdi. — Photo: Novartis

Prolonged flood shattered their last hopes

By Shehab Ahmed, back from Narsingdi

After losing the Aus crop and the chance of raising transplanted Aman, Hossain Ali, 47, now stands face to face with disaster.

Tears rolled down his cheeks as he stood on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Mehampur in Narsingdi, 47 km off Dhaka, trying to sell bundles of damaged rice plants.

"I sowed Mala IRRR (Aus) in two bighas of land. The crops went under water before I could harvest," Ali said.

He had invested Tk 3,000 in the land. Now he is on the busy highway hoping to sell the bundles of damaged rice plants as fodder.

Other than comforting Ali, they have nothing to offer as they have already sold their livestock.

Like Ali, thousands of farmers have been badly hit in the district, usually rich in crops and vegetables.

The second wave of flooding earlier this month sheltered

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BCL leader hurt in Khulna Sramik League clash, dies

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 25: A BCL leader, who sustained bullet injuries in a gunfight between two factions of Sramik League yesterday, died last night.

Anwar Hossain Kamal, 26, joint secretary of Khalishpur thana unit of BCL was present during the fierce clash between the rival groups.

Thirty people, including 11 policemen, were injured in the gunfight following elections of People's Jute Mills Workers' Union held in August 10.

The BCL leader, who received bullet wounds in his abdomen, succumbed while on way to a clinic.

The assistant police commissioner (North), Shamsul Huda, is among 11 policemen admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

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Girl burnt alive, 10 others hurt in Moulvibazar fire

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 25: A seven-year-old girl was burnt alive and 10 others were injured in a big fire at a shanty colony near Bhanugachh Bazar under Komanaganj thana of Moulvibazar district midnight last night.

Property worth about Tk 20 lakh were also gutted.

Official and local sources said that the fire had originated from a shanty at the Reaj Ali colony near the congested

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