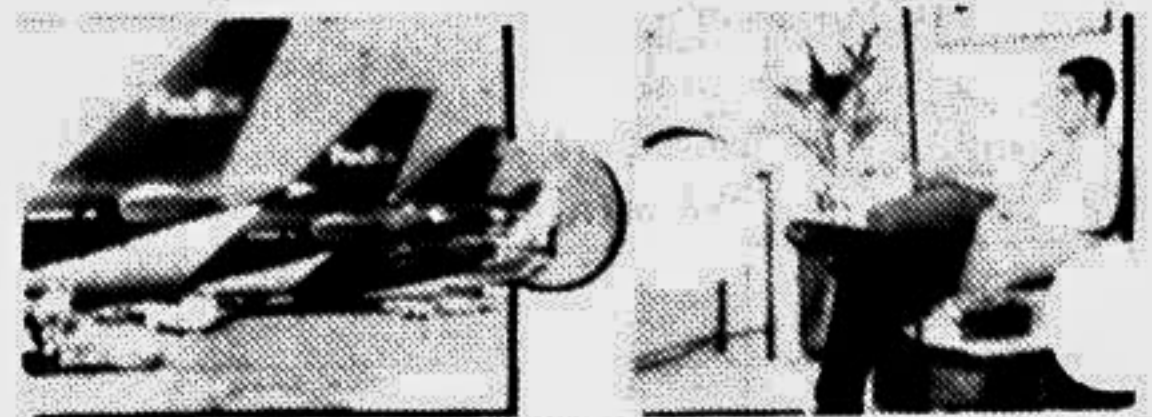


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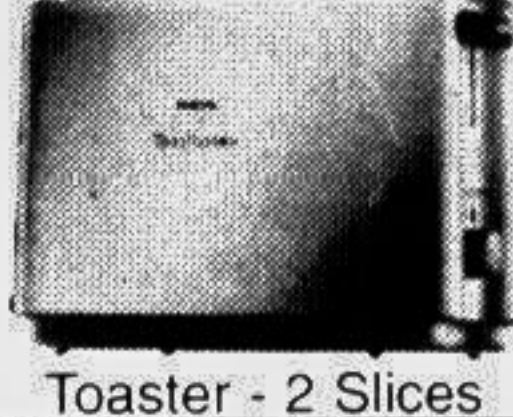
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Killing of Bangabandhu was pre-planned: SPP

The judicial confessions of the accused persons, except that of Honorary Captain (ret'd) Abdul Wahab Joarder in the dock, prove that president Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed as per a specific plan, report agencies.

This was stated by Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) Serajul Huq when he resumed his argument for the sixth day today before the District and Sessions Judge Kazi Golam Rasul in the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

Advocate Serajul Huq said the plan was made by Lt Col (dismissed) Khondaker Abdur Rashid, one of the principal accused who is now absconding, after a series of meetings with Khondaker Mushtaque Ahmed, Ziaur Rahman and other co-accused, including Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farok Rah-

man and Taheruddin Thakur. Referring to the judicial confessional statement made by Farook, the SPP said according to the plan, it was politically decided to abduct the president from his Dhanmondi residence to the cantonment for changing the political set-up, BAKSAL, and if necessary to kill him.

The plan was finally executed in the early hours of August 15, 1975," he remarked.

Farook joined the plan, Advocate Huq said, quoting the confession of the accused. This is the incriminating aspect of Section 120B (conspiracy against the state) under the Bangladesh Penal Code, he added.

He said the accused had implicated themselves in the killing showing they were ag-

grieved by the president and his acts.

Although the accused have retracted their confessional statements, Huq said retraction is no matter if the confession is voluntary and true. "And here, the retraction has no importance because the confession is voluntary and true."

In his confessional statement, Col Farook said that he was aggrieved because he did not get two years' seniority as a freedom fighter and a repatriated officer took over as the Commanding Officer of his unit, where he was acting as the CO.

Farook was also aggrieved at observing the situation of the country, specially after the introduction of BAKSAL.

Col Shahriyar, who resigned

See Page 11

'Unjust' allegations protested JU proctor resigns

By Staff Correspondent

Proctor of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) Afsar Ahmed resigned from his post yesterday.

The proctor tendered his resignation to the VC Prof Alauddin Ahmed for, what he said, 'unjust accusations against him' regarding patronising the culprits responsible for the recent rapes of students and attacks on a JU teacher.

When contacted, VC Prof Alauddin Ahmed admitted he received the resignation letter but said his resignation was not accepted. "I have asked the proctor to continue in his office," the VC said.

The proctor, however, could not be reached last night.

Meanwhile, the indefinite strike called by the ruling Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League unit of Jahangirnagar University was suspended till September 3 following requests by the Vice Chancellor yesterday.

Talking to newsmen, JU BCL president Sheikh Nuruzzaman said the strike has been suspended as the VC assured us of taking proper action against the culprits responsible for the rapes on the campus.

The indefinite strike was

called by the BCL Sunday demanding identification and punishment of the persons responsible for raping three JU students on the campus in the last three months.

VC Prof Alauddin Ahmed, who returned from abroad Monday, assured the agitating students yesterday that stern action would be taken against the culprits responsible for the rapes and assault of a teacher on the campus.

He said the probe body formed to investigate the alleged rapes would submit its report on September 3.

"Action must be taken against the students who have assaulted a teacher," he said. "We have already served show-cause notices on them and we are waiting for their reply."

He said an eight-member surveillance committee with Prof Mesbah-Ul-Saleheen as its chief has been formed to prevent any untoward incident on the campus.

On the fifth day of their agitations yesterday, General Students Alliance and the BCL brought out separate processions on the campus to press home their demands.

Talks on Teesta: Indian team due today

LALMONIRHAT, Aug 25: A meeting of the Indo-Bangla Joint River Commission (JRC) will be held at West Bengal town of Shilliguri on August 26 to discuss the water flow of the river Teesta, reports UNB.

Before the formal meeting, the members of the JRC will visit the embankments on the river on both sides of the border.

A four-member Indian delegation of the Commission will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow to take part in the visit.

US envoy calls on Khaleda

US Ambassador in Dhaka John C. Holzman called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday, reports UNB.

The meeting held at 29 Minto Road lasted for nearly two hours but the subject of their discussion could not be known.

Begum Zia's press secretary, Ahmed Nazir, told newsmen that there was nothing to brief the press.

Dr Moyeen Khan MP was present in the meeting.

Body of missing LGED engineer recovered

The body of the missing engineer, Mohammad Kamruzzaman Bhuiyan, was recovered from a nearby area of Srinagar thana in Munshiganj district on Monday night, reports UNB.

Kamruzzaman, Project Director of Local Government Engineering Department, drowned on August 21 when a mechanised boat with a 20-member relief team capsized after hitting a bridge.

2 shot dead in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Aug 25: Two unidentified young men were shot dead by armed assailants or village Pachtala under Kotchadpur thana of the district today.

Police said, the youngmen were tied to a roadside tree and were shot dead by an unidentified armed gang.

Gen Nasim

From Page 1
Abu Sayeed Ahmed held that the writ petition "is not amenable to judicial review under Article 102 of the Constitution as it is excluded by virtue of Article 45 of the Constitution and it is also hit by the doctrine of pleasure of the Hon'ble President."

Against the HC judgement and order, the petitioner filed the petition for leave to appeal before the Appellate Division.

In allegation of breach of discipline and meeting, the then President Abdur Rahman Biswas on May 20, 1996 gave retirement to the Chief of Army Staff with full benefit.

On May 30, 1996 another notification substituting the earlier one was published giving him premature (Compulsory) retirement with full financial and other benefits.

Subsequently on June 6, 1996 by a third notification he was dismissed from his service.

Lastly on January 9, 1997 by a fourth notification he was again given premature (Compulsory) retirement under the Army Act, Rules, and Regulations.

Barrister A R Yousuf moved for the petitioner while Deputy Attorney General Bakhtiar Hossain opposed the same on behalf of the government.

Body of Musa exhumed

From Page 1

Musa was sent to Khagrachari Jail next day. He was shifted to Chittagong Jail as his condition deteriorated on June 20. Then Musa was shifted to Dhaka Central Jail on August 3 as his condition deteriorated further, Sajeda alleged.

But the Dhaka Central Jail authorities refused to receive Musa. He was then admitted at the Chest Diseases Hospital at Mohakhali where he died on August 5.

Sajeda alleged that the body was buried without informing her.

When contacted, IG Prison Waliur Rahman denied the allegation. He said that Dhaka Central Jail authorities had received Musa and as he was suffering from chest disease, he was sent to the Chest Diseases Hospital where he died.

Quoting doctors, the IG Prison said that Musa had been suffering from infection in his lung.

He also said that the Dhaka Central Jail authorities had informed Musa's family at Ramgarh through Khagrachhari police to receive the body from police. But they handed over the body to Anjumana Mafidul Institutes.

Meanwhile, the BSc second year (hons) examination, 1997 scheduled for September 15 has been shifted to October 8.

5 gunned down

From Page 1
bodies were handed over to their families after autopsy this afternoon.

According to OC Nikhil Chandra Mondol, unidentified assailants shot the five to death. The bodies contained stab marks and the eyes were gauged out.

The OC further said that the deceased once belonged to the Tiger Khokon group of Daulatpur. But after the brutal murder of Tiger Khokon, Emdad and Hanif on October 29 last year at Diarha village under Digcholia thana, they joined the Purbo Banglar Communist Party.

DND dam

From Page 1
plugged by sand bags.

Meanwhile, officials of the Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project (DIFPP) said that about the project, 140 sq km out of 265 sq km area of the city can be saved from flood.

A total of 67 pumps are pumping out the rain waters. These pumps, however, will not be able to pump out the flood waters, they added.

Areas east of Bishwa Road, Progoti Shwarami and Airport Road are out of the DIFPP area and are vulnerable to flood, they said.

Necessary measures have been taken to close all the leaks in the flood protection wall in Mirpur with sand bags. This will save the area from flood waters of Turag, executive engineer of WDB A T Khandaker said when contacted.

The coffer dam of the box culvert on Dholaikhal, downstream of Dayaganj bridge, was removed yesterday to save the area on the South of Sayedabad bridge.

Pakistan lodges complaint with UN over US missile strikes

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 25: Pakistan formally complained to the Security Council that the United States violated its airspace when it launched cruise missile strikes on suspected terrorist camps in neighbouring Afghanistan, report AP.

A missile landed at Shatinger, in the province of Baluchistan, 280 kilometers from the coast in Pansi, Pakistan's UN ambassador, Ahmad Kamal, said Monday in a letter to the Security Council.

The government earlier retracted a report that one of the missiles landed accidentally in Pakistan and killed several people.

Pakistan was lodging a formal complaint that its airspace was violated because "such action, if condoned, sets a precedent which can encourage other countries to pursue aggressive designs against their neighbours on flimsy or unsubstantiated pretexts," Kamal wrote.

Kamal said Pakistan had expected to be informed on the results of the inquiry into the embassy bombings because it had already cooperated in the probe by turning over suspect

Delhi urged

From Page 1

Mustafizur Rahman, while delivering the message to Mukharji, said Dhaka feels that attempts to push Indian citizens into Bangladesh are "likely to affect the excellent relations so happily existing between the two countries".

Rahman gave a chronological description of the attempts made by Border Security Forces (BSF) of India to push Indian citizens into Bangladesh at least through four points since early last week.

The foreign secretary told the Indian High Commissioner that BSF attempted to push six and 20 Indian citizens between August 17 to 19 into Bangladesh through Haridaspur-Benapole border. On the midnight of August 19, 20 BSF battalion tried to push 16 Indian citizens into Bangladesh-India border near Border Pillar 262.

Rahman said on August 20, 20 BSF battalion of Malda Sector tried twice to push in some Indian citizens near border pillars number 268 and 266.

Lastly, in the early hours (0230) of Sunday (August 23) the Suttia BSF camp tried to push in 11 Indian citizens near Giba Border Outpost in Jessore.

Besides, the foreign secretary said, the ministry has information that a group of between 60 and 70 Indian citizens have been kept at Bongaon in a temporary camp for pushing them into Bangladesh.

When contacted, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad reiterated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's assertion that no Bangladesh nationals are staying illegally in India.

Azad emphasised "we want to continue the present excellent relations with India and added that there should not be any attempt to undo that.

Diarrhoea

From Page 1
vere dehydration since early yesterday morning, arrived at the hospital in a critical condition.

"She vomited four times in the past quarter of an hour," said her husband. They came from Bhulta in Rupganj.

Hundreds of other patients arrive in similar condition. Officials at the hospital confirmed that usually a little over 200 patients a day are treated at the hospital. "The rush of patients over the last one month is an unprecedented experience for us at this hospital," a doctor said.

More than 30 additional beds were placed at the hospital entrance last week to accommodate 'extra' patients. Twelve nurses and at least four more doctors were assigned at the 'tent site' to attend the patients.

Most of the patients were coming from areas like Maniknagar, Madertek, Jurain, Jatrabari, Goran, Mirpur, Mohamandpur, Badda, Bashabo, Narayanganj and Keranganj.

Meanwhile, a total of 1,02,153 people in the 37 flood affected districts were attacked with diarrhoea since July 15 and 66 of them died.

Officials said four people died of diarrhoeal diseases in the last 24 hours and 4,055 more were attacked.

Official data shows that 2679 people died of diarrhoeal diseases, out of 25 lakh attacked with the disease, from 1995 till December, 1997.

According to officials, a total of 3,473 medical teams comprising 1,666 doctors have been deployed in the affected areas and 75 more temporary health service centres have been set up.

85-member DU BCL body proposed

By DU Correspondent

A 85-member preliminary committee for Dhaka University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was put forward for approval of the central committee yesterday. BCL sources said.

The proposed committee comprises a president, 11 vice presidents, a general secretary, two joint secretaries, 12 secretaries, 12 assistant secretaries and 46 members.

Of the 85 members the president, general secretary and organising secretary were elected at the last council of BCL held in July, 1994.

These three were entrusted with the responsibility to form a full fledged body. As they failed to announce the full committee, the BCL activists recently launched a movement demanding announcement of the committee.

They submitted a memorandum to the president and general secretary on August 18 demanding formation of a full-fledged committee within three days. As the pressure mounted, the general secretary of DU unit of BCL submitted the proposed committee to the central committee for approval yesterday.

Meanwhile, the BCL activists staged a sit-in demonstration in front of the DUCSU building yesterday noon protesting non-announcement of the committee until yesterday.

BCL activists yesterday refused to hold talks with the president and general secretary of the central committee. They vowed to continue sit-in demonstrations until the demand was met. They have also planned to meet Awami League leaders to inform them of the situation.

The president and general secretary of BCL central committee could not be contacted yesterday for comment following the submission of the proposed committee.

Border fire

From Page 1

from firing heavy guns," added the official.

He said there may be more casualties among the civilians which could not be immediately ascertained.

Unofficial sources said a minor girl Marina hit by BSF bullet died on the spot.

Indiscriminate mortar fire from the Indian side hit the civil areas including the Hill station bazar.

The BDR official said the BSF had been doing defence construction within 150 yards violating the border agreement for the last five days despite the repeated request to stop such construction.

He said repair of a wall of the railway station was discussed in the last border meeting between the two countries. Indian side had agreed in principle to the repair work.

Garments export

From Page 1

He urged the government to give a waiver to the garments factories from 0.25 per cent tax at source for the survival of the factories. The export oriented garments units are also facing serious problems due to the unavailability of empty containers at the Chittagong Port, he added.

"Though the port authorities withdrew high rent charge on empty containers about two weeks back, the garments exporters are yet to get enough container for meeting their requirement," he said.

"If the government withdraws the tax at source at this moment the garments exporters would be able to export their goods at a lower price which would help enhance export earnings," Qudus argued.

Jt exercises with US

From Page 1
ercises were conducted under the cover of separate MOUs and each MOU in reality addressed the question of providing diplomatic immunity to participants in US military training programmes, however, once SOFA has been rejected, the US side is learnt to feel that it has now become necessary that some sort of legal cover for their military personnel is extended in order to operate in a foreign country, which is normally for them "a standard and routine procedure."

It is learnt that SEABAT military exercise involved bringing in maritime patrol aircraft and technical personnel. The group was likely to comprise some 20 US personnel. Under the programme, they were due to use patrol aircraft to conduct with Bangladesh military personnel maritime search and rescue operations.

However, both Bangladesh and officials and those of the US embassy declined to comment on the exact position of diplomatic status now being considered by the two governments.

Couple killed

From Page 1

Sadaruddin's brother Imam Hossain filed a murder case with Kotwali thana accusing Marjina, Ismail and the three others.

VGF to continue till next harvest: PM

KURIGRAM, Aug 25: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said the government is taking all-out preparation for the post-flood rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes for which foreign help has been sought, reports UNB.

"We will be able to tackle the flood situation by our own resources but we will need foreign help for the post-flood rehabilitation programmes," she said addressing a gathering at Roumari college ground.

The Prime Minister who made a whirlwind visit to the flood affected areas of Kurigram and Gaibandha districts today said the government has taken adequate measures to face the calamity.

"We started distributing relief and medicine among the flood affected people soon after the flood hit the country," she said.

The government will continue its relief work till flood water recedes, she said adding that the government has also decided to increase the number of VGF cards.

Hasina said the government will increase the number of VGF cards in the flood affected areas and continue it till Kartik-Agrahayan till the harvesting of paddy.

About the post-flood rehabilitation programmes, she said the government will have

to take massive rehabilitation programmes as huge people were affected by the flood and road, bridge, culvert, school, college and other institutions were damaged.

"We may need help from abroad to rebuild our damaged infrastructure and for agricultural rehabilitation," she said assuring the flood victims of all possible help until their sufferings are over.

The Prime Minister reached Roumari, the remote thana of the Kurigram district at about 11 pm, one hour behind the schedule due to inclement weather.

Girl burnt alive

From Page 1
bazar. The fire soon spread to the adjacent areas at about 9:30 pm.

Fourteen shanties were gutted totally in the two-hour-long fire.

Shakera Begum, 7, daughter of Nurul Islam, was burnt alive as she could not be rescued from the shanty, sources informed. Ten others also sustained burn injuries, the source added.

Fire Brigade personnel from Moulvibazar and Srimangal reached the spot at around 11:30 and brought the fire under control with the help of local people.

Flood shatters hopes

From Page 1

their last hope to retrieve the Aus and broadcast Aman or even to go for transplanting the Aman.

Even they had to watch in agony the withering of vegetable patches, woven intricately on makeshift bamboo straps.

Dried vines of summer vegetables that could have fetched Jamaluddin of Nauhala in Shibpur thana at least Tk 50 thousand stood on the water.

Going home carrying a shopping basket with a 400 gm fish, known as Jatka, a pumpkin and a kachu (arrow plant) that he bought from the C&B bazar (market) on the highway, Jamaluddin had no words how he would recover his losses. He is still short of Tk 30 thousand. But he is lucky as he managed to sell a portion of the vegetable early before the second wave destroyed his fields.

His neighbour Abul Hossain was carrying bamboo, not grown fully. Hossain was taking it to the bazar to sell, hoping to get Tk 15 to 16 and buy the provisions.

But at the bazar, there was hardly anyone interested to buy his bamboo. There were too many people but a few sellers, offering potato at Tk 10 per kg, brinjal at Tk 20 and kachu at Tk 3 per piece.

Some people were selling small carps, which escaped from flooded ponds. Jatka and dry fish were the main items on sale at the bazar.

Nearby, only one butcher was offering buffalo meat at Tk 50 per kg, even willing to reduce the price to Tk 40. But few showed interest. No one was selling any chicken.

It reflects the state of the economy that the people in the area are facing, said a man roaming around. He bought only a piece of kachu, some potato and bit of shidol (a small dried fish).

The people who raises one of the finest bananas are watching their crops wasting under the watery grave. Narsingdi is a banana growing area.

"I have spent Tk 30 per plant, raising those on four acres of land. Three acres have gone under water. I don't know how I will recover the losses," Shamim Ahmed, a banana farmer, said.

As the rising flood water was threatening the highway, already submerged at several places, many people were raising their makeshift shelters on

the two side of the road.

All of them have left their homes and found shelters on the highway.

What will happen when water recedes. Will they go back to their homes or trudge down the highway to the capital?

Amir Hossain Mia, 28, a textile worker was fishing with a rod, squatting on the side of the highway. His factory had gone under water and put him out of job.

Sharafat Ali Mia, an agriculture extension official said, there has been extensive damage of HYV Aman. Out of 27,000 hectares, only 3200 hectares could be transplanted by farmers in the area.

Damages to vegetables and bananas were also heavy, he added.

His statement was corroborated by Abdur Baten Mollah, a dealer of Novartis, the biggest seller of farm inputs in the country. "Business is dull as people have nothing to do in their fields," the dealer said in his shop at Bhulta bazar.

As we were returning to the capital, we found more makeshift shelters appearing on the highway at Rupganj.

Unless a massive post-flood recovery programme is undertaken, these people, the marginal farmers and the landless, would march towards Dhaka in search of jobs, people at Bhulta bazar observed when asked about the situation.

These people still have some food. It is anybody's guess what will happen when the stocks will run out Shahazuddin, a trader said.

Flood

From Page 1

and concrete blocks to fill up the damaged portion of the city flood protection embankment to hold back the swollen Turag river from inundating the densely populated Mirpur area of the capital.

In the Demra area, engineers of Bangladesh Water Development Board are working