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**BBC told
BSF starts
push-in
in small
groups**
 Star Monitoring
 The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday admitted that it has started pushing-in the so-called Bangladeshis through the border of West Bengal, the BBC reported last night.
 "The BSF is bound to send them back to their country after their identification in different states of India, particularly after issuance of a court order in this regard," MS Tathore, Acting Director, BSF, told the BBC.
 See Page 12 Col 1

**Flag meeting at
Hili: Situation
now normal**
 DINAJPUR, Aug 26: The situation in the Hili border, battered by mortar and heavy gun fires by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF), returned to normalcy tonight as a BDR-BSF flag meeting agreed to cease hostilities, reports UNB.
 The flag meeting, held at the 'no-man's land', lasted about seven hours. BDR local commander Col Anis headed the Bangladesh team while DIG Shri YP Ahluwalia led the BSF in the flag meeting.
 Sources said the Indian side at the meeting complained that five BSF men, including an inspector, was killed in the fighting.
 BDR sources said the BSF See page 11

**Delwar Hossain says
Depositing of
resignation
letters delayed
due to flood**
 By Nazmul Ashraf
 The worsening flood situation is delaying the process of depositing BNP lawmakers' letters of resignation from the Jatiya Sangsad with party chief and leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia, Opposition Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain said.
 Talking to The Daily Star Tuesday night, Hossain, who is coordinating the move said that he and other party whips were facing problems in maintaining contacts with the BNP MPs, now busy conducting relief operations at different flood-hit areas of the country.
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**Star MAG
TOMORROW**
 This week's SWM takes a closer look at the fledgling software industry in Bangladesh; its problems and prospects

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 by Dilara Choudhury
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Emergency flood aid Donors urged to provide \$508m, 1.38m MT food

Bangladesh yesterday sought foreign assistance of 508.39 million US dollars and 1.38 million MT of food for emergency relief and post-flood rehabilitation programme, reports UNB.
 At a meeting with the representatives of the donor countries and agencies in the city yesterday morning, Finance Minister SAMS Kibria said the devastating flood has caused an economic disaster in the country.
 "This has become an emergency now and our government has decided to seek foreign assistance to combat the situation," he said.
 This year's flood is not only a natural calamity but as devastating as the 1998 floods, he said. "It is an economic disaster. It is causing disruption in all sorts of economic activities and is likely to continue for the next 4 to 5 days," Kibria told the donors.
 He said nothing is spared in the unprecedented lengthy flood. "At the initial stage, it was a natural flood like other years and we had the capability to cope with it. But, right now, it is not just possible."
 Seeking quick response and delivery of commitments by the donors, the Finance Minister said that although the post-flood rehabilitation activities would continue till the end of the year, the agricultural activities will start immediately as soon as the water recedes.
 Agriculture, food, communications, fisheries, livestock, health, education, family planning and other sectors are affected. See Page 12 Col 5

Flood situation in Dhaka city may worsen further

There is no sign of early improvement in the overall flood situation as the 'exceptional high tide' persisted in the Bay of Bengal, agencies quoting official sources said yesterday.
 New areas in the central part of the country were inundated and thousands of families in seven district headquarters have been marooned.
 Flood situation in Chandpur, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Chapainawabganj towns deteriorated further while fresh areas of Gopalganj town went under water.
 Disaster Management and Relief Ministry officials said flood situation deteriorated in 15 districts, remained static in five and was improving in 10 districts. Situation in 15 other flood-hit districts became normal.
 Officials said the worst hit 15 districts are Dhaka, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Gopalganj, Narshingdi, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Chapainawabganj, Pabna, Rajshahi, Comilla and Chandpur. They said situation remained static in Gazipur, Bogra, Habiganj, Laxmipur and Brahmanbaria while it registered slight improvement in Manikganj, Kishoreganj, Sherpothore and Jessore. See Page 12 Col 5



WAITING FOR THE TURN: Flood victims in a long queue for relief at a flood shelter in the city's Mirpur area yesterday. — Star photo

JS body stresses jail reforms Munim committee suggestions must be implemented

By Nurul Kabir
 There are more than 49 thousand prisoners in the country's 40 jails, 67 per cent of whom are undertrial prisoners. This was disclosed at a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Ministry, held yesterday.
 The meeting was also told that the 40 jails — eight central jails and 32 district jails — have the capacity to accommodate only 21 thousand prisoners.
 Members of the Parliamentary body expressed concern over the condition of prisons and asserted that effective steps should be taken to ensure human rights inside the jails, meeting sources said.
 They stressed the need for 'full implementation' of the recommendations on jail reform made in the Justice Munim Committee report, placed before the government in the 80's. They also stressed the need for making significant changes in the Jail Code to ensure humane conditions. See Page 12 Col 8



**Nazrul's death
anniversary
today**
 By Staff Correspondent
 The 22nd anniversary of death of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be observed all over the country today.
 The Nazrul Birth Centenary Observance Committee has taken up a two-day programme beginning today on the occasion.
 Discussion meetings and cultural functions will be held at the National Museum auditorium in the city. Youth, Sports and Culture Ministry will also observe the occasion. See Page 12 Col 6

President regrets at seminar in city Democracy can't work when there is govt-opposition 'animosity'

President Shahabuddin Ahmed, regretting the animosity between the ruling party and the opposition, yesterday said there must be consensus among them on major national issues to make democracy functioning, reports UNB.
 "To make a democratic system work, there must be consensus on major national issues through political parties through debate, discussion and tolerance of each other's views. But in our case there is no such consensus," he told a seminar on 'The role of media in good governance', organised to mark the 10th founding anniversary of the United News of Bangladesh (UNB) yesterday afternoon.
 It was addressed by Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman, Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury and former editor of the Bangladesh Observer, Obaidul Huq.
 The President said under parliamentary system, democracy can work only on close co-operation between the ruling and opposition parties and that is why in England they are respectively called Her Majesty's Government and Her Majesty's Opposition.
 "But, in our case, there is no cooperation between the government and the opposition. Instead of cooperation, we see bitter animosity between them."
 Shahabuddin said all the parties in the country speak loudly of consensus but seek it. See page 11

3 of a family electrocuted in flood-hit Goran

By Staff Correspondent
 A couple and their four-year-old daughter were electrocuted at their house in city's flood-affected Dakhin Goran yesterday. Police identified the dead as Abdul Jahl Newaz, 45, reportedly a school teacher, Fatema Newaz, 35, and their daughter Farzana Shila.
 This was the second such incident in six days. Earlier on Friday, five persons of a family were electrocuted at a flood-affected slum at West Razabazar. Hospital sources quoting neighbours said that yesterday. See Page 12 Col 4

Rubel Murder Case More policemen may have been involved: CID

By Staff Correspondent
 Some more police personnel may have been involved in Rubel's murder, according to CID officials investigating the murder of the university student in DB custody on July 23.
 The CID is investigating into the murder case lodged with Ramna thana by Abdur Rab, father of the victim. Seven DB men were accused in the case.
 One Amir Hussain who was in DB custody during the time Rubel was taken there, recorded a judicial statement under Section 164 of the CrPC yesterday, officials close to the investigation said.
 Hayatul Islam Thakur, one of the accused detained in jail, was seen torturing Rubel, the officials said quoting Hussain's statement. Hussain said that DB officials took Rubel out of their office once and brought him back again, the sources added.
 Rubel was sweating and panting when he was brought back to the DB office, the sources said referring to Hussain's statement. Hussain is an accused in a case lodged by the Dhanmandi thana and was arrested by the DB on that day.
 UNB adds: CID investigators yesterday collected samples of hand writing of SI Hayatul Islam Thakur and his wife to See page 11

Musa's body Chemical test to follow autopsy

By Staff Correspondent
 The exhumed body of Musa was sent to Chemical Testing Laboratory at Mohakhali in the city after its autopsy at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue yesterday.
 Police exhumed Musa's body from Azimpur graveyard on See Page 12 Col 4

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TUs protest move to set up pvt terminal Six-hr strike at Ctg port

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Aug 26: All activities including cargo handling came to a halt at Chittagong port as the coalition of 22 trade union bodies observed six hours' work abstention from 8 am today. Port sources said.
 The work abstention programme was observed in protest against the government's permission to an American consortium, Stevedoring Services of America (SSA), for setting up of private container terminals in Dhaka and Chittagong. Later at a rally at the port, the trade union leaders announced a 24-hour work abstention on September 22.
 The coalition earlier observed work abstention for four hours last month as part of their movement opposing the government decision.
 About 24 cargo vessels anchored at the port jetties suffered huge economic losses due to suspension of loading and unloading work, the sources said. Import and export trade was also badly affected, they said.
 Today's work abstention was planned for nine hours till 5 pm, but work resumed at 2 pm following a request from the Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation in view of the flood situation.
 Port employees and workers held a rally. Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury who earlier expressed his support to the See Page 12 Col 6

2 dacoits killed in gunbattle with police in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent
 BARISAL, Aug 26: Two dacoits were killed and two others injured in a gunbattle with police near Senebazar area under Bakerganj thana of the district at about 9 pm last night.
 Police also recovered one revolver with two rounds of bullets from an injured dacoit, and two rifles looted earlier from a passenger launch, according to River Traffic Police (RTP) here. See Page 12 Col 6

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