

## Conspirators trying to gain political interest by killing innocent people: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the people to remain alert against those trying to protect the killers of Bangabandhu by creating political unrest, reports UNB.

"They are trying to save the self-confessed killers under a plot to topple the government by gaining their political interest," she said addressing a discussion meeting at the Engineers' Institute yesterday afternoon.

The Dhaka City Awami League arranged the discussion marking the National Mourning Day and 23rd anniversary of assassination of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Presided over by City Mayor Mohammad Hanif, the meeting was also addressed by AL central leaders Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Zillur Rahman and Abdul Jalil, and city leaders Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Reazuddin Ahmed, Munir Hossain Khan, Fazlur Rahman Fantomus, Akhtarul Alam and Fauzuddin Mia.

The Prime Minister said the conspirators were trying to gain political interest by killing innocent people.

With this end in view, she alleged, they mixed poison with the foods while these were being distributed among the destitutes at Cox's Bazar on August 15 this year.

She said, "They are in deep conspiracy against the people... trying to gain political interest by killing innocent people and to protect the killers of Bangabandhu."

Recalling the tragic incident of killing the Father of the Nation and his family members, including minor boy Russel, Hasina said the self-confessed killers had violated the human rights.

"The trial of the killers is now going on as per the laws of the land. In the past, the conspirators blocked the trial of the killers by introducing the black indemnity Act. She added, "Not only that, General Zia, after capturing power through unconstitutional means, also rewarded those killers by giving them jobs abroad."

The Prime Minister said in 21 years before the present government assumed power, there was a "planned effort" to obliterate the name of Bangabandhu from the history of the nation.

"There was also a conspiracy to distort the glorious history of the struggle for independence and of the Liberation War," she alleged.

But it was not possible to erase the name of Bangabandhu, she said. "Bangabandhu and Bangladesh are inseparable, the history of the nation is inextricably linked with the name of Bangabandhu."

Referring to the criticism of the Opposition leader against the government relief activities, Hasina said she is busy criticising the government when the country is submerged by flood waters.

"We've taken all possible measures to face the flood and reach food and medicine to the flood affected people."

But the Opposition leader is busy in spreading falsehood about the activities of the government, she said.

While they (BNP) were in power, Hasina alleged that they were active in plundering the relief money. But now they have no initiative to stand beside the people, to help the flood victims.

She said the leaders and workers of the ruling party are also working along side the government to help the distressed.

The Prime Minister called upon the Opposition to work for the flood victims, ignoring all differences.

She also called upon the affluent section of society and all others to stand beside the flood victims with whatever they have.

"We've taken steps to ensure a better life for the people, we're fighting to remove all their miseries," she said and urged everybody to work for building a happy and prosperous 'Sonar Bangla'.



Artistes presenting song at a cultural function at the National Museum auditorium yesterday to mark the 22nd death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam jointly organised by Nazrul Birth Centenary Observation Committee and the Ministry of Cultural Affairs. — Star photo

## Mannan Bhuiyan condemns attack on JCD leader

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has condemned the attack on Faridpur district JCD leader Morad Husain who is now under treatment at Pangu Hospital, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday in the city, Bhuiyan demanded exemplary punishment of those who had attacked Morad and other leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations of Faridpur district and also demanded withdrawal of false cases filed against them.

In a similar statement, BNP vice chairman Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf MP also demanded the withdrawal of false cases and arrest of the culprits and exemplary punishment of the attackers.

## Showcause on Zia Hall BCL activist

The authorities have served a BCL activist of Ziaur Rahman Hall of Dhaka University with a showcause notice in connection with the assault on an employee of the hall, reports UNB.

Provost of the hall served the notice Thursday on Farid Ali, a third year student of International Relations and an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

Farid allegedly beat up Delwar Hossain on Tuesday as Delwar reportedly refused to hand over a letter of another student to him.

Delwar lodged a complaint with Provost and demanded probe and punishment of the accused.

## Tofael visits erosion-hit areas

BHOLA, Aug 28: Commerce and Industry Minister Tofael Ahmed yesterday visited river erosion-hit areas of Sadar, Borhanuddin and Doulatkhan thanas in the district, reports UNB.

During the visit the minister was apprised that the sea is very rough and high during the current flood causing severe erosion by the rivers.

The minister talked to the affected people and addressed several spontaneous gatherings at Ilisha, Rajapur, Kachia, Kalikirty, Gangapur, Malanchora, Tulatali and Mirza Kulu of the three thanas.

Tofael urged the people to tackle the situation with courage and fortitude.

He assured the affected people that 1,000 VGD cards will be given to the distressed families of the worst-hit unions for three months and each family will get 16 kgs of rice per month.

Government has allocated 200 tons of rice and Tk 2 lakh for the district, said the minister.

The Commerce Minister said the government will give houses to the homeless people of the district through Ashrayan project.

## Obituary

Hasina Khatun, wife of late Abdul Hakim, additional director (ret'd) of Social Services Department and acting project director of a NORAD funded project, died of brain haemorrhage on Wednesday at the Combined Military Hospital. She was 61, reports BSS.

Hasina Khatun was buried yesterday at her family graveyard at Barachar under Palash thana in Narsingdi district.

Her qulshuan will be held today after Asr prayers at her 217/1 Tejkunpara residence.

Relatives, friends, colleagues and well-wishers have been requested to attend the qulshuan.

## Foreign diplomats blasted for sympathising with Myanmar's opposition

YANGON, Aug 28: An official commentary attacked foreign diplomats Friday for allegedly sympathising with Myanmar's pro-democracy movement, reports AP.

"In any diplomatic relations there exist diplomatic ethics as prescribed in the Geneva Convention," said the state-run Myanmar-language daily Mirror.

"Supporting and having close contact with the organisation which is opposing the government, aiding and abetting the dissidents with clandestine correspondence by taking advantage of the diplomatic immunity, refusing to call the country 'Burma' as 'Myanmar' and having a negative outlook towards the host country are not among the diplomatic ethics," it said.

The commentary, written under the pseudonym Sittlu Nyein Aye, came one day after the government claimed it wants substantive talks with the opposition.

Despite the rhetoric about dialogue, it continues to attach conditions that would keep pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi from taking part in any such meetings.

The opposition, international human rights groups, the United States, the European Union and Japan, and some of Myanmar's regional neighbours

have all urged a dialogue to ease political tensions.

But the military regime has failed to move towards democratisation, instead engaging in heavy-handed repression of dissent.

Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy, the main opposition party, have also been putting low-level but concerted pressure on the government to release political prisoners and convene the parliament whose members were elected in 1990 but never seated.

The junta has been stressing that the NLD's recently announced plan to unilaterally convene a civilian parliament would upset attempts to hold a dialogue.

At the same time, its briefings to foreign diplomats about the situation have included threats to arrest opposition members and to declare Suu Kyi's party illegal.

One of Suu Kyi's colleagues, meanwhile, reported that her health has improved after a gruelling 13-day sit-in protest she staged in a van which was blocked from travelling by the authorities.

Suu Kyi, another senior party member and two drivers stayed in the vehicle for 13 days to protest the government's refusal to let them proceed to the city of Bassein to meet other party members.

## 5 get life term for murder in Sunamganj

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 28: Five accused persons were sentenced in lifeterm imprisonment in the sensational murder case of Sunamganj yesterday. The Additional District and Sessions Judge of Sunamganj Shah Alam Chowdhury passed the judgement yesterday.

The prosecution case in brief is that, a renowned social worker of village Bargaon under Sunamganj sadar thana was killed brutally on the night before Eid-ul-Fitr.

The accused who had been sentenced to lifeterm imprisonment are Shukur Ali, Abdul Jalil, Ayub Ali, and Abdur Rashid. The prosecution case was conducted by APP Shamsunnahar Begum, Advocate Abdur Rouf, Advocate Jahur Ali and Advocate Abdus Shahid Talukder while the defence was pleaded by Advocate Humayun Manjur Chowdhury, Advocate Shahiduzzaman Chowdhury and Advocate Matiar Rahman Peer.

## 64 killed in clashes along Senegal-Guinea Bissau border

DAKAR, Aug 28: Sixty armed separatist rebels and four Senegalese troops have been killed in clashes in the southern province of Casamance and neighbouring Guinea-Bissau, military sources in Dakar said today, reports AFP.

Senegal's military information office said one of the battles took place across the border with Guinea-Bissau, while newspapers here charged that rebel troops from the neighbouring country were fighting alongside the separatists.

In two operations on Wednesday and Thursday about 170 kilometers east of the Casamance provincial capital Ziguinchor, government soldiers killed 60 rebels, lost four of their own men and recovered goods stolen from markets, the army sources said.

## Bangladesh Students' Union collects money for flood-victims

Bangladesh Students' Union is collecting relief goods and cash through solo music performance of Polash Boshak, reports BSS.

According to a press release, the programmes are being held at the halls and faculties of DU. It has collected relief goods from six dormitories — Jagannath, F Rahman, Zahurul Huq, Shahidullah, Rokeya and Shamsunnahar halls.

Meanwhile the city unit of the students' union has opened relief shelters at Mirpur, Demra, Lalbagh and Sabujbagh thana area of the city for the flood victims, the press release said.

The central committee of the organisation has called upon the people to donate to the relief fund of the organisation at the Madhu's canteen and at its central office at 31/F Topkhana road. The people are requested to deposit financial help to its current account no 1662/Janata Bank, DU Branch, the press release added.

## Funeral

The funeral of T Rozario, one of the founder president of Bangladesh Hindu, Bouddha, Christian Oikya Parishad and a renowned social worker, was held in Tejgaon church yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

Political advisor to the prime minister Dr S A Malek and parliamentary advisor to the prime minister Suranjit Sen Gupta yesterday paid rich tributes to T Rozario by placing wreaths on his body. Besides, advocate Shudhanshu Shekhor Halder, Kazi Arif Ahmed, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Srimoth Suddhananda Mahathero and leaders of Hindu, Bouddha, Christian Oikya Parishad paid their last respects to the deceased. Rozario's wife, son, daughter and relatives were present during the funeral.

Special prayers were held at Dhakeshwari Mandir and Dharmotajik Buddha Bihar. Rozario died at his Tejgaon residence on August 26.

## Pak troops kill 111 Indians in Kashmir this month

ISLAMABAD, Aug 28: Pakistani troops responding to cross border attacks on villages in Kashmir this month killed around 111 Indians including 11 officers, a top official said Wednesday, reports AFP.

"The effective response" by the Pakistan army during the August 1-17 artillery duels, caused "heavy damage" to Indian installations, parliamentary secretary for defence, Khurshid Zaman, said.

The Indians lost 11 of their officers and around 100 soldiers, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) quoted him as telling the National Assembly (lower house).

The Pakistan army also inflicted severe damage to Indian military vehicles, petrolsum and ammunition depots, he added.

Giving the Pakistani toll, he said 64 civilian died and 104 injured in the Indian shelling on the Pakistani side of the line of control (LOC), dividing the disputed Kashmir state into Pakistani and Indian zones.

Zaman said the "unprovoked" Indian firing from across the LOC forced 30,000 to 40,000 people from the Indian held Kashmir into Pakistani side of the state. The government gave them food and shelter, he said.

He said India continued to pursue a policy of "hoodwinking" the world and resorts to such tactics while making of-

fers of talks" to improve relations. He said Pakistan was desirous of turning the LOC into the line of peace, the agency said.

Pakistan is "fully capable" to defend itself, Zaman said adding that it had taken all necessary measure to thwart any Indian attempt to pose any threat to the country.

## Floods in Bihar Death toll rises to 210

PATNA, Aug 28: Eight more people died in Bihar today, taking the toll in current flood to 210 and affecting over 10 million people as there was no improvement in the situation, reports PTI.

According to state relief and rehabilitation department sources, eight fresh deaths were reported from flood-hit areas of Saharsa and Sitamarhi districts.

Road link between the north eastern states and rest of the country remained cut-off for the second consecutive day today as water from the rising Kosi submerged a three-kilometre stretch of the national highway 31 near Kursela in Kathar district. Thousands of vehicles were stranded near Purnea, the sources said.

## 40,000 told to evacuate homes Storm claims 12 in Japan

TOKYO, Aug 28: Tens of thousands of people were told to evacuate their homes Friday as tropical storm Rex — already blamed for mudslides, flooding and at least 12 deaths — dumped torrential rains across much of Japan, reports AP.

Nearly 40,000 people were told to flee their homes in Mito, a city 100 km northeast of Tokyo, because of possible flooding from the rains, which began Wednesday night.

Police confirmed 12 deaths by Friday afternoon, with 4 missing and 30 injured. Japanese media said at least 13 people had died.

Rex was located 1,000 km south of Tokyo at mid-afternoon Friday and moving north, according to the Meteorological Agency. It said the storm had sustained wind speeds of 90 km per hour near its centre.

The rains have been caused by the storm pushing warm, wet air from the central Pacific Ocean north.

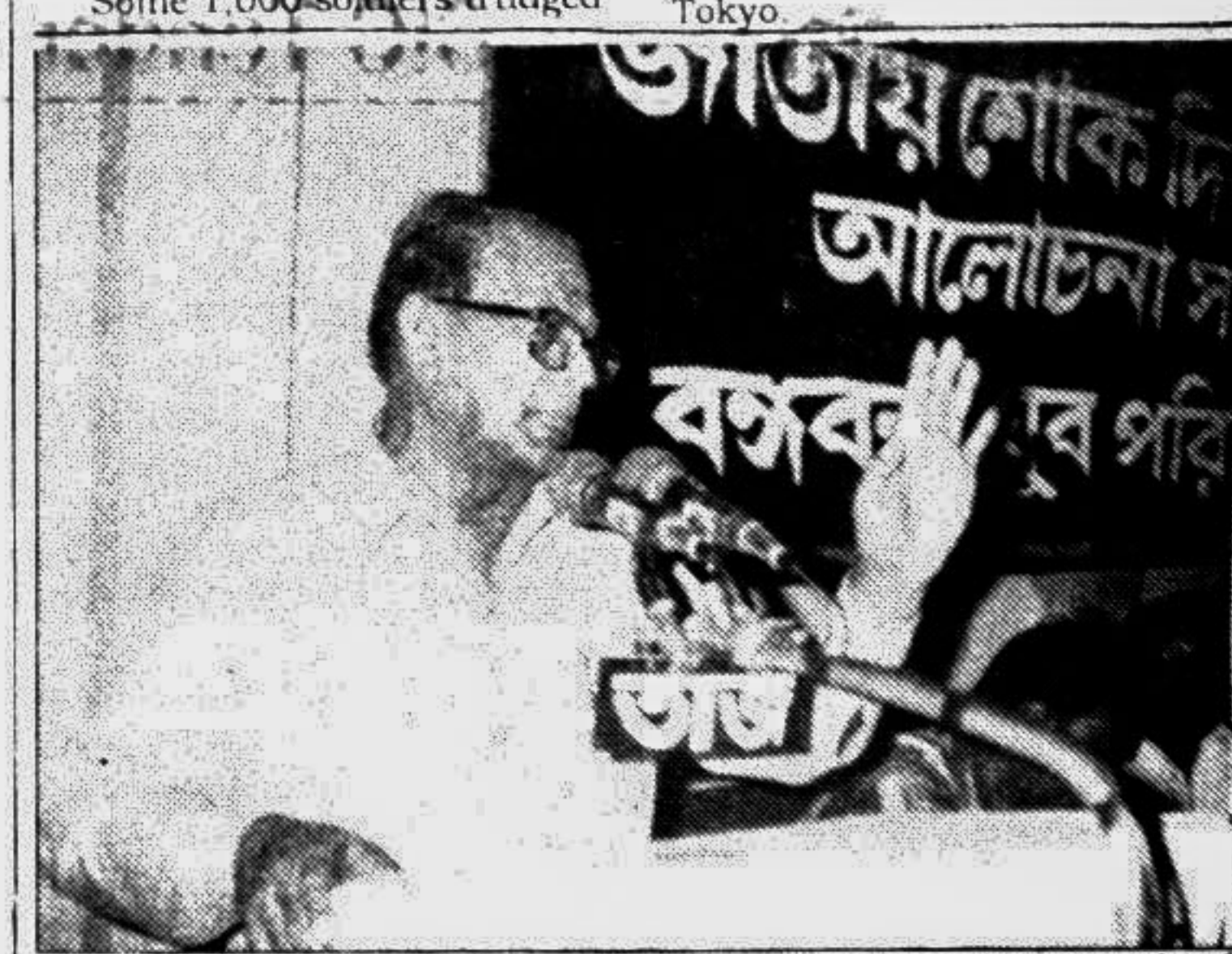
Some 1,000 soldiers trudged through mud and debris Friday near the town of Nasu, just north of Tokyo, for the people still missing after a river burst its banks Thursday. News reports said they recovered the body of a man, leaving three people unaccounted for.

The torrent also killed a 60-year-old university professor and destroyed or damaged more than 34 houses in the town, which has seen a record 839 millimetres falling since the rains began at about midnight Wednesday.

Meanwhile, officials in Fukushima prefecture, 175 km north of Tokyo, were investigating why a warning never reached an institution for the handicapped where five people died when a mudslide slammed into their building Thursday morning.

In the immediate Tokyo area, the effects of the storm were limited mainly to disruption of transportation.

Several highways and train lines were closed in and around Tokyo.



Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf addressing as chief guest a discussion meeting at the Institution of Engineers yesterday organised by Bangabandhu Juba Parishad.

## Manipal Heart Foundation to offer facilities for Bangladeshis

Manipal Heart Foundation of Bangalore, India, will offer special heart care facilities for the common people of Bangladesh, noted heart surgeon Dr. Devi Shetty, vice-chairman of the foundation said in a statement received in the city, reports BSS.

Dr. Shetty said Manipal Heart Foundation is emerging as one of the largest heart hospitals in Asia performing 25 heart operations in a day. He said children with heart problems will enjoy several benefits, including financial assistance from various charitable organisations. The foundation has advised the heart patients in Bangladesh to communicate with social worker, Nahida Alam (Phone: 9110619) who will provide necessary information relating to booking, hospital fees and other transport expenses without any charge.

Manipal foundation, a unit of Manipal hospital, will help Bangladesh patients who require second bypass grafting operation irrespective of their financial capabilities, the statement added.

## 800,000 illegal aliens still in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 28: Despite the government's massive effort to crack down on illegal aliens in the country, according to news reports today, reports AP.

Deputy Home Minister Tajol Rosli Ghazali said the government was still looking for ways to deport foreigners whose work permits had expired Aug 15, the New Straits Times reported.

"We are trying to find the cheapest, safest and easiest way to send them home," he said.

During Asia's boom years, Malaysia imported millions of foreign workers to build its modern cityscape. Now, with rising unemployment and a plunging economy, they're no longer welcome.

Among those who will be deported immediately include 8,000 aliens currently detained at immigration depots throughout the country, Tajol said.

The work permits of around 380,000 foreigners expired on Aug 15, according to the latest Immigration Department statistics. Since then, 163,000 foreign workers have left the country.

## Maid missing

A teenage maid has gone missing from her employer's house at 132 Shantibagh in the capital, reports BSS.

Employer of the maid Abdul Hakim Chowdhury said, "The dark-complexioned maid, Mayaroon, 16, who is about five-foot tall and speaks in the dialect of Sylhet region went missing on Thursday."

Members of the household found the door open and the girl missing along with her personal belongings in the morning, he said.

Mayaroon belongs to Hettimganj village under Golapanj thana of Sylhet district. A general diary was lodged with Motijheel police on Thursday.



FLOOD WATER EVERYWHERE: Pictures taken by The Daily Star photographer show boat carrying people on the road in front of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Headquarters in city (top) and Tongi-Ghorashal road submerged by knee-deep water.



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## HERE and THERE

### British Council

The British Council arranged a presentation on "The Challenge of Developing Clinical Child Psychology Services in Bangladesh" which was chaired by Dr Naila Khan at Dhaka Shishu Hospital auditorium.

It was organised in collaboration with Bangladesh Institute of Child Health. It is a part of a higher education link programme between University College London and Dhaka University, Clinical Psychology Department. The objective of the programme are to train the first clinical psychologist and to introduce clinical psychology services in Bangladesh's health sector, says a press release.

This presentation, made by Dr Roger Young, discussed that there is a general confusion about clinical psychologist and psychiatrist. Clinical psychology is a applied branch of psychology which will deal with the mental health problem. Psychiatry is a branch of medicine which diagnose and treat severe mental illness.

### MMC

The week-long training programme titled "Skill development and motivation training for the correspondents of local and national newspapers" organised by Mass-line Media Centre (MMC) has been concluded at the central office of the organisation in the city on Thursday, says a press release.

A total of 14 correspondents of different local and national newspapers from Noakhali, Feni, Patuakhali and Barguna participated in the training course.

They are from Patuakhali, Khondokar Delwar Jalali, Syed Nazrul Islam Litu and

### Syed Wahidul Huq (Daily Sathel), Md Hamatuzzaman Miraz and Md Aminul Islam (Daily Gonodavee), Md Mujibur Rahman (Daily Tetulia), from Barguna Md Hasanur Rahman Jhonu (Daily Saikat Sambad) and Swapan Kumar Das (Daily Deepanchal), from Noakhali, Kabir Ahmed Faruque (Daily Jatyo Nisan), Md Mosiur Rahman (Freelancer), M Rahman Mukul (Daily Purbakon) and Md Abdul Kader Niazi (Daily Sangram) and from Feni, Asaduzzaman Dara (Weekly Baikali).

MMC trainers Natasha Shaheen, Masud-Al-Mamun and Kazi Mousumi Hossain conducted the training course. Earlier on August 23, Executive Chief of MMC Kamrul Hasan Monju inaugurated the session. Trainees were awarded with the certificate of participation at the concluding session.

### IUBAT

Engr SIE Blok, an Information System expert of the Netherlands Management Cooperation Programme (NMCP) and Advisor to the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) presented a seminar paper titled "Experiences with Information System in the Netherlands" recently, says a press release.

Engr Blok described his career in short and later confirmed to state the facts how he gathered vast experience in the Netherlands. He also briefly described and showed the types of personal computers now-a-days are being used in the Netherlands.

He also explained the usefulness of computer in the development

## UN team to visit Kabul next week

ISLAMABAD, Aug 28: A UN team will visit the Afghan capital next week to see if it is safe for foreign staff to go back to work following last week's fatal shooting of a staff member, officials said today, reports AFP.

United Nations sources here said the mission was expected to leave for Kabul next Tuesday for two days of talks with ruling Taliban authorities and to seek the advice of local staff.

The UN pulled out all foreign staff amid angry local reaction to United States missile attacks against alleged terrorist training camps in Afghanistan said to be run by Saudi exile Osama Bin Laden.

The morning after the August 20 missile strikes, an Italian military advisor was shot and fatally wounded in Kabul while a compound was ransacked and set alight in the eastern city of Jalalabad.

However, UN officials here said expatriate staff could move back within days should be mission conclude security conditions were satisfactory.

## Indian minister blasts US for 'double standards'

NEW DELHI, Aug 28: India's powerful Interior Minister accused the United States of adopting what he called double standards in dealing with terrorism, newspapers reported Friday, reports AP.

For years, India has accused neighbouring Pakistan of encouraging Kashmiri separatists with arms, training and funds. Pakistan says it only gives them moral support in their battle to win independence for the Himalayan state.



The Board of Directors of Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka for '98-99 was installed at a ceremony at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on Thursday. Pierre Landell-Mills, the outgoing Country Director or World Bank in Dhaka, attended the function as the chief guest while Rotary District Governor M A Awwal was present as the special guest.