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Donors waiting for flood water to recede to assess damage

By Staff Correspondent Donors are waiting for the flood water to recede to make a comprehensive assessment of the damage and funds required for the rehabilitation work.

"The prevailing situation is making it difficult for us and the government to get an exact picture of what damage had been done to the infrastructure. We have to wait for the situation to normalise," said the head of mission of a donor organisation in Dhaka yesterday. Meanwhile, the World Bank

is expected to provide between 50 and 100 million US dollars for post-flood rehabilitation

"The fund could be available once the evaluation is complete," said a WB source. "It will be given from the existing

However, it will be some time before the money could come, said one source. Each donor has to mobilise the resources and get it endorsed for which time will be needed.

Sunamganj boat capsize: 6 drown, 10 missing

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Aug 29: Bodies of six persons, who drowned in a boat capsize in a haor near Sachna bazar in Jamalganj thana under Sunamganj dis-

recovered today from Kasba beel in Behli union. Of them, five bodies were recovered today while the other was found yesterday afternoon, sources said. Ten others are

trict yesterday morning, were

still missing, the source added. Officials at the Jamalganj thana informed The Daily Star that, an engine boat carrying about 35 people on its way from

See Page 12 Col 5

Five drown in Manikganj boat capsize

MANIKGANJ, Aug 29: Five persons, including two children drowned in a boat capsize in flood water near Boylatuli village under Harirampur thana in the district last night, reports BSS.

Police said an engine boat carrying 10 people capsized in flood waters near the village at about 7-30 pm due to gusty

wind. Soon after the capsize, villagers rescued five people from the place of occurrence and sent them to local hospital. The villagers also recovered three bodies from there last night and two bodies this morning.

The dead were identified as, See Page 12 Col 3

3 electrocuted in Munshiganj

MUNSHIGANJ, Aug 29: A couple and their son were electrocuted at Malir Pathar in Sadar thana last night, reports

Police said Mohammad Kamrul, 30, suddenly came in contact with a hanging live electric wire at about 10.30 pm when he was going to a neigh-bour's house by a raft made from his banana tree. His father Babu Kha, 60, and mother Anwara Begum, 45, came out of their house to rescue their sor but all the three were electro cuted.

Inside Today Article

Caught in a Cyclical Pattern of Flood?

Column: Insight by Kabir U Ahmad Page 4

Focus

Law and Our Rights

Arrest and remand: Towards a framework for safeguarding the constitutional and legal rights Page 5

Business

Global selloff rattles investors

Bailout funds of Russia are on hold

Both DSE and CSE indices rise Pages 6, 7, 8

Major rivers continue to swell: Flood situation grim in 7 dists

The flood situation further deteriorated in seven districts as most of the major rivers continued to swell yesterday. report agencies.

Traffic movement on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway continued to remain suspended as flood waters have inundated 18 points washing away some parts of the highway. The road link between Dhaka-Sylhet was restored vesterday with the repairing of its affected portions between Dhaka-Moulvibazar.

Traffic movement on the Dhaka-Aricha highway and the Dhaka-Tangail highways are being maintained although certain portions of these highways

went under flood waters. Road Division engineers told BSS that three kilometres of the Dhaka-Aricha highway from Aminbazar onward remained under water while about 1,000 feet of the Dhaka-Tangail highway from the Kaliakoir

point remained under water. Efforts by the Railway officials and engineers succeeded in maintaining the rail link with different parts of the country including Chittagong with the

Railway officials said that excepting the communication between Jagannathganj to Jamalpur, the railway network still remains intact. They, however, added that trains are being run at places where slippers have gone under water at restricted speed.

The districts where the flood situation deteriorated are Dhaka. Narayanganj. Shariatpur, Laxmipur, Comilla, Ra-jshahi and Chapainawabganj, according to the Disaster Management and Relief Ministry control room.

The situation remained unchanged in Munshiganj, Narsingdi, Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Kishoreganj, Gazipur, Brahmanbaria, Habiganj, Noakhali, Chandpur, Sirajganj, Faridpur, Gaibandha,

See Page 12 Col 4

Flood: UN team due today to assess needs

A team from the United Na-tions is due today to assess the needs in the light of the devas-

tating flood, a message from New York said, reports BSS. The office of the permanent representative of Bangladesh at the United Nations was informed yesterday that a threemember UN disaster assessment and coordination team will be here today to assess the needs and support UN resident coordinator. The team's mission will last two weeks.

Meanwhile, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) of the UN has provided Bangladesh with a contribution of 2,10,000 US dollars. OCHA will shortly issue a statement supporting the appeal of the government of Bangladesh, the message said.

After the completion of assessment, a meeting will be held in Geneva where the team will present its findings and then the meeting will muster donor See Page 12 Col 3



Prime Minister and AL chief Sheikh Hasina took part in preparing bread for flood victims at the party's central office in the city yesterday.

Stringent code of conduct for manpower recruiting agencies being framed

By Reaz Ahmad

A stringent 'code of conduct' providing for payment of compensation to affected workers and other punitive measures against unscrupulous manpower recruiting agencies are being framed.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour and Manpower Ministry at a recent meeting entrusted the Manpower Bureau with the task of drafting the 'code of conduct.'

The 'code of conduct' will also provide for measures to stop fraudulent practice like 'tampering with demand letters' and 'undercutting of wages' by recruiting agencies and payment of 'double levy' by work-

BCL council to be held on Oct 15

By DU Correspondent The Council of ruling partybacked Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) will be held on Oc-

tober 15. The decision was taken at a meeting of the BCL steering committee on Thursday at the

According to meeting sources, the parliamentary committee expressed grave concern that fraudulent activities by the unscrupulous recruiting agencies have been causing immense sufferings to innocent The sources said that some

members of the parliamentary committee expressed their utter disappointment that majority of recruiting agencies were resorting to unfair tactics in exporting manpower, thereby earning a bad name for the country. There are some 500 regis-

tered private manpower recruiting agencies in the country who are the major actors in sending some three lakh Bangladeshi workers abroad each year against a "nominal manpower export" by the lone public sector agency. Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Services Limited (BOESL).

In recent months, licences of about a dozen recruiting agencies were cancelled and their security deposits were forfeited for 'cheating' people. But things did not improve much, sources

When contacted, sources in the manpower ministry said See Page 12 Col 2

See Page 12 Col 8 Rubel's murder

One DB team member missing since July 23

By Staff Correspondent

AC Akram Hussain, the main accused in the Rubel murder case, is scheduled to be produced in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court today, according to CID officials investigating the case.

The officials said that they are likely to take samples of Akram's handwriting when he is produced in the court.

Earlier, the CID recovered a chit from the possession of Hayatul Islam Thakur which contained the location of Rubel's residence on one side and the address of a nearby coaching centre on the other. Thakur is among the six accused in the case who are now in the jail custody.

The CID officials also said that one of the DB team members which visited Rubel's residence on the day of the incident was found to be missing. Even after repeated requests he failed to contact the investigating agency, sources said.

Deputy Commissioner of DB Bazlul Karim, when contacted

JU Syndicate fails to take decision on 5 BCL leaders

By JU Correspondent

A meeting of Jahangirnagar University Syndicate ended yesterday without any decision regarding action against the five Chhatra League leaders, accused of assaulting a teacher of the university on the campus recently.

The Syndicate failed to take any decision as the Disciplinary Committee of the university did not make any recommendation regarding the

matter, according to sources. Earlier on the day, the Committee recorded the statements of the five accuse, witnesses and the complainant, Rehnuma Ahmed. The Committee has been asked to make its recommendations at the next last night, told The Daily Star that Nurul Alam, a member of AC Akram's team, was missing since the incident. He is not attending the office since then, he added

When asked whether the DB is making any attempt to locate him, Karim, however, did not See Page 12 Col 6

sufferings. This is for the first time a sitting prime minister took part in preparing dry food for the flood victims. She stayed at the party's central office for more than 45 minutes. The women leaders and workers were delighted to find

PM joins hand

in preparing bread for

flood victims

Hasina yesterday joined scores

of women in preparing hand-

made bread for the marooned

tral office at the city's Banga-

bandhu Avenue in the morning

and joined the leaders and

workers of Mahila Awami

League to prepare hand-made

bread for the flood victims in a

bid to share their sorrows and

She went to the party's cen-

people in city, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh

See Page 12 Col 1 Hasina leaves for KSA today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka for Saudi Arabia today to perform "Umrah" at Makkah at the invitation of the Saudi King, reports

She will perform Umrah this evening and visit holy Madina next day to offer fateha at the mazar of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM).

Earlier, Hasina cancelled her schedule visit to attend the NAM summit in South Africa in the wake of the flood and to personally oversee the relief and rehabilitation activities across the country.

Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to return home on Tuesday morning.

PM to address nation tonight

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the nation today in the wake of the devastating flood in the country, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister's address will be broadcast by Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television simultaneously at 8:30 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Baily Star

Young Entrepreneurs and **Professionals Forum** Conference on

Opportunities in the IT Sector CAREER PROSPECTS FOR THE YOUNG In cooperation with: The British Council

The Daily Star Young Entrepreneurs and Professionals Forum cordially invites you to attend the above IT conference scheduled on Monday, August 31, 1998 at the British Council Auditorium from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Country's leading IT personalities in the hardware, software and training areas will speak on the problems and prospects of the IT sector. Interested individuals are requested to complete registration (which is free but mandatory) by sending us your (1) Name, (2) Designation, (3) Organisation & contact phone number, and (4) Area of Interest within IT field at the following fax numbers: 863035, 886061 and 9350017. You may also register yourself over phone by calling at the following numbers: Coordinator (885214), Rafi Hossain (017-540076) and Quazi Mahmud Ahmed (9665294). The last date of registration is August 30, 1998.

Participants at a discussion say

repatriation of Rohingyas

From Abdul Monayem Khan

Refugee and Repatriation

Commission, the total number

of refugees repatriated so far to

mission revealed that the 23rd

high-level meeting between the

two countries to resolve the

refugee problem could not be

held in September last year, as scheduled, since the Myanmar

2 young men

murdered

in city

By Staff Correspondent

tally murdered by a gang of as-

sailants at West Jurain under

Demra thana in the city yester-

Rob, 28, a resident of West Ju-

rain, was hacked and shot dead

by the gang and Babul, 31, a res-

ident of Nama Shampur area,

See Page 12 Col 3

was hacked to death.

Police said of the dead Abdur

Two young men were bru-

Other sources at the com-

Myanmar stands at 2,50,877.

WHAT TO DO NOW: A bewildered old woman and a disabled man standing over the rubbles after their slum near the

Dhaka should continue efforts to turn S Asia into zone of peace

By Staff Correspondent

Organised by the Bangladesh Participants at a roundtable Institute of Law and Internadiscussion in the city yesterday said Bangladesh, a country committed to peace, should continue its efforts to turn South Asia into a zone of peace, free from nuclear weapons.

Sonargaon Hotel was demolished by the Rajuk yesterday.

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 29: The

repatriation of the remaining

21,500 Rohingya refugees has

been stalled due to reluctance of

the Myanmar authorities cou-

pled with other complications,

which started in September

1992, came to a virtual halt in

July 1995 when the Myanmar

authorities suddenly started

seeking 're-verification' of the

refugees who had earlier been

cleared for repatriation.

sources in the Refugee and Repa-

triation Commissioner's Office

March 1995 we managed com-

plete some large-scale repatria-

tion and if the trend continued

we would have completed the

whole process by July 1995,"

said an official of the commis-

25,000 refugees were repatriated

in November 1994 while the

latest figure in February 1996

came down to only eight.

They said that as many as

In the official register of the

"Between August 1994 and

The repatriation process

officials sources said

Referring to recent nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, the discussants said, nuclear arms cannot ensure their national security as both the countries are ravaged by hunger, malnutrition and illiteracy.

They said Bangladesh should try for economic gains by utilising the opportunity created by the "negative attitude" of the international community towards India and Pakistan after their nuclear

tional Affairs (BILIA), the roundtable on "Nuclear Detonation by India and Pakistan in May 1998: Economic and Legal Consequences and its Security Impact in South Asia and Beyond" was held at the CIRDAP auditorium with Justice M Finance Minister S A M S

Habibur Rahman in the chair. Kibria attended the roundtable as chief guest while State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury was the spe-Prof Chowdhury R Abrar

and Dr Mizanur Rahman of

Dhaka University, Law Consul-

tant Shah Tariquzzaman, Dr

Tawfique Nawaz, Ambassador

A H K Morshed, Advocate M Zapresented papers at the economists, political scientists

authorities expressed their in-

beginning of the repatriation

process the Myanmar authori-

ties offered clearance to

refugees on the basis of a 'list

they themselves had initially

the list was far from being accu-

rate; an official said, adding

that the Myanmar authorities

now have started questioning

their own list and as a result the

repatriation process has

repatriation are pending as the

refugees could not pass the vig-

orous scrutiny carried out by

fails the scrutiny, then the en-

tire family is stranded. They

send us the file and ask for

more particulars of the indi-

vidual who had failed the

scrutiny, the officials said,

adding that it might take as long as one year to clear such

See Page 12 Col 7

"If a member of a family

the Myanmar authorities.

At present 17,000 cases of

But they later admitted that

The sources said that in the

ability to attend the meeting.

and academicians took part in the discussion on the papers. BILIA director Waliur Rah-

istan have started to suffer from sanctions imposed on them after the tests. "They had economic prospects. Now their future is

hir and Prof S M Ikhtiar Alam A number of diplomats,

man delivered the address of welcome while its chairman Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed gave the vote of thanks. Kibria said, India and Pak-

at the hospital. under threat following sanctions," he said. See Page 12 Col 1

Rajuk begins Myanmar reluctant to resume eviction of slum dwellers near Sonargaon Hotel By Staff Correspondent

Rajuk began eviction of the families from slums near Sonargaon Hotel yesterday. Several hundred families

- Star photo

had been living in these slums, sources said. Some of these slums are behind the Sonargaon Hotel while the rest are situated along the Panthapath Road.

Officials said that measures for their rehabilitation have already been undertaken by the government. The steps include See Page 12 Col 8

Forced retirement of Biman's DMD surprises officials, employees

By Special Correspondent The forced retirement of Bangladesh Biman's deputy managing director Lt Col (rtd) Zainal Abedin on Thursday without assigning any reason has surprised the national airline's officials and employees. Abedin received the order to quit Thursday afternoon without knowing the reason behind

the sudden action. One of his colleagues, preferring anonymity, said that Abedin should have been given a chance to know the reason and to give a reply, if the au-thorities had anything to say against him.

Biman officials would not See Page 12 Col 7

5 killed in city road accident By Staff Correspondent

At least five persons were killed when a BRTC bus hit two motorcycles and an autorickshaw at the Staff Road rail crossing on Airport Road in the city last night. Three of the victims were declared dead by doctors at the

The identities of the deceased could not be known immediately, police said. The ex-See Page 12 Col 8

CMH while two others died later

meeting of the Syndicate on See Page 12 Col 7