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## JS goes into session today

**By Staff Correspondent**

The seventh Jatiya Sangsad goes into its tenth session at 3 pm today.

Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to address the House today on the current flood situation in the country.

The session is expected to be a brief one due to the devastating floods gripping the country.

The Business Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet at 11 am today to decide the duration and agenda of the session.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina plans to address the session on the opening day to inform the Parliament of the overall flood situation and the government measures in this regard.

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## 20 cos attend pre-bid meet on Ashuganj NGL project

**Star Report**

Some twenty foreign oil and gas companies yesterday attended a pre-bid meeting on the proposed Ashuganj NGL Fractionation Plant Project.

The Ashuganj NGL Plant Project, initiated by the Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Ltd (RPGCL), a subsidiary of Petrobangla, proposes to process different gas by-products like LPG, motor spirit and diesel from wet gas supplied from Jalalabad-Kailashilla-Banabazar gasfields.

Sources said that leading oil and gas companies attended the meeting held at the RPGCL office in the city to discuss the different aspects of the project.

The actual bid will be floated on September 27 and the project involves an investment of over 40 million US dollars.

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## Move for BNP MPs resignation hits snag

**By Nazmul Ashraf**

The move for depositing BNP lawmakers' letters of resignation with the Jatiya Sangsad with the party chief has hit snags as a section of the party MPs are still opposing the idea.

Some of the opponents are learnt to have started a signature campaign against the move.

BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia was earlier empowered to submit the resignation letters to the Speaker at an "appropriate time."

However, the BNP high command is still hopeful that resignation letters of all its 111 legislators would be deposited with the beginning of the tenth session.

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## Floor crossing HC judgement stayed till Oct 25

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed till October 25 the operation of judgement of the High Court that directed the Speaker to refer the dispute over two BNP MPs joining the government to the Election Commission within 30 days, reports BSS.

The stay order passed by Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf in his chamber upon an application for stay moved by Attorney General Mahmudul Islam.

On August 27 a High Court division bench on hearing a writ petition directed the Speaker to refer the dispute over two BNP MPs joining the government to the Election Commission within 30 days, reports BSS.

The stay order passed by Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf in his chamber upon an application for stay moved by Attorney General Mahmudul Islam.

On August 27 a High Court division bench on hearing a writ petition directed the Speaker to refer the dispute over two BNP MPs joining the government to the Election Commission within 30 days, reports BSS.

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## Shantu Larma 'not pleased' 22-member CHT interim RC formed

**By Special Correspondent**

The government yesterday announced the formation of 22-member interim Regional Council (RC) headed by Jyotindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma following a high level meeting.

"I am very happy. It fulfils a long-standing goal to fully implement the CHT peace agreement," Kalparanjan Chakma, minister for CHT affairs, told The Daily Star last night.

But Shantu Larma reacted sharply, rejecting the list of nominees.

"The RC is not acceptable as the government has violated the understanding that was reached during the signing of the agreement," Shantu Larma told our correspondent at Khagrachhari last night.

He said he had received the news about formation of the interim RC from a minister but would wait for official information to come up with a formal reaction.

Shantu Larma said the government had dropped three names from the list they had submitted earlier. They are: Sudhashankar Chakravarty, Ahmed Talukder and Ali Ahmed. They were replaced by Mahbubur Rahman, Ranganjati, Shaqirur Rahman and Kajal Kanti Das of Bandarban.

The interim RC, dominated by tribespeople, have six members from the Bengali settlers, would oversee law and order, local government and development as envisaged in the peace accord signed on December 2 last year.

The other members of the council are: Ushaton Talukder, Goutak Kumar Chakma, Rupalayan Dewan, Sudhasindhu Khisa, Sneha Kumar Chakma, Raktoutpal Tripura, Shaduram Tripura, Thaimrasing Chowdhury, Manguching Marma, KA Samong Marma, Nil Kumar Tanchainga, Loyal Devid Bom, Mohammad Shafi, Mohammad Zafar Ahmed, Nurul Alam, Mahbubur Rahman, Mohammad Shaqirur Rahman, Kajal Kanti Das, Madhavi Lata Chakma, Umu Prue and Rawshan Ara Begum, said an official announcement yesterday evening.

Members of the interim RC have been nominated by the government and election of the RC will be held later, official said.

The formation of the interim RC, a bill relating to which, was approved by parliament in March, was delayed due to differences over the list of nominees. The government and

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## Lakhs of panic-stricken people keep an all-night vigil along 32-km structure Deluge threatens DND dam again



The cattle have been without food for four days as trucks carrying them remained stranded for an indefinite period at Jangla on the inundated Dhaka-Chittagong highway. The photo was taken yesterday.

## Flood situation worsens in 28 dists: 62 more die

With all its fury the cataclysmic flood wrought havoc across the country in the third spell claiming 62 more lives yesterday, report agencies.

More than two-thirds of the country is reeling under water. Fifteen rivers continued to flow above the red mark at 24 points.

The Padma crossed all previous records at Rajshahi, Hardinge Bridge, Goalunda and Pankha as well as Mahananda at Chapainawabganj.

The rising trend of swelling Padma and Brahmaputra-Jamuna indicates their present peaks are synchronising rapidly to aggravate the flood further.

Officials said the flood situation has taken serious turn in 28 districts while it remained static in two and showed slight improvement in three districts.

They said a vast area of Naogaon district was submerged following breach in the 'Aira' embankment today. Naogaon district is the latest addition to the total number of 47 flood-affected districts of the country.

The districts where flood situation deteriorated further are: Dhaka, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Narasingdi, Gazipur, Faridpur, Madaripur, Rajbari, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Jamalpur, Kishoreganj, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Nawabganj, Pabna, Sirajganj, Bogra, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Habiganj, Noakhali, Luxmipur and Kushtia.

The situation remained static in Narail and Barisal districts while it improved slightly in Mymensingh, Netrakona and Sherpur.

Reports available here said

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## Massive logjam of stranded vehicles on Dhaka-Ctg rd

**By Shehab Ahmed back from Narayanganj**

As flood waters swept the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway, the driver of a cattle-loaded truck, Mujibur Rahman, wondered how he would feed those if he has to remain stranded for an uncertain period before the trucks ahead of him starts rolling again.

The highway disappeared at Kheoldaha under swirling waters of the old Brahmaputra that rose with the sharp rise in the Brahmaputra since Thursday.

Earlier, trucks had been moving slowly, one at a time through the damaged road under supervision of Army engineers, who were deployed two weeks ago to help clear a massive logjam of stranded vehicles on the highway.

The troops were sitting or standing in the water idle today. Movement of trucks have been stopped today as the highway has gone under knee-deep water at a number of places.

Workers from the Roads and Highways Department were trying to raise the level of the highway at Janagla, standing in knee-deep water.

But the onrush of water foiled their efforts to raise the road level with bricks. Swirling current washed away the bricks, forcing them to pack the bricks in sacks.

As they worked, Mujibur waited patiently. He arrived there to be in a long queue behind other trucks, some 14 km from the city, four days ago on his way to Cox's Bazar. But the cattle, two cows and 11 buffaloes, had nothing to take except water during the long wait.

His turn to negotiate the

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**By Reaz Ahmad**

The Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) embankment was on the verge of collapse Saturday night, bringing hundreds of thousands of panicky people out of their homes.

The helpless people, living in a vast area so far well protected by the 32-kilometre embankment, kept an all-night vigil from Saturday night through Sunday morning.

The Narayanganj Deputy Commissioner was first to issue a red-alert. By morning yesterday, the official informed all concerned government ministries and departments that the dam was exposed to a prolonged flood water rose alarmingly.

Officials attributed the dangerous situation to water being stagnated around the dam for over 55 days now.

Local people, WDB and Roads officials and military engineers joined hands together to fight the overflowing water, witnesses and officials said.

Some six lakh people living inside the area protected by the embankment once again became vulnerable to being inundated by flood water that reached a new height of 101 centimetres above the danger mark, said a Water Development Board (WDB) engineer last night after an on-the-spot inspection site near Chashara.

"This is the peak height of the two-month-old flood water around DND this year and just six centimetres below the 1988 level," according to the engineer who said flood water near the dam marked an increase by eight centimetre over the last two days.

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## BDR, Nasaka trade fire along border

**From Staff Correspondent**

CHITTAGONG, Sept 6: Border guards of Bangladesh and Myanmar today exchanged gunfire for over one hour near Palongka border outpost at Teknaf, official sources said.

Sector Commander of BDR, Chittagong, Col. Md. Waliullah informed that there was no casualty on either side during the shootout that continued from around 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm.

He said that tension brewed in the border area after the shootout and reinforcements were made with deployment of additional BDR personnel. Patrolling has been stepped up

along the border there, he said.

A strong protest note was sent to the authorities of Nasaka Myanmar border security force, regarding the incident and request was made for holding a flag meeting between the two sides immediately to defuse tension, the Sector Commander said.

He said that the shootout took place when a BDR patrol team attempted to seize three fertilizer loaded boats being smuggled out through the Naf river that separates the two neighbouring countries.

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## City's sewerage system overflows Dark, black stagnant water emitting stench allover

**By Morshed Ali Khan**

The Dhaka city is facing an environmental catastrophe as most of its sewerage system is now overflowing. WASA officials said.

Huge volume of sludge and human waste from storm sewerage, sewers and thousands of private septic tanks have overflowed, mixing with the stagnant water of the city, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The polluted water has also found its way into thousands of underground household water tanks.

Doctors and environmentalists warned that this stagnant water could cause serious health hazard including skin disorder, diarrhoea and various other intestinal diseases. They said this would also increase manifold the mosquito menace in the city.

WASA officials said the entire network of the 185 kilometre of storm sewerage and 516 kilometre of sewer lines in the city were now submerged by the surge.

A visit to Gulshan, Baridhara, Rajabazar, Lalbagh, Mughdapara, Green Road and Sadarghat areas reveals that the colour of the stagnant flood water has changed into dark black. It is also giving out stench.

The recently excavated part of the Dhannondi lake has totally become polluted as the storm sewerage at Panthopath pushed back sludge into the lake from the Russel Square point. The lake developers said they had blocked the outlet with sandbags but it was just wiped out in a matter of hours.

WASA sources said with whatever resources available they were pumping the stagnant water out of the city's embankments. With the pumps provided by BADC they were operating 79 small water pumping machines at eleven points of the city.

"In addition, we have per-

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## Shazneen murder Shahid placed on 3-day remand

**By Staff Correspondent**

Shahidul Islam, the principal accused in the separate rape case in connection with Shazneen murder, was placed on a fresh 3-day police remand by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Shahid is also the principal accused in the Shazneen murder case filed with the Gulshan thana on April 23. The FIR filed in connection with the murder case also mentioned that the victim was raped and killed.

The murder case was lodged with the Gulshan thana by the father of the victim and the rape case was filed with the

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## Rubel murder 2 'missing' DB men yet to be traced

**By Staff Correspondent**

The two "missing" DB personnel could not be traced at their home addresses, according to sources in the CID which is investigating the Rubel murder case.

The two DB men — SI Nurul Alam and SI Tarek — who were in the team of AC Akram's team have been "missing" since the murder of Rubel in DB custody on July 23.

The sources also said that the CID had reached the final stage of handwriting test that may considerably contribute to finding any clue if some others had influenced the arrest of Shamim Reza Rubel.

The CID police investigating the Rubel murder case yesterday collected samples of "standard

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THE LAST FRONTIER: Swelling flood water has forced a family at Nandipara in the city's Basabo area to take shelter on rooftop.

## Banks asked to disburse farm loan quickly

**Finance Minister S A M S**

Kibria yesterday directed all banks and financial institutions to disburse agricultural loan quickly and impartially, reports UNB.

"It must be ensured that the loans to farmers are disbursed efficiently and with transparency," Kibria told the newly appointed chairmen of nationalised commercial banks and financial institutions.

He said the government has taken up a programme of disbursing Tk 3,270 crore to farmers for rehabilitation of agriculture during the current fiscal.

The Finance Minister stressed the need for gearing up the management and ensuring transparency in disbursing loans, especially in view of extensive damage to crops by the devastating flood.

He asked the bankers to attach top priority to the disbursement of loans to flood-affected areas.

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## Malkhana theft: Two remanded for 7 days

**From Staff Correspondent**

KHULNA, Sept 6: Assistant Police Commissioner (Prosecution) MA Halim lodged an FIR with the Kotwali thana Saturday midnight accusing CSI Majedul Islam and constable Jalaluddin of removing firearms, ammunition and money from the Malkhana (storeroom) of Khulna Metropolitan Police.

The accused were produced before court today. The court placed them on seven days police remand for interrogation. But none of them made any confessional statement, police sources said.

The Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali thana Mollah Sohrab Ali has named 10 of the case.

The theft in the malkhana was detected yesterday.

Checking and re-checking of the 17 types of articles kept in the malkhana as a result of evidences of different cases since 1980 were going on till writing this report.

Additional Police Commissioner of KMP Dhananjay Sarker who is heading the five-member body probing the incident is tight-lipped about it.

The Police Commissioner hinted this morning that the case would be transferred to CID in a day or two.

The Additional IG of CID Nurul Huda is expected to reach Khulna tomorrow in connection with the incident. Special Police Superintendent of CID in charge of Khulna and Barisal divisions Bazlur Rahman is also due to reach Khulna tonight to visit the malkhana and inspect registers of articles and also to find out whether there were any lapses in maintaining the registers.

Meanwhile, it was learnt from reliable sources that AC

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## Asma's leg has swollen, she may be shifted to BMU hospital

**By Staff Correspondent**

Asma Begum whose only functioning kidney was 'mistakenly' removed by doctors at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital's gynecology department about a month ago would be transferred to Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BMU) hospital.

"I had called for a medical board for Asma's treatment. The board at its meeting decided to shift Asma to BMU hospital for better treatment," DMCH director Col Badrul Munir told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said Asma will be moved to BMU as soon as a bed is available.

"Talking to this correspondent yesterday at the hospital's dialysis unit, Asma, in her early twenties, said, 'I want to live, please save me. I cannot tolerate the pain any more.'

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