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VOL. VIII NO. 224 REGD. NO. DA 781 INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> BHADRA 24, 1405 BS DHAKA TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 1998 JAMADIUL AWAL 16, 1419 HIJRI 16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00



CATASTROPHE COMES FULL CIRCLE!!! Driven out of their homes by the fear of flood water finding its way through the last frontiers, people along the Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra dam try to repair the dents already made by the renewed rush to their protection walls. (Left) A Daily Star photographer framed the frantic efforts by local people at Postgola in the city to put up some extra barriers. (Middle) At Dapa Idrakpur, Fatullah, sand bags per courtesy the local residents lie as the last antidote. (Right) At Chashara, people keep a round-the-clock vigil on the highly vulnerable rail track that runs along the DND dam. Will it all be a losing battle for the stoical people? —Star photos

Power plants in Raozan, Khulna shut down

By Staff Correspondent
The loadshedding situation has worsened once again as two more power plants were shut down due to technical problems in the last few days.
The situation will improve slightly from Saturday when the country's first private sector 110 MW barge-mounted power plant comes in to operation.
The plant, built by US company Wartsila, is now being tested. It was originally scheduled to begin operation on August 16.
Sources concerned said, the level of loadshedding once again shot up to 400 MW per day in the last few days as the Raozan 210 MW first power unit and the Khulna 110 MW power plant were closed down.
With this, both the Raozan 210 MW units remain out of op-

Flood in full fury

Star Report
The major rivers continued to swell further yesterday, aggravating the flood situation in 31 districts, including Dhaka and Narayanganj where the DND embankment protecting suburbs of the two cities remained under constant threat.
The deluge, which swept 47 districts since mid-July have so far claimed 730 lives from snake bites, house collapse and drowning, officials said. Diarrhoea claimed 120 lives, they said.
The major rivers are likely to rise further and worsen the situation, they said. Vast new areas were inundated as both the Padma and Brahmaputra registered further rise at all points yesterday and already
Mohananda at Chapainawabganj and Padma at Hardinge Bridge and Goalundo points have exceeded their highest ever records, officials added.
Flood situation in the capital Dhaka deteriorated with 13 cm rise of water level in the Buriganga and 9 cm and 8 cm rise in the Turag at Mirpur and Tongi respectively. These rivers have been flowing much above their warning marks.
"Buriganga in Dhaka will rise further by 11 cm while Turag at Mirpur and Tongi will rise by 12 cm and 11 cm respectively today (Tuesday)," the FFWC forecast said.
Meanwhile according to reports available from different parts of the country, at least eight district towns — Narayanganj, Noakhali, Chapainawabganj, Gopalganj, Shariatpur, Madaripur, Narsingdi and Chandpur — are under knee to waist deep water.
The worst-hit districts are: Dhaka, Gazipur, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Manikganj, Narsingdi, Faridpur, Madaripur, Rajbari, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Kishoreganj, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Bogra, Chapainawabganj, Pabna, Sirajganj, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Noakhali, Chandpur, Habiganj, Luximpur, Barisal and Kushtia.
The situation remained static only in two districts — Narail and Netrokona — where

Sink differences, join hands at this hour of nat'l crisis: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday made an impassioned appeal to the people and political parties to sink all differences and work together to serve the flood-hit people, reports UNB.
"Let us forget all our political differences, let us unitedly stand beside the flood victims and pray to Almighty Allah to save the people and the country from the wrath of nature," she said.
Addressing the full-house of Parliament on the first day of the session last night, Hasina repeatedly called for unity of people, all political parties and professional groups to join hands at 'this hour of national crisis' spelled by the unprecedented, prolonged deluge.
Hasina also requested her political opponents not to capitalise on people's miseries.
"Today, my mothers, sisters and babies are suffering. They are passing a sub-human life. Come forward and help them with whatever you have at this hour of their distress," she said.
In her 40-minute speech, the Prime Minister informed the House of the latest situation of flood, death and destruction as well as relief operation and international assistance for the flood victims.
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JS session to be prorogued today

The Jatiya Sangsad which went into session yesterday will be prorogued today to enable the members go to their constituencies for relief operation, reports UNB.
"It is not desirable to continue the session in view of the devastating flood situation", observed Speaker Humayun Rashed Chowdhury.
The Business Advisory Committee also decided to terminate the session after discussing the flood situation.
The House is expected to adopt a resolution to face the situation unitedly with courage and fortitude.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday informed the House the latest situation and the steps taken by the government to mitigate the sufferings of the affected people.
Leader of the Opposition Begum Khatia Zia is likely to join the discussion today.
BDR-Nasaka hold talks, situation now normal
From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Sept 7: A flag meeting between BDR and Nasaka was held today to defuse the tension in the border that sparked off following yesterday's shootout between the border security forces of the two countries, official sources said.
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4 contracts worth Tk 309 cr signed to construct 55 km long road

The government yesterday signed four contracts to construct 55 km-long Naika-Hatikamrul-Banpara Road under a World Bank-aided third Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance Project (RRMP-3), reports BSS.
The construction cost of the road has been estimated at Tk 309 crore. The project is likely to be completed within three years, said a PID press release.
On implementation, it will reduce about 60 km distance between Bangabandhu Bridge and western districts of Rajshahi division.
Chief engineer of Roads and Highways M A Wadud, Mir Akhter Hossain of Mir Akhter
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Rice and other essentials Supply normal, but hoarding, panic buying push prices up

By Staff Correspondent
Prices of rice and other essentials have gone up sharply in the city's kitchen markets in the last one week.
Prices of different varieties of rice increased by Tk 100 to 120 per maund due to "panic buying" by customers and hoarding by a section of traders, according to shopkeepers.
Buyers who usually bought 10 to 20 kg rice earlier, are now buying several maunds at a time fearing further increase in the prices, Nannu Mian, owner of a rice shop at the New Market said. "A section of the traders are hoarding rice to earn higher profit", he claimed.
The price of nazirshahi, a very common variety consumed by the urban middle class, was being sold at Tk 760 to 780 per maund in New Market yesterday against Tk 650 to 660 a week ago.
The price of mini-cat was selling at around Tk 700 against Tk 620 to 640 last week. The price of pyjam was around Tk 600 against its earlier price of Tk 530 to 540 per maund.
According to Nannu and some other rice traders at New Market, the supply of rice was normal. "Supply in the market is normal, because when the road communication snaps, rice is brought through river route," said Faruqul Islam.
This correspondent saw a young man buying one sack of rice (85 kg). Asked whether he was hoarding it fearing further price rise, he denied instantly. But the shopkeeper later told this correspondent that he knew the customer who used to buy 15 to 20 kg at a time earlier.
Prices of almost all the essentials went up over the last few days, said Anwara Habib, a former parliament member while talking to this correspondent at the gate of the
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ADP funds being reallocated for flood-damaged projects

Star Report
The Planning Ministry has initiated an 'exercise' to reallocate funds from the existing ADP to rehabilitate the flood-damaged projects.
"We hope to end the exercise by next week," said Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, State Minister for Planning, talking to The Daily Star. "Our aim is to rehabilitate those projects which will face cost escalation because of flood damage. We will reprogramme the ADP keeping its size intact."
According to sources, the government has fixed a primary target of reallocating Tk 2500 crore for rehabilitation of the projects.
The planning commission has already asked all line min-
See page 12 Col 3

UZ Parishad Bill tabled amid BNP objection

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday introduced the Upazila Parishad Bill, 1998 before the Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.
The Bill was sent to the Standing Committee on the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives. The committee was to submit its report to the House after scrutiny within eight weeks.
Besides, four other bills were tabled and all of them were sent to the respective parliamentary standing committees.
The bills are — Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 1998, the President's (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 1998, Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (Amendment) Bill, 1998, and the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
See page 12 Col 4

Safe drinking water, sanitation policy okayed

The Cabinet yesterday approved the National Safe Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Policy, 1998, reports UNB.
The approval was given at a meeting of the council of ministers held at the Parliament in the city with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.
The Cabinet also endorsed the proposal for formation of Greater Dhaka City Transport Planning and Coordination Board.

Arrest of Rubel 'Two persons may have influenced DB men'

By Staff Correspondent
The CID suspects that two persons may have influenced the DB police to arrest Rubel, according to sources in the CID.
Preliminary analysis of the samples of handwriting collected in connection with the investigation of the Rubel murder case led the CID to suspect this.
Handwriting experts will formally give their opinion on the samples of handwriting to the CID today. This will lead to the identification of the persons who may have influenced the DB to arrest Rubel.
The CID collected samples of handwriting of nine persons for identification of the persons who had written the 'chit' that described the location of Rubel's residence on one side and the address of a nearby coaching centre on the other side.
The 'chit' was earlier recovered by the CID from the possession of DB police Hayatul Islam Thakur, one of the accused in the Rubel murder case. Thakur is in custody now. Handwriting of the principal accused, AC Akram, on the 'chit' has already been confirmed, the sources said.
The motive behind the arrest of Rubel may now be ascertained if CID can find out the persons who had influenced the DB for arresting the university student, said a source close to
See page 12 Col 6

Land dispute Case against 35 alleging attack, loot, abduction

By Staff Correspondent
A gang of about 35 armed-men attacked a house in the city's Shewrapara area yesterday and allegedly abducted two teenaged girls and looted cash, gold and other valuables.
A senior police official told The Daily Star last night that the incident took place following a dispute over a piece of land. The official, however, denied the allegation that the girls were abducted.
Kawar Sultana, mother of the girls, in the FIR filed with Mirpur thana alleged that the gang, equipped with firearms and sharp weapons, dragged her daughters out of the house at
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7 new directors of NCBs, FIs

By Staff Correspondent
The government yesterday appointed seven directors for five nationalised commercial banks and financial institutions.
Economist Debapriya Bhat-tacharya was appointed as a director of Janata Bank. Nasim Khandakar, a Dhaka University teacher, was appointed to Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS).
Sharif Afzal Hossain, president of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries, and Shushil Ranjan Howladar, a DU teacher, were both appointed to Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) while Nazma Rahman was appointed to Rupali Bank.
M Abdullah, a lawyer, and Wajiuallah, a chamber leader, were appointed directors of Agrani Bank.

Defence counsels conclude arguments PWs in Bangabandhu murder case were highly influenced

The state defence counsels in the Bangabandhu murder case yesterday told the court that the prosecution witnesses were highly influenced and those who had not been influenced were accused of the August 15, 1975 killing, reports UNB.
Concluding their arguments the defence counsel appearing for 14 absconding accused held that if employment of their clients in missions abroad was distribution of favour then Gen Shafiullah was also a beneficiary after the August 15 incident.
Adv Jasmuddin appeared for Lt Col Aziz Pasha, Adv Abdul Wahed for Maj Shariful Huq Dalim, Adv Fariduddin Ahmed for Maj Rashed Chowdhury, Adv Rafiqul Islam for Capt Kismat Hashem, Adv Abdus Sattar Dulal for Capt Nazmul Hossain Ansari, Adv Nurul Huq for Risaldar Moslemuddin and Adv Mozammel Huq for Dafar Marfat Ali Shah. Seven other state defence counsel completed their arguments last week.
Khan Saifur Rahman, counsel for one of the principal accused, Lt Col Sayed Farook Rahman, will begin his argument in the District and Sessions Judge's Court when the hearing resumes at 9-30 am to-
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বন্যা কবলিত এলাকায় অগ্রণী ব্যাংক এর বিশেষ ঋণ কর্মসূচী

- দেশের বন্যা কবলিত এলাকায় ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত কৃষক ভাইদের পুনর্বাসনের জন্য অগ্রণী ব্যাংক কৃষি ঋণ বিতরণে অগ্রাধিকার ভিত্তিতে বিশেষ কার্যক্রম গ্রহণ করেছে।
- এ কার্যক্রমের আওতায় শস্য খাতের পাশাপাশি মৎস্য চাষ, চিংড়ী চাষ, হালের বলাদ, হাঁস-মুরগী পালন, দারিদ্র বিমোচন কর্মকাণ্ডে বিশেষ ঋণ সুবিধা প্রদান করা হবে।
- বন্যার ক্ষতি কাটিয়ে উঠা ও খাদ্য উৎপাদন বাড়ানোর জন্য ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত এলাকার কৃষক ভাইদের ও অন্যান্য গ্রামীণ পেশাজীবীদেরকে বন্যার পানি সরে যাবার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে বিস্তারিত তথ্য ও ঋণ সুবিধা গ্রহণের জন্য অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের নিকটবর্তী শাখায় যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

বিশেষ ঋণ সুবিধা নিয়ে পুনর্বাসিত হোন এবং শস্য উৎপাদনে বৃদ্ধিসহ দেশের সামগ্রিক অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নে নিজেস্ব সমৃদ্ধি বক্ষন।

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দেশ ও জাতির সেবায় প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ

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