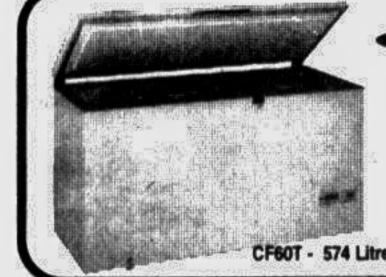
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Speaker urges MPs to stand by flood victims

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury yesterday appealed to all the members of parliament to stand beside the distressed people in the flood-af-

fected areas, reports BSS. Welcoming the members at the commencement of the 10th session of the seventh Parliament, Speaker described the current floods as devastating and said it had already engulfed the country and hit the na-

tional life hard. He hoped that the people of the country would tackle the situation with courage and fortitude as they have done in the

Earlier, the Speaker chaired a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad.

The meeting discussed the duration and businesses of the House and decided unanimously to make the current session as brief as possible so that the members of the house could stand by the flood-affected

Members of the committee Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Deputy Leader of the House and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad Industries and Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Opposition Chief Whip Khondakar Delwar Hossain, Mohammad Saifur Rahman, Advocate Mohammad Rahmat Ali, and Kazi Shamsur Rahman at-

Kh Mosharraf and Jinnah granted anticipatory bail

By Staff Correspondent

Former minister Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain MP and MA Jinnah, founder editor of Dainik Dinkal, were granted anticipatory bail yesterday in two separate cases.

According to a press release, the Vacation Bench of the High Court issued a rule upon the government to show cause as to · why Dr Mosharraf Hossain should not be enlarged on anticipatory bail in the criminal case in connection with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Bangladesh and the Government of North Korea relating to Maddhaypara Hard Rock Mining Project. The rule is return-

able within 12 weeks. Mosharraf Hossain's lawyer submitted that his client was made an accused in the case due

to political reasons. The Vacation Bench comprising Justice AM Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury also granted a six month anticipatory bail to MA Jinnah in the cases relating to misappropriation of money from the Prime Minister's relief fund in 1994-95 and 1995-96 financial years, said another press release.

Power plants From Page 1

eration now. The two units together used to supply up to 300 MW, 120 MW less than the installed capacity, due to lack of high capacity power distribution line.

The Raozan second unit was shut down in late July for maintenance. It was supposed to re-start in late August but due to slow progress of work, the maintenance is yet to be completed this unit might be re-

started next week, sources said. The Khulna 110 MW unit, was producing 50 MW before it

was closed down a few days ago.

tended the meeting.

The Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs adviser Suranjit Sengupta and Whip Mohammad Abdus Shahid attended the meeting on special invitation. MK Anwar attended the meeting on behalf of the Leader of the Opposition.

Shibir observes hartal in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Sept 7: Life was partially disrupted in the city and its surrounding areas following a dawn-to-dusk hartal today enforced by Islami Chhatra Shibir, Chittagong University unit, to press home its five-point charter of de-

No untoward incidents were reported during hartal period,

At Chittagong Port, cargo handling inside the jetties went on schedule although the delivery of goods to and from the port remained suspended as trucks were off the road, port

sources said. All kinds of vehicles except rickshaws stayed off the city roads and transports from Chittagong did not ply in the long-distance routes.

Shibir activists were seen picketing vigorously in Anderkilla, Momin Road, Sirajuddowlah Road, Chandanpura and Chawkbazar areas, witnesses said.

But activities in the rest of the city areas were normal with most of the offices and business houses doing their work as usual, sources said.

Mills and factories at the in dustrial belts of Nasirabad. Patenga, Kalurghat and Sitakundu operated normally, they informed.

Prisoners at Ctg jail call off hunger strike

CHITTAGONG, Sept 7: Some undertrial prisoners who went on a hunger strike in Chittagong jail, called off their programme this evening following intervention by the jail author-

ities today. The undertrial prisoners went on hunger strike to press home their seven-point demands, official sources told

BSS tonight. Some 252 prisoners (male) in a memorandum to the jail Superintendent on Thursday asked for fulfillment of their demands. The prisoners called off their programmes following a meeting with the jail authori-

4 contracts signed

From Page 1

Hossain Ltd, Liu Hong of China Road and Bridge Corporation and Lu Chenfeng of China Har bour Engineering Company signed the contracts on behalf of their respective organisa-

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain, Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat and Additional Chief Engineer Nurul Azam

were present at the function. Besides, the Nalka Hatikamrul-Banpara Road, the government has taken up programmes to reconstruct 220 km-long Dhaka-Sylhet Highway, improve 510 km feeder type road and maintain 1000 km roads under the 273 million

US dollar RRMP-3. Tk 2150 crore is expected to be spent for implementing the RRMP-3 by the year 2003.

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Bangladesh Railway has attached top-most priority



DHAKA-MAWA HIGHWAY HAS ITS GROUND LOST: Braving the gushing waters which stopped normal vehicular traffic on the road, an autorickshaw has made it. For most people in the surrounding areas, making a living is what matters most now. Their indomitable -Star photo by A K M Mohsin spirit has probably kept them going.

Asma shifted to BMU Hospital

Asma, who lost her kidney during an operation at DMCH was shifted to Bangabandhu Medical University (BMU) Hospital yesterday for better treatment, reports UNB.

She was admitted to the Nephrology department of the hospital under the supervision of Prof Harunur Rashid.

Prof Harun examined Asma and prescribed her, hospital sources said.

Asma is struggling with her life after the doctors removed her only kidney at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital last month on the plea that it was diseased.

BDR-Nasaka

From Page 1

Held at Balukhali on the Myanmar side, the flag meeting continued for two and a half hours from 2:30 pm, the sources added.

Sector Commander of BDR Chittagong, Col Md Waliullah informed that both the sides agreed in today's flag meeting to take precautionary measures to stop recurrence of such incidents of shootout in future for maintaining peace along the border. The flag meeting was held at company commander

The Sector Commander also informed that in today's meeting, the Myanmar team apologised to the Bangladesh team for yesterday's incident of fir-

He said the Myanmar team also assured of cooperation in preventing smuggling of fer-

tiliser from Bangladesh. The sector commander claimed that after the flag meet ing, the situation returned to normalcy along the border.

2 teenage boys drown in city

By Staff Correspondent Two teenaged boys drowned in separate incidents in the city vesterday.

Fire service officials identified the dead as Kamal Uddin, 16. and Rumel, 17.

Kamal drowned in the river Buriganga while fishing at Abdullahpur area at about 1 pm.

fire service sources added. In another incident, Rumel a resident of city's Gulshan area, drowned in the jheel inside Dhaka Zoo while bathing

along with some of his friends at about 1:30 pm, police said.

ADP funds

From Page

istries to send reprogrammes how additional money could be generated by chopping the low priority projects and refocusing funds to most needed ones.

The planning ministry has cancelled the weekly holiday of the commission to quicken the exercise. However, sources said it has

become extremely difficult for the Planning Commission to reallocate funds because there is still no assessment of the damaged by flood. "We are facing the same types of problems as the donors," said

a high official of the planning ministry, "We do not know how much money we should reallocate.

But, he said, more problematic are the 'political projects which are of very low priority. but can not be dropped."

Some medium priority pro-jects may have to be laid off because of this problem, he added.

Chakma unhappy

From Page 1 peace in the CHT if the peace accord is not implemented. Formation of the RC was delayed due to government's insincerity. he alleged.

Hangshadhaja Chakma urged the government to implement the CHT peace accord fully, as soon as possible.

Flood in full fury ing in the area as flood water

kuria (Gopalgani district). Nazirganj-Rajbari (Pabna district) and Sherpur-Dhunat Kazipur (Bogra District) road links snapped yesterday as waters have been flowing at different points.

Railway authorities said. rail communication between Jamalpur and Jagannathganj Ghat snapped again yesterday. Bangladesh Water Develop-

ment Board (BWDB) officials said Rajshahi City Protection Embankment and Narsingdi-Narayanganj Irrigation Project (NNIP) have again become critically vulnerable.

Troops and civilians continued their efforts to salvage some of the stranded trucks at Jangal on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway, where the level of flood water rose further They tried to elevate portions of the flooded highway.

Troops and civilian workers, aided by people living in the area continued their battle yes terday to save the DND embankment which appeared vulnerable at several points.

The swirling waters gnawed portions of the embankment at Bouranirbazar, which had to be protected with wooden planks and bamboo spikes. Five new leaks at Chashara and Hajiganj were plugged with sandbags.

Stacks of sandbags had to be raised further up as the fury of the Shitalakhya continued to menace the fragile defence line, protecting thousands of people living on the flood plains.

Deputy Commissioner of Narayanganj Mohammad Abdur Rahman told The Daily Star last night that the water level of Shitalakhya rose six inches above the rail line connecting the Adamjee Jute Mills, where the authorities had to reinforce the defence lines with 15,000 sandbags yesterday evening.

In the evening, the Lakhya rose by three cm over its morning tide level of 6.69 cm, the DC

It is natural that the water level would rise further due to the impact of the full moon which normally keeps the tide high. If the river continues to rise today, it will pose a danger to the embankment, the DC

Panic gripped the people liv-

From Page 1

jected to the introduction of the

Upazila Parishad Bill, saying

that he had not received the

objection, the LGRD and Coop-

eratives Minister said that the

opposition members would

have enough time to discuss the

Bill when the House considers

aimed at decentralising the

administration for the allevia-

tion of poverty of all. He assured

the opposition that amend-

ments, if reasonable, would be

accepted by the government to

duction of the bill by M K An-

war was, however, rejected by

The Upazila Parishad Bill,

1998 will come into effect im-

mediately after its enactment

and with that each of 460 rural

thanas would be declared as up-

Upazila Parishad for a tenure of

five years would be constituted

tory body each Upazila

Parishad would be headed by an

elected chairman. Chairmen of

pourashavas and union

parishads would be ex-officio

members of the upazila

parishads. There will be three

women members in each Up-

azila Parishad. The women

members will be elected by the

women members of the union

as early as possible. As a statu-

The Bill provided that one

The objection to the intro-

enrich the Bill.

voice vote.

azila.

He said that the Bill was

day's order of business on time.

BNP member M K Anwar ob-

Responding to M K Anwar's

(Amendment) Bill, 1998.

seeping through the barriers threatened to overflows the sandbag wall in the early hours of vesterday.

But pumps flushing out water and the massive efforts kept the sandbag wall from being overflown by flood water, an engineer monitoring the situation at Siddhirganj, said last

Land dispute

From Page 1

gunpoint. But according to the police official, out of fear both the girls took shelter at one of their neighbour's house during the incident. Police handed the girls over to their parents yes terday noon.

A series of untoward incidents occurred earlier relating to the possession of the piece of fand where Kawsar Sultana wife of Arsaf Ali has been stay ing. So far, the woman could not show any legal document in support of her ownership of the land, said a police official.

Four members of the gang were arrested, one possessing a firearm, police said. The arrested were identified as Razzak, Abdul Kaium, Nayan and Mahe Alam. Kawsar Sultana alleged in

her FIR that Abdul Kader, ward

commissioner of the area, instigated the gang to attack her house at about 12:30 am, police The gang demanded Tk one lakh from the family and on re-

fusal to pay the sum the armed goons started beating the inmates of the house, it was stated in the FIR. The armedmen then took

away Tk 40,000 in cash, 10 tola of gold ornaments, electronic goods, valuables and some almirahs from the house. They also dragged at gun-

point two of her daughters, one aged about 13 and the other about 19, out of her house, Sultana said in the FIR. A case in this regard was

filed with Mirpur thana yesterday accusing more than 35 people including the local ward commissioner. Police also filed a separate case in connection with possession of illegal arms by one of the arrested.

parishads and pourashava un-

The Upazila Nirbahi Officer

In a statement containing

(UNO) will act as the secretary

the objects and reasons of the

Bill, the LGRD and cooperatives

minister said that the govern-

ment had decided to enact the

Bill to strengthen the local gov-

He said that the establish-

ernment system in the country.

ment of Upazila Parishad was

an election commitment of the

present government and en-

actment of the Bill would fulfil

The Supreme Court Judges

(Remuneration and Privileges)

Bill has sought certain amend-

ments to the respective ordi-

nance of 1978 for enhancement

of salaries and remunerations

ration and Privileges) Bill

sought amendments to the

respective act of 1975 to refix

the president's remuneration

Bridge Authority Bill sought

certain amendments to the re-

spective ordinance to make the

law suitable for collecting tolls

from Bangabandhu Bridge and

all the bridges which are 1500-

The University Grants

Commission of Bangladesh Bill

sought certain amendments to

make the University Grants

Commission more suitable in

meeting the changing need of

metre or more in length.

The Jamuna Multipurpose

and privileges.

The President's (Remune-

of the Supreme Court judges.

the government's commitment.

of the Upazila Parishad.

der the upazila.

UZ Parishad Bill tabled

in 2001

Dhaka to host

NAM Summit

The next summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) will be held in Bangladesh in 2001, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced this in Parliament last night amidst cheers from members on both sides of the House.

Hasina said Bangladesh will be the Chairman of the NAM after it hosts the 13th summit in Dhaka in 2001.

The just concluded 12th summit of the Non-Aligned Movement was held in Durban in South Africa. South African President Nelson Mandela is the new Chairman of the Movement.

The Prime Minister told the House that she had to cancel her programme to attend the NAM summit in view of the current

20 feared drowned as rescue trawler capsizes in Padma

FARIDPUR, Sept 7: Twenty people are feared drowned in the swollen Padma when a rescue trawler carrying them capsized in between North Channel union and CNB ghat today, reports UNB.

The trawler, while rescuing the marooned people of the union in Sadar thana, capsized with all passengers on board at about 5:30 in the evening. District Administration

sources said a relief trawler reached the spot soon after the capsize but was yet to recover any body of the passengers.

A total of 14 trawlers were engaged to rescue the 200 fami lies of the union which was totally submerged with the rise of turbulent Padma.

UNICEF appeals for US \$8 m in emergency aid

UNICEF Bangladesh yesterday launched an appeal for eight million US dollars as emergency assistance, as part of the consolidated UN appeal. The appeal focuses on meet-

ing immediate needs of the most vulnerable in this crisis children and women, said a press release issued last night in the city.

UNICEF has so far sponded with nearly eight lakh dollar for flood emergency. It has mobilised its team of field workers, based in 17 different locations, to provide updated situation reports from each of the districts.

The appeal is being forwarded to the donor agencies in Bangladesh and also being transmitted to UNICEF Headquarters who will share it with donor capitals and donor missions at the UN for ongoing support for the children and women of Bangladesh, the release added.

Rubel murder

From Page 1

the investigators. The CID is also certain that the DB policemen who are "missing" since the murder of Rubel in custody were involved in the torture, the sources said. These two DB men will be also accused in the CID chargesheet in the murder case. The CID is likely to submit the chargesheet of the case by the end of this month, the sources said.

Essentials

From Page 1 katcha bazar of the New Market. Anwara said she goes shopping every week and found prices of some of the essential items up by Tk 10 to 20 per kg this week. "Except chicken, the price of every item is increas-

The price of onion shot up to Tk 30 per kg from Tk 28, Ginger to Tk 50 from Tk 44, pepper to Tk 90 from Tk 80, flour to Tk 16 from 15 and soyabean oil to Tk 54 from Tk 50 per kg, according to shopkeepers.

Price of some vegetables also rose by Tk 5 to 10 per kg but the shopkeepers said it was a normal phenomenon during this period.

"During the month of

Bhadra and Aswin, prices of

vegetables in the country go up every year" said Abu Sayeed, a vegetable trader for the last 27 years. "The prices may go up." Saveed observed. Green chilly was selling at

Tk 150 to 160 per five kg yester-day against Tk 100 a week back. Cucumber was selling at Tk 24 to 28 per kg. Its price was Tk 20 to 24 earlier. Price of Carrot rose to Tk 50 per kg from 40. Prices of Hilsha and shrimp

however decreased over the last few days. Fish traders at the market said a big size Hilsha which was earlier sold at between Tk 250 and 300 was selling at between Tk 150 and Tk 180 yesterday. Medium size Shrimp was sold at between Tk 150 and 300 per kg. Its price was Tk 250 to 450 earlier.

4 WASA pump stations closed, 40 others may face similar fate

Four water pump stations of WASA were closed while operation of 40 others may be suspended anytime, reports UNB.

"Operation of about 40 pump stations is going on with all odds. We may be forced to close them down because of flooding," WASA chief engineer Kazi Mo-hammad Sheesh told UNB over telephone yesterday.

He, however, assured that the pumps at higher places will be kept in operation to main-tain water supply to all areas in the city. The water lines are inter-connection, not isolated, he added.

The WASA official appealed to the city dwellers to use boiled

worsening flood situation. "We

water for all purposes. Kazi Sheesh was apparently worried and nervous at the

are perturbed at the forecast that water level may go up fur-ther by one and a half feet. We do not know what could be done

the water recedes. "Our fervent appeal to the city dwellers is not to throw non-dissolvable materials like polythene bags and papers and hard materials in the manhole, most of which are open now. That will make our task extremely difficult," said the

BNP calls 8-hr hartal in Sylhet division today

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Sept 7: BNP has called for an 8-hour hartal in four districts of Sylhet Division tomorrow as part of its 5-day

agitation programme. The programme was announced in protest against lodging of 'fake and motivated' cases against BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, former finance minister Saifur Rahman, and other senior leaders by the government and for its failure in carrying out relief activities adequately throughout the country.

The other programmes include mass contact with professional groups and like-minded political leaders and workers and bringing out protest rallies today in all the four districts of the division.

Injunction against holding of FBCCI election

From Our Correspondent LALMONIRHAT, Sept 7: Senior Assistant Judge, Lalmonirhat Sadar, Golam Mostafa has issued a temporary injunction against holding of

election of the Federation of

Bangladesh Chambers of Com-

merce and Industries (FBCCI). scheduled for October 15. The injunction followed a case filed by former MP Abul Hossain and Fazlul Haque, both members of Lalmonirhat Chamber of Commerce and Industries, challenging dropping of their names from the voters' list of the FBCCI. The voters'

ber one. The petitioners said that as per the FBCCI constitution, Lalmonirhat chamber has four voters. The ADC (Gen) of Lalmonirhat, who is now the administrator of the chamber. had sent a list of four voters to the FBCCI but the two names of the petitioners were dropped from the voters' list.

list was published on Septem-

in that event.' "You won't get water by sink-ing tube wells", he said. "You need to go about 200 feet deep

which will not be an easy task. He said a comprehensive plan has been drawn up for repairing and cleaning of water and sewerage lines. The work will start from September 15 if

WASA chief engineer.

Akhtaruzzaman against depositing resignation letters by BNP MPs

BNP lawmaker Maj (Retd) Akhtaruzzaman yesterday said he would prefer facing disciplinary action to depositing his resignation letter.

"Everybody supported BAK-SAL but nobody shared the bullet with Sheikh Mujib. If BNP goes to power, many will be with Begum Zia. But how many of them will stay with her if she fails to return to power?" Akhtaruzzaman posed a ques-Referring to the BNP stand-

ing committee decision for depositing letters of resignation from Parliament with the party chairperson, the outspoken MP from Kishoreganj told UNB in the Parliament lobby: "The decision was wrong as the party workers, supporters and sympathisers did not raise such demand." He questioned the wisdom of

plaints against inclusion of many of them in the party's decision-making body. But no changes have been made in deference to the wishes of the party Akhtar said he did not re-

many members of the standing

committee. "There are com-

quest the party chief to change the decision. He replied in the negative when asked if will follow suit in case all the party MPs deposit the resignation letter to the

chairperson. "So what if all of them do it." Showcause on EC over suspension

of ID card project The High Court yesterday is-sued rule nisi on the Election Commission to show cause why the suspension of the voter ID card project should not be de-

The rule of the writ bench comprising Justice Md Mozammel Huq and Justice ABM Khairul Huq came upon a petition filed on behalf of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Ser-

vices Trust.

clared null and void, reports

বন্যাজনিত পরিস্থিতিতে ক্ষয়ক্ষতি নিরূপণের স্বার্থে গ্যাস ব্যবহারকারী গ্রাহকদের জন্য জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বন্যার পানিতে কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানের রেগুলেটর ও মিটারিং স্টেশন নিমজ্জিত হইয়া গেলে এবং প্রতিষ্ঠানের গ্যাস ব্যবহার পুরোপুরি বন্ধ থাকিলে অত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ০৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে প্রমাণসহ স্থানীয় বিক্রয় কার্যালয়কে অবহিত করিবার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইল।

কোন প্রকার বিকল্প ও অবৈধ পদ্থায় গ্যাস লাইন সম্প্রসারণ ও ব্যবহার মারাত্মক দুর্ঘটনার কারণ হইতে পারে।

বন্যার পানি সরিয়া গেলেও গ্যাস ব্যবহারের পূর্বে অবশ্যই 📗 সংশ্লিষ্ট বিক্রয় কার্যালয়ের সাথে যোগাযোগক্রমে রেণ্ডলেটর ও মিটারিং স্টেশন ব্যবহার উপযোগী করিতে হইবে। অন্যথায় যে কোন মারাত্মক দুর্ঘটনা কিংবা গ্যাস লাইনে জমিয়া থাকা পানি গ্যাস ব্যবহারকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের যন্ত্রপাতির ক্ষতিসাধন করিতে পারে।

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