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BHADRA 30, 1405 BS

THE SAME BOAT BROTHER: A swan stands atop a roof of a house sunk in flood water in a neighbourhood where boats

deaths in remote areas do not

in the Brahmaputra and the

Ganges basins continued to fall

remarkably, while rivers in the

Meghna and southeastern hill

basins registered rise at some

points and fall at some other

monitored by the Centre, 17

Brahmaputra-Jamuna and

Padma will continue to improve

as both the rivers recorded

See Page 12 Col 7

3,000 dollars a day, said offi-

tor of a shipping agency at Agrabad said "We have shipped

63 containers of export cargo in

the last 13 days against 106

containers during the same pe-

riod a month ago. The con-

signees also are not taking de-

livery of imported goods as they

can not supply those in differ-

Nurul Hoque, president of Khatunganj Traders' Associa-

ping of road communication.

Chittagong.

Hoque also said that short

supply of some essential goods

has increased their prices in

Managing director of

leading broker house, Rasul

Nizam, told this correspondent

that supply of tea and internal

sale of the item have also been

ent ports of the country."

Tarik Anis, executive direc-

were still above the red mark.

Out of the 46 river points

The situation along

The FFWC said all the rivers

reach the government.

have become not only the sole mode of transportation but also the homes of people.

Situation improves in 25 dists

Flood water starts

receding from city

tral part as well as in and

around Dhaka city 'cannot be

cession of flood water in the

country totally depends on the

tidal situation in the Meghna

deluge has so far claimed 913

lives, including 174 victims of

diarrhoea, official sources said.

trocution and other flood-re-

dead, including 23 yesterday.

lated causes left 739 people

Unofficial death toll will be

much more as report of many,

Cargo handling drops at Ctg

port, most ships overstay

From Nurul Alam

Mahmud said "We are facing

problems following disruption

in transportation of goods to

and from Chittagong. Huge im-

port cargo at the port is causing

congestion of space and ships and on the otherhand, ship-

ment of export goods slumped."

tainers have been accommo-

dated at port yards against the

two lakh tons of imported goods

including one lakh tons of con-

tainerised cargo remained

stockpiled at the port jetties

and sheds. Another two and a

half lakh tons of imported

goods including one lakh tons

of foodgrains loaded in 40 ves-

Officials said due to conges-

tion, every ship is now required

to stay at this port for 8 to 10

days on an average instead of 5

incurring huge demurrage of

Consequently, the ships are

sels are yet to be unloaded.

to 6 days earlier.

capacity of 8,500 containers.

He said about 12,000 con-

Port officials said that about

Drowning, snakebite, elec-

It further said the rate of re-

The century's longest-lasting

overlooked.

DHAKA MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 1998

JAMADIUL AWAL 22, 1419 HIJRI

Govt to cut non-essential expenditures

The government has decided to trim down non-essential expenditure as a measure of austerity in all government offices and divert the funds for relief and post-flood reconstruction.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged the nation on Thursday and Saturday to observe austerity nationwide, in-

approved by the Prime Minister yesterday, would be issued by the Finance Ministry.

Talking to UNB. Finance the government's austerity measures are to avoid non-essential expenditures. The money thus saved will be used

said, extravagant spending on luxury affairs would be discouraged. Contingency fund of

See Page 12 Col 8

D-8 summit postponed

The summit of the Developing Eight (D-8) in Dhaka has been postponed in view of the devastating floods in the coun-

D-8 which was scheduled to be held here in the later part of November has been "shelved".

ernment decision, according to the source. meeting yesterday afternoon at

are being informed of the gov-

crore earmarked for the pro-

BSF man killed in gunfight with BDR in Sherpur

gunfight erupted when BDR patrols from the Nakshi BOP challenged two members of the Indian Border Security Force after finding them at Naukuchi village at about 9 in the morn-

away firing at the BDR mem-

bers. BDR returned fire. Police further said the BSF members intruded into the village with 'an ill motive' and were challenged while returning from the house of a tribal

The body of the Indian border guard was taken to the

border, police said. Indian rupees were recovered from the dead BSF personnel,

When contacted, BDR Directhe news agency that he had talked to his BSF counterpart in New Delhi about the inci-



Flood 1998: Some

long-term considerations Column: Insight by Kabir U Ahmad

Page 4

Non-Aligned Movement: An appraisal; and Stock market needs to be stirred up Page 5

Business

'Malaysia committed to APEC free trade, investment plans'

talks on regional financial crisis DSE, CSE price quota-

Pages 6, 7& 8

Agrabed Branch, R.M. House, 31 Agrabed C/A, Ctg. Ph : 710089, Fax : 710066 16 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 6.00

Austerity

reports UNB.

cluding public and private of-fices, to deal with the problems.

The circular on austerity.

Minister S A M S Kibria said for the gigantic task of rehabili-tation in the flood-hit areas.

Under the austerity plan, he

BSS quoting a source last night said the second summit of All the member-countries

The decision was taken at a the foreign ministry with Foreign Minister Abdus Samad

Azad in the chair. The postponement of the summit would save about Tk 15 crore that includes Tk nine curement of vehicles needed for the purpose, the source said.

SHERPUR, Sept 13: An Indian BSF jawan was killed and another injured in a gunfight with BDR personnel at a frontier village in Jhenaigati thana today, officials said, reports

Jhenaigati police said the

The BSF men tried to run

Nakshi camp. The injured, however, managed to cross the

An SLR, 16 bullets and some police said.

down to 2,000 tons from 4,000 tons earlier. Foodgrains are detor General Azizur Rahman told livered from the ships directly, they added. Acting chairman of Chittagong port Capt Zahiruddin

Clinton's legal team steps up attack on Starr report

WASHINGTON, Sept 13: President Bill Clinton's legal team stepped up their attack on the Kenneth Starr report over the weekend, hoping to convince Americans that the Independent Counsel's lurid account was a crude cheap shot at Clinton and contained nothing im-

The overall flood situation

The falling trend in the wa-

in 25 out of 37 affected districts

marked further improvement

ter level in and around Dhaka

city was significant as the Buri-

ganga river fell by 11 cam,

Turag by 10 cm at Mirpur and

the Shitalakhya by 10 cm at

in the Meghna at Chandpur

were still well above their re-

spective danger levels, the

Flood Forecasting and Warning

Centre said, but cautioned that

the danger in the country's cen-

CHITTAGONG, Sept 13

Business activities have

slumped in the port city as a re-

sult of the flood that snapped

road communication between

Chittagong and other parts of

the country, sources concerned

at Chittagong port declined as

delivery of goods to and from

the port became very poor with

the snapping of road communi-

cation with Dhaka and other

Average daily handling of

They also said, average per

cargo has dropped to between

12,000 and 14,000 tons now

from 25,000 and 28,000 tons be-

day unloading of imported

foodgrains from ships has come

fore the flood, they said.

parts of the country.

Officials said cargo handling

The flow in those rivers and

yesterday, report agencies.

As the White House issued its second caustic rebuttal in as many days some Clinton loyalists - perhaps emboldened by polls showing his job approval ratings holding steady - began to fire back at Starr.

"When you've got nothing else going for you, you go for the dirt and filth," said representative Charles Rangel, a New York Democrat who wits on the House Judiciary Committee, the panel which could consider im-

peachment. Rangel said Starr took advantage of Clinton's poor judgement in conducting an 18month extramarital affair with a White House intern less than half his age "and pumped it into

think that's all he had, he had no choice," said Rangel. "He

avoid reaching conclusions until the case is heard entirely, including Clinton's defence. The president, who has now apologised profusely for his behaviour, denies he lied under oath about the affair or asked anyone else to do likewise.

But Kerrey said his constituents in Nebraaska would have preferred "not to know, not to hear" the smutty details of Clinton's escapades with Monica Lewinsky.

"There is a sort of pornographic value to this that people are recoiling against," he said Saturday on the CNN programme "Evans, Novak, Hunt and Shields."

The debate over the blunt language in the 445-page report began in earnest as millions of Americans spent the weekend reading the X-rated description of 10 sexual encounters between Lewinsky and the President in the country's newspapers and the Internet. Many papers carried warnings about the report's explicit content and advising parental guidance.

a second rebuttal late Saturday, denouncing Starr's report as "a hit-and-run smear campaign" and rejecting the prosecutor's allegations that Clinton had committed perjury, witness tampering, obstruction of justice and abused his power.

graphic and salacious allega-

The rebuttal criticised Starr and the report his office drafted, for mentioning 'sex' for more than 500 times.

private attorney David Kendall and White House counsel Charles Ruff — argued that the 11 possible grounds for impeachment presented by Starr 'fall far short' of what would constitute impeachable of fences and amount to "overreaching in an extravagant ef-

People around DND dam feel relieved

- Star photo by Sk Enamul Haq

By Special Correspondent The weary defenders on the city's water front heaved a sigh of relief yesterday as the rivers flowing by it marked further fall, easing pressure on the be-

leaguered DND embankment. But some residents of Gulshan said there had been a slight rise in the water level. which baffled them because the rivers flowing by the city maintained falling trend. But there was no explanation for it.

An official at the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said last night that there was no reason for the rise. He said the Buriganga, the Shitalakhaya and the Turag. are still flowing above their red marks but they maintained a

steady trend of decline. The major rivers — the Ganges-Padma, the Brahmaputra-Jamuna and the Meghna -See Page 12 Col 7

Khaleda alleges

Police obstructed relief operation

By Staff Correspondent BNP Chief Begum Khaleda Zia has alleged that police had recently barred a central leader of her party from distributing relief materials among the flood-affected people in Gopalganj, home district of the prime

of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad in a statement last

Begum Zia described the po-

lief items in that office. In the face of resistance from the

See Page 12 Col 6

Congress' options other than impeachment

UNDATED, (AP): What Congress can do in the Clinton

The Constitution spells out the impeachment process and how the president can be removed from office. There is no provision for a censure or other reprimand. It is Congress that deter-

mines what is an impeachable offence, and Congress can determine any other kind of punishment it deems appropriate. While the Senate voted to

censure President Andrew Jackson in 1834, the resolution had no legal impact and Jackson dismissed the move as illegal. When his party took control of Congress a few years later, the censure was withdrawn. The House Judiciary Com-

mittee, which is reviewing Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's report on US President Bill Clinton, could, of course, decide that it will not offer articles of impeachment to the full House for a vote. The impeachment process: The House of Representa-

tives has initial responsibility Mahbubur Rahman, local for weighing impeachment cases - something like a grand jury in a criminal case, See Page 12 Col 1

Rubel murder

7 policemen directly involved, 6 abetted: Judicial Commission

By Staff Correspondent

Seven policemen and six others including Mukuli Begum were found by the judicial commission involved, directly or indirectly, in the murder of Rubel, sources close to the

The one-man judicial commission on Rubel murder submitted its report to the home minister yesterday.

commission said.

Top home ministry officials said they were yet to go through the report and that there was no decision as yet as to when it

would be made public. Justice Habibur Rahman Khan, who headed the commission, said he would expect the ministry not to disclose the findings of the report until the CID completed its investiga-

According to the sources, his report identified the seven policemen as the ones directly involved while the six others including Mukuli Begum had influenced the incident.

Home Secretary Shaftur Rahman told The Daily Star last night that the ministry had "just received the copies of the report" and was "yet to go through its findings"

Asked when the government would make public the findings of the report, he said, "it is sub-

ject to a government decision. "A decision in this regard cannot be made soon as the home minister will be away from the city for the next three days and the Prime Minister is

also busy". A deep-rooted public suspicion stems from the fact that such a commission's report has never been made public in the history of Bangladesh.

Home ministry sources said See Page 12 Col 1

Commentary

Turn this crisis into an opportunity

By Mahfuz Anam

"Every crisis is an opportunity" said Albert Einstein. So it is, if only we have the wisdom to do the needful that turns a crisis into an opportunity. History is replete with examples of great civilizations rising from the ashes of unprecedented catastrophes. The examples of Germany and Japan comes into mind. Both these countries were almost totally destroyed by the Second World War. But the whole world is a witness to how they came back outshining their erstwhile victors Britain, France and the US. Germany is now the undisputed leader of Europe and Japan, till recently, was the engine of growth for

Asia and Latin America and the biggest trading partner of the US. In a much smaller scale, but making the same point, the city of Surat transformed itself from perhaps the dirtiest city in India to the cleanest within one year of discovering plague in 1996-97. The city was quarantined. Now it is a tourist attraction. All these are examples of crisis being turned into oppor-

Almost like a war, the current floods have hit us at the very core of our existence. Everything we have so tenuously build over the past 25 years has been partially or totally de-See Page 12 Col 2

"unsolicited" negotiations, the

US company submitted a pro-

posal for the so-called Western

Region Integrated Project

(WRIP) in 1997. It also succeeded

in "initialling" a production

sharing contract (PSC) for the

Shahbazpur field at the same

time. The government also

"initialled" the PSC earlier this

year. The PSC is expected to be

tain the Unocal-proposed power

purchase agreement (PPA) be-fore the PSC is through.

But PDB is unlikely to enter-

"No, we are not going to sign

any PPA with Unocal unless the

government signs a PSC for

Shahbazpur gas field," said PDB See page 11

finalised very soon.

PDB 'under pressure' to give in to Unocal

By Sharier Khan

The Power Development Board (PDB) is under pressure to sign a power purchase deal with US company Unocal for a number of power plants in the western region of the country. sources said.

The proposed power plants, to be built without any competitive bidding, in Bhola, Khulna and Barisal plan to use gas from neighbouring Shahbazpur. The plants, according to the proposals, will have capacity to generate a total of 350 megawatts of electricity.

Since 1996, Unocal has been pursuing these power projects along with other gas-related businesses keeping in the mind the recently-discovered Shahbazpur gas field. The company has tried to convince the government to accept a flat tariff of 4.5 US cents while proposing that the PDB supply gas (bought from Petrobangla) to these power plants at the local bulk

Following a series of

OMS of rice as soon as flood _water recedes

The government will start Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice as soon as the flood water re-

Food Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury told a meeting with rice wholesalers at her Secretariat office yesterday morning. Talking to UNB Matia said that there is always a conspiracy to destabilise the market.

Commenting on the market situation for last few days, the Food Minister said it was mainly because of rumour. "I hope people will understand the stock situation and would not be panicky which makes a See Page 12 Col 5

BNP calls hartal at Cox's Bazar today

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, Sept 13: BNP has called a half-day hartal in the town tomorrow protesting attack on its leader. Mahbubur Rahman.

BNP leader and editor of The Daily Saikat was injured in an attack allegedly by BCL activists in the town at around 12 See page 11

Hoarders to face stern action: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said stern action will be taken against the hoarders, reports UNB.

"Hand them over to the authorities if you find anyone trying to increase prices of essentials, including foodstuff, at the cost of people's sufferings," she

She was addressing the flood

victims at Banani Model

School flood shelter in the city. Hasina also visited the diplomatic zones of the city's Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara area and went round various roads, most of which were still under knee-deep water.

After distributing relief at the Banani Model School centre, the Prime Minister urged the people to be vigilant against the hoarders.

The Prime Minister assured that there is a huge stock of foodstuff. "We have stock of food even at the district and thana levels. So there is no problem of food anywhere in the country," she asserted.

Calling this year's flood quite extensive, which the country has never experienced See Page 12 Col 5

40 lakh MT food shortage likely

The government has dismissed fear of famine after the recession of flood water, reports "No, we're not apprehending

any famine it is out of ques-

tion," M Anisuzzaman, Prime Minister's Adviser on Agriculture, told reporters at a press briefing at the PM's office yesterday. However, Agriculture Ministry officials said that the country would face a shortage of

40 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains this year due to the devastating flood. They hastened to inform that the government was taking steps to make up the shortages with its own import, foreign aid

and private sector import of foodgrains. When reporters quoting BBC asked Anisuzzaman whether the government deemed any post-flood famine, he categorically said: "We have enough

See page 11 Motia refutes BBC report

Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury yesterday refuted a BBC report that 20 million people will die from starvation and of diseases in the aftermath of floods, re-

ports UNB. Reacting to UNB over the BBC news, she said many of the predictions and news reports

have proved wrong. "Through our sincere work we will prove that they were wrong," the Food Minister said with confidence.

Citing several examples of

BBC's wrong reports, Motia said they misinterpreted and misquoted a report of UNDP. When the UNDP itself has expressed their satisfaction over the distribution system

how could BBC report like this, she wondered. "Is it not a fact that the gov-

See Page 12 Col 7

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

🗇 প্রদেয় আয়কর পরিশোধ করুন এবং া দেশের অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকান্ডে আপনার অবদান রাখুন

১৯৯৮-৯৯ কর বৎসরের জন্য আয়কর রিটার্ণ জমা দেয়ার তারিখ ১৫ ই অক্টোবর পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত

করদাতাদের সুবিধার্থে ১৯৯৮-৯৯ কর বৎসরের জন্য সাধারণ ও স্থনির্ধারণী উভয় প্রকার রিটার্ণ জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ১৫ই সেপ্টেম্বর, '৯৮ থেকে ১৫ই অক্টোবর '৯৮ পর্যন্ত বাড়ানো হয়েছে। বিদ্যমান করদাতা ছাড়াও যাদের মোট আয় ১৯৯৮-৯৯ কর বৎসরে ৬০,০০০/-টাকার বেশী হয়েছে, তাদেরকে আগামী ১৫ই অক্টোবর, ১৯৯৮ইং এর মধ্যে আয়কর রিটার্ণ জমা দিতে হবে এবং রিটার্ণের ভিত্তিতে কর পরিশোধ করতে হবে।

মেট্রোপলিটান সিটি এলাকা ও জেলা সদরের পৌর এলাকায় অবস্থিত ১৬০০ বর্গফুটের অধিক আয়তনের (plinth area) একের অধিক তলাবিশিষ্ট পাকা বাড়ী বা গাড়ী এ দুটির যে কোন একটি বা উভয়ই কারো মালিকানায় থাক্লে সংশ্লিষ্ট আয় বংসরে তাঁর আয় যাই থাকুক না কেন তাকেও ১৫ই অক্টোবর, ১৯৯৮ইং তারিখের মধ্যে আয়কর রিটার্ণ জমা দিতে হবে।

নির্ধারিত সময়সীমার মধ্যে আয়কর রিটার্ণ দাখিলে ব্যর্থ হলে সংশ্রিষ্ট ব্যক্তিকে খেলাপী করদাতা হিসাবে অভিহিত করে জরিমানা করা যেতে পারে। সরকার আশা করছেন, রিটার্ণ দাখিল করতে হবে এরপ করদাতাগণ তাঁদের সঠিক আয় প্রদর্শন করে নির্ধারিত সময়ের মধ্যে রিটার্ণ দাখিল করবেন

বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য ১৩৩, নিউ বেইলি রোডস্থ কর পরামর্শ কেন্দ্র, ফোন-৪১৭৮৩৩ অথবা সংশ্লিষ্ট কর কমিশনার বা সংশ্লিষ্ট কর সার্কেলে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে যোগাযোগ করুন।

ডিএফপি-১৯৫৯৫-১০/৯ 19-2066

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

Focus peachable, reports Reuters.

China, Japan start a nickel-and-dime furid sex

fired his best shot." Democratic Sen. Bob Kerry urged Congress and the public to

Clinton's lawyers rushed out

"It is plain that 'sex' is precisely what this four-and-half years investigation has boiled down to," they said, charging the document was "loaded with irrelevant and unnecessary tions" proving that "its principal purpose is to damage the President.'

In their 42-page rebuttal, Clinton's legal team - led by

See Page 12 Col 8

in Gopalganj

minister. M H Khan Manju, a former MP and assistant organising secretary of BNP, had to leave Gopalganj for Dhaka after police made their second attempt to obstruct his relief operation on September 4, said the leader

tion said business has slumped by 50 per cent at Khatunganj in the city due to non-supply of goods from there due to snap-

lice action as follows: Police took position around the BNP office in Gopalganj and informed Manju of a warrant of arrest against him when he along with local party leaders and workers was packing up re-