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PM announces

be built to protect city from flood

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced a plan to construct a 50 km long flood protection embankmentcum-ring-road encircling the

embankment, which will later be turned into a ring road having connections with Mirpur embankment, will stretch from

while addressing a gathering of marooned people at Bara Beraid under Gulshan thana in the city vesterday.

protest the city from flood as well as to develop traffic and transport system of the metropolis.

government also plans to set up a circular railway on the ring road to ease the traffic congestion in the city. A circular wa- terway will also be developed along the ring road in future.

She visited the area through

creasing traffic from Joyde-The prime minister said that

MPs deposited resignation

The process of depositing BNP lawmakers' letters of resignation from the Jatiya Sangsad with the party chief has neared completion, with a few still defying the party instruction, according to sources in the party.

The BNP legislators yet to deposit their resignation letters include party standing committee member Col. (Retd) Oli Ahmed, his spouse Mamataz Begum, Major (retd) Akhtaruzzaman and Ziaur Rahman

See page 11

DHAKA WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 1998 AASHIN 1, 1405 BS

50 km dam to

city, report agencies.

The prime minister said the Tongi to Demra.

Hasina revealed the plan

The embankment aims to

The Prime Minister said the

which the proposed road-cumembankment will be constructed to protect the capital from flooding and divert the in-

the earthen embankment would See Page 12 Col 5

Almost all BNP

letters: Delwar By Nazmul Ashraf

Khan.

Two other heavyweights in the main opposition party -Prof A Q M Badruddoza Choudhury and M Saifur Rahman deposited their resignation let-

Some Thoughts on

this Year's Flood

by Shamsul Bari

Page 4

Focus

Election in Germany:

Is Chancellor Kohl's

time up?; World Ozone

Day: Save the endan-

gered earth

Page 5

International

Judiciary committee

chief wants to proceed

with impeachment

inquiry against

Clinton

Page 9



A LIGHTER MOMENT: A father is trying to cheer up his son at the Motijheel T&T Colony flood shelter in the city yesterday. The baby's mother was standing in the long queue of the flood affected people for more than two hours for food. The father is trying to keep the baby smiling till his mother comes back with food. - Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Rivers falling rapidly, water receding fast

The flood situation across the country improved further yesterday with water levels of major rivers falling rapidly. report agencies.

The situation in an around the capital also improved with the fall of water levels in the Buriganga, Shitalakhya, Turag and Kaliganga.

"If this trend continues, the flood situation across the country is likely to improve remarkably by end of this month," a Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) of-

He, however, said this would depend on the quantum of rainfall in the catchment areas of the major rivers in an outside the country and unhindered discharge of waters through the Meghna estuary.

The natural flow of the flood waters through the Meghna estuary into the Bay of Bengal this year was greatly hampered by the exceptional tidal surge in the Bay for nearly a month. Dhaka city's drainage system, clogged by excessive use of

polythene bags during the flood, is blamed for the delay in recession of water from the capi-An official of the Water De-

velopment Board said it might

take at least two weeks for the

city's logged water to recede. Buriganga receded by 17 cm at Dhaka, Shitalakhya by 12 cm at Narayanganj, and Turag by 21 cm and 10 cm at Mirpur and Tongi respectively yester-

However, the rivers are still flowing well above their danger levels, the FFWC said in its bul letin yesterday.

It will take at best 10 more days for the rivers to return to their respective red marks if the present trend of recession continues, the bulletin said. The Buriganga at Dhaka is

likely to fall by 18 cm, the Turag by 20 cm at Mirpur and 13 cm at Tongi today, the FFWC forecast said.

The situation further improved in greater Dhaka, Faridpur, Mymensingh, Pabna, Rangpur, Comilla, Noakhali, Sylhet and Barisal.

It returned to normalcy in Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Sunamganj, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Bandarban, Feni Rangpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat. Joypurhat and

The flood-related death toll rose to 978. Forty-two fresh deaths were reported yesterday including 14 from diarrhoeal

CID suspects 4 more DB men involved in Rubel murder

By Staff Correspondent

CID investigators are suspecting that four more DB constables of AC Akram Hussain's team were involved in the murder of university student Shamim Reza Rubel in DB custody on July 23, sources close to the investigators said last

The CID charge sheet in the case may contain names of 14 people if investigators can confirm their involvement in the murder, sources said.

Of those likely to be accused by the CID, eight including Akram have already been arrested and are detained at the Dhaka Central Jail now, the sources said adding that two other probable accused are-"missing" since the incident.

Declare flood-hit areas as disaster zone: 7-party

BNP-led seven-party al-liance at a meeting on Monday urged the government to immediately declare the flood affected areas as disaster zone, reports UNB

The alliance also demanded formation of an all-party relief and rehabilitation committee and involvement of armed forces in relief and rehabilitation works.

The meeting was held at 29 Minto Road in the city with BNP leader Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder in the chair.

The alliance leaders Shamsul Islam and Anwar Zahid of BNP, Kazi Zafar Ahmed of JP, Mohammad Quamruzzaman and Abdul Qader Mollah of Jamaat and Shafful Alam Pradhan of Jagpa were present.

Trader stabbed to death in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Sept 15: A leader of local businessmen was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants today at Pahartoli Saraipara area, police said.

Md Rafique Miah, president of Pahartoli Traders' Association, was attacked after the assailants called him out of his

fatally and escaped from the See Page 12 Col 4

BSCIC's preliminary estimate

8334 small, medium units affected in 46 dists

By Rafiq Hasan,

As many as 8,334 small and medium industrial units in 46 districts have been affected and their infrastructures and property worth about Tk 500 crore damaged by the current floods, according to a preliminary estimate prepared by the Bangladesh Small and Cottage

Industries Corporation (BSCIC) A total of 43 industrial estates out of 70 under the BSCIC have been affected by the floods. Of those, 27 were inun- trial units and losses caused to dated by three to five feet water the industrial sector by the

and the rest were submerged partially, BSCIC sources said

yesterday.

BSCIC Chairman A H M Rezaul Karim said the figure of affected small and medium size industries include those inside and outside of the industrial es-

tates in the affected districts. When contacted, Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, said the government is yet to assess the number of affected indus-

floods. The ministry is assessing the number of affected units and the losses, he said.

"The assessment is being made with the help of major chamber and trade bodies including the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industries, FBCCI, MCCI, and DCCI," the minister said over

The BSCIC's assessment has been done on the basis of reports sent by its offices in dis-

The circular said the finance

See page 11

Ministries asked to

cut miscellaneous

expenditure by

ten per cent

the government yesterday

asked ministries and divisions

to cut down by 10 per cent the

budget allocations under mis-

Finance directed all the min-

istries and divisions not to buy

any vehicle under revenue bud-

down telephone expenses, stop

purchase of new vehicles, for-

The austerity steps were in-

evitable to meet the demands

for fund for post-flood recon-

struction and rehabilitation.

sake foreign tours.

A circular of the Ministry of

It asked all offices to keep

cellaneous head, reports UNB.

As part of austerity measure,

Kibria on food situation

Measures taken to keep supply, prices stable

Star Report about 2.1 million metric tonnes

Finance Minister S A M S Kibria yesterday dispelled any possibility of shortage in food supply and said that against an estimated total demand-production gap of 4.3 million tonnes, imports and donor assistance together would reach up to 4.5 million tonnes this year.

"To meet this gap, the government has already taken adequate measures so that supply is ensured and prices remain stable." Kibria told The Daily Star. The country faces a normal food production gap of

every year. As the floods have damaged crops, we estimate that in the worst case scenario, there will be a food shortage of 2.2 million tonnes. This means. we will face a total food shortage of 4.3 million tonnes." Against this shortage, the

government envisages a 4.5 million tonnes supply from

"The government will import one million tonnes of foodgrains. Already we have opened LCs for six lakh tonnes." See page 11

residence at around 4 am, police The assailants stabbed Rafiq

Inside Today -Article

By Staff Correspondent

The following are a sum-mary of ideas generated, issues Economy:

During relief distribution, priority has to be given to elderly people, especially women and those who are physically weak.

gramme with an aim to generating employment and, thus, enhancing peoples'

to FFW programmes. Maize can also be tried in the

coming winter season and millers can be asked to mix up maize with wheat (at See Page 12 Col 5

The Daily Star Roundtable

'Flood damages colossal but not irreparable

By Staff Correspondent

Panellists at a roundtable in to the country's economy, but

report on Page 7

economic reconstruction, they

The speakers also observed that unity of the major political parties was essential to successfully conduct the relief and rehabilitation programmes and carry out the process of na-

tional reconstruction. The roundtable styled Coping with Floods: Relief, Reha-bilitation & Rebuilding the Economy was organised by The Daily Star in collaboration with Centre for Alternatives. A good number of economists. agriculturists, engineers, researchers, water experts, academics, NGO leaders and government officials took part in the discussions while some others gave their views on the issues when the floor was open

The day-long roundtable, spreading over two sessions, was held at IBA Auditorium on DU campus. The first session

See Page 12 Col 3

Some specific suggestions

raised and suggestions made at The Daily Star roundtable on Coping with Floods: Relief, Rehabilitation & Rebuilding the

Providing peasants with Launching an extensive Food For Work (FFW) pro-

purchasing power. NGOs should be made a party

the city yesterday said the flood had caused enormous damages the damages are not irrepara-ble. But the government needs to create an atmosphere in which the people could actively participate in the huge task of A full-page special

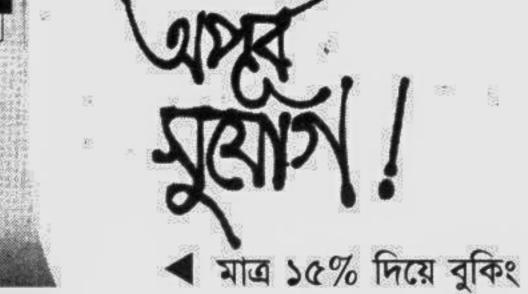
for the audience.

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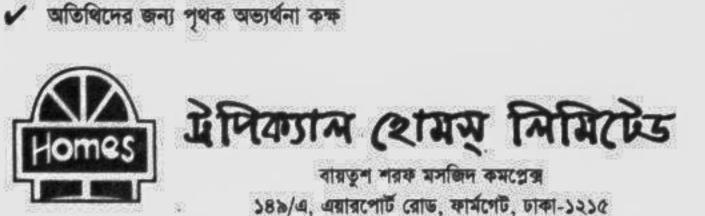
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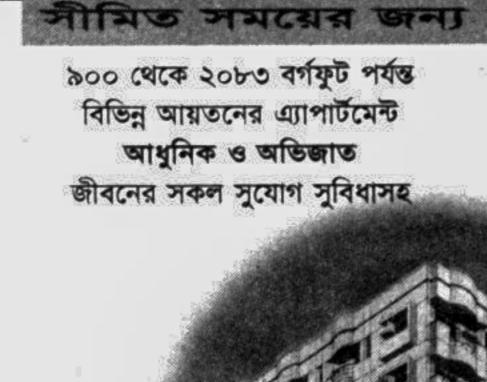
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A CLARIFICATION

Our attention has been drawn to the news item published on 14th September 1998 in some Bengali newspapers regarding 120 mobile telephone sets seized at the airport.

Ericsson would like to clarify that the so called 120 mobile telephone sets sent via DHL Worldwide Express on Thai Airlines flight TG 321 were actually dummy telephone sets. These dummy sets cannot be used at all as they do not contain any electronic or telecommunication parts. It is also not possible to replace any part from the dummy sets, as all parts of these dummy sets are plastic mock-ups. These dummy sets are solely used for

display on counters, and have no commercial value. The dummy sets were packed together with other promotional materials and documents, with

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the words "promotional materials" inadvertently missing from the invoice.

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