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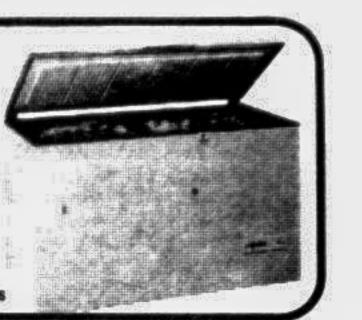
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Rehabilitation of flood-hit people is my only concern now: PM

The 52nd birthday of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina passed off yesterday without any cere-

mony or festivity, reports UNB.
The Prime Minister came to her office in the morning as usual and maintained her busy schedule. She presided over the cabinet meeting, visited the ICDDR,B and received flood do-

"I want to dedicate the rest of my life to the welfare of the people," she said when some Awami League leaders and workers went to Ganobhaban to greet Hasina on her birthday. She said: "My only concern now is proper rehabilitation of

the flood affected people." Neither the Awami League nor her family had any plan for celebrating the Prime Minister's birthday as the country is passing through problems of aftermath of the devastating flood, and the government declared nationwide austerity.

In an emotion charged voice Hasina said: "I have lost my father, mother, and brothers. I want to find consolation in doing good to the people." "I find them amidst the dis-

tressed and grieved people of the country, and I am serving them as much as I can. Hasina sought Divine blessings so that she could continue her work for the welfare of the people. She also sought strength from Almighty Allah to over-

come the crisis caused by the lengthy flood. In the afternoon, a milad mahfil was held at Awami League central office where special prayers were offered for long life and good health of the

Prime Minister. Awami League central leaders, city leaders and workers joined the prayer.

4 killed From Page 1

In another incident, one Barek. 32, of village Khoksa Dighirpar, was beaten to death by a mob in village Sadaki Dighirpar under Kumarkhali thana last night.

Witnesses said that the victim along with seven others went to the house of one Montaz Shaikh of village Sadaki Dighirpar and demanded toll money. When the house owner shouted for help, villagers rushed immediately there and caught Barek and gave him a good beating. Police later rescued Barek and rushed him to Kumarkhali Health Complex where he succumbed to the injuries.

VGF cards

From Page 1 Union Parishad chairmen and having representatives of NGOs would select vulnerable families and distribute the cards, he

Resident Representative of World Food Programme (WFP) in Bangladesh Werner Kiene also had an hour-long discussion with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the weekend and said that the VGF cards should be distributed urgently The Prime Minister shared the same opinion of speeding up the programme," he told this correspondent.

Kiene also said that distribution of food stock was under careful monitoring. He said two more ships carrying WFP foodgrains are expected to anchor at port on October 2 and October 8 WFP is expecting more donors response so that the VGF programme could be continued beyond November.

Relief ministry sources said that VGF cards would be sent to all 4479 unions in the country under four categories ranging from 300 to 1,000 cards per union considering the number of vulnerable families.

One official agreed with the correspondent that jobs should be created immediately in hard-hit areas to arrest the diminishing purchasing power of poor peasants who lost their crops in the flood. "The government has given instructions to all concerned for taking up labour-intensive projects under test-relief (TR) programme by mid-October. The food-forwork programme may take a little more time to begin as the soil is not yet suitable for earth work."

PCJSS

From Page 1 agreement and include the three names proposed by it.

In his immediate reaction to the government announcement on September 6 Shantu Larma, the chairman-designate of the 22-member CHT Regional Council, had said it was not ac-

PCJSS sources said the exclusion of three names by the government from the PCJSS' list were made as suggested by the local MPs.

ceptable to them.

house and would mean a majority of 17 seats.

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The ferry terminal at Muktarpur, Munshiganj, is still not operational though floodwaters have receded significantly.

— Star photo

Defence Counsel tells court

ISI, CIA, Kissinger involved in Bangabandhu murder

Defence counsel for Col (dismissed) Syed Farooque Rahman in the Bangabandhu Murder Case yesterday contended in the court that the President and his family members were killed by a 'third party' with the connivance of some foreign powers, reports UNB.

Khan Saifur Rahman linking the third party in the killing said Bangabandhu was not killed by the accused persons. He was killed by another group in which ISI, CIA and the then US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger were involved.

Khan Saifur who concluded his lengthy argument said the involvement of CIA in the August 15 killing was pointed out by Awami League's sitting minister Abdur Razzak in his recent public statement.

In favour of his argument the counsel referred to the interview of former assistant to Kissinger and US writer Roger Morris, the author of 'Uncertain Greatness: Henry Kissinger and American Foreign policy. in September 1978, which divulged involvement of the third

A prosecution witness also stated in the court that he saw a foreigner moving by a car on August 15 morning through the Mirpur Road. This strengthened the belief that foreign power was involved in the killing, he added.

That the third party involved in the killing is amply manifested from the fact that none of the 19 accused in the case could ever overcross the authorities of the army, BDR

Kohl defeated

in his home

district

BONN, Sept 28: German

Chancellor Helmut Kohl has

suffered a humiliating setback

when he lost his home district

of Ludwigshafen to Social

Democratic candidate Doris

Barnett, the local election

commissioner has said, reports

the vote in the district com-

pared to 40.8 per cent for Kohl,

who had won his home district

from Germany's general elec-

tion released today gave Ger-

hard Schroeder's Social Demo-

crats (SPD) 40.9 per cent and

their potential coalition part-

were the clear winners and that

they could form a majority with

the ecological Greens. The

Christian Democrats (CDU/

CSU) won 35.1 per cent and

their junior coalition partners,

the Free Democrats, won 6.2 per

The SPD won 298 seats com-

pared with 252 in 1994 and the

Greens won 47 compared with

would, therefore, have a total of

345 seats in the new parlia-

halfway mark of 328 seats in

the 656-seat Bundestag lower

A SPD-Green coalition

This would be well above the

their previous 49.

ment.

The result showed the SPD

ners, the Greens 6.7 per cent.

Barnett won 47.9 per cent of

Preliminary official results

Reuters.

in 1990 and 1994.

and police. In his bid to justify the in-

volvement of the third party. the defence counsel quoted capt Zubair Siddigi and Lt Husan to have told their troops, "We have finished every one, you are still sleeping." "Zubair and Hasan who ad-

mitted their involvement were not made accused in the case. It is they who belonged to the third party," contended the defence counsel. Referring to the statement of

some witnesses, the law ver said army sepoy Shamsul Hug was killed and Mofazzal was injured by the splinters of artillery shells. But the prosecution neither submitted the proceedings of the court of inquiry nor the postmortem report.

"Shamsul Haq was in fact killed by bullet. Who fired at him? It is the third party. Third party gunned them down because neither the house guards of Bangabandhu's residence nor the outside army had opened fire," contended the defence counsel.

He said there was no evidence that the accused persons came out of the cantonment with arms and amraunition. Some witnesses said troops came out of the cantonment had taken ammunition, but there was no such evidence that they fired any shot.

Prosecution witnesses Havildar Quddus and Havildar Gani, as NCOs used to carry stengun and three of the inmates of Bangabandhu's house were shot by stengun bullets.

elections.

ports AP.

conservative rule.

BONN, Sept 28: Gerhard

Schoreder, Germany's future

chancellor, said today the cen-

tre-left Social Democrats will

begin talks Friday on forming a

government coalition with the

environmentalist Greens, re-

was 'the natural result' of the

Social Democrats' sweeping 41

per cent victory in elections

Sunday that ousted Chancellor

Helmut Kohl after 16 years of

umph marked the first time in

postwar Germany that voters

rejected all parties from the

previous government in favour

per cent, get their first shot at

governing if talks are success-

ful. Schroeder said his party

would try to assemble a coali-

The Greens, which won 6.7

of fresh faces and new ideas.

The Social Democratic tri-

Schroeder said the coalition

"Who can say that they did

FBCCI VP By M Shamsur Rahman

not kill Bangabandhu and his

family members? They did not

give account of their ammuni-

Referring to a report pub-

lished in 'Far Eastern Economic

Review, the counsel said the

magazine mentioned in-

volvement of 535th infantry

unit. A prosecution witness also

admitted that infantry took

part in the night parade along

About the killing of Col

Jamil, the counsel said the

Colonel moved with a truck

load of army. But there was no

resistance or retaliation from

power behind these troops to

make them inactive," ques-

embarrassment by writing fur-

ther details about the killing of

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Was

it because India involved in the

third party who killed the Pres-

DGFI few days before the August

15 incident wherein names of

some conspirators were men-

tioned. Khan Saifur raised a

question why the prosecution

Concluding his 10-day ar-

- AP/UNB photo

tion as quickly as possible. But

negotiations could be tricky be-

tween two parties with some

giddy during his first post-elec-

tion press conference, jokingly

deferring tough economic ques-

tions to his likely finance min-

ister, party chief Oskar La-

fontaine, who was sitting next

in addressing concerns about

what concessions the Social

Democrats might have to make

to secure cooperation with the

to prepare for a clear and tough

round of talks," Schroeder said.

fered assurances that his gov-

ernment would maintain Ger-

many's foreign and economic

The Greens are going to have

The future chancellor of-

pacifist wing of the Greens.

He became serious, though,

Schroeder was beaming and

sharp policy differences.

See Page 11

hushed up the list.

Chancellor-elect Gerhard Schroeder addressing supporters

while his wife Doris Koepf-Schroeder flashes a V-sign in

Bonn on Sunday, after his party won the national

Schroeder opens talks

with Greens Friday

to him.

About a list prepared by

"Who were the controlling

his troops when he was killed.

with artillery and lancer.

tion," Khan Saifur said.

The last date of withdrawal is gone, but chamber leaders are still trying to reach a consensus on the post of vice-president and 15 Executive Committee members of FBCCI Arguing that flooding across

Fresh efforts fail

to find consensus

Bangladesh would make electioneering difficult at this stage", top leaders of the business community renewed their efforts to find consensus candidates for VP and the 15 members from the Chamber Group.

However, till yesterday, the efforts led by FBCCI president Yussuf Abdullah Harun were still fruitless, business sources

The sources said two stalwarts failed to reach agreement on their respective candidates for vice president.

Former FBCCI president Salman F Rahman was known to be backing M A Mumin of Sylhet Chamber while outgoing president Harun was learnt to be supporting Kamaluddin Ahmed.

The two confirmed the move. Both cited the current flooding as the reason why chambers across the country should not get involved in electioneering

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Salman Rahman admitted that he was backing the man from Sylhet. "Yes, I am supporting him hundred per cent. There's no doubt about it but I also proposed that the sitting president decide about it."

Harun did not say that he was behind the Chittagong chamber leader and added "there's no scope of supporting anybody directly

He said he would continue his efforts "but chances are not that bright"

"With every passing day, it would look more difficult." Harun told The Daily Star last night, explaining the election

procedure.

Even if there is a consensus. the election will go on as scheduled, he said referring to his discussions with the Election Board.

The Board, he said, would at best put up a notice giving the

names of candidates who agreed to withdraw.

had been trying to resist the

formation of this company

in Mirpur Zone, the govern-

ment decided to launch DESCO

by handing over the distribu-

DESCO and DESA, a 60-day

process to transfer the respon-

sibilities began from vesterday.

These include transferring the

cials verbally agreed to cooper-

ate with us," said the DESCO of-

ficial. "But when we went to the

DESA office premises in the

morning we found nobody

there. The office premises re-

mained shut and they (DESA

employees) took a new stand:

They all want permanent jobs

in DESCO with full pay and

objective to operate with mini-

mum number of employees. It

intended to conduct the main-

tenance services through con-

tractors. The company accord-

ingly has contractors on

standby to look after the torn

cable or transformer problems.

all DESA employees," said the

official, "that would be against

the basic goal of forming DE-

the day went to the DESA head

"We do not intend to recruit

DESA's employees later in

DESCO was formed with an

power distribution control

"Till last night, DESA offi-

tion of power in this area.

Considering high pilferage

As per an agreement between

from the beginning.

room to DESCO.

more."

SCO."

DESA-DESCO feud From Page 1 DESA Hself. DESA employees office near the Secretariat and

BNP protests submission of chargesheets By Staff Correspondent

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has protested the submission of chargesheets in three cases involving 48 of his party leaders including four lawmakers — Oli Ahmed, Morshed Khan, Salahuddin Quader Choudhury and Giasuddin Quader Choudhury.

In a statement issued a day after the CID police submitted the chargesheets in the CMM's Court of Chittagong accusing the BNP leaders, Mannan Bhuiyan also demanded withdrawal of all three cases claiming those were based on falsehood.

One of the cases relates to the November 11, 1997 trouble during a public meeting of BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia in Chittagong in which six persons including a policeman died. The second case was filed on November 27, 1997 when two persons were killed in an armed clash between the activists of Awami League backed Chhatra League and the pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital during Begum Zia's visit there while the third case relates to the attack on the Chandgaon police station the same day.

BNP rampage From Page Stadium that left six people

killed. The Chowdhury brothers have again been accused along with Manzur Morshed MP. Oli Ahmed MP, Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and Dastagir Chowdhury in the November 27 clash that left two people dead on Chittagong Medical College campus during a visit of Khaleda Zia.

A total of 23 people have been chargesheeted in connection with the incident.

Police also accused nine people, including SQ Chowdhury, attacking of Chantgao thana on the same day last

Cessna crash

From Page 1 The pilot of the aircraft.

Fareea Lara, had sent 'May Day', the highest emergency signal before the control tower lost contact with the aircraft. She was on a routine flight

as part of her Assistant Flight Instructor's course, along with Sved Rafigul Islam, also doing the same course.

Both had earlier obtained commercial pilot's licence, doing most of their flying course at the Parabat Flying Academy, which is run by a company which operates the Air Parabat a private airline.

The aircraft, made in USA, was bought second hand. But it was fully operational, the official said.

He said the Cessna-150 is a highly valued training aircraft. It has records of landing on paddy fields and even on one occasion, without wheels."But the crash is baffling us. May Day signal is normally given at an extreme emergency which suggests the pilot had faced a

grave situation" He denied that the aircraft had been unworthy of flying due to poor maintenance, alleged by some quarters.

The CAAB official said that all aircraft are checked by the authorities before giving flight worthiness certificate.

There had been allegations that the aircraft was not maintained properly following departure of the Academy's chief engineer recently, which was denied by the company offi-

staged demonstrations de-

manding permanent employ-

DESA chairman to press home

their demands. The DESA

chairman, after meeting them

in the evening, rushed to Mirpur

to find a solution to the

Meanwhile, residents of

"Yes I am aware that in one

Mirpur remain in the dark

about who to complain to

about the power supply prob-

area two transformers have

been disrupted and in one area a

cable has torn," the DESCO offi-

cial said. "But how can I deploy

our technicians in these areas

without shutting down the

power supply there? We must be

given the charge of the control

centre before we can practically

Section 1. Section 11 and at the

western part of Pallabi was re-

stored at 9 pm yesterday after a

team of DESA engineers and

electricians joined hands in

line-repair work late after-

sain, who also visited the DE-

SCO operation area last night,

acknowledged non-cooperation

by a section of DESA employees

but hoped that things would be

'all right' within a few days. He

said legal actions would be

taken against anyone trying to

hinder the work of DESCO.

DESA Chairman Altaf Hos-

Electricity supply at Mirpur

carry out any such operation."

Leaders of employees met the

ment in DESCO.

stalemate.

ME peace talks

Israeli PM claims 'breakthrough'

WASHINGTON, Sept 28; Is-raeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said today that he and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had achieved a 'breakthrough' on a long elusive deal to turn over more West Bank territory. reports AP.

The two Middle East leaders

WASHINGTON, Sept 28: President Clinton said he, Netanyahu and Arafat had made progress today on breaking the 18-month deadlock in the Middle East peace process but there was more work to be done. He was talking to reporters after the summit. Clinton said he had invited both men back to the White House in October to continue discussions, reports Reuters.

flew to Washington today to continue talks with President Bill Clinton that lasted late into Sunday night with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"I think we're getting close to finalising an agreement and it's time for the leaders to meet," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on NBC television's 'Today' show.

additional 13 per cent of the West Bank - adding to the 27 per cent already promised to the Palestinians.

turned into a nature preserve and kept under Israeli military control, with Israel and Palestinian construction prohibited. "That's basically the concept

and that's where we've made a breakthrough," Netanyahu

Netanyahu said that he and Yasser Arafat would meet later in the day with President Clin-

fell down. Parvin than pulled

Shazneen's head and I made

another attempt to rape her.

Then Humayun also came and

indiscrminately in her chest.

belly and neck as she was

screaming and jumping. Blood

was coming out of her wounds

and she fell down. Humayun,

Parvin and myself then dragged

her near the bathroom. I then

washed my hands in

Shazneenis bathroom and

the room through a door on the

northern side. I sneaked out of

the house by scaling the wall. I

climbed up the lichi tree at the

backyard of the house and

crossed over the boundary wall

and jumped onto the ground of

the Australian Club and then

ment station and went to My-

mensingh by train. From My-

mensingh, I went to Bhairab,

spent the day there and then

at Chittagong railway station,

saw my picture printed in dif-

ferent newspapers. I then sur-

rendered to Kotwali thana and

was handed over to the CID po-

lice." Shahid said in his state-

Humayun and maid Minu in

their judicial statements ear-

lier also named Hasan as the

mastermind of the gruesome

murder. Shahid's judicial

statement also corroborated

"I have done this at the be-

hest of Hasan for which I am

now feeling repentent," Shahid

Civil society

From Page

to manage effectively all such

matters. "This necessarily re-

quires involvement of the soci-

ety in different forms and ca-

pacities which come under the

popular designation - civil so-

the role of civil society "in cor-

recting some of the grave social

ills, such as violence in educa-

tional institutions and organis-

ing general condemnation

against bank loan defaulters

who are running the national

The President observed that

economy".

The President emphasised

those of Humayun and Minu.

said in his statement.

It may be recalled that guard

"On April 27 morning, while

Then I went to the Canton-

reached the main road.

went to Chittagong

"Humayun and I then left

Parvin went out of the room.

"I started stabbing Shazneen

tried to rape Shazneen.

Shazneen murder

Minu. In his judicial statement

of Latifur Rahmanis residence murdered. I agreed to the prome handsomely".

the village home of one of the accused, Badal, a supervisor of contractor Hasan, on April 6 for Eid, he said. He spent several days in Badal's village. Later, he went to his own village, Maksudupur, for a brief period. He returned to Dhaka on April 19 and went to Badal's house in the city. He spent the next couple of days with some friends in Mirpur and again returned to Badal's house on the morning of April 21 and spent the day there, before rejoining duty at Latifur Rahman's residence on the same evening.

April 23, I met Hasan at his res-Rahman's residence that night.

my responsibilities. "Shazneen was alone in her

ground floor bedroom when the dinner was in progress at the first floor of the house at about 10:00 pm that night. Parveen carried food to Shazneen's bedroom. When Parvin went to Shazneen's room, I took the opportunity and entered inside. "Shazneen asked why I en-

tered the room without knocking the door. I said I wanted to go to the toilet and then immediately switched off the light. When I went to her room I was carrying a knife in my pocket collected earlier from the house. Switching off the light, I brought out the knife from the pocket. Shazneen started screaming. I made an attempt to

Appointment of Observer Editor: HC order stayed

The Appellate Division of

operation of the order of the High Court Division on appointment of Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury as Editor of The Bangladesh Observer, according to a press release issued yesterday by the Establishment Officer of the daily.

Manzoor A Chowdhury, a share holder of the company later challenged the appointment by filing an application before the Company Judge of the High Court Division on August 9 for maintaining a status quo ante as regards appointment of Editor and other matters. By an order the following day, the Company Judge directed maintaining status quo ante, which was later challenged by Khaled Hamidul Huq. a director of the Observer Group of Publications. He filed a civil miscellaneous petition and prayed for stay of the order, the

On Sunday, upon hearing

Israeli diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity. said there was agreement that Israel would withdraw from an

Three per cent would be

we're trying to nail down here,

From Page 1 rape her. She kicked me and I

Parvin, Badal, Shani Ram and

Shahid said, "A few days before Eid. Hasan met me on the lawn and summoned me. Hasan said that Shazneen would have to be posal as Hasan offered to pay Thereafter, he went to

Shahid in his judicial

statement further said, "On idence. Hasan informed me that a party will be hosted at Latifur

"Everybody will be busy when the party starts, Hasan said asking me to complete my assigned job during that time. He assured me that there was nothing for me to get scared and that Parvin and Humayun will assist me during that time. He also said that he will bear all

By Staff Correspondent

the Supreme Court has stayed

The management of the Al-Helal Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. appointed Chowdhury as Editor of the daily on August 6 this year, it added.

press release said.

both the parties, the Vacation Judge of the Appellate Division stayed the operation of the order till November 19 this year. Senior advocates Barrister

Shafiq Ahmed and Barrister Mohammad Ali, instructed by Advocate-on-Record Sharif Uddin Chaklader, appeared for the petitioner while Md Nowab Ali. Advocate-on-Record, appeared for the respondent.

the country's democracy loving people had never tolerated any anti-democratic authority in whichever colour or shape it appeared. "But it is an irony that we do not find democratic behaviour from our democratically elected leadership.' In this regard, he referred to

the parliamentary debates that witness exchange of abuses mainly over some events of the long past'. "In such circumstances, it is all the more necessary that the civil society become more active and play its role assigned to it by history"

PM: Ministries From Page 1

the meeting that the format carried information like the

number of foreign tours of the ministers, secretaries and so on. But it did not give more important information like how much electricity the energy ministry had produced, or how many cases had been pending with the courts and so on, the secretary noted. The cabinet members found

the arguments logical, while the PM instantly asked the secretaries concerned to take necessary steps to change the format In another development, the

cabinet deferred consideration of a Land Ministry proposal seeking certain amendments to the Vested Property Act. According to cabinet

sources, the land ministry has been advised to get the proposed amendments vetted by the law ministry.

tioned the counsel and contended that they belonged to the third party who were involved in the killing of Bangabandhu. Khan Saifur mentioned about a letter of former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to renowned Bengali writer Annada Sankar Roy. In her letter Mrs Gandhi had urged Roy not to put the Indian government to