

BUY NOW ... PAY LATER



Whirlpool
HOME APPLIANCES
USA
Refrigerator
Transcom Electronics Limited
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA

The Daily Star



স্বাস্থ্যের জন্য

VOL. VIII NO. 254 REGD. NO. DA 781 INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> ASHWIN 23, 1405 BS DHAKA THURSDAY OCTOBER 8, 1998 JAMADIUS SAANI 16, 1419 HIJRI 16 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS : PRICE TAKA 9.00

BNP to stage demonstration at dist HQs today

BNP and its front organizations will stage demonstrations today at the district headquarters across the country, reports UNB.

The demonstrations will be held protesting the filing of 'false cases' against opposition leaders, including Begum Khaleda Zia, arrest of three leaders and JAGPA chief Shaiful Alam Prodan and in support of other demands.

The opposition party also demanded Open Market Sale (OMS) of rice at a price of Tk 10 per kg all over the country, said a party press release yesterday.

The party leaders will start countrywide mass contact tour from October 9 to 22 to drum up public support to various opposition parties.

See Page 12 Col 1

Govt's emergency agri grant to reach only 11 pc affected

By Morshed Ali Khan

Ninety lakh farmer families have been listed as badly affected by the floods, but only 10 lakh or slightly over 11 per cent will receive government grants under an emergency agricultural rehabilitation scheme.

And many of these families may not be on the priority list as, officials say, interventions at the local political level are likely to overrule the selection criteria.

Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) officials said

they had so far received Tk 44.47 crore for the programme from the government's revenue budget and other sources such as foreign and local donors.

The Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme (ARP) was launched with the beginning of the flood in July and will continue till the end of June next year.

The condition was that the recipient of the grant must be flood affected and belong to "landless and small and

marginal groups" owning less than 2.5 acres of land. Each farmer is receiving support for agricultural work on one bigha of land.

The DAE officials admitted that the amount was "too inadequate" but said other projects, including a Tk 313 crore one in the pipeline, were being considered to face the crisis.

According to sources, the biggest hurdle to reach the most marginal farmers was "unfair" interventions from the local

politicians such as union parishad chairmen and members.

"Most of the chairmen and members are under this or that political banner and we have reports that many lists only bore the names of their party-men," said a DAE official, requesting anonymity.

He explained that although representatives from Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) and

See Page 12 Col 3

Govt plans early polls to CHT RC

The government is considering to hold early election to the CHT Regional Council in view of the PCJSS' rejection of the interim council constituted earlier.

"We are still trying to make them agree to the 22-member interim Regional Council announced September 6," said a senior government official.

"If they (PCJSS) do not agree, election will be held as early as possible, and they should wait until that time," the official told UNB by telephone last night.

He said the Election Commission has been requested to

take necessary steps for holding election to the CHT Regional Council.

The chairman-designate of the interim Regional Council, Joytirindra Bodhipriya Larma, alias Shantu Larma, had rejected the Council for inclusion of three non-trial members.

The official, requesting anonymity, said the government in its sincere efforts had tried to convince the PCJSS leaders that it was an interim council and should work until the election.

The Regional Council was to start functioning within three months.

See Page 12 Col 3

House takes up impeachment today

WASHINGTON, Oct 7: President Bill Clinton is personally calling House Democrats and "making his case" in a bid to prevent defections as a decision looms in the full House of representatives on opening a formal impeachment inquiry, says Reuters.

The full 435-member House will vote on Thursday on whether to launch an open-ended, unrestricted investigation.

See Page 12 Col 4

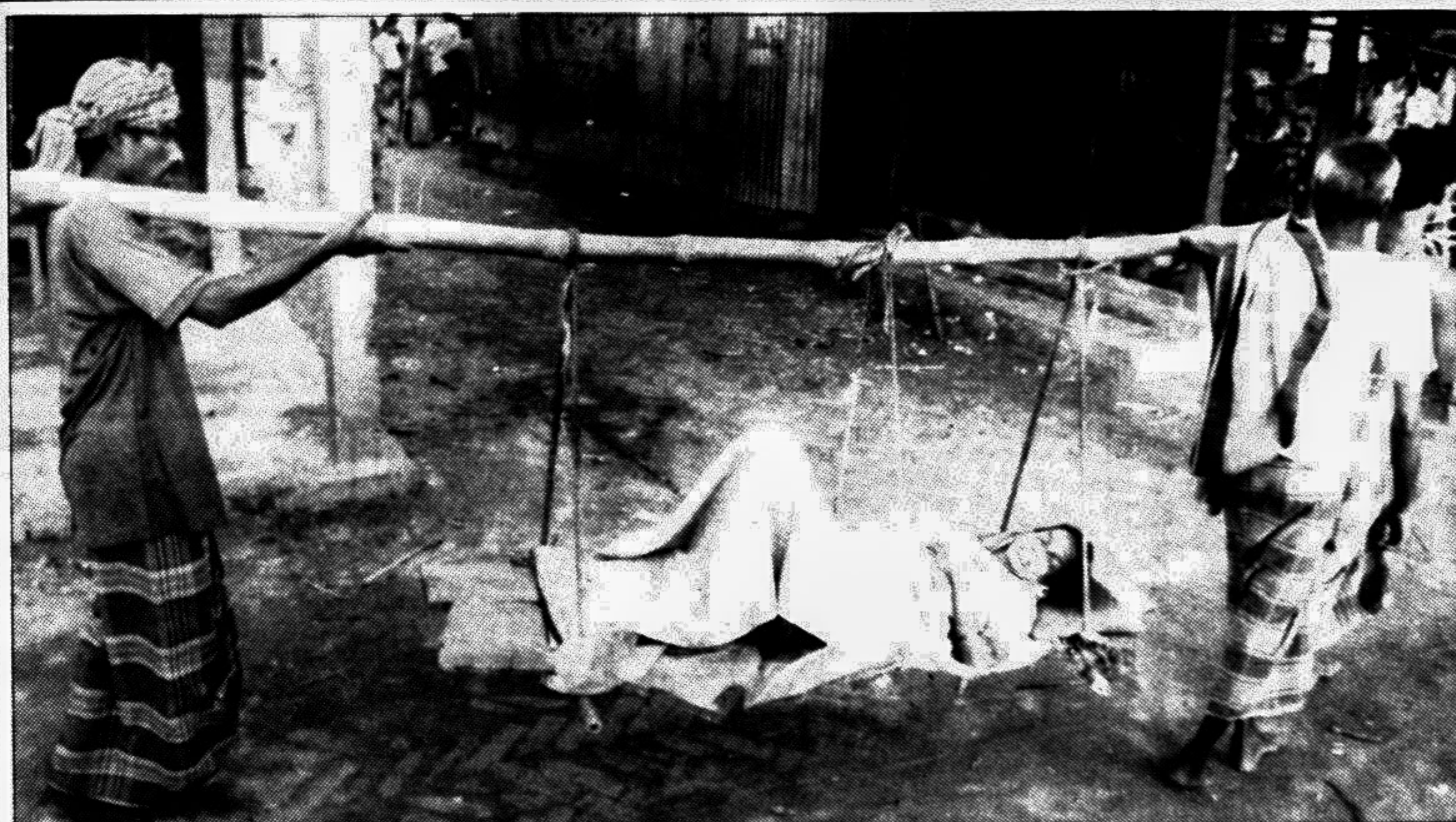
Top bureaucrats under fire now from freedom fighter officers

Another civil servants' group has made a scathing attack on top bureaucrats who reportedly criticised the administration for inefficiency, calling it an attempt to pass the buck on to others to cover their "own misdeeds and failures".

Bangladesh Muktiyoddha BCS Welfare Association yesterday strongly condemned reported "attempts" by the top bureaucrats, including principal secretary to the prime minister, to shift their own burden of failures and misdeeds on the shoulders of others.

"What constructive contributions have the top bureaucrats made for the nation?" the association asked in a statement.

See Page 12 Col 2



RACING AGAINST TIME: With road infrastructure in worst shape, people in Tangail find it very difficult to cope with emergencies, let alone normal schedules. Same is the case with the sick woman who had to be rushed on a bamboo stretcher to a health center for treatment. The photo was taken yesterday by Star photographer Amran Hossain from Katuli thana of the district.

Pakistan army chief calls it quits

ISLAMABAD, Oct 7: In a surprise announcement Pakistan's powerful army chief Gen Jehangir Karamat resigned, Pakistan Television reported today, reports AP.

The resignation follows a call by Karamat for the establishment of a National Security Council, that would have given the army a role in Pakistan's decision making.

The Pakistan Television news alert gave a terse statement.

He said Pakistan was beset with a crumbling economy, bitter sectarian violence and increasing disenchantment from the electorate.

Karamat is to be replaced by Gen Parvez Musharraf, who will also be Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman.

Karamat's call for a security council was seen by the opposition political parties as a final warning to Sharif's government and a harbinger of possible military rule.

In Pakistan where the army has ruled for 25 of the past 51 years this is the first time an army chief of staff has retired prematurely.

ment saying that Karamat submitted his resignation to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif earlier in the day. There was no immediate explanation given for the resignation, but it is believed to be linked to the strongly worded statement issued by Karamat on Monday when he proposed the National Security Council.

In that statement, Karamat said Pakistan was facing difficult times. He assailed the political leadership for pursuing "insecurity-driven" policies.

He said Pakistan was beset with a crumbling economy, bitter sectarian violence and increasing disenchantment from the electorate.

Karamat is to be replaced by Gen Parvez Musharraf, who will also be Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman.

Karamat's call for a security council was seen by the opposition political parties as a final warning to Sharif's government and a harbinger of possible military rule.

In Pakistan where the army has ruled for 25 of the past 51 years this is the first time an army chief of staff has retired prematurely.

8 get life term for rape

By Staff Correspondent

COMILLA, Nov 7: A special court trying cases of repression on women and children today sentenced eight persons to life imprisonment for raping a teenage housewife.

The gang was found guilty under the Women and Children Repression Prevention (Special) Act 1995. The convicts are Aman Miah, Sunder Ali, Abdul Mannaf, Momin, Mannan, Ali Akbar, Shaifur Rahman and Mona.

The judge mentioned the victim's husband, Abu Thar of village Bhuiyanpara of Kachua thana, Chandpur, is not willing to accept her since the incident. They got married only seven months before.

Judge Md. Akbar, ruled that each of the convicts would serve life imprisonment and a concurrent rigorous imprisonment for seven years with a fine of Tk 5,000.

Failing to pay the fine, each of them will suffer rigorous imprisonment for another year, the judge said.

Of the eight, five were present in the court today. The three absentees—Abdul Mannaf, Shaifur Rahman and Mana were tried in absentia.

The prosecution said that the victim was picked up by the

See Page 12 Col 2

Inside Today Article

Whither Global Disarmament Agenda?

Column: Panorama by Dilara Choudhury Page 4

Business

South Asian growth to outstrip other regions this year: WB

Plenty of ideas on fighting global crisis, but no agreement

DSE, CSE price quotations Pages 8, 9, 10

Beximco defaults in payments, now claims Baghkhali has no links with it

IFIC finds its balance sheet in the red?

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi and Inam Ahmed

A leading private commercial bank faces an unprecedented situation for its balance sheet as Bangladesh Bank has refused to allow a big defaulting borrower, the Beximco Group, to reschedule its huge unpaid loans.

The IFIC Bank has suddenly found its balance sheet changed as it is now required to make mandatory provisioning against the defaulted Beximco

debts, amounting to tens of crores of taka. IFIC sources say this will wipe off "our entire profits".

The central bank rejected repeated Beximco Group requests, forwarded through IFIC Bank, to allow rescheduling of the loans. The principal amount is Tk 122.34 crore, and, according to a revised schedule, the Group is required to pay back by December 2004.

Central bank sources said Beximco had failed to pay three of its recent instalments amounting to over Tk 10 crore to IFIC.

And Baghkhali Fisheries has also defaulted in several instalments against loans guaranteed by the Beximco Group. In a stunning development, however, the Group is now claiming that it had no links with Baghkhali.

IFIC Bank sources said the central bank refusal made the entire loan to be classified as "doubtful", which would require the bank to make a 50 per cent mandatory provisioning. "This would just wipe off the entire profits of the bank which has declared a 25 per cent dividend on paper," a bank official said.

These loans guaranteed by the Beximco Group have been overdue for more than six

months now, which qualifies these debts to be classified as "doubtful," the IFIC official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The central bank directive came even after the IFIC Board's willingness to accept Beximco plea for a favourable repayment reschedule.

It has been a long-drawn process, which has seen a lot of efforts put up by the business conglomerate along with the IFIC Bank to convince the central bank officials.

On February 17, 1998, Beximco Group chairman A S F Rahman first applied to the Governor for rescheduling of loans and advances guaranteed by Beximco Group "on the same terms and conditions as were allowed to Islam Group pursuant to discussion held with

See Page 12 Col 4

BNP unlikely to go for massive agitation now

By Nazmul Ashraf

Despite having a number of potential issues, the BNP is unlikely to go for a massive street agitation now as the nation is still bearing the burnt of the worst flooding.

Besides, party insiders said, at least three more factors are also preventing the main opposition party from launching an all-out street agitation. These are annual examinations at schools, the month of Ramadan and the long-pending move for revamping the party.

Taking into consideration all these factors, it is reliably learnt, the BNP high command now prefers to go slow till the end of this year although a section of the party leadership and its allies are pressing for tougher programmes like hartal. But others are opposed to such programmes which would only multiply the sufferings of the flood victims.

Furthermore, party sources pointed out, street agitations could not be intensified ahead of the annual examinations at schools and the Ramadan-during December-January. The fourth factor is that the plan for revamping the BNP is still to be implemented.

To keep up the morale of party activists, BNP is likely to continue moderate programmes like street rally, procession and mass contact aimed at creating public awareness against government's "tyranny" and its "failures".

As the century's worst flood gripped the country, BNP chief Khaleda Zia had earlier announced postponement of all sorts of agitation programmes to "enable her party workers serve the flood victims".

But bewildered by the sudden arrests of two BNP leaders in

See Page 12 Col 1

Criminal case against Khandaker Mosharraf, ex-BPC chairman likely


Bureau of Anti-Corruption is likely to file a criminal case against former Energy Minister and BNP leader Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain MP and five other officials of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), reports UNB.

The BNP leader was said to have illegally influenced the authorities to appoint his brother-in-law Md Yusuf Hossain Bhuiyan as Assistant Manager (PR) in BPC who did not have required qualification for the post.

The Prime Minister's office has given green signal for the Bureau to file the case in Chittagong official sources said.

The five officials are: Former BPC Chairman Md Fazlul Huq, former member secretary and present member (Admn) Md Kamaluddin, former director and now energy expert in the World Bank ASM Bashirul Huq,


See Page 12 Col 1



11th Branch

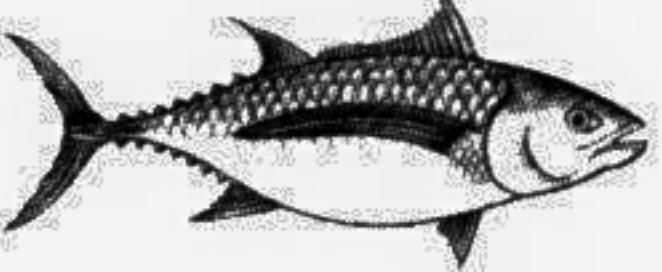
opening on THURSDAY OCTOBER 08, 1998 at Laldighirpar SYLHET Sacred Land of Great Saints and Awlias

All our Clients, Patrons and Well-wishers are cordially invited.



Services that match the demand of the 21st century

Registered Office: Adamjee Court, 115-120 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka
Tel: 9556557 Fax: 950-2-9556584 Tlx: 632285 DBL BJ e-mail: dhakabnk@bdonline.com



The Deadliest Food On Planet Earth

The rainy season usually brings its share of surprises. Especially, if it turns to catastrophe like this time. Because in such times, the food you love could just be the food you should avoid. Even harmless things like fish could turn out to be the carrier of deadly disease causing germs. It's time to be that extra bit cautious.

The Unappetising Truth

Almost unavoidably, the fish you get in the rainy season is stale. For reasons that range from delayed supply to slow delivery. And fish at such times could be ideal carrier of various disease-causing bacteria and germs. Diseases like Malaria, Diarrhoea, Dengue, Gastroenteritis, Cholera, jaundice and Typhoid spreading. Diseases, that usually raise their ugly heads at such times.

Home Hygiene - The First Step

In addition to maintaining a safe diet, keeping your home clean is of paramount importance. What's more important is to keep it disinfected. Regular mopping floor with water mixed with disinfectants is one way of doing it. Not letting water accumulate in hidden places and corners is another. Simple to do, both are effective ways of keeping germs at bay.

Personal Hygiene - The Best Step

A clean safe person always stands the best chance of avoiding diseases. Always insist on boiling your water before consumption.

What's More

Prevention is any day better than cure. To stop infection and germs dead in your tracks, here are a couple of musts. Dip your clothes in an effective antiseptic after washing. Wash your hands with an antiseptic soap. And always keep a bottle of antiseptic liquid within your reach. Because finally, its hygiene that'll decide what the rains have in store for you. A happy ending, or a sad one.

Issued in Public Interest by **Dettol**