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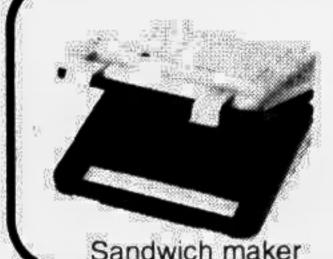
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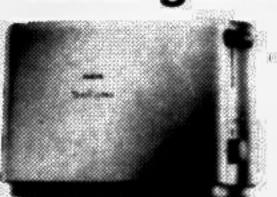


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PHILIPS

BGMEA to keep online vigil against 'quota forgery'

By Govinda Shil

customs authorities for the on-

us maintain transparency and

quota distribution and its use,"

BGMEA president Mostafa Go-

lam Quddus told The Daily Star

ficials and the BGMEA are wor

ried about excessive shipment

of some 14,000 dozen coats and

non-suit wear to the US market

this year, a charge brought by

The commerce ministry of-

line surveillance.

the US authorities.

BGMEA is introducing a computerised system by next month to monitor issuance of quota and exports under GSP

facility. The proposed automation will allow the foreign customs authorities and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) in Dhaka and Chittagong to keep an online vigil on quota utilisation, BGMEA officials

The system will enable the users to monitor duty free entry of Bangladeshi garment products into the 15 European Union countries and exports to US and Canada.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) will implement the automation project at a cost of

The matter came to light Tk 50 lakh. A memorandum of understanding in this regard when the US customs authoriwas signed recently between the BGMEA and AmCham last ties asked Bangladesh to stop shipment of these items because its quota had already been exhausted. After scrutiny, BGMEA A garment delegation led by Commerce Secretary Syed authorities found that there Alamgir Farrouk Chowdhury will visit USA to consult the US had been no such excessive shipment from Bangladesh.

"We are suspecting that there might have been a human error "The automation will help from the US side. The US customs might have made double check fraudulent activities in or triple entries of a single consignment," Quddus said.

"The shipment may also have been made by a third country in the name of Bangladesh," he said adding the garment delegation would also discuss the issue with the US customs officials so that Bangladesh could get back the quota for the 14,000 dozens.

Implement rehabilitation projects without delay: PM

A meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) in the city yesterday reviewed implementation of the 1997-98 ADP and the programmes on postflood rehabilitation and recon-

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting. She asked the officials to take special effort for implementing post-flood rehabilitation projects.

After the meeting, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Jawadul Karim told newsmen that the Prime Minister was apprised of progress of projects and called for implementation of those without any delay.

Hasina particularly referred to post-flood rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes of different ministries, specially the agriculture rehabilitation and reconstruction of roads, bridges, schools and colleges and directed the officials to give topmost priority for their implementation.

She also directed the meeting to identify the problems of projects and solved those

BNP: Agitation From Page

sition demands including the release of arrested leaders. Other partners of the Seven Party Alliance have also announced similar programmes

separately from their rallies in

the capital vesterday. City BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka MP announced the programme at a protest rally held at the party's city office at Nayabazar in the after-

Addressing the rally Khoka said Awami League leaders involved in conspiracies must be brought to justice for fair trial of the Jail killing on November

3, 1975. "We don't support any killing. We did not want the physical death of Sheikh Mu-

iib." BNP leader said. Khoka said the government, in the name of trial, is repressing and harassing its political

opponents. Demanding immediate release of the arrested leaders, the BNP leader warned that people would continue mass agitation

until the Awami League regime is ousted. The rally over a protest pro-North South Avenue, Gulistan

cession paraded the streets of areas and terminated at Purana Paltan crossing.

BNP unlikely

From Page 1 connection with the jail killings of November 3, 1975, filing of fresh cases against the party's front-ranking leaders and attacks on its workers at different places across the country, BNP started agitation programmes but limiting those to street rallies and proces-

The BNP policy planners are learnt to have planned to give a legal fight on the issue of 'implicating' two of its leaders in the jail killing case.

"We should not erode much of our strength needed for an oust-government movement. capitalising on the government's failure in post-flood management", a BNP standing committee member said, preferring anonymity.

BNP's on-going programmes. he said, aim at discrediting the government ahead of the elections of city corporations and municipalities, likely to be held early next year. "A good performance in the local government elections will contribute a lot to our planned agitation for dislodging the government," he

commented. The latest round of agitation programme, announced simultaneously by BNP and its allies yesterday, was a 14-day mass contact from Friday. This, party sources said, may follow similar programmes unless

anything dramatic happens. Meanwhile, BNP leadership is now hesitant to hold a public meeting it announced last week as it finds it difficult to organise such a programme in the post-flood period. The date for the planned meeting not fixed till last night.

quickly. "We must take appro-The Prime Minister also di-

priate steps in this regard. rected the secretaries to visit the projects and monitor their implementation for expediting the work. struction, reports UNB.

She suggested coordination meetings of different ministries and frequent inter-ministerial meetings for quick implementation of post-flood activities. She also asked the ministries to take appropriate measures for effective utilisation of external assistance.

She directed the authorities concerned to create massive opportunities for employment generation in the rural areas and referred to food for work, VGF and VGD programmes.

Hasina was happy to note that despite the severity of flood the government was able to maintain communication system, the railway played an admirable role in this regard. For this, price of essential commodities did not rise.

Prime Minister also called for improving the warning system of flood, cyclone and earthquake and suggested utilisation of modern technology for all these and also for the weather forecasting.

5 killed in Gazipur road accident

GAZIPUR, Oct 7: At least five people, including a baby, were killed and 20 others injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway here today, reports UNB.

Police sources said a speeding truck rammed a Dhakabound passenger bus at Basan

Life term

From Page 1 gang from the residence of her brother-in-law Rafigul Islam at about 11:30 pm on May 12.

Rafigul Islam lodged the

case with Kotwali thana the following day. The victim had come to village Zammura of Kotwali

thana, Comilla, to visit her sis-According to the FIR, the

gang entered the house, removing the leaf fenced door, forcibly took the young woman away to a nearby vegetable garden, raped her and left her there.

Special PP Mojibur Rahman led the prosecution and advocates Harun ur Rashid and Mofizul Islam steered the de-

Top bureaucrats

From Page 1 ment issued after its executive

committee meeting yesterday with its president Manzurul Alam in the chair. It also blamed the

"aristocrats" of the bureaucracy for "red tapism" and "harassment" in disposal of files. "The secretaries of min-

istries or the top civil servants control the ministries and departments under them. If there had been any discrepancy and nepotism in writing of annual confidential reports, these top bureaucrats are responsible. the statement said.

"These bureaucrats are occupying all the important positions of the Republic. After retirement most of them get their services extended on contract through manipulations."

The association also demanded "such top and incompetent bureaucrats who do not love the country" should be retired, and urged the government to promote the patriotic, pro-Liberation freedom fighter officials to important posts.

The association also appealed to the authorities to consider the issue of "loyalty to the Independence Sovereignty", merit, experience and honesty as the yardsticks of promotions and ensure transparency at all levels.

It also "decided to inform the concerned officials" who have made the reported remarks that a file needs 27 signatures from an assistant secretary to a minister that it actually needs only four signatures.

Stop executing 'secret plot,' release three leaders: Khaleda

Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday advised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to stop executing a 'secret plot' and release the leaders arrested on charges of jail killing, reports UNB.

"It's a naked reflection of political vendetta to serve a secret desire of the government and protect itself from the people's wrath caused by its failure in facing the flood and its aftermath," she said in a statement.

The BNP chairperson issued the statement after three former ministers KM Obaidur Rahman, MP, Shah Moazzem Hossain and Nurul Islam Manzur were arrested in connection with the killing of four national leaders in Dhaka Central Jail on November 3. 1975.

Begum Zia said the three opposition leaders, including BNP Standing Committee member Obaidur Rahman, were arrested under a "conspiracy" accusing them in Jail-Killing Case.

She also protested the arrest of JAGPA leader Shafiul Alam Pradhan from a "peaceful" procession in the city.

CHT RC From Page 1

weeks of its formation. It is now more than a month since the government had announced the interim Regional Council.

UNB Khagrachhari Correspondent reports: After his scheduled meeting with the PCJSS leaders has fallen flat, CHT Affairs Minister Kalparanjan Chakma yesterday observed that they (PCJSS) were not sincere.

Addressing a meeting of tribal leaders at Dighinala in the afternoon, he said there was nothing like any "unwritten agreement" with the PCJSS that the interim Regional Council would be formed in accordance with their suggestion. Nor it

was in the peace accord. The Minister told the tribal leaders that the government was sincere to fully implement the terms and conditions of the CHT peace accord signed on December 2 last year.

He regretted that the PCJSS leaders had failed to respond to the government and did not turn up at the meeting scheduled on Tuesday at the Kha-

grachhari Circuit House. Shantu Larma, who is in Khagrachhari, refused to respond to telephone calls yester-

However, a front ranking PCJSS leader, requesting anonymity, said they were firm in their demand for recasting the interim Regional Council formed by the government.

Agri aid From Page 1

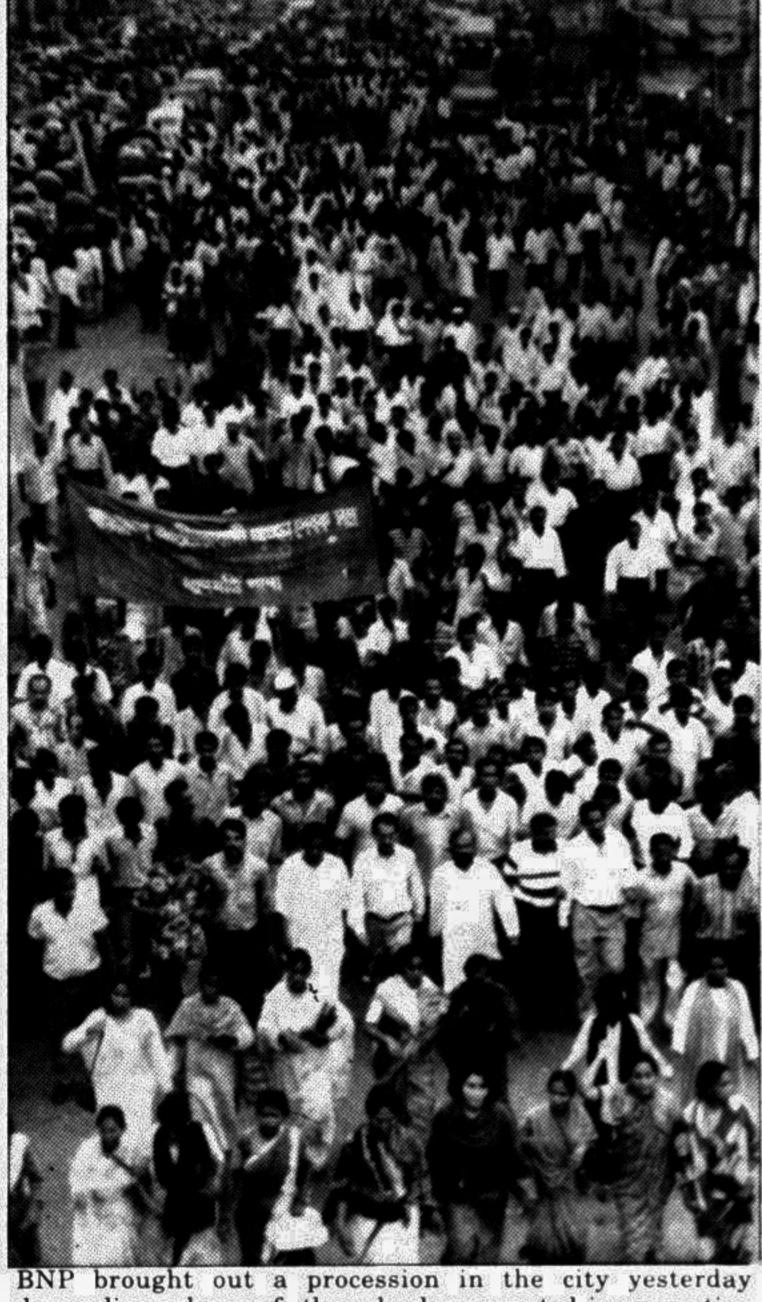
DAE's Block Supervisors were also involved in the process of listing the names, they were often "helpless" before the influential chairmen and members. Under the programme, the DAE distributed cash among the listed farmers in July. But in August, an official source said, after reports of "irregularities" in disbursement it was decided that the farmers would be directly given seeds of vegetable, transplanted aman, wheat, boro, mustard, pulse, maize and fruit saplings (perennial plant).

District agricultural rehabilitation implementation committees are responsible for distribution of these seeds and saplings.

According to official estimates, the prolonged deluge destroyed crops, vegetables and fruits on 19 lakh hectares of land.

"An estimated 35 lakh tonnes of food production was lost out of which 20 lakh tonnes are rice," one DAE official said. He claimed that DAE had chalked out plans to produce an additional 10 lakh tonnes of crops in the coming season to cover the loss.

The ARP is an emergency grant in addition to more than Tk 3,000 crore agricultural loans offered by the govern-



demanding release of three leaders arrested in connection with the jail killing. - Star photo

Clinton impeachment From Page 1 point in giving up hope," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart

tion of Clinton that could eventually range far beyond his affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

With the Republican-controlled House certain to approve the investigation, the White House hoped to limit defections by nervous Democrats who feared Clinton's troubles could sink their chances in the November 3 midterm elections.

A strong Democratic vote for the investigation would weaken their arguments that the impeachment process was a partisan exercise by Republicans intent on bringing down Clinton.

"There is a certain sense that the die is cast on this issue. But you know, there is time between now and then, and there is no

Prodhan, 14 others released

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Ganatantric Party (Jagpa) president Shafiul Alam Prodhan along with fourteen activists of his party were released a bail yesterday, police said.

Police had arrested Prodhan and fifteen others from Bijoynagar in the city on Saturday on charge of damaging public property and attack on police. Earlier, one of the arrested

persons was released on bail on Sunday.

Lawyers had moved a bail petition on behalf of Prodhan and the fourteen others before the CMM's Court on Tuesday. The court granted them bail and they were released from Dhaka Central Jail yesterday after-

Democrats rushed to counter Republican plans while still underscoring their disapproval

Meanwhile, AP said

of President Bill Clinton's af The Republican-controlled

House Judiciary Committee approved a sweeping impeachment inquiry in a party-line vote on Monday, after first brushing aside two Democratic alternatives.

Sectt employees demand full pay during last 6 months of LPR

By Staff Correspondent The Secretariat Karmakarta

o Karmachari Sanjukta Parishad met the additional finance secretary yesterday and urged him to consider their demands including payment of full Eid bonus from the current financial year. Parishad leader Zafar

Ahmed said they also reiterated their 15-point demand which include full pay during the last six months of LPR and uniform allowance.

Mosharraf

From Page 1 Deputy General Manager AHM Abdus Samad Khan and Deputy General Manager (PR) Md Yusuf

Hossain. Munirul Islam, a retired director (Finance) of BPC, is also likely to be implicated in the case, sources said.

eries, whose loans are long

more than Tk 1.32 crore was due by September 30 for two quarterly installments in June and September. The amount

vice chairman Salman Rahman, both holding same positions with Beximco, opted to ities from other loans guaran-On September 10, the central teed by the Group.

bank told IFIC that there was "No Director of Beximco "no scope" to make any changes Group has any shareholding in to previously approved schedule the said company," he said.

> gone through extremely complicated and unacceptable means to make Tk 1.75 crore available to Baghkhali Fisheries, in which the Beximco

loan amounting to Tk 9.93 turned into a term loan in violation of banking rules.

Munshiganj visited

Businesses struggle to heal the flood wounds

By Rafiq Hasan back from Munshiganj

As many as 335 enterprises Munshiganj district were affected by the recent flood and the owners of those are now busy repairing the damaged mo-tors, machines, and infrastruc-

The affected units are 250 rice mills, 60 ice and cold storage units and 25 knitting mills producing nylon yarn and fish-ing nets, according to sources.

"There was not a single enterprise in the district which was not affected by the flood water," said Jashim Uddin Ahmed, General Secretary of Munshiganj District Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

"Flood water remained stagnant for weeks together damaging machinery in most of the units. Infrastructures in some units were washed away", he

Most of the units are on the banks of Buriganga and Dhaleshwari rivers.

Many mills and factories became inoperative as their vital machinery and equipment got rusted. Spareparts will have to be imported to make those operational again, some mill owners said On the other hand, those

who have started production in their mills, are facing financial problem as they exhausted this working capital and savings during the flood. During a visit to Binodpur,

Moktarpur, Mirkadim and Rikabi Bazar area the main industrial belt of the district, this correspondent saw many rice mills and knitting units were not in operation. According to mill owners, twenty per cent rice mills in the area will not be operational again because their machinery were damaged beyond repair.

"The whole area had gone

under about four feet water

which damaged the machinery and raw materials including stockpiled paddy which was ready for crushing," said Ali Kashem, owner of Binodpur Rice Mill at Binodpur. The rice mill owners are re-

building infrastructures and

pucca platforms in front of every rice mill where paddy is

dried before crushing. "It will cost around Tk 70 thousand to rebuild the damaged platform," said Maqbul Ahmed of Akota Rice Mill at Benodpur. He is trying to start

motor with a new one. "Besides about 400 sacks of paddy kept in the factory godown were also totally damaged," Maqbul said.

the rice mill again but he will

have to replace the damaged

Ali Kashem of Binodpur Rice Mill started his rice mill on Monday but is facing financial

The mill could not be started

earlier due to lack of day labourers Most of the day labourers are from Barisal and Patuakhali districts. "Most of them went home during the flood and are yet to come back and join

work", he said. Kashem is now

crushing paddy brought by cus-

tomers. His own business re-

mained stopped due to lack of capital. Other rice mills nearby have similar stories. Talking to this correspondent, day labourers Alamgir and Abdul Mannan, both from Patuakhali, said that they came back after a long break of two months. "What could I do stay-

Mannan said. A number of Cold Storage units in Mokterpur and Mirkadim also face a similar situation. Huge quantities of potatoes in those units were damaged.

ing here when the factory was

submerged by flood water,"

According to Bangladesh Cold Storage Association, a total of 70 cold storage units in Munshiganj. Narayanganj and Comilla districts were affected by the recent flood. "The total loss of those cold storage units may be Tk 300 crore," said an official of the association.

Flood Water entered the machine rooms of Kadom Rasul Cold Storage and Riverview Cold Storage on the bank of river Dholeshwary as their boundary walls collapsed due to heavy current during the flood. "The machine was closed for about two weeks," said Mohammad Ali, a director of Kadom Rasul Cold Storage. "As a result, 60 per cent of the potato kept in the storage have been affected," he said.

Afsar Uddin Ahmed of Sea Line fishing net industry told this correspondent that 90 per cent of machinery were affected by the flood water. "Twelve knitting machines out of the total 105 were damaged totally and the rest are affected partially," he said.

Bir Bahadur takes over as chairman of CHT Dev Board

RANGAMATI, Oct 7: Bir Bahadur MP took over as the Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board here today, reports UNB. He was nominated by the

government to head the board as a people's representative as per the CHT peace accord. The CHT Development Board, set up in 1976, was earlier run by government offi-

cials. Woman shot during clash between BCL factions

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Oct 7: A woman was bullet-hit in front of Chittagong Polytechnic Institute at Nasirabad during an exchange of fire between two rival factions of Chhatra League

today, police said. Saleha Begum, 25, was admitted to Chittagong Medical Hospital with bullet wounds in

Police said, exchange of fire took place over the issue of 'domination on the campus.' At one stage, local people backed by a section of students caught three activists engaged in the firing and handed them

over to police.

Defence praises Bangabandhu to bail out Taheruddin

A defence counsel in the Bangabandhu murder case yesterday eulogized former President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as an institution and a great leader of the contemporary his-

tory, reports UNB. "Bangabandhu is not a mere name but an institution. He gave birth to this country. But the prosecution failed to establish Bangabandhu to his image and glory. Rather, he was belittled to his countrymen by the prosecution," said Sharfuddin Mukul, the counsel for accused

Taheruddin Thakur. The defence counsel contended that Bangabandhu was himself the party and the government. The mystery of the murder of Bangabandhu was

not unfurled. Recalling the background of the incident, Mukul said the Mujib government had got the threat of armed struggle from Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) at that time. Bangabandhu

himself used to say that he

would be killed like Alende of Chile and the bullet is chasing him. They will not allow him to complete his task.

Portraying Taheruddin Thakur as the 'political child of Bangabandhu, the counsel said, Bangabandhu loved Thakur like his child. A journalist of the daily Ittefaq, Thakur was picked up and elevated by Bangabandhu to the council of ministers. "But now Thakur is numb and speechless."

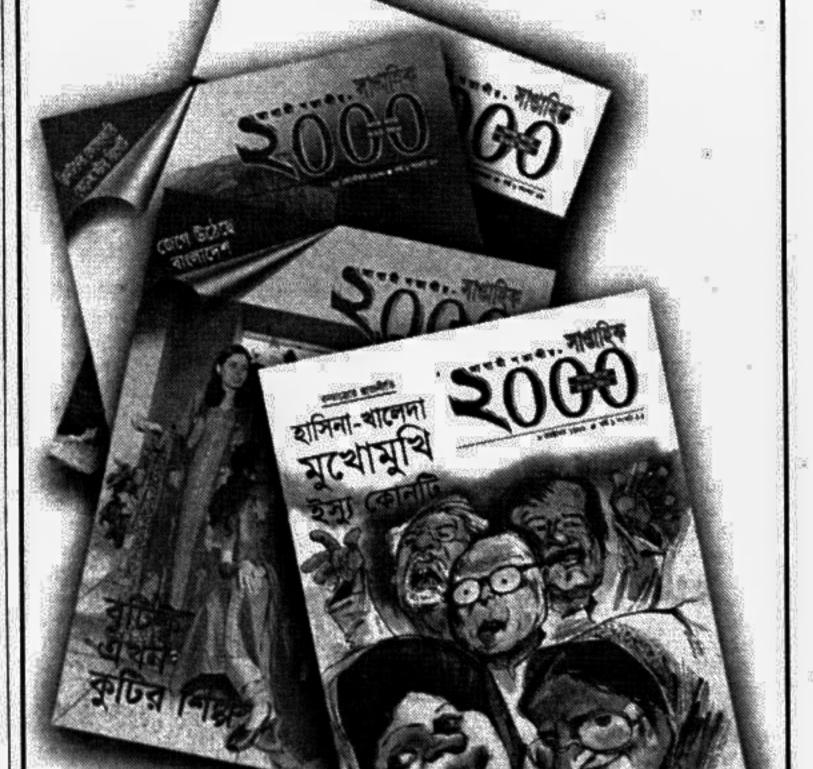
The counsel said he would by no means suggest that any sort of enmity or hostility brewed up between Bangabandhu and

Referring to the prosecution, he said Thakur was charged with conspiracy, correcting the announcement of Maj Dalim and drafting radio speech of

Khandaker Mustaq Ahmed. And that Mushtaq informed Thakur on August 14 afternoon about his meeting with Ziaur Rahman who was said to have told Mushtaq that his boys (army officers) had become restless to topple the government. The counsel contended that Thakur never had talks with

Ziaur Rahman. If there was any

See Page 11



সময়ের সঙ্গে চলুন 🕳 সাপ্তাহিক ২০০০ পড়ন

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Beximco defaults loan payments chairman of Group again did velopment is Beximco's refusal From Page 1 Honourable Finance Minister to recognise Baghkhali Fishnot like the BB decisions and

and the Governor" On February 26, Bangladesh Bank responded by saying the proposal should primarily be dealt with by the IFIC Board and the decision should be conveved to the central bank.

On March 4, the IFIC Board

approved the proposal, subject

to clearance of the Bangladesh

Bank (BB). But the central bank did not agree to the proposal. The BB had earlier asked IFIC "to obtain a corporate guarantee of Beximco Investment Co (now Beximco Holdings Ltd) including personal guarantee of its directors, for the liabilities of M/s Baghkhali

Fisheries".

The central bank had also asked for similar guarantee against other Beximco loans. On April 26, Bangladesh Bank conveyed its decision refusing the Beximco terms for rescheduling.

On May 5, Beximco Investment chairman A S F Rahman wrote again to the Governor pleading for the central bank concurrence. In response, on May 31, the BB sought the opinion of the IFIC Board, which was quick enough to give a pro-Beximco decision in two

BB allows some changes:

Beximco wants more

August 30, the central bank

conveyed the "revised" terms

and conditions of rescheduling

of the loans and advances guar-

anteed by Beximco Group". The

About three months later, on

asked the IFIC Bank to "approach" the central bank for a "review" On September 3, the IFIC

Bank wrote again to BB "outlining the points raised by Beximco Group". On September 9, the IFIC Board again discussed the issue. Syed Mohsen Ali, a director, chaired the Board meeting, as chairman A S F Rahman and

stay out of the meeting. This time, again, the IFIC Board decided to seek central bank approval for changes in repayment schedule, as desired by Beximco.

unless Beximco started paying. On September 16, IFIC again wrote to the central bank, which closed the chapter by saying: "There is no scope to reconsider your proposal." Under the conditions laid

down by the central bank, Beximco was to pay more than Tk 11.29 crore by September 30. The amount became due because it failed to pay two quarterly installments for March and June and three monthly installments for July, August and September, according to IFIC documents obtained by The Daily Star.

Beximco disowns Baghkhali! But the most surprising de-

overdue for which the Group had earlier sought a new payment schedule. According to IFIC, on account of Baghkhali liabilities.

was much higher according to the original terms! A S F Rahman, chairman of Beximco Group, wrote to IFIC on September 30 withdrawing the Group's guarantee against loans and advances of Baghkhali Fisheries. He cited the Bangladesh Bank decision to exclude the Baghkhali liabil-

The Daily Star had earlier reported quoting a central bank inquiry that IFIC Bank had

Group allegedly have interest. The money was needed, according to rescheduling terms, to pay 15 per cent of an overdue crore, originally in the form of export cash credit, but later

Cheques drawn on different accounts to pay for the required sum had bounced one after another. All these had gone against accepted banking practices, according to the inquiry.