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Opposition to go ahead with planned road, launch march

The opposition alliance is determined to launch their planned 3-day road and launch march from July 25 despite floods in some parts of the country.

A meeting of the liaison committee last night decided to go on the planned road and launch march braving incessant rain and monsoon floods.

The meeting, chaired by BNP vice-chairman Shamsul Islam, made a call for all to make the programme a success to mobilise public support against the government's misrule, misdeeds and repression against the opposition.

Anwar Zahid of BNP, Mohammad Quamruzzaman and ATM Azharul Islam of Jamaat and ARM Abdul Matin of IOJ were among those who attended the meeting at 29 Minto Road.

Jatiya Party representatives did not attend the meeting for their preoccupation with central committee meeting, the meeting sources said.

Liakat murder Four alleged killers held in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 20: Special team of the detective branch of police in a pre-dawn raid today arrested four alleged killers of CCC Ward Commissioner Liakat Ali Khan from Bailotoli village under Chanda thana.

The arrested are Md Shahjahan, Md Nasir, Abdul Halim and Shawkat Ali. They all are FIR-named accused in the sensational murder case, police said.

Liakat was murdered by armed terrorists on June 2 in Chaldatoli area under Panchlaish thana in the city.

Police said that the arrested were also accused in the BCL activist Shahjahan murder case. Shahjahan was murdered on March 4 this year.

They were produced before the court today and the court placed them on a 7-day police remand.

BNP denies intra-party conflict in Comilla

BNP yesterday protested The Daily Star story under the heading "Intra-party Conflict: Kheda warns of action against some top leaders" published Tuesday.

In a letter signed by a low-ranking BNP official, the BNP termed the report baseless, imaginary and harmful. "No member of the BNP standing committee nor any vice-chairman or any other central leader had ever been engaged in any affair of the Comilla (North) district committee. They are not even engaged in such matter now," it said of the reported involvement of two central leaders in the Comilla affairs of the

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Prayer Timings

July 21

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-15
John	12-50	1-25
Asr	4-55	5-05
Magrib	7-00	7-05
Esha	7-55	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

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RANGS GROUP

Rivers rising: More rains forecast

Another onslaught of floods likely

By Special Correspondent

Heavy rains during the past 36 hours until yesterday evening send the major river systems in spate again, threatening another round of flooding with flash floods in the northern region and the south eastern hill basins on Monday, renewing surge in the rivers. We are expecting another onslaught of floods", an official of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said yesterday.

Reports from India received by the FFWC said the Brahmaputra, Ganges, Meghna and south eastern hill basins on Monday, renewing surge in the rivers. We are expecting another onslaught of floods", an official of the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said yesterday.

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Block-7 Petrobangla, Unocal close to accord

Star Report

Petrobangla has resumed negotiations with US oil company Unocal on Block 7 under the second round block bidding.

Sources concerned said Unocal and Petrobangla have agreed on "several vital points".

One of these points is, the oil company will not spend anything till Petrobangla Board approves a budget for exploration activity. If the oil company spends anything, Petrobangla will not take the responsibility.

Petrobangla also proposed price listing of exploration equipment and services on monthly basis. The price listing will be the basis for approval of budget for oil and gas exploration and development. Unocal also agreed to this.

The present gas exploration and development activities under Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) with Shell/Cairn, Maersk. Unocal did not pursue any amendment to the Production

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Mosharraf could not meet party chief

By Staff Correspondent

State minister for land Rashed Mosharraf could not discuss with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday about the allegations brought against him by the Awami League unit in his home district Jamalpur.

Mosharraf, earlier, planned to meet the party chief yesterday to explain his position about the Jamalpur AL's action against him. The party unit on Saturday suspended its membership on charge of anti-organisational activities.

The prime minister did not have time to discuss about the

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Dirty deal

All for Tk 200 a day! WASA contractors have always ignored the safety of these poor sewerage workers who dive deep into the sewage without any protective gear. It is alleged that many drowned in the past while cleaning the dirty drains. The picture was taken yesterday at Purana Paltan in the city.

— Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Printing of textbooks for primary schools delayed

Deadlock over conditions in tender

By Gobinda Bar

Supply of textbooks to the primary school students is expected to be delayed at least by a month as there has been a discord between printers and the government over conditions of tender.

Distribution of textbooks among the students are scheduled to start on January 1 next year while supply of books to the district headquarters is to be completed by December 31 this year.

Press owners and publishers say they will not participate in the bidding for printing primary textbooks as they are financially unable to do the big packages as required in the tender which has 'tough' conditions.

No schedule has so far been sold since floating of the tender in the last week of June. The tender will be open on August 1.

The entire tender for printing, binding and making delivery of 5.80 crore books to district headquarters has been divided into 111 packages. Of the total, 54 packages are financed by the World Bank (WB) and the rest 57 by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Four of the WB-financed packages involve Tk 90 lakh to Tk 1 crore each while the rest is worth Tk 6 to Tk 10 lakh each.

The total contribution by the WB and the ADB to the project is around Tk 44 crore. The government will bear the expenditure for paper.

completed in one and a half months.

The deadline for printing books is December 15 while delivery of the books to the district headquarters would have to be completed by December 31.

Printers say no press has the capacity to do the huge work of any of the packages by meeting all the conditions.

Leaders of the press owners' association (POA) said a printer will have to keep around Tk 18 lakh as bid bond, excluding the 10 per cent 'performance guarantee' for doing every package worth Tk 10 lakh each. They say no printer can pay that amount of money and that none has the capacity to show

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Myanmar's gas export thru' pipeline Bangladeshi company's bid to strike deal

Star Report

A Bangladeshi company is pursuing an inter-regional gas pipeline project for export of gas from Myanmar to India through Bangladesh.

GTCL will get royalty for the right of way needed for construction of a huge pipeline under the project.

The project is now at a preliminary stage and does not have any study on its feasibility or the cost involved, the sources said.

Moreover, Mohona does not have any investment or expertise for setting up the project.

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Smuggling rampant in outer anchorage of Ctg port

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, July 20: The outer anchorage of Chittagong port has turned into an open market of smuggled goods dropped from foreign cargo ships carrying imported goods to Chittagong port reportedly bring smuggled goods worth crores of taka and drop those on mechanised boats, kept waiting at the outer anchorage with their patrol boats, they said.

The anti-smuggling team force of Chittagong Custom House hardly go for raiding the outer anchorage with their patrol boats, they added.

Sources in the customs said one of the two patrol boats of the anti-smuggling team is out of order for the last one year, forcing suspension of regular patrol at the outer anchorage.

The other boat is occasionally used in anti-smuggling drive on receipt of secret information, they said.

Some foreign cargo vessels operating between Chittagong and Singapore reportedly get payments from the clients in advance and bring the smuggled goods as per order.

A section of customs officials have links with the 'kingpins' of smugglers, they claimed.

The smugglers also use old vessels, brought here to be scrapped, to carry smuggled goods as per order.

The anti-smuggling team mostly avoid a complete search of foreign vessels when those anchor at Chittagong port.

BCL-JCD gunfight in Feni: Two killed

From Our Correspondent

FENI, July 20: Two persons were shot dead and five others injured with bullets in a gunfight between the activists of ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and JCD at Panchgachia road in the town this evening.

The dead were identified as Rubel, 20, a BCL activist and son of Elias Bhuiya, General Secretary of Feni Town Merchants' Association and Abdul Awal, 22, a rickshawpuller.

They received bullet injuries during the gunfight between the rival student groups and were rushed to Feni Cosmopolitan Hospital where the doctors declared them dead.

The assailants chopped Kabul, son of late Majibur Rahman, indiscriminately

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In reprisals, the leaders and workers of the district unit of BNP and its front organisations ransacked many shops in the town and put up barricades on the Dhaka-Aricha highway at Manikganj bus stand about 7 pm. They also damaged some 12 passing vehicles on the road.

The traffic halt continued till writing of this report at 10 pm.

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