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Narsingdi liquor tragedy: 22 chargesheeted

From Our Correspondent
NARSINGDI, Aug 4: Twenty-two people were chargesheeted, three of them dead, in Liquor Poisoning Case here today.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted the charge sheet to the Narsingdi Sadar Magistrate's Court in the evening after three months' investigation.

The accused are: Nikka, Suroz, Ratan Kumar Das, Shyamal Chandra Sarker, Sukkur Begum, Habibur Rahman, Bilal, Dila, Bipad Saha, Babul Saha, Abul Kalam Azad, Rekha Begum, Ohid, Dr Fazul Haque, Tutul, Yousuf, Manik, Amal Chandra Shil, Shahinor, Zakir, Kalu and Sayeed Wahid.

Of the accused Zakir, Kalu and Sayeed Wahid died, nine others arrested and the rest are still at large.

The investigation officer (IO) Nasiruddin invoked Section 302/34/328 of the Penal Code while preparing charges against the accused.

As many as 247 persons have been shown as witnesses in the charge sheet.

Agrani Bank New MD orders transfer of 12 officials

By M Shamsur Rahman
Just a day after joining office on Sunday, the newly-appointed managing director of Agrani Bank Enamul Haq Chowdhury ordered transfer of 12 senior officials of the bank.

Sources close to the MD said that this was just the beginning of a mass transfer which is likely to come soon.

The former MD Nazmul Haq had resigned on July 12, 1999 after he transferred 76 bank officials. The move came under criticism from the government and ultimately he had relinquished his position.

The newly-transferred officials include eight deputy general managers and four assistant general managers.

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Jail Killing Case

Suppl charge sheet submitted

By Staff Correspondent
The CID yesterday submitted a supplementary chargesheet in the Jail Killing Case before the Metropolitan Sessions' Judge Court yesterday.

Earlier on July 4, the judge ordered a re-investigation into the case saying there were 'some flaws' in the chargesheet. ASP Abdul Kahar Akhond of CID submitted the chargesheet on October 15 last year accusing 21 people.

In the supplementary chargesheet, the CID included the names of five additional witnesses. It was stated in the chargesheet that Rusalidar Muslemuddin served at different Bangladesh missions abroad since 1982. Besides, Muslemuddin was detained at

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Prayer Timings

August 5

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:10	4:15
Johr	12:50	1:25
Asr	5:00	5:10
Maghrib	6:55	7:00
Esha	7:55	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Tk 2.71cr construction work Scandal forces JU to consider awarding contract to army

Star Report

Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities are considering awarding the 2.71 crore contract for construction of the Arts Faculty building to army contractors following allegations of extortion by the 'killer group' of the ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, JU Vice Chancellor Prof Alauddin Ahmed said that he was thinking of such a step 'if the allegation is true that a particular group of students is involved in manipulating the tender process'.

I have already talked to the authorities concerned in the army in this regard and it will be done after consultation with legal experts and approval by the (JU) Syndicate, he said.

The VC strongly denied that he or any top official of the uni-

versity is involved in the 'manipulation of tender process' for personal gains.

He admitted that normally the student organisation which 'controls' residential halls and the campus is involved in extortion and influence tender process.

Asked how the authorities will know that students belonging to the ruling Awami League-backed BCL is involved in tender manipulation process, the VC said if they are involved, they will certainly intervene in the process.

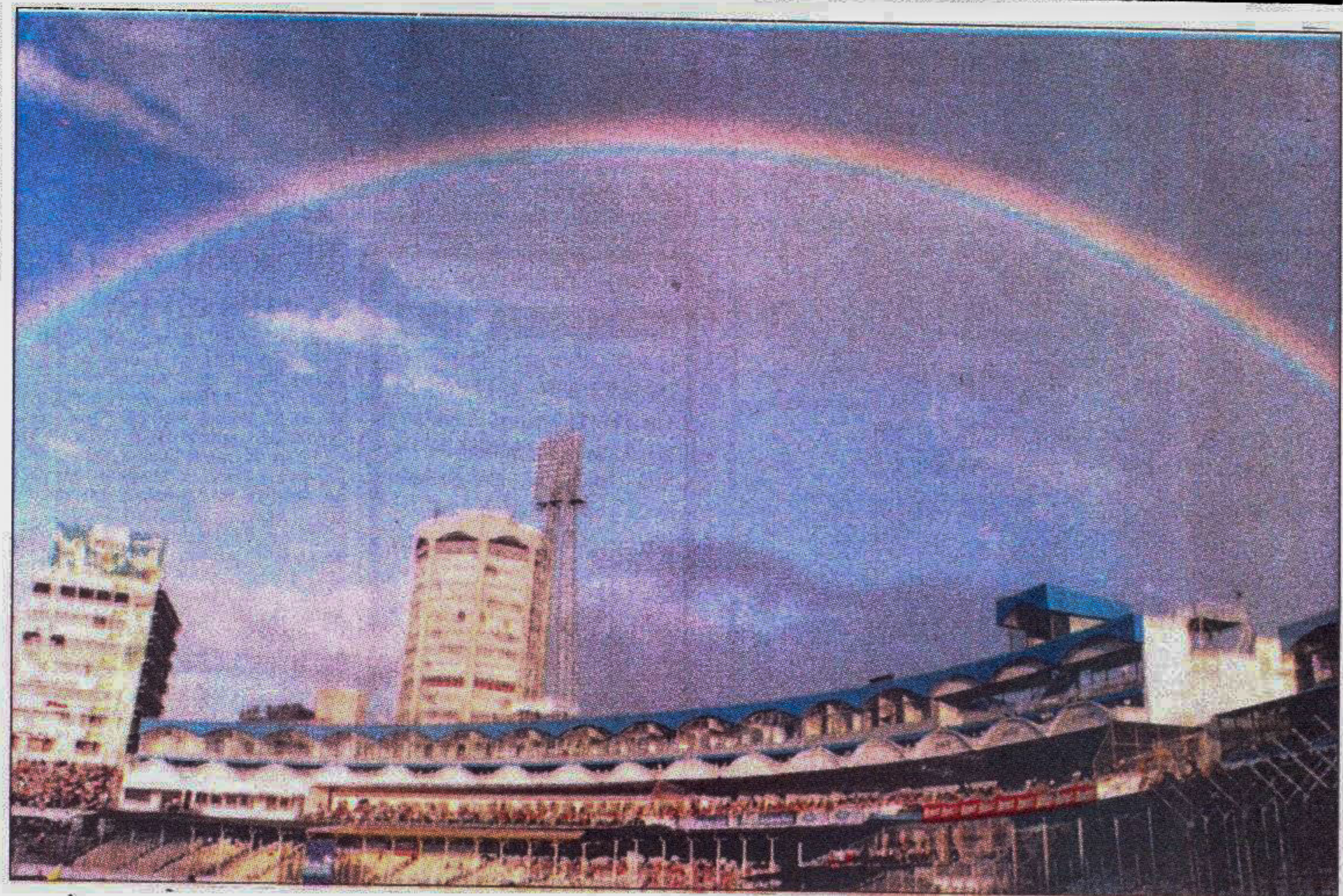
Asked about a newspaper report yesterday that a Tk 24 crore tender was called for the construction of Arts Faculty building, he said, 'Actually it is a Tk 2.72 crore tender. The tender committee is yet to sit for opening the quotations and we are yet to know who will get the

contract and what is the extent of difference between our proposals and the tender proposals.'

But a Daily Star investigation revealed that tenders for construction of the Arts Faculty were opened recently and it was in the process of approval by the Finance Committee and the Syndicate. MS Royal Trading quoted Tk 3.10 crore, 14 per cent higher than the university's proposal for Tk 2.72 crore. Civil Engineers Ltd quoted Tk 3.20 crore, 17.1 per cent higher, and Super Syndicate Tk 3.25 crore, 19.1 per cent higher.

It was alleged that the 'killer group' led by 13 JU students chargesheeted in the Ananda murder case submitted all the three quotations, threatening all other aspirants not to participate in the bidding.

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The rainbow, seen yesterday in the eastern evening sky of Dhaka, was captured by our chief photographer A K M Mohsin.

Rehabilitation of sex workers Govt agrees to involve all including NGOs

By Nazmul Ashraf and Ehsanul Haque

The crisis over the so-called rehabilitation of the Narayan-ganj sex workers took a new turn as the government and non government organisations opened dialogue.

There was, however, no representative from among the sex workers.

Representatives of 22 women and human rights organisations representatives discussed for nearly two hours with Mohammad Giasuddin Pathan, Director General of the Bureau of NGO Affairs.

'We'll continue such talks and will involve all concerned ministries and private organisations,' Pathan told The Daily Star.

He also appreciated the suggestions of the NGOs. Participants at the meeting reported that they had suggested, the sex workers return to the brothels and continue trading while different vocational training is provided to them.

The human rights activists

strongly condemned the eviction and sham rehabilitation of the sex workers.

They also criticised the authorities for handing over the sex workers to pimps and brokers claiming them to be guardians. It was viewed that rehabilitation was a long-drawn and complicated issue which could not be settled by such quick fix solutions.

The eviction and detention in the vagrant homes were termed as violation of human rights.

They stressed the need for identifying the factors forcing women to take up sex trade and eliminate the problem at its roots. They also suggested representation of sex workers in such future meetings.

The NGOs also promised their cooperation to the government in finding a pragmatic plan to rehabilitate the prostitutes.

Taking to The Daily Star, the NGO Bureau chief said he

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Sectt calm, 2 more arrested

By Special Correspondent

Police arrested two more government employees yesterday, raising the total number of detainees to 11 since police cracked down on the agitating Secretariat employees demanding change in office hours and 30 percent dearness allowance.

Despite call from a coalition of employees' associations the Secretariat remained quite uneasy with police reinforcing their presence, taking on every nook and corner of the sprawling seat of the government, effectively deterring further demonstrations by the employees despite calls by their leaders.

Zafar Khandaker, an employee of the health ministry was arrested from his residence in the early hours and Nasir of T&T ministry was detained at one of the two gates of the Secretariat which were open—one for entry and another for exit.

Police backed by riot car, fire tender, metal detector and sniffer dogs maintained vigil on the entrance which continued to keep visitors off the Secretariat.

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Another BNP march Aug 19

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has finalised a series of mass contact programmes, including three one-day road marches and public meetings this month as part of its anti-government campaign. The party has already announced a sit-in demonstration in front of the Secretariat on September 12 to protest government's decision to give transshipment facility to India.

Party sources said BNP chief Khaleda Zia would lead the road marches from Dhaka to Bhairab, Dhaka to Manikganj and Dhaka to Mawa (Munshiganj). The Dhaka-Bhairab march has been planned for August 19. For Dhaka-Manikganj and Dhaka-Mawa, the tentative dates are August 10 and 13 respectively.

Senior BNP leaders who included secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Shahjahan Siraj, Tariqul Islam, Sadek Hossain Khoka met with the chairperson last night at 29 Minto Road and discussed the plans.

The secretary general yesterday chaired a preparatory meeting for the Dhaka-Bhairab march. Standing Committee

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60 more human bones found in Noori Mosque well

By Staff Correspondent

The Liberation War Museum authorities on the fifth day of their excavation recovered some more human remains from the well on the premises of Noori Mosque in the city's Mirpur area yesterday.

'We found some 60 big and small human bones today,' Director of the Museum Akku Choudhury told The Daily Star.

He said, 'The main task now is to protect the adjacent wall from collapsing into the excavation site. After taking steps to prevent this, we will start the main excavation work. But now we are continuing excavation with great precaution. We don't want any untoward incident here.'

The find is thought to be another evidence of the massacre by Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators during the Liberation War in 1971.

The Noori Mosque commit-

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Commentary Don't fudge, talk straight about transshipment

By Mahfuz Anam

The ruling Awami League and the opposition BNP are carrying on a shameful hypocritical drama on the critical issue of transshipment of Indian goods over Bangladesh territory. This issue is too vital for us to be left to the type of distortions, half-truths, fudging and downright lying that has so far characterised the shouting match that we refuse to call a debate.

Normally both the AL and the BNP are always trumpeting their achievements. In fact, they are so eager and habituated in doing so that they do not even hesitate to hijack the other's achievement for their own (Foundations plaques of bridges, and buildings are good examples of this habit. Best however is the case of Bangabandhu Bridge. Need one elaborate?). When that is the prac-

tice, observe how the AL and the BNP, on the transit-transshipment issue, are trying their best to convince us that 'We did not do it first. They did it. We are only maintaining the continuity.' Like a hot potato they are passing it to the other, refusing to hold on to it as their own lest it should burn their fingers. Why?

Every government worth the paper its name is written on has the right, the power and the duty to take its own decision. And if those decisions are taken on the 'best judgement of the moment' about the welfare of the country, then the government of the day should have the guts to own them and tell the public why they took the decisions that they did. There is no need to justify by saying the others also did the same thing. In the case of the AL such justifi-

cation appears funnier than usual because it is usually castigating BNP for all the misdeeds in the world. There is virtually no crime that the AL leaders do not accuse the BNP leaders of committing. And yet whenever it comes to anything to do with India, the AL, before anything else, says 'BNP did it, we are only carrying on their work.' This behaviour shows the following:

— lack of any conviction in one's own action;

— lack of maturity to take responsibility of what one does; and

— lack of courage to tell the people the truth.

When this is the state of the moral strength of our political leaders then we can only get a politics of hypocrisy that we now have.

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Ship sinking in Bay Bangladeshi captain, crew send SOS

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 4: About one-third of MV Sham, an ocean-going vessel, has gone under water due to big cracks in it.

The cracks were detected by its Bangladeshi captain Salehuddin who sent SOS message on Tuesday for rescuing the crew on board.

The engine of the vessel has already gone out of order. Strenuous efforts are still on to pump out water from the engine room, he said.

Fifteen crew of the vessel are also Bangladeshis. They are still on board and the rescue ship of Bangladesh Navy could not reach the Malawi vessel due to high tide in the sea and rough weather.

Sources said the vessel arrived at Mongla Port on June 11, 1998 with 13,500 metric tonnes of cement imported by A Hossain Limited of Khulna.

Tania Shipping Lines Ltd is the local agent of the ship which is 176.69 metres in length and 22.86 metres in breadth. The ship has the capacity to carry 16,869 metric tonnes of goods.

According to a source in the

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JS body for legal action against 5 loan defaulters

The Public Accounts Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad at a meeting with Committee

Chairman S M Akram in the chair, decided to take legal actions against five loan defaulters and the irregular loan-issuing officials, reports BSS.

The defaulters are: Dhaka Vegetable Oil Industries Lim-

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Solemnly Remembering REAR ADMIRAL MAHBUB ALI KHAN

On his 15th Death Anniversary, Tomorrow, August 6th, 1999



"Salute Thee!
The Noble son of the Soil and Vanguard of the Sea,
Who breathed his last while serving his distressed countrymen.
Milad Mahfil on Friday, August 6, 1999
After Asar Prayer at 5:30 pm
At MAHBUB BHAVAN
House No. 40, Road No. 5, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.
All are cordially invited to attend
BEGUM MAHBUB ALI KHAN



Flushing out of water continues at the Muslim Bazaar mass-graveyard, (right) while a forensic expert tries to analyse a skull.

— Star photo by Amran Hossain