

What's on today.....

Furniture exhibition: The second solo exhibition on 'Designed and Hand Painted Furniture' by Arham-ul-Huq Chowdhury will begin. The exhibition will remain open from 3 pm to 8 pm daily till August 27. Venue: DRIR Gallery, House: 58, Rd: 15A (N) Dhanmondi.

CPB discussion: Communist Party of Bangladesh has organised a discussion meeting to mark the National Mourning Day. Venue: Central party office, 21/1, Purana Paltan

ICMAB discussion: Dhaka Branch Council of Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) has organised a discussion meeting and *Milad Mahfil* to mark the National Mourning Day. Chief guest: Minister for Food and Agriculture Begum Matia Chowdhury. Venue: ICMA auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 6:30 pm.

Special prayer: Mahanagar Sarbajonin Puja Committee had take up a day-long programme and special prayer session to mark the National Mourning Day. Venue: Dhakeshwari Jatiya Mandir. Time: 5 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Round Table Dialogue: The inaugural ceremony of the 3-day long 'Round Table Dialogue on NGOs' will be held. Organisers: Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh (CDRB), American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS) and Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB). Chief guest: Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria. Venue: IUB campus, House: 6, Rd 14, Baridhara. Time: 3:30 pm.

CESTI seminar: Centre for Scientific and Technological Information (CESTI) has organised a seminar on 'What's New About Interventional Cardiology at the Dawn of the 3rd Millennium'. Keynote paper: Dr Waheedur Rahman. Senior Interventional Cardiology Consultant of Broussais University Hospital, Paris. Venue: Cafeteria of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11 am.

Proshika seminar: Institute for Development Policy Analysis and Advocacy (IDPAA) of Proshika has organised a seminar on 'Role of Society-based Fish Farming Management'. Venue: Women's Voluntary Association auditorium, Rd: 16 (New), Dhanmondi. Time: 9 am.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over the country with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

No appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country during the period, according to Met office.

Country's highest temperature was recorded 33.8 degrees Celsius at Srimongal and the lowest 23.0 degrees at Hatiya yesterday.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:32 pm and rises on Monday at 5:34 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min	
Dhaka	28.5	25.6	93
Chittagong	28.6	24.5	95
Rajshahi	31.8	25.8	92
Khulna	28.0	25.0	97
Barisal	27.4	24.0	96
Sylhet	29.9	25.1	97
Cox's Bazar	30.0	23.5	92

Masters, not friends

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and brought them to the lime-light. So, how could they lead the police to do good to the people and the society? he questioned. We (politicians) are also responsible for failures and misdeeds of the police," he admitted.

A member of the parliamentary standing committee on Home Ministry which is to look into police activities, Hafizuddin said: "There is hardly any meeting of the committee. We could not discuss police affairs for the last three and a half years... The situation was almost similar under the previous regime."

He suggested formation of a committee in every thana comprising school teachers, members of local government bodies and imams of mosque to make the thana officers accountable to it for activities of the police.

Former civil servant HN Ashique Rahman MP, said that corruption has now spread to every sector. "But the police has gone most corrupt because of the system. One cannot remain honest even if he wants." He said an honest and efficient OC could contribute to social uplift more than an army general.

Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star, said the police suffer from crises of confidence

and efficiency and are poorly paid. He referred to the defence purchases and said the country badly needs productive investment instead of Migs.

Mahbubul Alam, Editor of the Independent, thought the public review board could ensure accountability of the police force.

In his key-note speech, former IGP Azizul Haq said incidents of crimes are on the rise. Unlike now, crimes in the past did not pose threat to public peace or law and order. Secret murder, extortion, hijack, rape and cruelty to women and children are happening every day, causing concern to the commonman.

Pointing to inadequacy of the police, he said police-population ratio in Bangladesh is 1:1200 compared to 1:625 in Pakistan, 1:728 in India, 1:563 in Japan, 1:492 in Malaysia and 1:295 in Singapore.

Former IGP Dr Enamul Haque noted with regret that the judiciary is yet to be separated from the administration in fulfillment of the Constitutional obligation.

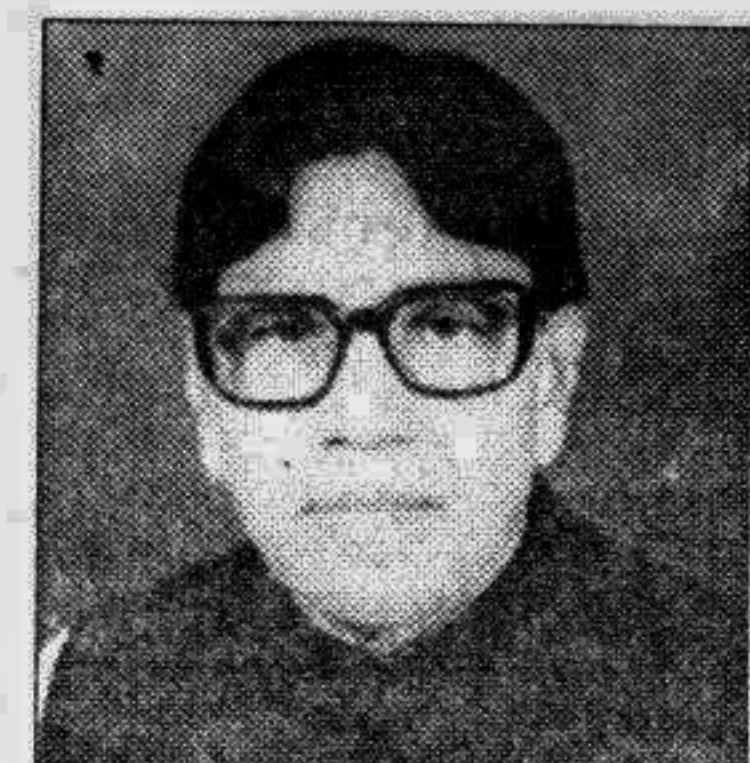
Prof Abdul Rab said moral and ideological values should be inculcated among the police to make them more responsible to the people.

General Ezaz Ahmed Chowdhury favoured proper training for police force to make them efficient and responsible in dealing with the people.

The discussion, organised by Center for Strategic and Peace Studies, was also participated by Advocate Farah Mahbub, Commodore Ataur Rahman presided over the function while Maj Gen Syed Muhammad Ibrahim acted as moderator.



Trond Moe, Managing Director, GrameenPhone, handed over few handsets with GrameenPhone connections to Akku Chowdhury, Director, Liberation War Museum, recently. GrameenPhone presented these connections to facilitate the excavation work that is going on at Mirpur slaughtering ground in search of remains of martyrs of the Liberation War. Grameen Telecom sponsored the handsets. Mahboob Hossain, DGM Sales, and Intekhab Mahmud, Marketing Manager of GrameenPhone were also present.



Momin Talukder's death anniversary

The fourth death anniversary of Abdul Momin Talukder, a former minister of the Bangladesh cabinet, will be observed today, says a press release.

A veteran of the 1952 Language Movement and one of the experts in body for framing Constitution of Bangladesh, Talukder was elected member of the parliament several times from the Belkuchi constituency under the Serajganj district. Until his death, he was member of the Advisory Council of the Awami League.

The late leader's family will feed poor people near the Banani graveyard today.

Saifur

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accord and CHT peace agreement, he said BNP government could have easily signed those much earlier but didn't want to do that the way Awami League government has done.

About the government decision to 'provide transshipment facility to India', Saifur said the government didn't take this important decision in a transparent and democratic way.

Bangladesh's road communication network is not 'ready for transit' because the roads, bridges and culverts are in a very bad condition. "It would not be possible to make the network ready for movement of heavy trucks and vehicles even in the next five years," he noted.

Rather, he said, the proposed Trans Asian Railway is much more realistic and better than the proposed road transit.

Referring to the commerce and industries' minister's remarks on tax-free export of 25 items from Bangladesh, he asked, "Do we have 25 exportable items? Is production of any of our item is so huge that we can export it to a country like India? How many crores of taka we will earn through export?"

The others who spoke included M K Anwar MP, Abdul Mannan MP, MA Taher, Abul Khair Bablu, Dr Raihan Faziun Nur and Advocate Shahidur Rahman Chowdhury.

Minister's son

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bidding," alleged the local agent of a foreign company, which has responded, and declared technically qualified, on all the three occasions.

The first tender was called on April 2, 1998 while the last date for response was May 26, 1998.

The primary condition for submitting tenders was that a company had to have the experience of setting at least one planetarium cum large format movie projection in the last five years. The conditions also included the experience of operation and maintenance of such a project in a foreign country.

Five foreign companies responded to the tender. They are USA based C. Melchers GmbH, Canada based Imax Corporation, Germany based Carl Zeiss Jena, Japan based Tomon Corporation and another Japan based company Goto Optical.

Of them, the first three companies - C. Melchers GmbH, Imax Corporation and Carl Zeiss Jena - became ineligible. Documents show, all the three companies failed to fulfil the same sets of primary conditions. So they were rightly declared unqualified.

Besides, the Imax Corporation offered 10,000 stars of 6.5 magnitude each and the Carl Zeiss Jena 9,100 stars of 6.5 magnitude each, while government asked for 25,000 stars of 7.4 magnitude each.

The Tomon Corporation and the Goto Optical fulfilled all the pre-conditions in the technical bidding.

But the government went for re-tender on July 29, 1998 and the last date for response was September 29. But the same companies responded and result was also same: The first three companies once again failed to qualify.

The government called tender for the third time. The last date for opening the tender was June 29 this year. The financial bidding is scheduled to take place tomorrow.

Earlier, the government examined the technical offers of the companies, but did not do the marking, which is an essential pre-condition for examining the two-envelope system tenders.

Allegation is there that the authorities concerned have violated rules just to provide the job to another company, the local agent of which is the son of a minister.

That particular company has been invited to take part in the financial bidding, while Imax Corporation was not. Both the companies failed to qualify in the previous rounds on the same grounds.

Father indeed!

SHERPUR, Aug 14: An enraged father slaughtered his son and then attempted to commit suicide at Kandapara in the town on Friday, reports UNB.

Police said Asaduzzaman attacked his son Sharif, 12, while he was sleeping and slaughtered him following quarrel with his wife in the afternoon.

Police arrested the father and is now under treatment at Sadar Hospital. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.



Bangladesh Mohila Awami League, the women front of the ruling Awami League, brought out a procession to mark the National Mourning Day in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Nat'l Mourning Day programmes

The National Mourning Day and the 24th death anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be observed in the city and elsewhere in the country with due honour and solemnity today, report agencies.

Bangabandhu along with most of his family members were killed on this day in 1975.

Different socio-cultural, political organizations and educational institutions have chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day.

The National Mourning Day programmes include lowering the national and organisational flags at a half-mast, wearing black badges and holding mourning processions, rallies, discussions, special prayers and *Milad Mahfils*.

Bangladesh Awami League, Jatiya Party (Mizan-Monju), Central Command Council of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Dhaka University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Sammilito Sangskritik Jote, Bangladesh Krishak League, Central Committee of Muktiyoddha Jubo Command, Bangabandhu Samaj Kalyan Parishad, Dhaka Mohanagar Unit of Jatiya Samik League, Bangabandhu Ainjibei Parishad, Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (Ejaz), Bangabandhu Soinik Sanghati Parishad, Bangabandhu Lalitkala Academy, Sonar Bangla Jubo Parishad, Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers Association (BPTA), National Sports Council Karachari League and Dhaka-based Gopalganj Zilla Samity have taken elaborate programmes to observe the day.

Secretary general of Jatiya Party (Mizan-Monju) Anwar Hossain Monju and joint secretary general Shafiqul Islam will offer *Fateha* and place wreaths at the Mazar of Bangabandhu at 9 am on August 15 on behalf of the party.

The party leaders will visit the Banani graveyard and attend a discussion at the central party office at 6-30 PM today.

Agriculture

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price for food crops came up most prominently in the deliberation process of the Agriculture Commission, said sources.

Besides, the commission gave a thorough review of the NGOs' role in agriculture, government-NGO coordination, private sector development, inter-organisational coordination under the NARS (National Agricultural Research System) and the issue of irrigation management.

The Commission members included Minister Motia Chowdhury, A M M Shawkat Ali, Prof Rehman Sobhan, Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, Shahidul Islam, Dr S M Hasanuzzaman, Syed Ali Kabir and Dr Anun Nishat. Besides, the executive chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) Dr Zahurul Karim is member-secretary while the commission took expert support from Dr Mahabub Hossain, a deputy director general of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI).

Rivers rise

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points recorded fall and 2 points remained steady.

The FFWC said that the Brahmaputra-Jamuna and the Padma both registered further rise are all points. Most rivers in these two basins also registered further rise at all points.

The rivers in the Meghna basin observed rise and fall. The Surma is still flowing above danger level at Kanaighat and Sunamganj.

The rivers in the southeastern Hill basin recorded rise and fall. The Halda continued to flow above danger level at Narayanhat yesterday morning despite receding.

The Matamuhuri, which wrecked havoc in the Bandarban and Cox's Bazar slid down sharply by 20.7 cm at Lama, flowing below danger level.

In its forecast yesterday, the FFWC said that the Brahmaputra and Ganges systems are likely to maintain their rising trend during the next 48 hours. The Meghna would also maintain rise.

The met office said that rain/thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at most places over the country with moderate to heavy rain at most places. No appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country today until 6 pm.

In its outlook for the next 48 hours beginning at 6 pm, today it said the rainfall activity might decrease at the end period. Weather may improve gradually, it said in its outlook for the subsequent five days.

The met office recorded heavy to moderate showers across the country during the past 36 hours ending at 6 pm yesterday.

The highest amount of fall was recorded at Chittagong 214mm, Sandwip 238 mm, Hatiya 186 mm. The FFWC recorded in the past 24 hours ending at 9 am yesterday 135 mm fall at Sunamganj, 110 mm at Panchagarh, 105 mm at Kurigram, 85 mm at Lama, 83.1 mm at Comilla, 72 mm at Bhairab Bazaar, 67 mm at Rangpur, 60.5 mm at Kaunia, 50.7 mm at Jessore, 50 mm at Khulna, 48.5 mm at Faridpur, 43 mm at Mymensingh, 41 mm at Gaibandha, 39.5 mm at Durgapur, 37.5 mm at Bandarban, 35.2 mm at Panchpukuria, 35 mm at Chittagong and 33 mm at Patuakhali.

MQM

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the capital, party leaders said.

MQM, which represents Urdu-speaking settlers who arrived after the partition of the subcontinent in 1947, said police were trying to stop an opposition rally which could mar the government's celebrations.

"Our protest is peaceful. We are not against the country but our campaign is against the racist government," MQM's key leader, Farooq Sattar, said.

He said the party was "fighting for the political, economic and social rights" of the ethnic community.

MQM leaders said police also prevented the party from protesting in the cities of Hyderabad, Sukkur, Nawabshah and Mirpurkhas in Sindh province.

Bomb blast

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(telling response to the enemy," he told the gathering, including civil and military officials and diplomats.

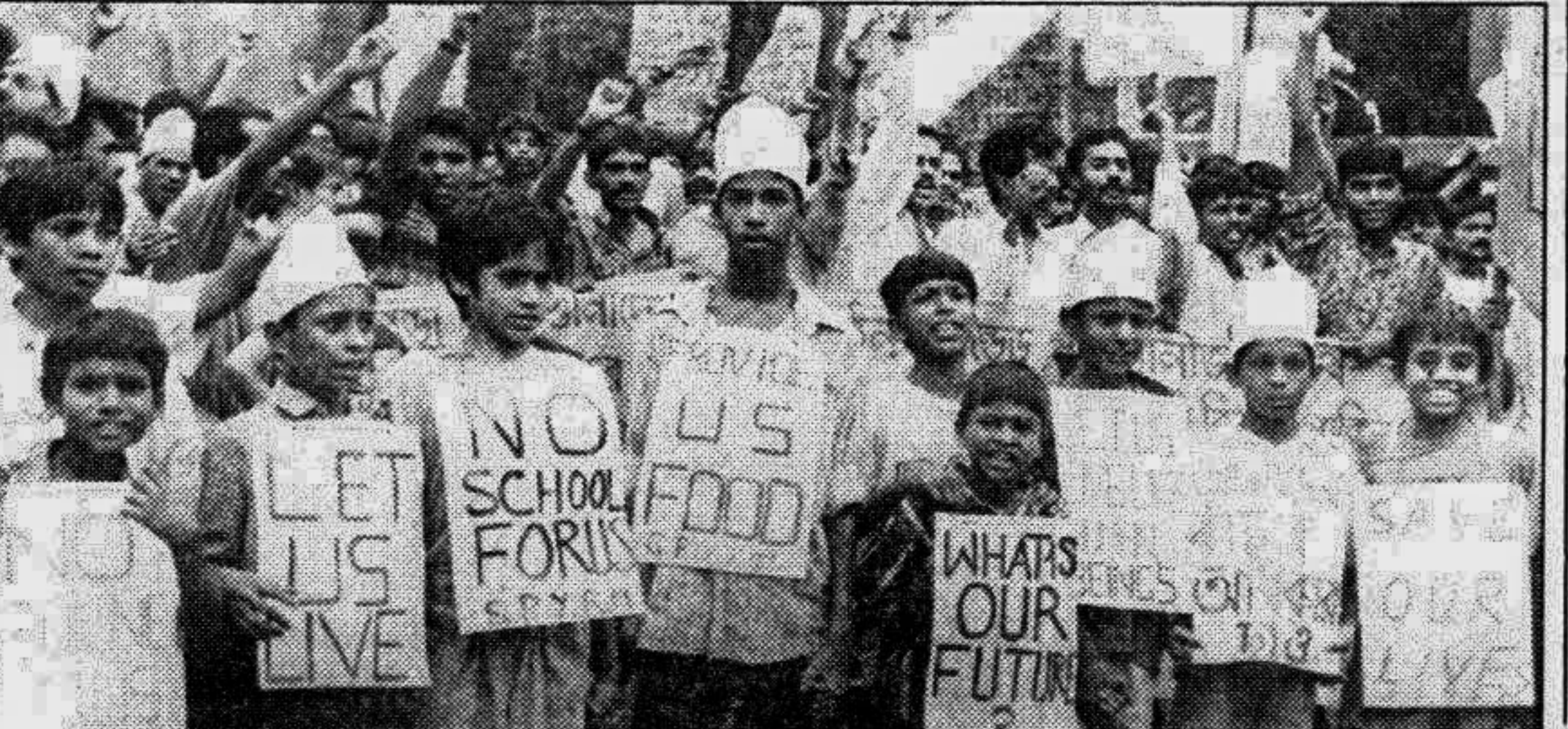
He said the "cowardly" downing of the naval plane had jeopardised efforts to restore peace between the two nuclear-armed countries.

Sharif said Kashmir, which has caused two wars between the rivals, was the basic problem underlying the tensions. Unless India and Pakistan resolved the issue through "meaningful dialogue," peace and stability would continue to elude the region, he said.

But he said Pakistan would not remain a silent spectator to the alleged "atrocities" being perpetrated by India against Kashmiris struggling for self-determination.

Late in the day, Pakistan's main fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami sponsored an anti-government rally in the southern port city of Karachi.

Some 15,000 emotional Jamaat activists marched through Karachi streets demanding Sharif's resignation.



The Stranded Pakistanis Youth Repatriation Movement brought out a procession in the city yesterday in support of its various demands including repatriation to Pakistan or permanent rehabilitation in Bangladesh. — Star photo

NCBs to help

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for low-cost housing and micro-credit to support income-generating activities will be finalised at a task force meeting of the banks.

Talking to UNB, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Farashuddin said the meeting was not to issue directives but to examine how the banks could respond to the need of the poorer section of the society.

He added: "Everybody took part in the discussion with great enthusiasm on how the banks could participate in the rehabilitation programme."

The planned Bangladesh Bank-led slum-dwellers' rehabilitation programme will be in addition to the Bangladesh Krishi Bank's (BKB) ongoing programme.

The BKB already started a rehabilitation programme for the slum-dwellers in Dhaka and Chittagong who wanted to go back to their villages.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the first phase of the BKB programme on May 22. The first phase was targeted to rehabilitate 1,000 slum families in their respective homes.

The target of this programme is to rehabilitate 25,000 slum families at their village homes.

"The third phase of the programme will start on August 18," said an official of the Bangladesh Krishi Bank.

The managing director of the nationalised banks at the meeting agreed to take up immediate programme in the light of the experience of the BKB programme.

They also agreed to form a consortium for launching a concerted effort for the rehabilitation of the displaced slum people. The modalities of this consortium would be worked out soon.

This effort also included construction of low-cost houses at the government khas lands in and around Dhaka and micro-credit for those who have no scope to go back to their roots.

"These people are mainly uprooted by river erosion," said a banker.

Big bridge

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project did not get any compensation," alleged Safar Ali, commissioner of Sirajganj Paurasabha. "People who got deprived of actual price of their lands."

Asked about this, a high official of the World Bank which was a financier of the bridge and river training project, said, "It is very difficult to satisfy people who become victims due to land acquisition and river erosion". He claimed that all victims of the projects were compensated properly.

The bridge, the construction of which costed around 20,000 people of the area were engaged in different project implementation work. Most of them are unemployed since completion of the bridge more than one year back, said M A Rouf, an executive committee member of Sirajganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The bridge and river training project greatly saved people of Sirajganj from river erosion but pushed many of them towards unemployment. He demanded immediate steps for industrialisation of the area.

Mohammad Hanif, a member of Sirajganj Paurasabha, had something different to say. "The bridge caused sufferings to local people instead of benefiting them. Prices of essentials went up and rush of the passenger at Sirajganj railway station declined after opening of the bridge. It also decreased the importance of the town, affecting the local people in many ways," he said.

River erosion declined in Sirajganj town area due to the protection dam but it increased in the upper reaches. New areas are now being eroded," he claimed.

Chairman of Sirajganj Paurasabha Golam Kibria called upon the government to take up employment generating projects in the area on a priority basis.

Meanwhile, people of Alenga area on the eastern side of the bridge demanded setting up of a police station in view of deteriorating law and order following opening the bridge.

Listed terrorist arrested in Ctg

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 14: One listed terrorist and accused in 11 criminal cases was arrested here this morning.

Police arrested Md Yunus alias 'Cocktail' Yunus from Railway station area under Kutwali thana.

Yunus was involved in criminal activities in different parts of the city.

BCL factions clash at Ctg: 4 arrested

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 14: At least five people were injured in a gunfight between two rival factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League on Agrabad Commerce College campus today, police and witnesses said.

The clash erupted at around 12:30 pm over control of the college campus.

Police arrested four BCL activists in connection with the incident.

The injured were admitted to private clinics in the city.

Security has been tightened on the college campus to avert further clash.

Maid found dead in city house

By Staff Correspondent

A 30-year-old maid was found dead in a house in the city's Mohakhali area Friday night.

The dead was identified as Rupbanu of village Nagpur in Tangail, police and hospital sources said.

Police said the body of Rupbanu bore no injury mark while hospital sources said there were bloods on both the ears and injury marks in her cheek.

Police are yet to confirm whether it was a murder or not. They said that they were waiting for the autopsy report.

Rupbanu had been working as a maid at the residence of one Din Islam for the last two and a half months.

Din Islam along with his family members went to his brother's residence in Tangail in the morning on the day of the occurrence, police said.

When they returned at about 9 pm the same day, they found the door of their residence locked from inside.

They knocked the door but none responded from inside. They later informed Gulshan police. Police entered the house by breaking the door and found the body lying on the floor, police added.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death case was filed with Gulshan thana Friday night.

HC

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Chancellor appointed him as such. Therefore, the Chancellor acted illegally and the said appointment is of no legal effect.

While disposing the question of legality of appointment of the Vice Chancellor, it was stated that on perusal of records that it has been found that the Chancellor had acted on the recommendation of the Founder on November 11, 1996, and thus Section 10 was complied with.

It was further contended in the writ petition that the appointment of Hafiz G A Siddiqui as Pro-Vice Chancellor of the North South University should be declared legal and done by lawful authority.

Their Lordships in the same writ petition also declared that the claim that the appointment of Hafiz G A Siddiqui as Pro-Vice Chancellor is illegal and has no lawful authority.

By this judgement, their Lordships discharged the rule earlier given by the Honourable court in writ petition No 2536 and vacated the order of stay.

Mahbub Alam, Additional Attorney General appeared for the government and Advocates Anisul Haq and Towhika Karim appeared for Muslehuddin Ahmed while Rafiqul Haq appeared for the petitioners.

IM Zia

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ogy Department of the Dhaka University, Zia earned his first GM norm defeating British GM Annis only the day before. He needs another norm to become the second GM of the country after Niaz Murshed.

He has received a cash award of 3,750 pounds, says a press release of the Bangladesh Chess Federation.

Three other Bangladeshi players, IM Abdullah Al-Rakib, IM Reefat-bin-Sattar and Taibur Rahman, also participated in the Scarborough tournament. Rakib, Reefat and Rahman finished with 6.5 and 4.5 points respectively.

UNB adds: At least 50 people were injured as angry soccer fans clashed with police after the referee warned a player at the flag-end of Abahani-Mohammedan football match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Police resorted to baton-charge and fired several teargas shells to quell the mob who damaged passing vehicles outside the stadium during the clash.

Nation mourns

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najat to seek divine blessings for salvation of the departed soul of the Father of the Nation. Similar instructions have also been given to the managing committees of the temples, churches and pagodas.

Official BSS news agency reported from Gopalganj: Black flags dominate the skyline as people in the home district of the Father of the Nation observe the 24th anniversary of death of the most celebrated son of the soil.

Grief once again gripped the people as the nation observes the National Mourning Day today, recalling the leader's struggle, sacrifice and love for the Bangladeshis, and his gruesome murder along with most of his family more than two decades ago.

Black flags have been flown and gates with black clothes erected on the 20-km road from Gopalganj town to Tungipara.

The Mourning Day observance came with a sense of consolation for the people of Gopalganj as a court last year sentenced the 15 killers of Bangabandhu to death.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana are expected to reach Tungipara at around 10am today.

Abahani

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pull out the red card from his pocket, all the Abahani players immediately staged a walk-off to show a shameful solidarity with their defaulting teammate.

However, they returned to the ground after 45 minutes following persuasion from a senior Dhaka Metropolitan Football League Committee (DMFLC) official. But much to the disbelief of the 30 thousand spectators, the assaulted referee did not dare to flash any card at Iqbal once the play resumed.

The match started again with Mohammedan defender Faisal taking the spot-kick. The tall defender served the second stunner to the thousands of Mohammedan fans.

Who wanted to enjoy the match hours to enjoy the match braving the incessant drizzle, spoiling the easiest opportunity to go ahead. His grounder was brilliantly taken by Abahani custodian Aminul diving to his left.

The match was halted again after ten minutes when Mohammedan defender fouled Abahani midfielder Arman and received a yellow card. That prompted another walk-off, only this time it was done by the Mohammedan booters.

Seeing the happenings on the ground, a section of the Mohammedan supporters got enough encouragement to go on rampage in the international gallery. At the same time unruly supporters also broke the fence at the western gallery.

Police lobbed tear gas shells in the Mohammedan gallery in an attempt to restore order. The Mohammedan players were seen trying to stop Police from invading the corner occupied by their loyal supporters.

This time the match experienced a 35-minute stoppage.

When the match resumed again for the remaining six minutes, Mohammedan were desperate to equalise launching a series of offensives. But all their hard work at the dying moment went awry because of some brilliant keeping by national custodian Aminul.

No match will be played today.

Yellow cards: Charles Ghan-sha, William Opuzu (Abahani) and Ruhul Amin, Andre (Mohammedan).

Teams

Abahani: Aminul, Dulal, Kingshuk, Ghansha, Partho, Sentu, Iqbal, Arman, Mintu, Opuzu and Sabir Pasha.

Mohammedan: SC, Ponir, Faisal, Ruhul Amin, Jahangir, Monwar Munna, Selim, Matur Munna, Robert, Rakib (Anwar), Andre and Alifaz.

Referee: Udayan Haldar.

UNB adds: At least 50 people were injured as angry soccer fans clashed with police after the referee warned a player at the flag-end of Abahani-Mohammedan football match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

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