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VOL. IX NO. 2002 REGD. NO. DA 781

INTERNET: http://www.dailystarnews.com

BHADRA 3 1406 BS

DHAKA WEDNESDAY AUGUST 18, 1999

JAMADIUL AWAL 5, 1420 HIJRI

Cabinet decision All utility bills to be collected at one place

to introduce collection of electricity, gas, water and telephone charges at one place - banks or post offices - to relieve the subscribers of harassment in pay-

The proposal, put forward by the Public Administration Reforms Commission (PARC) recently, is likely to be implemented in Dhaka city in January next year on a trial basis. It will be gradually introduced in other cities, sources said.

sary steps would be taken shortly so that the proposal could be implemented on trial basis in certain areas of the city latest by January.

so that the banks or post offices can give certificates of payment annually to subscribers paying the charges.

rately or together. They will have to pay fine if they fail to pay within a stipulated time. to the subscriber by the 20th of

the following month, to be paid by the 10th of next month, the sources said.

on any MP, says DGFI

By Staff Correspondent has said.

not be given 83 guests as "it was not be possible to process the clearance due to time constraint and other reasons," the statement said.

Monday, four days after the incident, said many of the invited guests hailed from different areas including Rajshahi, Dina-Nilphamari, Rangpur, Gaiban-dha, Khulna, Jhenidah, Barisal, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Noakhali, Chittagong, Tangail, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Mymen-

singh, Gopalganj and Habiganj. Security clearance of the invited guests was arranged in two phases (August 11 & August 12 during office time).

ing Director of ISPR Muham-See page 11 Col 6

By Special Correspondent

The Cabinet yesterday ap-proved in principle a proposal

The Cabinet Secretary told the Cabinet meeting that neces-

Automation will be required

The subscribers will be allowed to pay the charges sepa-Bill for a month will be sent

No restriction was imposed

No restriction was imposed on entry of any MP to Dhaka Cantonment area to attend the wedding ceremony of the youngest daughter of Deputy Leader of the Opposition in parliament Prof A Q M Badrudozza Chowdhury on August 12 at the Shenakunja, a DGFI statement

But security clearance could

The statement released on jpur, Bogra, Ishwardi, Natore,

The statement signed by Act-

Inside Today

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Only Miracle Can Improve Indo-Pak Relations

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Prayer Timings

August 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-15
Johr	12-50	1-25
Asr	5-00	5-10
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8.00	8-30
Source: I:	slamic Fo	oundation

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PM may visit US

Quake kills over 1100 in Turkey



Search for survivors Rescue workers on top of a huge pile of rubble in capital Istanbul following the earthquake

that struck north western Turkey early yesterday.

100.00 hurt: Izmit worst hit, 40 killed in Istanbul

IZMIT (Turkey), Aug 17: An earthquake rocked Turkey today killing more than 1100 people and injuring about 10,000 as they slept in apartment blocks that crumbled in the most powerful tremor ever recorded in the region, reports Reuters.

Frantic survivors tore at mangled steel and concrete to free loved ones, and officials asked the international community to send sniffer dogs and lifting equipment to help in the

In Istanbul residents rushed into blacked-out streets to escape falling concrete after the quake, measured by Turkish seismologists at 6.7 on the Richter Scale.

"Tell me my children are alive." pleaded Muzaffar Yarla, grabbing the arm of a Reuters reporter.

Minutes later a pair of bare feet, clearly lifeless, poked through the tangle of steel and concrete and the search halted briefly before neighbours struck up a loud wail.

State-run TRT television, citing information from a crisis centre in Ankara, told Reuters the death toll by 1400 GMT was nearly 1000. Reports of flattened buildings across the region suggested the toll would rise further.

Authorities criticised builders for failing to protect homes against tremors last year after more than 140 people died in southern Turkey in an earthquake measuring 6.3 on

the Richter scale. Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit called the quake the worst natural disaster he had ever seen and said it would require gargantuan efforts to rebuild.

"The loss is huge," state television showed the 73-year-old premier saying in a trembling voice. "It is the biggest natural disaster I have witnessed ... May Allah help our state and our people.

The quake, which struck at 3:02 am (0002 GMT), centred on the northwestern industrial city of Izmit, some 90-km east of Istanbul, Turkey's biggest city which links Europe and

TRT said the highest number of dead had been found in the province of Sakarya where more than 343 bodies were recovered.

Most of the dead were crushed in their sleep as the force of the earthquake destroyed apartment blocks across the Marmara Sea region, Turkey's most heavily popu-

lated and its industrial heart. Officials said they needed dogs and technical support to rescue those trapped but crisis centre manager Ahmet Sagar told Reuters that Turkey had enough food and tents for the

survivors. At least 40 people died in Istanbul. Hundreds of others were injured there by falling masonry or by jumping from bal-

There were no immediate reports of damage to the city's ar-See page 11 Col 6

this year, meet Clinton Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to visit Wash-

ington some time later this year, Foreign Secretary C M Shafi Sami indicated yester-day, reports BSS.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina may also visit Washington, DC, to meet President Clinton," he said, adding that "it has been agreed that President Clin-

ton will visit Bangladesh soon". When she will be in the US capital, the prime minister will open the Bangladesh Chancery building, now under construction in the diplomatic hub in Washington, DC, Sami said.

The foreign secretary was talking to journalists about his recent visit to the United States. He said the US officials appreciated the role of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for promoting peace and stability in

countries in the region. See page 11 Col 7

South Asia and spurring eco-

nomic cooperation among the

Salam Talukdar still in coma

By Staff Correspondent BNP leader Salam Talukdar who was admitted to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) Sunday evening, is still in critical condition, a senior doctor at the hospital said. The Director of NICVD Prof

M A Zaman, when contacted yesterday evening, told The Daily Star, "Talukdar was without ventilator last night (Monday). He is now breathing on his own. But a new problem has developed. A bedside X-ray image showed that he developed lung infection which may lead to other complications." He said, "We have trans-

ferred him from Coronary Care Unit to Intensive Care Unit this evening for better care. But the lung infection problem worries us much. He is still in coma and not out of danger.' His heart function and blood

pressure were stated to be See page 11 Col 7

Opposition lays siege to DC offices today

liance will lay siege to the offices of Deputy Commissioners across the country to press the government for withdrawal of its decision to provide transshipment facility to India

maat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) will hold separate public rallies in Dhaka and district headquarters and submit memorandum to the DCs in support of their demand.

See page 11 Col 8

'A fake birthday on mourning day earns only hatred'

PM lashes out at Khaleda Zia

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday lashed out at Opposition leader Khaleda Zia for celebrating birthday on the National Mourning Day.

"It is not surprising that the patrons of Bangabandhu's killers will celebrate birthday in a festive manner on the day (Bangabandhu was killed)... They (the BNP men) have earned hatred of the people by observing a fake birthday. Hasina told a discussion meeting at Paltan Maidan in the

Awami League organised the discussion as part of its threeday programme marking the 24th anniversary of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's assassina-The prime minister put the

governments of late Ziaur Rahman, H M Ershad and Khaleda Zia in the same bracket for protecting and rewarding Mujib's killers whom she branded as defeated forces of 1971. "Rewarded by all the three

governments, the killers be-

lieved they had escaped trial. But they had been put on the dock and were sentenced to death by the grace of almighty Allah," she said, seeking divine blessings for execution of the verdict against the killers. Addressing the meeting as chief guest, Hasina promised to ensure food, shelter, education,

medicare and employment to

each and every citizen and

sought people's support to live upto her commitment. "Our government is committed to building up a Sonar Bangla free from hunger and poverty, as dreamt by Bangabandhu. We want to translate into reality the dreams and ideals of the Father of the Nation who struggled his entire life to change the lot of the common-

In her 10-minute speech, Hasina recalled the events on the fateful night of August 15, 1975 when Bangabandhu, most of his family members and close relations were killed by some military officers.

Chaired by senior AL leader

and Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, the meeting was also addressed by senior party leaders including Zohra Tajuddin, LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman, Forest and Environment Minister Sajeda Choudhury. Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Amir Hossain Amu, Suranjit Sengupta, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Home Minister Mohammad Nasim and Abdul

- AFP photo

Besides, former chief justice Kamaluddin Hossain, educationists Dr Neelima Ibrahim and Prof. Kabir Choudhury and writer Syed Shamsul Haq also spoke on the occasion. Poets Mahadev Saha and Nirmalendu Goon recited their poems on Bangabandhu.

Zillur Rahman also bitterly criticised Khaleda Zia for observing her birthday on August 15. "What can the nation expect from a leader who gets involved with such heinous act?"

Challenging Khaleda's birthday on August 15, Tofail See Page 12 Col 4

Khulna dist JP vice president shot dead

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Aug 17: A senior vice president of the Khulna district Jatiya Party was gunned down by the unidentified miscreants in the Brickfield Workers Union office at Palerhat here at 8 pm yester-

The gunmen sprayed bullet on Abul Hossain Hawladar, 50,

also chairman of Srifaltala

union under Rupsha thana. Abul Hossain died on the spot and seven of his associates were injured seriously. The injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. Abul Hossain led a huge procession of brickfield workers and fishermen protesting rowdism by 'Whip Bahini' in Rupsha thana before six hours of

his killing. He also submitted a

memorandum to the Deputy

Commissioner, Khulna de-

manding immediate arrest of

the armed cadres of the outlawed parties in his union. Armed cadres of outlawed parties were not happy with Abul Hossain as he helped po-lice to enforce surrender of the outlaws, police said. The motive behind the killing yet to be

Developing reserve gasfield

Nico-BAPEX joint venture ordered

By Sharier Khan The Energy Ministry has in-

structed Petrobangla to formulate a framework of understanding to initiate a joint venture process between the country's lone oil and gas exploration company BAPEX and a Canadian firm Nico Re-The Energy Ministry had

taken special interest in involving Nico Resources with BAPEX to develop the reserved gasfields of the country. The Canadian company - originally disqualified in the Second Round Bidding because of its financial and technical weakness - has been pursuing this proposal since May last. When Nico's offer was made

in May, it did not promise its own financing for the joint venture. It said that it would seek a CIDA credit for the initial studies required for development of these gas fields. The Energy Ministry accordingly suggested Petrobangla to work out a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between BAPEX and Nico Resources and to under-

take a study on the relevant gas fields.

But BAPEX told Petrobangla that before signing any MOU with Nico Resources - or before even undertaking a joint study on the gasfields — Petrobangla should assess the financial and technical viability of the nonproducing marginal gas fields.

the basis of this assessment, BAPEX argued. In a letter last week, the Energy Ministry agreed to BAPEX's arguments and said that it was important to technically assess the non-producing marginal gasfields in order to initiate the BAPEX-Nico joint

A study should be carried out on

"It is not clear how this venture would help BAPEX, because Nico Resources itself is seeking third party finance," commented a source, "and whatever data would be acquired through this joint study would mean more to Nico Resources than to BAPEX -- as it may sell the data to a third party."

See page 11 Col 5

সাফল্যের বিশ্বন্ত সিঁড়ি—

ज्याना गायक

By Staff Correspondent The BNP-led opposition al-

The BNP, Jatiya Party, Ja-

Main opposition BNP will

EC likely to meet today, discuss 'floor-crossing'

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission is likely to meet today to review developments in the controversial case of alleged floor-crossing by two BNP legislators, EC sources said.

written communication to the EC within the deadline. The deadline ended yesterday. Two BNP lawmakers - Mohammad Alauddin and Hasibur Rahman Swapan — joined the Awami League government in

February last year against their

instruction, the contending

parties in the case have made

party decision. Since then, the BNP has been claiming that conduct of the two MPs amounted in violation of constitutional provision that bars floor-crossing, and so they should lose their seats in par-

But the MPs have been

NAMAZ-E-ZANAZA & KULKHANI

Namaz-e-Zanaza and Kulkhani of Late Mr. Mukhlesur

Rahman, Chairman & Managing Director of Uttara Group

of Companies and Industries will be held today

Wednesday) & Friday respectively. Namaz-e-Zanaza will

be held on August 18, Wednesday, 1999 after Asar at Banani

Bazar Mosque (DMC Market and Iqbal Centre Area) and

Kulkhani will be held on August 20th Friday, 1999, after

Relatives, colleagues, well-wishers, Friends and the officers

and staffs of Uttara Group of Companies & Industries have

been requested to attend the Namaz-e-Zanaza and Kulkhani

Executive Director

Uttara Group of Companies & Industries

39, Dilkusha Commercial Area Dhaka-1000.

Magrib at House # 11, Road # 08, Gulshan-01, Dhaka.

and Pray for the Salvation of the departed soul.

claiming that they did not violate the Constitution as they neither resigned from BNP nor voted against the party. However, following a Meanwhile, responding to

Supreme Court directive, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury referred the disputed matter to the Election Commission on August 8. The Commission on August 10 asked the parties concerned to put forward their arguments

in a week from the date of receipt of its letter. The deadline for giving replies was August 17. The MPs sent separate letters to the Commission on August 16. They stuck to their previous position that their action was not violation of Article 70 of the Constitution that bars floor-crossing, EC sources said.

They, however, sought one month time for preparing legal See page 11 Col 6

Arrest after bus dacoity

known.

Transport workers put up barricade

By Staff Correspondent

A group of transport workers from Fulbaria bus stand yesterday put up a barricade on Mirpur Road near Dhanmondi thana protesting the reported arrest of two staff of a bus on charge of cooperating with bus

Police said that the Dhamrai-bound minibus left Fulbaria bus stand at about 8 pm. A gang of about six dacoits in guise of passengers got on the bus in the city's Polashi stoppage. Brandishing arms, dacoits

robbed the passengers and got

down from the bus at Shyamoli.

Suspecting involvement of the

bus staff in the dacoity, the pas-

sengers took the bus to Mo-

As the alleged dacoity took place in Dhanmondi thana area, Mohammadpur police handed over bus driver. Mosharraf and helper Monwar

Hossain, to Dhanmondi police. Dhanmondi police detained the two and interrogated them. When the news reached at Fulbaria bus stand, a group of transport workers rushed to Dhanmondi area and put up a barricade on Mirpur Road, disrupting traffic for about an hour from 10:30 am.

Police told the agitating workers that the two were not arrested. They were detained for interrogation as suspects in the incident.

hammadpur thana.

Three share scam cases

Transfer order stayed

By M Shamsur Rahman

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed a High Court order which had allowed transfer of three share scam cases from the court of Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Court to the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Court.

The Appellate Division also granted leave to appeal against the judgement and order passed by a High Court Division Bench comprising Justice Golam Rab-bani and Justice Latifur Rah-The Division Bench on June

15, 1999 approved petitions by Shinepukur Holdings, Beximco. Pharmaceuticals and Doha Se-

curities for transfer of the cases

from the third to second metro These are three of the 15 complaint cases filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) accusing 42 directors

of different companies for ma-nipulating the 1996 share mar-

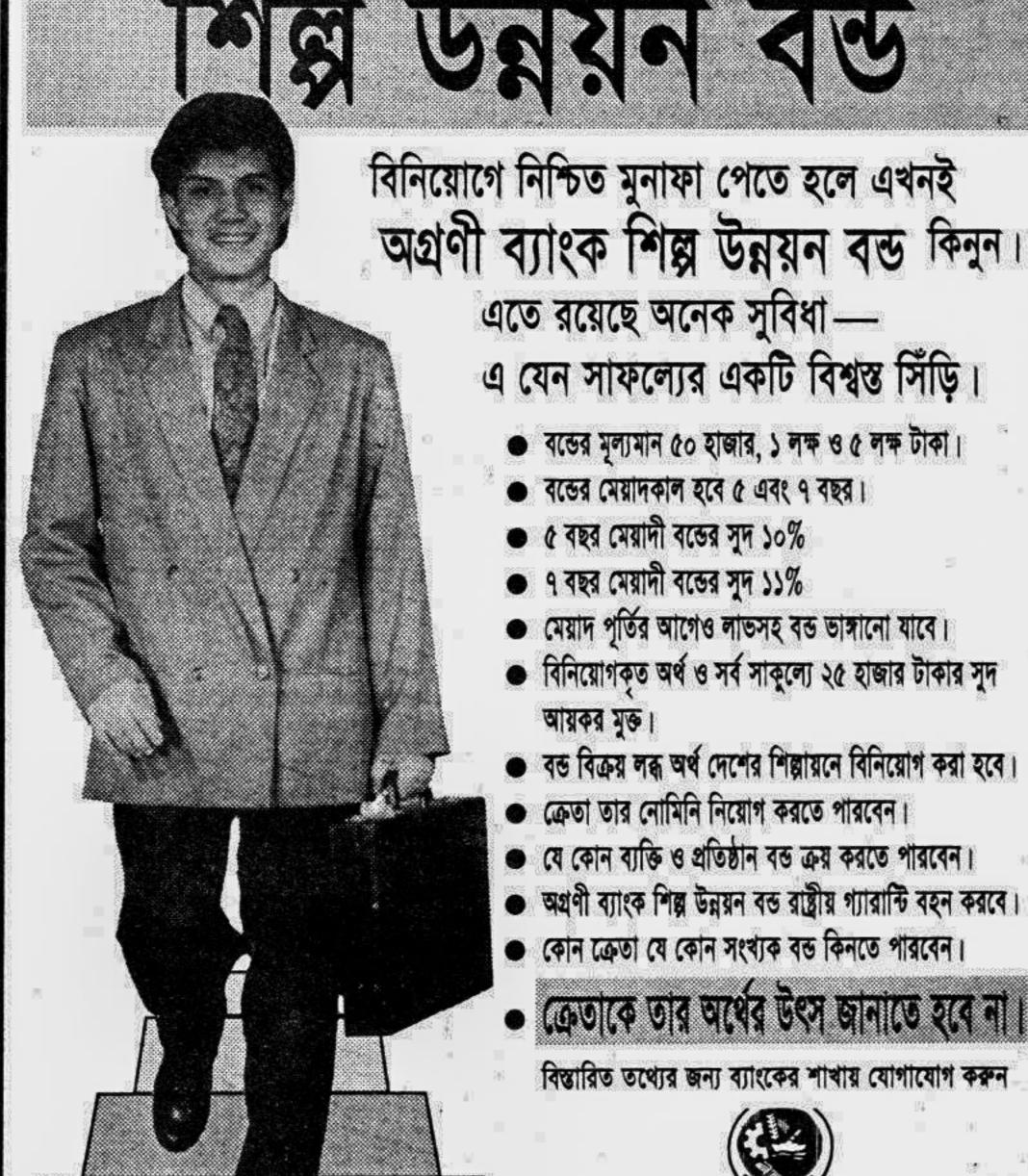
Two years later, on January 3 1999, hearing on charge framing against the three accused companies began in the court of First Additional Sessions Judge and continued for four days till January 6, 1999. Hearing in the two cases — Shinepukur and Doha Securi-

heard. The hearing of the cases could not continue as the pre-siding judge and all the scam cases were transferred to the newly formed Metropolitan Court.

ties - concluded while Beximco

Pharmaceuticals was part

The cases were recalled by the sessions judge who transferred them to Metropolitan Sessions Judge. The Metro judge later distributed all the share



বভের মৃল্যমান ৫০ হাজার, ১ লক্ষ ও ৫ লক্ষ টাকা।

वर्डित (भग्नामकोन रदि (१ वर् १ वर्त्र ।

 ৭ বছর মেয়াদী বন্ডের সুদ ১১% মেয়াদ পূর্তির আগেও লাভসহ বভ ভাঙ্গানো যাবে।

 वह विक्रय नक्क वर्ष फिल्में मिल्लायत विनित्यांग क्या श्रव । ক্রেতা তার নোমিনি নিয়োগ করতে পারবেন।

যে কোন ব্যক্তি ও প্রতিষ্ঠান বভ ক্রয় করতে পারবেন।

 अध्नी त्याश्क निल्ल উন্নয়न বভ রাষ্ট্রীয় গ্যারান্টি বহন করবে। কোন ক্রেতা যে কোন সংখ্যক বন্ত কিনতে পারবেন।

 ক্রেতাকে তার অর্থের উৎস জানাতে হবে না বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্য ব্যাংকের শাখায় যোগাযোগ করুন



ञश्जी याश्क দৈশ ও জাতির সেবায় প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ

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See page 11 Col 4