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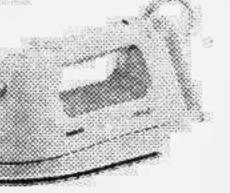
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Flood situation

in Rajshahi,

C'nawabganj

worsens

From Our Correspondent

overall flood situation in Ra-

jshahi and Chapainawabganj districts further deteriorated

although the water levels of the

rivers Padma and the Mo-

hananda marked a slight fall during the last 24 hours.

in Rajshahi have been inun-

Vast areas of Godagari thana

RAJSHAHI, Aug 22: The

Gen Secy of JCD DU unit held

By DU Correspondent The general secretary of the Dhaka University unit of oppo-sition BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was arrested Shahbagh in the city during yesterday's dawn to dusk hartal across the country.
At least six rounds of shots

were fired and three crackers blasted around the DU campus. Mostafizul Islam Mamun, the general secretary, was ar-rested at around 2:30 pm from Silvana Restaurant for his alleged involvement in blasting

crackers and creating panic in the area, Ramna police said. Four JCD activists were also arrested from Shahbagh at around 4 pm for the same reason. The arrested are Mohammed Qayum, Anwar Hoscain, Monir Hossain and

Fakhrul Islam, police added. Condemning the arrest, JCD brought out a procession on the campus and held a rally in front of the Teachers'-Students' Centre (TSC) in the afternoon.

Addressing the rally, the JCD leaders demanded that Mamun and other JCD activists be immediately released. "Otherwise, we will launch a tough movement to unseat the autocratic government," they warned

Meanwhile, Pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) brought out a procession from the Madhu's Canteen on the campus denouncing the hartal. After the procession, BCL held a rally at the Aparajeo Bangla on the campus at noon.

Addressing the rally, BCL leaders criticised the role of BNP-led opposition alliance. "The opposition is frequently calling hartal to create anarchy in the society and destroy the country's democracy."

They also urged the government and the Supreme Court to execute the verdict of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case.

Secy of JCD Khulna city unit held during hartal

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Aug 22: A tense situation is prevailing in the city following arrest of Sirajul Huq Nannu, general secretary of the city unit of Jatiyatabadi Chatradal (JCD) at about 10 am while he alongwith other (JCD) activists was picketing near Daulatpur Mohsin Girls' High

Police resorted to lathicharge to disperse the pickets who hurled brickbats at them. The OC of Daulatpur thana fired two blank shots when angry BNP and JCD activists chased him for traveling in a rickshaw during hartal hours. Apart from this incident, hartal passed off peacefully in other areas of the city.

All models of vehicles were off the roads and shops remained closed. Transactions in banks remained suspended during the shutdown. But producin the state-owned jute mills, KNM and Hardboard mill was as usual.

Both BNP and Awami League brought out processions for and against the shutdown cargohandling at Mongla port was disrupted due to hartal, Mongla Port Authority said.

Squatters Fro.n page 1

not 'Engineer' Lutfar Rahman the man who led evicted squatters into the Supreme Court premises Thursday.

The MP said the 'engineer' had been expelled long ago along with Syed Shahiduddin and Zaheda Sultana Jolly for 'misappropriation of organisation's funds and extortion of money from slum dwellers in the name of their rehabilita-

tion at Bhasantek and Gazipur. The MP who could not be reached last night also said in the statement that Lutfar Rahman and others had taken Tk 500 from each of the families promising them to rehabilitate. But he took them first to Osmany Udyan and then to the Supreme Court, using the name of the home minister and the state minister for shipping, the MP said. "They have thus dishonoured the ministers and abused the highest court and betrayed the slum dwellers."

Lutfar Rahman could not be reached by phone yesterday. He had addressed the squatters in the Supreme Court premises on Saturday, saying they would not move until their proper rehabilitation.

Meanwhile, the High Court resumes hearing of the writ petition challenging the eviction drive at 2pm today.

Police said last night that they had not been authorised so far to remove the squatters from the Supreme Court or from the pavement of the Bailey Road. Nor did they receive any complaint from Dr Hossain till yesterday.

address: dstar@bangla.net

'Resist move to give corridor to India'

Post-hartal rally in city

By Staff Correspondent

BNP leaders yesterday vowed to resist at any cost the government decision to provide 'corridor facility' facility to India and called upon the people to unite and launch a movement to foil the 'conspiracy' against the country.

Addressing a post- hartal rally in the city yesterday, they said that the people would not allow transportation of Indian goods through the country. If the government goes on with the 'conspiracy', BNP along with the people will foil it even at the cost of blood, they added.

The rally, held in front of the party central office at Naya Paltan with city unit convenor Sadek Hosssain Khoka in the chair, was addressed by, among others, Amanullah Aman, Nazimuddin Alam, Ehsanul Huq Milon, Maj Gen (Retd) ZA Khan, Mirza Abbas, Fazlur Rahman Patal, former army chief Lt Gen (Retd) Mahbubur Rahman, Fazlul Haq Milon, Khairul Kabir Khokan, Chowdhury Alam, Dr Mohammd Ali, Abdus Salam, Moulana Shah Nesarul Haq, ABM Baker Hossain, Rabeya Siraj, Shirin Sultana and Helen Zerin Khan.

Sadeq Hossain Khoka congratulated the people for observing the hartal 'peacefully' throughout the country. He urged the people to make all BNP programmes a success, like this hartal.

He mentioned the Dhaka Bhairab road march on August 26, mass procession in the capital on August 30 and sit-in demonstration in front of the Secretariat on September 12.

Khoka called upon police personnel not to harass BNP activists even if the government creates pressure on them. He assured that they will be rewarded for this when BNP comes to

A Pandemonium broke out at the beginning of the rally when two persons on a motor entered the rally venue.Enraged BNP workers attacked them, alleging that they came to foil the rally.Party leaders rescued the two-- Mohammad Ali and Anwar-- and

handed them over to police. Some BNP leaders alleged that the ruling party sent them to create trouble at the rally for giving police an excuse to foil it Heavy contingents of riot police were deployed near the venue.

The two persons later told this correspondent that they were residents of nearby Fakirerpool area and were crossing the rally venue without knowing anything about it. They thought that the rally was yet to begin, they claimed.

Mirza Abbas said the ruling party has lost people's confidence and the partymen now cannot come out on the streets without police protection.

Vowing to resist allowing 'corridor' facility to India, he said the people are with BNP on this issue.

Abbas alleged that three BNP workers were picked up by police from Mouchak area in the city during the hartal. He also protested the arrest of Mostafizur Rahman Mamun, secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Dhaka University unit

Nazimuddin Alam mentioned that the Indian government did not allow transporta-See page 11 Col 8



came charging after he was allegedly caught trying to storm the BNP rally at city's Naya Paltan during hartal hours yesterday. -Star photo

HC: Remove squatters From page 1

falsehoods and taking shelter of law to foil the government move. "Since we have the highest

respect for law and enjoy the overwhelming support of the people, we put off the eviction," the Home Minister told news-"But it's surprising that the

trespassers were encouraged to raise slums on government and private lands, High Court compound or National Eidgah with fresh enthusiasm with the patronage of these NGOs and political parties, and ultimately under the protection of law."

Nasim said he would not be astonished if such trend continues. However, he said, the government has got enough strength and support to evict illegal occupants or slums and nab terrorists and drug dealers. "On the other hand, we want to carry on the rehabilitation plan as per commitment of the Prime Minister."

But what is necessary is removing "legal barriers," the Home Minister said, adding that there is no law anywhere in the country to allow illegal

occupation of government land. "Under these circumstances, a mere request from the Registrar of the High Court to evict slum dwellers is not enough, keeping the injunction of the honourable judges of the High Court," the minister said.

Asked for his comment on press reports that some Awami

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Leaguers masterminded the setting up of slums in the High Court compound and in front of Dr Kamal Hossain's house, Nasim agreed that the slumdwellers might have taken shelter of some political parties patronising them.

"Even some workers of the government party had opposed the eviction of TT-para slums, but we didn't pay heed." he said.

The Home Minister said it's not the question of High Court compound or Dr Kamal Hossain's home, he would clean up all slums as soon as he got High Court orders. In reply to another question

on the arrest of "godfathers" in the city, Nasim said already many fat cats had been caught in southern districts and combing operation has begun in the capital. Had there been no court re-

striction, many terrorists would have been flushed out from their hideouts in the slums. "We suspect that after demolition of their dens, many terrorists have shifted their am-

munition in other slums, including the BNP slum at Agargaon in the city," he said. Defending his contentions, he said huge phensidyl bottles and underground tunnels would

not have been traced had the TT slums not been cleared. The Home Minister said people across the country, including the capital, welcomed

the eviction drive. "I completely honour the court and let the law help me. Law is for people and we are applying law in the interest of the people," he said.

To a question, the Home Minister said most of the lands reclaimed from slums belong to the railway, and those were already handed over to railway authorities.

Hasina yesterday asked all concerned to explore new markets.

Centre (ICC) in the afternoon.

the country stood at 5.31 billion US dollars, 2.94 per cent up over the previous year's but 5.63 per cent down last year's target.

Last fiscal year's total export target was 5.63 billion US dol-

Asia, last year's devastating floods at home, and slump in export prices as the causes of

ernment was taking all possible measures for promoting external trade.

emphasis on non-traditional items and suggested increase in export of foods to capture the ever-expanding world food

activist sparks violence in Barisal: 15 hurt

Masum. 25, a BCL activist of North Amanatganj in the Barisal town was murdered by unidentified assailants last night. Police recovered his body

ing and sent it to Barisal Medical College Hospital morgue for

midnight last night, police said. Protesting the murder, Ma-

Fifteen people were injured when police resorted to lathicharge and fired teargas shells to bring the situation under control.

Police said Masum was a cadre of ruling party backed Chhatra League and wanted in

Food poisoning: 2 brothers die

From Our Correspondent

as Jahurul, 15, and Kamrul 6. Family sources said, they drank milk after eating pineapple and became ill. As their condition deteriorated, they were sent to Magura Sadar Hospital where they died soon after admission. Two separate U/D cases were

lodged with Mugara Sadar thana in this connection.

Arrear bills

Titas has Tk 200 crore dues lying with PDB and another Tk 50 crore with the fertiliser sec-

82 crore lying with KAFCO, Tk 48 crore with PDB and Tk 27 crore with different industries. list of defaulters also with Jalalabad Gas Systems, owing

of Tk 411.91 crore lying with Titas, Bakhrabad, Jalalabad and Bangladesh Petroleum 362.27 with Titas and Tk 29.14

Different gas producing companies owe GTCL Tk 35.89 crore. Of them, Titas Tk 29 crore and Bakhrabad Tk 10 Similarly, SGFCL has unpaid bills of Tk 173.68 crore

with Titas. The most financially mismanaged company, Titas, has a system loss of 14.39 per cent. Titas had declared that Tk 373 crore was "non-recoverable" that gas worth Tk 118 crore was sold to industrial consumers without keeping proper record. Titas also has legal disputes with clients regarding Tk 92.24

Explore new markets for export: PM

As exports fell below the tar-get. Prime Minister Sheikh reports UNB.

"We'll have to do whatever necessary for the increase of exports and expansion of the export market," she said while presiding over the meeting of National Export Committee at the International Conference

The meeting was told that in 1998-99 the export earnings of

The meeting identified world economic recession, crisis in

failure to reach the export tar-Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed told the meeting that exports increased 2.01 per cent in terms of volume and the gov-

The Prime Minister gave

Murder of BCL

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Aug 22: Murder of a BCL activist sparked violence at Charbaria under Sadar thana here today, police said.

from a paddy field near Charbaria Board School this morn-

Masum came under attack by unidentified armed assailants when he along with his associate Monir was going to Charbaria in a rickshaw at

sum's supporters today ransacked seven houses and damaged five rickshaws of a BNP supporter at village Charupal Ghuni. They also clashed with villagers, police said.

several criminal cases. Police also arrested Monir.

in Magura

MAGURA, Aug 22: Two brothers died from food poisoning at village Angardaha under Sadar thana today. The victims were identified

From page 1 Titas has Tk 587 crore bills lying with consumers, Bakhrabad Tk 204 crore and

Jalalabad Tk 51 crore.

Bakhrabad Gas Field has Tk Fertiliser factories lead the Tk 28 crore, followed by PDB

with Tk 10 crore. The BGFCL has arrear bills Corporation (BPC). Of this, Tk crore with Bakhrabad.

lying with gas companies. Of this Tk 81.31 crore with Bakhrabad and Tk 43.58 crore

but investigations later detected crore bills.



A group of pro-hartal pickets at Bijoynagar in the city move away from a smoke produced by home-made bombs they blasted. -Star photo

40 hurt during hartal During the clash both the

Hafizuddin Ahmed MP, Lt Gen

(retd) Mahbubur Rahman led

processions that paraded Bi-

joynagar, Kakrail, Nayapaltan,

Mouchak, Malibagh, Shahja-

brought out a big procession

from party's central office at

Nayapaltan at 11:05 am and

again at 4:30 pm which tried,

unsuccessfully, to break the

barbed-wire barricade raised by

large contingents of riot police

in front of Kastury Restaurant

at Purana Paltan. The BNP pro-

cessionists, however, staged a

sit-in-demonstration in the af-

Jamaat and IOJ also marched

through Purana Paltan, Bijoy-

nagar, Kakrail and Nayapaltan

areas during the hartal hour.

Two bombs were earlier ex-

ploded at Nightingale crossing

activists in the city streets was

smaller than it was during pre-

vious hartals. Activists of the

ruling Awami League brought

out processions in different

parts of the city, including at

Jatrabari, Gulistan and Tan-

police as well as paramilitary

BDR were deployed in different

parts of the city. But, through-

out the day, the law enforcing

agency men apparently showed

were injured in a clash between

pro and anti-hartal activists at

Boalmari thana headquarters

when the activists of Chhatra

Samaj, student front of Jatiya

Party (Ershad), attacked a shop

owned by an Awami League

worker Atiar Rahman at about

Police said the clash started

in Faridpur yesterday.

UNB adds: At least 10 people

Thousands of riot and armed

The presence of anti-hartal

Processions of Jatiya Party.

ternoon.

at 11:28 am.

tibazar.

restraint.

The main opposition party

hanpur, and Khilgaon areas.

Movement of rickshaws in the city were almost normal. A good number of autorickshaws. some minibuses and state-run BRTC buses were on some specific roads, including the VIP roads.

Movement of vehicles on long-route halted. Two domestic flights of Biman were cancelled for lack of passengers, airport sources said. Educational institutions,

and most offices remained closed. The Dhaka Stock Exchange also did not transact. Attendance in government offices, including Bangladesh Secretariat, was thin. Sources said less than 25 per cent officials and employees attended offices in the Secretariat. Majority of the senior officials in all ministries were not present.

business establishments, shops

BDR, BSF exchange fire on Parshuram border in Feni

BNP leaders Tariqul Islam,

Mirza Abbas, Sadek Hossain

FENI, Aug 22: The border security forces of Bangladesh and India today exchanged fire across the border at Parshuram following failure of a flag meeting of local commanders to resolve the dispute over char land, reports UNB. The residents of Parshuram

said intermittent firing contin-

ued till late in the evening. The dispute arose when a group of Indian farmers intruded on Saturday into Bangladesh territory and tried to fence lands on Muhurir Char. Their attempts was foiled by Bangladesh farmers.

They again intruded today with the help of BSF who mobilised strength on Parshuram border. BDR proposed a flag meeting to avoid clash. The meeting was held at 11 am but it ended without any accord. Soon after the meeting, the BSF started firing. BDR also

2 killed, 188 hurt as plane catches fire before landing at HK airport

was reported so far.

HONG KONG, Aug 22: A China Airlines jet caught fire and crash-landed at Hong Kong airport in a tropical storm this evening, killing two people and injuring at least 188 of the 315 people aboard, witnesses and officials said, reports AP.

was on fire before it came down, with the right wing hitting the runway first before the rest of the jet flipped over and burst into flames. Passenger David MacDonell

Witnesses said the airplane

described a harrowing landing in the windy storm, which had hindered operations at Chek Lap Kok airport earlier in the

From page 1 Mannan Bhuiyan will lead the mass procession in Rajshahi city today.

Jatiya Party presidium

member Kazi Zafar Ahmed will

Mass processions

lead mass procession at Khulna in the absence of party Chairman HM Ershad who is to appear before a Court in Dhaka. Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Moulana Golam Azam will lead the procession in Sylhet while Islami Oikyo Jote chairman Saikhul Hadis Moulana Azizul

Rahul From page 1

Barisal.

Huq will lead the procession in

settling the ethnic conflict between the Sri Lankan government and Tamil rebels.

The people in Tamil Nadu state have linguistic and cultural links with Tamils in Sri Lanka. The rebels there have been fighting a bloody war for a separate homeland for the Tamil minority since 1983, accusing the majority Sinhalese of discrimination.

dated. The thana protection embankment at Godagari developed breach. The BDR camps in Shahpur and Charghat have been devoured by the river Padma. More than 20 thousand people at Char Majar Diar, Ja-jira Char, Sonaikandi, Taranagar, Satbigha and Khidirpur are

groups chased each other and

exploded crackers, leaving at

Samaj activist named Selim

parts of the district was ob-

dawn-to-dusk hartal was

observed peacefully barring

sacked two motor bikes at

Laxmipur crossing and two

trucks at C&B crossing during

tions, private offices and busi-

ness houses remained closed

and vehicles were off the roads

from Sylhet adds: No untoward

incident was reported from

anywhere of Sylhet during the

hartal today. Life at this divi-

sional headquarters remained

paralised as all modes of vehi-

cles were off the streets. Educa-

tional institutions remained

closed and business establish-

ments kept their shutters down.

to eight hours at the divisional

headquarters of Sylhet as per

decision taken by the opposi-

tion leaders to facilitate prepa-

rations for tomorrow's mass

procession to be led by Jamaat

Party and the city unit of Ja-

maat-e-Islami held separate

rallies at the Court Point,

Point during the hartal hours.

Nahidul Islam Nahid, Social

Welfare Secretary of Sylhet

district unit of Jatiyatabadi

Chhatra Dal at about 3 pm from

Zindabazar area. He was

wanted in a number of cases,

police said.

Surma Point and Pourashava

Kotwali police arrested

Sylhet district BNP, Jatiya

Chief Professor Golam Azam.

The hartal hour was reduced

Our Staff Correspondent

Shops, educational institu-

some sporadic incidents.

Police arrested a Chhatra

However, hartal in other

In Rajshahi, the Opposition's

Pro-hartal activists ran-

least 10 people injured.

from the spot.

the hartal.

during the hartal.

served peacefully.

passing their days in anxiety. Meanwhile, Members of the Armed Forces are working round-the-clock to save Rajshahi City Protection Embankment from erosion. The Igroyne near Panchabati and Tgroyne still remained vulnera-

The erosion took serious turn at Paka Narayanpur of Shibganj thana. More than 200 houses, mosques and educational institutions have been devoured by the river Padma during the last one week.

The flood water has damaged crops in vast areas of Chapainawabganj Sadar, Shibganj Gomastapur thanas. Thousands of people have taken shelter on raised grounds and on the highways.

Indictment in Jail Killing Case Sept 9

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday deferred its decision on indicting 21 accused in the November 3, 1975 Jail Killing Case to September 9, reports BSS.

The court passed the order following a prayer from the prosecution.

No x-ray film From page 1

are well aware of the problems but they act in such a way that there is no problem in the hospital," one of them told this correspondent.

Radiology department needs

around 200 X-ray films on an average per day--about 60 for outdoor patients, about 80 for emergency cases and the rest for others, sources concerned said. Meanwhile, out of the eight X-ray machines at the hospital,

Udyan

some time.

at 3 pm.

one is out of order for quite

From page 1 jul Islam Choudhury, Convenor of the organisation urged the city dwellers to join the march which will begin after a rally in front of the National Musuem

