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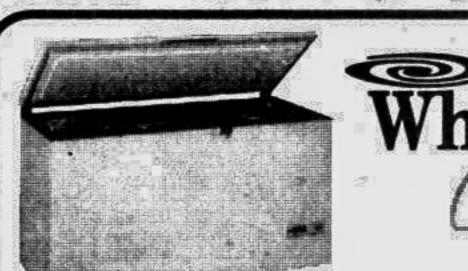
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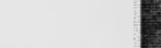
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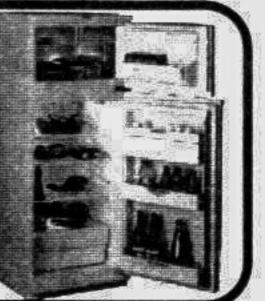
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SKOP calls hartal in Khulna town today

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Aug 23: Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) has called a dawn-todusk hartal in the town tomorrow to press home its demands for reopening of the Sonali, Ajex and Afil Jute mills and payment of arrears.

The Oikya Parishad leaders said that a minor son of Akkas Ali, 50, of Sonali Jute Mills died form starvation on August 16. They feared more deaths from starvation if arrears were not paid immediately.

UNB adds: The jobless angry workers of the three jute mills brought out processions from Fulbari gate and Dak Bunglow crossing in the afternoon to drum up support for the hartal.

Jatiya Party leader Kazi Za-far Ahmed addressing a rally in front of Dak Bunglow this evening extended support to the hartal.

Drugs haul: Rly probe body chief visits spot today

Convenor of the railway inquiry committee will make a spot visit today before investigation of the drugs haul near RNB barracks at Kamalapur. Railway's Eastern Zone Ad-

ditional General Manager Din Mohammad, stationed in Chittagong, will inspect the site to "fix the modality and area of responsibility," an official told

After consultation with other members, the probe chief will lead his team into formal inquiry later in the day.

The members are Chief Commandant of Railway Nirapatta Bahini (RNB) East MA Rouf, Chief Estate Officer of eastern zone Imdadul Haq. Superintendent of GRP (Chittagong) M Mohsin Hossain and Divisional Railway Manager of Dhaka M Rafiquzza-

The committee will submit its report to the Railway Director General Atikul Hossain Khan with 15 days.

Khaleda to address Lalbagh meeting

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting at the Lalbagh Azad Math in the city at 4 pm today, reports UNB. It will be her third meeting of the planned eight public meetings at eight constituencies

Lalbagh-Hazaribagh-Kamrangirchar thana BNP has organised the meeting.

in the capital.

Police at Bangla Motor stop activists campaigning to protect the trees at Osmany Udyan on their way to the Prime Minister's Office yesterday. -Star photo

Manzoor murder case adjourned

The first Additional and Sessions Judge adjourned the hearing of Manzoor Murder Case till 3 pm today, reports

Judge Sheikh Rawnaqul Islam adjourned the case after hearing both sides for passing orders regarding the delivery of confessional statements, the then court martial report, white paper and judicial enquiry report in connection with the

All accused including former President and Chairman of Jatiya Party H M Ershad, were present during the hearing. Advocate Golam Arif Tipu

and Khandaker Mahabub Hossain moved on behalf of the accused persons, while Public Prosecutor Mohammad Ali stood for the state.

Feni: 2 hurt

From Page Shahidullah and Deputy Commander Major Zahid Hossain

were tackling the situation. BDR sources said 24 acres of land of Bangladesh at Muhurir Char had been occupied by Indians long ago. In recent times, the Indians were trying to trespass upon 52.05 acres declared "disputed" both by the Bangladesh and Indian author-

But defying the understand ing, Indian citizens began cultivation on the disputed land under BSF cover on Sunday, forcing BDR to intervene.

Swaminathan outlines work-plan for NIB

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday underscored the need for developing the proposed biotechnology institute of the country as a centre of excel-

They urged the policymakers to contain brain drain and develop laboratory facilities in the country, enabling budding scientists to contribute their expertise to the benefit of commonman.

seminar titled, 'Research and Application of Biotechnology in Bangladesh', was jointly organised by the National Institute of Biotechnology (NIB) and DEBTEC, a private research institution, at LGED auditorium.

Mentionably, the proposed NIB, first of its kind in Bangladesh, is to be built on a 20-acre land at Savar.

During the daylong seminar, participants came up with some concrete recommendations. These include formation of an advisory group or project implementation team to take up priority projects under NIB. preparing an inventory of local experts and also the Bangladeshi biotechnologists working in reputed resource institutions abroad, ensuring networking of NIB with other institutions worldwide working for the same cause and arranging training for young biotech-

Draft of Copyright Bill okayed

The Cabinet yesterday ap-proved in principle draft of the Copyright Bill providing measures for protecting rights of authors, reports UNB.

The proposed law will help exchange of scientific knowledge, education and culture, This will also encourage the authors of books, art and literature, audio-video and computer programmes and performers in doing creative work, said an official press release.

Presided by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the meeting also approved the proposal for further amendment to the Non-Government School Registration Ordinance, 1962 and the Primary School Teachers' Welfare Trust Ordinance, 1985.

BCL leader shot, Jubo League leader abducted in Chittagong

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Aug 23: A BCL leader was shot and a Jubo League leader was abducted by rivals in Madarbari Danda Miar Colony area under Double Mooring thana here this morn-

The activists of AZM Nasir group allegedly attacked Jubo League leader Islam and BCL leader Syed of Kader group when they were passing through the area in a rickshaw at around 2 pm.

The attackers fired on Syed when he tried to flee. They abducted Jubo League leader Islam on gun point. However, Syed managed to

Meanwhile, the BCL Kader group went on the rampage protesting the attack. They damaged some vehicles and put up barricade on the road near

Agrabad Commerce College. 8 monuments to be built

The government has decided to build monuments in eight identified killing grounds of the War of Liberation around the country, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the committee for identifying and making list of killing grounds of the Liberation War on Sunday with its president, who is also the secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs Mohammad Azizur Rahman in the chair.

They also recommended for protection of rich biodiversity. giving priority on food production augmentation applying biotechnology techniques building up awareness on issues of patenting of life forms and trade-related intellectual property rights.

Earlier, presenting the keynote paper, MS Swaminathan, a former director general of the IRRI, said that the challenge now was to harness modern science and technology for fostering economic and gender equity. Swaminathan, who is also the UNESCO Chair in Ecotechnology, gave a workplan for NIB to begin its activi-

While Science and Technology Minister Noor Uddin Khan and Advisor to the Prime Minister SA Malek in the inaugural session highlighted importance of frontier researches in biotechnology. Scores of experts from home and abroad, academics and students from various universities also took part in the seminar.

Project Director of NIB Prof Naiyyum Choudhury, Executive Director of DEBTEC, Dr Ferdousi Begum, Dhaka University teacher Dr Zeba Islam Seraj and Prof SK Sen of IIT. India. presented separate papers. Former member of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission Dr M Serajul Islam presided over the session.

2 stations of Raozan Power plant trip

CHITTAGONG, Aug 23: Two power stations of Raozan Power Plant here tripped Sunday midnight creating acute shortage of electricity in the port city, reports UNB.

Some one-third of the city was left in darkness as the city faced over 100-megawatt power shortage after the debacle.

It was for the fifth time in the last seven months that the power plant went out of order.

PDB sources said two power stations with 210-megawatt generation capacity tripped at zero hours Sunday. The shortage could not be re-

covered by power generation from Kaptai Thermal Power Plant and Shikalbaha Bargemounted Plant. The sources also said Kaptai

and Shikalbaha power stations can generate only half of the total demand of the city. It will take another three to-

four days to make the power stations operative, the sources added. A two-member investigation committee has been formed to

Housewife beaten to death for

dowry in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 23: A housewife was allegedly beaten to death for dowry by her inlaws yesterday, police said today, reports BSS.

Anwara Begum, 25, of village Putibila under Lohagara thana was indiscriminately beaten up by the members of her husband's family when she refused to go to her father for dowry, according to FIR. At one stage she became unconscious and died.

2 hurt in blast while making bombs in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 23: Two youths were critically injured in an explosion while making bombs at Debarpar under Doublemooring thana here today. reports BSS. The youths were identified

police said. They were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with burn injuries.

as Monzur Mia and Shah Alam.

City's sewerage system may explode anytime, experts fear

By Staff Correspondent

Officials and experts at a workshop yesterday warned that the city's vulnerable sewerage system may explode anytime.

Dhaka WASA managing director Khandakar Azharul Haq raised the alarm, saying, "Sewerage system in Dhaka is in total disarray. It may col-lapse anytime. If immediate steps are not taken, the entire system may explode to prove

Hiroshima a joke."

The workshop was organised by the Water Resources' Planning Organisation (WARPO) to present and discuss two topic papers titled - Economic Setting and Social and Gender Issues. The papers are part of 18 topic papers to be prepared by the WARPO by next year under a National Water Management

Secretary, Water Resources Ministry, Dr ATM Shamsul Huda said if civic amenities to the fast growing population in major cities cannot be provided, threats like collapse of sewerage system would always be there.

The MD, Dhaka WASA informed the workshop that Dhaka was already overpopulated to the extent that civic amenities can not be provided to all its citizens all the time. "Furthermore, there are places in this city like Maghbazar where population density is very high. Physically, Dhaka is expanding now at a rate of 20 per cent vertically and one per cent horizontally."

The water sector officials and experts noted that urban facilities including the sewerage system and safe drinking water supply could in no way match the pace of population boom in the two major cities of the country - Dhaka and Chittagong, where WASA exists.

Chairing the half-day workshop at WARPO headquarters in the city, ATM Shamsul Huda came up with the suggestion that instead of unhealthy growth of Dhaka and Chittagong, the country needs to develop 460 towns in the thana headquarters. Terming the recently evicted

mostly the victims of riverbank erosion, the Water Resources' secretary underscored the need for protecting the vulnerable riverbanks. Acknowledging a declining I like Gulistan to keep the envi-

of Bolllary.

stituency in Gujarat State.

Bitopi/Leo Burnett/Nestle/1733/99

Indian presidential elections as

a Shiv Sena nominee last year.

is now fighting Advant as a

slum dwellers of Dhaka as

trend in public sector resourceallocation for water, the secretary told the workshop that "these topic papers would not necessarily be documents for social engineering but government should definitely be able to give policy directions based

A multi-disciplinary panel of experts and representatives of the stakeholders attended the workshop. They emphasised the need for ensuring optimum use of scarce water resources. They called for making a perfect balance of using surface and ground water. They also expressed concern about arsenic contamination due to overuse of ground water.

on these exercises".

Some of the discussants mentioned that agriculture takes the lion's share of water (85 per cent of available water) and noted that in the days to come urbanisation and industrialisation would put their stakes on water. One participant noted with

deep concern that fish habitats in the country were being severely affected by indiscriminate use of pesticides and unhygienic release of industrial waste in the open water bodies. Taking part in the discus-

sion noted economist. Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said that Bangladesh has to go for highvalue crop diversification to sustain a three per cent growth rate in agriculture.

He stressed on geographical dispersion of urbanisation and said, water management strategies would largely depend on the physical planning pattern op-tion: City-based urbanisation or small-town based urbanisation.

Prof Ishrat Shamim of Dhaka University was critical of non-government organisations for their failure to sufficiently target the poorest of the poor in their programmes. She touched upon the feminisation of the poverty issue. Earlier, Tauhidul Anwar

Khan, Director General of WARPO, delivered the address of welcome while two WARPO officials Dr Nilufar Begum and Mohammad Shahjahan presented the topic papers.

Other participants include, Qazi Shahabuddin from BIDS. Dr Z Karim from BARC, Badiuzzaman from Water Resources' Ministry, Golam Rabbani from Water Development Board. Momtazuddin from Department of Fisheries, MH Chowdhury from the LGED, Naima Rahman from Oxfam, HR Khan, Dr Atiq Rahman of BCAS, Dr Yusuf Chowdhury, Anisuzzaman, and Sadek Khan.

Later, Prof W Easter, Gulser Qurat and Khushi Kabir of the Independent Panel of Experts (IPOE) presented a summary of the day's discussions.

Memo submitted at PMO

Crossing. From Page 1

Before bringing out the procession, MSETTOU held a rally in front of the National Museum with Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury in the chair.

Poet Shamsur Rahman, Prof Anisur Rahman, Editor o Sangbad Ahmedul Kabir, Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Dr Ahmed Kamal, Dr Tasmin Siddique and Ruhin Hossain The delegation handed over

istrative officials at the PMO. Arguing in favour of saving the park, the memorandum said there is only 0.3 acre open space for every 1000 people in

badly affected even if new trees The government master plan

are cut and the proposed conference centre is built in the Osmany Park. According to the master plan no new institution would be constructed in the Gulistan-Motijheel area. Traffic jam will take a worse turn in the entire area increasing the air pollution if the conference centre is built, the memorandum said Destroying the park will

also be an act against the liberation war because the park is named after MAG Osmany, the Commander-in-Chief of the Liberation Forces, the memo-

ronmental balance. Entire environment of the area will be

The rally was addressed by

the memorandum to the admin-

place of 2.5 acres per 1000. There is no alternative to the

park in the over-crowded area

are planted after felling the trees, it said. will also be violated if the trees

randum pointed out.

Battlelines drawn for first phase of Indian polls

From Pallab Bhattacharya Congress nominee. NEW DELHI, Aug 23: The bat-As usual, seat-sharing and

tlelines have been drawn for the first phase of staggered Indian general elections on September 5 as the campaign has begun moving towards a high pitch. The high-point of the first phase, which will cover 146 Prasad Yedav. parliamentary seats spread over 16 states is undoubtedly

the battle between top opposition leader and Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and the high-profile BJP leader Sushma Swaraj in a high-voltage contest in the southern Indian constituency Prominent among other po-It took a little longer time litical heavyweights, whose for Congress and Rashtriya

electoral fortunes will be decided in the first phase is Home Minister L K Advani, who faces former high-profiled Chief Election Commissioner TN Seshan in Gandhinagar con-Seshan, who had contested

seemingly distance advantage over Congress.

ally Rashtriya Janata Dal led

ticket-distribution, have brought to the fore squabbles in both BJP-led alliance and between Congress and its main by Bihar strongmen Laloo It was only after weeks of

haggling and war of words that BJP could reach a seat-sharing accord with its key allies Samata Party and Lok Shakti and an electoral tie-up with a splinter group of centrist Janata Dal led by Sharad Ya-

Janata Dal to work out a similar accord much to the Chargin of Bihar unit of Congress which did not favour it with Laloo Yaday's ruling party in Bihar. The ruling BJP-led alliance has hit the election read with a

A series of opinion polls have projected the alliance

coasting to comfortable majority in the elections to the 542member Lok Sabha, lower house of Indian parliament.

found new ones in DMK, the ruling party in Tamilnadu state. More importantly, it won over an influential faction of Janata Dal, which split last month, on the issue of joining

The BJP has set only re-

tained most of its allies but

hands with the saffron party. The Congress, by contrast, presents the picture of a party with only a few allies. The party has lost its past ally Samajwadi Party and failed to sew up a pact with Bahujan Samaj Party in the key state of Uttar Pradesh.

Congress' seat-sharing accord with JAT leader Ajit Singh's Rashtriya Janata Dal in Uttar Pradesh would help the latter more as it could benefit from a perceived shift in Muslims" votes towards the Congress in that state, observers say. A major problem for the

See page 11 Col 7

Marketing of lead free gasoline starts Bangladesh Petroleum Cor-poration has started the mar-

keting of lead free octane and petrol all over the country, reports BSS. The lead free octane and

petrol will now be sold as "pre-

mier gasoline" and "regular

gasoline" respectively.

A total of 19000 metric tons of lead free premier gasoline (95 octane) have reached Chittagong port in July and August in two consignments. At present, the per day demand for petrol and octane stands at 700 metric tons.

College student murdered in Narayanganj

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 23: A college student was killed and his friend seriously injured by a group of assailants in Fatulla thana here on Sunday, reports The dead was identified as

Saiful, 20, of Shahi Bazar Railgate, Pagla and the injured as Jumman, 22. Police said the assailants attacked them in front of Bagan-

bari in North Rasulpur on Sunday morning and beat them indiscriminately. Saiful was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and then shifted to a private clinic where he succumbed to his in-

juries this morning.

Jumman was admitted to the Narayanganj Hospital. A case was filed in this con-

Khaleda

From page 1 leged that the government took

the move to give transit bypassing the Jatiya Sangsad. "We are not allowed to speak in the parliament and this House has no accountability."

she alleged. She also alleged that ruling party people were being placed in every tier of the administration by-passing procedures.

Turning to the CHT agreement, she said it was signed in favour of India and as a result people from the plainland lost control over lands in the three hill districts.

Begum Zia arrived in the port city this morning and stayed at the Chittagong Circuit House for some time. Some central leaders of BNP also accompanied her to Chit-

tagong. After the procession, Begum Zia left for Dhaka by a Biman flight. Our Staff Correspondents add: Similar mass processons

were also brought out at other divisional headquarters. Led by former Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed, the mass-procession in Khulna was brought out from near the

Jatiya Party office and it ended in front of BNP office. Leaders of BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat and IOJ were among the activists and supporters of the four political parties who participated in the mass-processsion that paraded

the main thoroughfares of the Earlier a rally was held at the Dak Banglow Square.

The entire city was put on high alert with the deployment of riot police. Armed Police battalion and BDR at all vulnerable points including the office of Awami League following the mass-procession.

In Sylhet, Jamaat leader Golam Azam addressed a rally at Registry Maidan before bringing out the mass procession. Besides other Jamaat leaders, District BNP president MA

at the rally. Later a big procession was brought out from the Registry Maidan. It paraded main streets of the town.

Haque, VP Nurul Haque spoke



Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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of the deceased are requested to participate in the Qul Khwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul. C-676 officers & employees মরহুম আলহাজু ওয়াজেদুল ইসলাম সাহেবের

Road, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka.

ष्विजीय सृज्य वार्षिकी

আগামীকাল ২৫শে আগষ্ট ১৯৯৯ইং রোজ বুধবার ইসলাম

গ্রুপের অন্যতম ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান প্রম শ্রদ্ধেয় মর্ভ্ম

আলহাজ্ব ওয়াজেদুল ইসলাম সাহেবের দ্বিতীয় মৃত্যু বার্ষিকী। এই উপলক্ষ্যে মরহুমের বাড়ী নং ২৫, সড়ক নং ৬৪, গুলশান, ঢাকাস্থ বাসভবনে বাদ আসর এক মিলাদ ও দোয়া অনুষ্ঠানের আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। মরহুমের আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনার্থে আয়োজিত উক্ত অনুষ্ঠানে সকল আত্মীয়-স্বজন, বন্ধু-বান্ধব এবং ভভাকাংখীদের উপস্থিত হওয়ার জন্য বিনীত অনুরোধ জানানো

মরহুমের স্ত্রী, কন্যা ও জামাতা'রা

Qul Khwani

Islam Khan (Shamim), Director, Islam Jute Mills Ltd, Islam Polymers & Plasticizers Ltd, died of heart failure on August

21, '99 in the morning

(Innalillahe razeun). His Qul Khwani will be held today (Tuesday, August 24, '99) after Asr prayers at the residence of the deceased's father Mr Shamsul Islam Khan, MP (former Industries Minister), 727, Satmasjid

All relations, friends, colleagues and well-wishers

Family members of the deceased

