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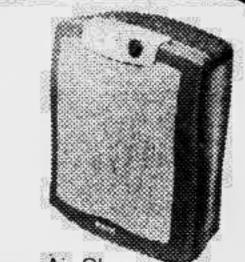
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# Fresh areas in 7 districts flooded

The over all flood situation deteriorated further yesterday,

Madaripur, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Gaibandha, Rangpur and Chandpur said water levels in most of the rivers of these districts marked a further rise, in-

In Narayanganj, 35 unions Rupganj thanas were inun-

The Shitalakhya and the Meghna rose further and were flowing 29 and 50 cm above their danger marks.

shipur. Charanarsinghopur. Bholail, Pashchim Masdair, Pashchim Deobhog, part of Golachipa, Dikhirchar, Alirtek, Nabinagar. Muslimnagar. Enayetpur, Dharmaganj and Bangla Bazar and part of Nitaigani of the town were affected by the flood.

the Padma, Arialkha, Kumar and Palorda rivers are rising alarmingly. Arialkha was flowing 43 cm above the danger

In Jamalpur, the flood situation remained unchanged but low-lying areas in seven thanas were inundated. The Jamuna and the Brahmaputra flowing in the areas, however, rose fur-

#### Rickshaw garage owner stabbed to death in city

By Staff Correspondent An owner of a rickshaw garage was stabbed to death allegedly by his wife's step brothers in the city's Khilgaon area Saturday night.

The dead was identified as Rawshan Ali, 30, son of Abdul Khaleque, a resident of Madhya Nandipara under Khilgaon thana, police and hospital sources said.

Sheuli Begum, wife of the dead, alleged that her two step brothers - Jahangir and Alamgir - stabbed his husband to death following a dispute over possession of her father's prop-

Khilgaon police arrested Jahangir yesterday while Alamgir has been absconding since the

According to police, the killers entered Rawshan's rickshaw garage at Nandipara sometime between 10 pm and 11:30 pm Saturday and stabbed him in his head with a machete. Fatally injured Rawshan was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the attending doctors declared him dead.

The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy. Wife of the dead filed a murder case yester-

## East Timor tense: Vote today

DILI, (East Timor), Aug 29: Indonesia's military said today it might not be able to control the situation in East Timor, despite warring groups agreeing to give up their weapons ahead of tomorrow's independence vote, reports Reuters. The territory was tense to-

day, with mobs armed with machetes, pipe guns and samurai swords wandering the streets of the capital Dili, but there were no major incidents reported. More than 450,000 East

Timorese in the territory and around the world have registered for the UN-run ballot which is expected to see the territory split from Indonesia and embark on an uncertain path to independence. The result will take about a

week to declare and must still be approved by Indonesia's top legislative body, the 700-member People's Consultative Assembly, which convenes in Oc-

In an address on state television, Indonesian President B J Habibie told East Timorese to vote according to their conscience but urged them not to

turn their backs on Indonesia. "To all of our brothers in East Timor, I want to call on them to remain united (with Indonesia), to build a brighter future together with the rest of the Indonesian family," Habibie

(See also page 9)

#### UCBL board

From page 1 thought that he was appointed chairman by us, he still needed approval by the BB itself. Has BB given the approval?" Earlier, Zafar Chowdhury had appealed to the BB yester-

by to reconsider its suspension

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Deposit: UCBL

allays fear

The management of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL),

in a press statement yesterday,

assured all categories of depositors that the Bank has suffi-

cient reserve to face any situa-

tion arising out of some recent

incidents at its head office, re-

Referring to some press re-

ports about withdrawal of

money by the depositors, the statement said it would like to

disclose that UCBL is one of the

biggest banks in the private sec-

tor in Bangladesh, having a de-

public and depositors not to pay

Khulna: No panic

withdrawal

of deposit

The withdrawal of deposit

More than 60 lakh taka were

There was no impact on to-

day's transaction due to Thurs-

day's incident in Dhaka. But

this correspondent found a lot

of depositors worried and mak-

ing queries about fate of their

By DU Correspondent

from the annexe of Haji Mo-

hammad Mohsin Hall of Dhaka

College and Alberuni, a garment

worker were arrested during a

raid on the residential hall near

University Saturday night.

New Market in the city.

Police arrested two outsiders

Lablu, a student of Dhaka

Police recovered some

The authorities also sealed

room 3014 of the hall, from

heed to any rumours.

ports BSS.



leaving several lakh people ma-rooned, reports UNB.

Reports from Narayanganj. undating fresh areas.

in Fatullah, Siddhirganj. Sonargaon, Araihazar and

Shahidnagar, Syedpur, Ka-

In Madaripur, water level of

Flood situation in Sirajgani district worsened with the rise of river water as rain and onrush of hill water from across the border continued.

# in Khulna

KHULNA, Aug 29: Traific movement in the city came to a halt as transport workers went on a wildcat strike this noon protesting attack on fellow workers, reports UNB.

The police said a group of terrorists attacked transport worker Mohidul early today at the local bus stand and shot him on refusal to pay illegal tolls. Mohidul was admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospi-

beatup truck workers Mujibur and Jalil at Khan Jahan Ali Road in the city on refusal of tolls this morning.

Protesting the attacks, truck and bus workers stopped plying of their vehicles and put up barricade at different points of the city at noon.

# Sramik Dal activist murdered

activist was kidnapped by his opponents from Trunk Road area on Friday night. They beat him mercilessly and severed tendons of his hands and legs.

urday night. Feni district BNP general

In another incident on Saturday night, a group of terrorbeat him up.

From page 1

letter to the Speaker alleged

that the government of Sheikh

Hasina created a reign of terror

Replying to a question, the

Speaker admitted having re-

ceived Chowdhury's letter. He

said it is 'disappointing' that

the Opposition has decided not

Giving a background, the

Speaker said the idea of holding

such a conference came at the

third conference of SAARC

Speakers held in Dhaka in

"Later we decided to host the

conference. The Opposition was

an active par y to it. Two Oppo-

sition leaders were inducted

into the seven-member apex

body for successful holding of

the conference. They attended

all but the last meeting of the

"We invited Opposition Leader Begum Khaleda Zia to at-

tend either the inaugural ses-

sion or the concluding session

as special guest. The opposition

responded by refusing to partic-

Chowdhury also

the Op-

organising committee.

pate in the conference.

business of the House.

to attend the conference.

March this year.

#### The Meghai and Patagram flood control embankments in Chouhali and Kazipur thana of Sirajganj are under threat with the rise of water level in Ja-Water Development Board

said necessary measures have been taken to protect the embankment so that flood water cannot enter the areas. In Gaibandha, all rivers

were flowing above the danger marks and river erosion has taken a serious turn.

The Dhaka-Rangpur high-way and Gabindganj-Dinajpur road were threatened by breaches that developed at different parts of the flood protection embankments. The control room feared fur-

ther deterioration of flood situation of the district in next 24 hours. So far, more than a lakh people were marooned there. The water level of the rivers

sharply, inundating 13 unions and two pourasavas. At least 1.5 lakh people were affected. In Chandpur, several thousand people have been affected by flood as low-lying areas went under water with gradual in-

flowing in Rangpur district rose

flowing through the district. Ferry service through Ichuli and Chowdhury ghats remained

crease of water level in rivers

stopped for last three days. All rivers — Meghna, Padma, Dakatia and Dhonagoda - were flowing above their respective danger levels in the districts, threatening Chandpur Town Protection Embankment and Meghna-Dhonagoda project.

# Transport strike

Another group of terrorists

# at Feni

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Aug 29: Awami League and BNP activists exchanged fire for half an hour in front of Model High School in the town this morning following the death of a Sramik Dal activist.

Kamrul, 22, a Sramik Dal Kamrul was rushed to Feni

secretary Prof Joynal Adedin blamed the ruling party men for the killing and demanded arrest of the killers.

hospital where he died on Sat-

ists picked up a JCD activist Anwar, 18, from his house at Madhukhai in Sadar thana and

# Police guarding UCBL head office at Motijheel in the city. The picture was taken

- Star photo yesterday.

criminal acts in a broad day-

## HC halts operation perpetrators of such illegal

From page When contacted Zahir said that he was not given a copy of the petition being a party to the case. "Instead the government (attorney general's office) was given a copy of the petition despite not being a party to the

#### Govt, BB high-ups blamed

The petitioners accused Bangladesh Bank and the law enforcing agencies of being aware of what was happening in the UCBL as "they refused to render assistance".

They also contended that while a board meeting was in progress in presence of the observers from the central bank and ministry of finance, the former UCBL chairman Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu and his son Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Zaved, accompanied by 50 to 60 "miscreants, all of them variously armed with pistols, revolvers, guns, knives, daggers, axes, etc entered the head office of UCBL breaking open its iron collapsible door

and entered the boardroom." The petition said that the "miscreants" started abusing and beating the members indiscriminately damaging valuable properties of the bank and stealing valuable belongings of

It said that despite request for assistance from the law enforcing agencies and higher authorities no help or assistance was received. "They called repeatedly for help but police refused to arrive." Instead, the petitioners said.

the directors.

that a contingent of police came along with Babu and his men and were standing in front of the office on the road but did not enter the office to stop the criminal activities inside. "It seems that the police force was there to protect the

miscreants at the instance of some high-ups," the petition said. They also said that Chowdhury and his son forced the petitioners to resign. Narrating the incidents the petitioners said that they had gone to file cases but police ini-

and finally "after a long persuasion and repeated lobbying" accepted three cases. They also said that the UCBL directors tried to contact the governor and other officers of Bangladesh Bank "but all of them rendered no assistance but merely commented that

they would get back to them

tially refused to accept any FIR

"Such behaviour on the part of the BB gave reasons to suspect that they were also aware of what was happening in the bank which they totally sup-

"Bangladesh Bank instead of taking any action against the

position contention relevant to

boycotting an international

light at a bank which was located only 200 yards from it, issued the impugned notice dated 27.8.99 on a Friday, a non working day, whereas it was pious duty of the Bangladesh Bank to protect one of the most well-known, well-managed and renowned banks of the country and the members of its board of directors from such thugs and crooks while they were being subjected to savage attacks by

armed miscreants. "Bangladesh Bank acting in a most irrational, unreasonable arbitrary and mala fide manner under the pretence of exercise of name of statutory power purported to remove the board of directors after miscreants under protection of police had reduced the head office of UCBL in a shambles bringing disgrace and shame to the entire nation and the banking sector.

#### BB decides

From page 1 inform the court of its decision today (Monday)

According to meeting sources, the Bangladesh Bank may restore today the UCBL board headed by Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury. The sources said Governor

Dr M Farashuddin came under fire from the board of directors for issuing notices to both Zafar Chowdhury and Babu. The meeting observed that this decision was not correct as Babu was not even a director of the The BB board meeting yes-

terday mainly discussed three issues: why the BB recognised Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu by sending him the show cause notice addressing him as chairman, the legal side of the BB notice and why the central bank decided to appoint its administrator at UCBL

The Governor informed the board members that the decision to appoint an administrator was taken to protect the bank from panic withdrawals by depositors.

He reportedly told the meeting that it was necessary to bring the institution under its fold even if for a day or two to tackle the emergency situation. He also said that since there were no other legal options left.

it was decided to serve the show

cause notice and take the con-

trol of the bank.

However, it was later disclosed in the meeting that the BB had the authority to take any decision, including taking control of a bank, for the sake of protecting public interest and this needed no show cause no-

# it all a

Babu yesterday came up with the claim that he is an elected director and chairman of the UCBL as per banking laws of the land, reports UNB.

The business tycoon cum politician, who allegedly led a foray into the bank board meeting on Thursday, also asserted that he is not a loan defaulter. "If anybody can prove me

tics," said the ruling Awami League central leader in a statement. Babu said he enjoyed support of two-thirds majority of the board of directors. But former chairman' of UCBL and four other directors are propagating

He said he was the principal sponsor to set up the bank in 1983. "Of the total Tk 10 crore startup capital, I and my family invested Tk 7.5 crore while other sponsor-directors in-

As the bank started making a mark, then other directors started conspiring to remove him. Although Bangladesh Bank's three-year expulsion order expired in 1995, conspirators continued to obstruct him from joining the board of direc-

ing to brand me as a loan defaulter," says Babu who has been sued by the rivals for Thursday's incident.

He denied the charge of at tacking the UCBL board meeting on August 26. Rather he alleged, Jahangir Alam Khan pointed pistol at him while Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury and his men pounced on him and his son and snatched their money.

From page 1 dent at UCBL and recommended serving of the notices for greater interest of the deposi tors," the Governor said.

"We thought that we should ties from (causing) further

The governor also said that despite the crisis, UCBL had averted a serious setback.

trouble.'

were higher deposit with

# Babu calls conspiracy

Khanjahan Ali road branches was quite normal, said assistant vice president Dewan Mosharraf Hossain. deposited today with both branches of the bank, he said.

against him to tarnish his po-

tors, he alleged. "Conspirators are now try-

#### BB Governor

know the real incident. Since a resolution had been taken at the UCBL board after the incident, we thought we should send letters to both of them. We wanted to refrain both the par-

"The bank suffered no massive negative impact. There drawals than that of normal situation. But a good sign was that people also deposited money with the branches of the

#### emergency situation, the bank management said. of the depositors from its own resources without borrowing from Bangladesh Bank or any other bank, the management

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Aug 29: There was Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury no report of panic withdrawal of deposit from any of two

branches of UCBL in the Khulna Metropolitan city. from the K D Ghose road and the

loan defaulter, I'll give up poli-

litical, social and business im-

vested only Tk 10 lakh each," he added.

cannabis, empty bottles of wine and garment accessories during the two-hour raid, conducted from 10:30 pm. However, police failed to recover any arms or ammunition from the residential hall.

#### where the two were arrested. Both of them were produced before the court yesterday, Dhanmondi police said. Meanwhile, hall sources said

tension was prevailing in the hall following rehabilitation of Siddique, a student of Social Welfare Department. Siddique, a resident of room no 3019 was driven out by other students of the hall on Wednesday for his

alleged involvement in theft. Mainuddin Ahmed Babu. former president of BCL Zahurul Haq Hall allegedly brought back Siddique to the hall on Thursday, sources said.

#### 60 Indian air rifles recovered in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent KHULNA, Aug 29: Task Force recovered 60 Indian air rifles from an abandoned house at Ballipara village under Kaliganj thana of Jhenidah District in the early hours of Saturday. Captain Aminul Haq, Adjutant of 32 Rifle Battalion, Jessore led the operation, BDR

sources said. The air rifles were found concealed in a box and they were sent from Nadia district of West Bengal, sources added.

# Shelter for slum dwellers

# NGOs yet to reply to govt proposal

By Special Correspondent

grammes.

The NGOs are yet to reply to a government proposal urging them to provide shelter to about 40 thousand people whose homes were bulldozed in different city slums early this month during an eviction drive, forcing them to join the city's floating population.

posit of more than Tk 1100 crore. The liquidity of the Bank The government recently is quite satisfactory to meet any asked the NGOs who run microcredit, health, sanitation, education, family planning and The Bank met the obligation skill training programmes among the slum residents in the city to provide shelter to the people evicted from the slums said and requested the general

The government's relief and rehabilitation ministry offered to provide food for them if NGOs provide shelter to the homeless in view of the concern expressed by the NGOs on the eviction

NGO sources said that the reply is expected soon. But it is likely to be negative. They said a draft which has been prepared pointed out that the government is fully aware that the NGOs do not have the space or capability to provide shelter to so many people who had been thrown out of their homes. If the government really

cares for them it should arrange

their rehabilitation and discuss

with the NGOs any requirement

for help in this regard, the

sources added.

They feared that wholesale eviction of the shanties without arranging rehabilitation of the residents would lead to a disaster to their programmes, including micro-credit, estimated to be around Tk 1,000 crore in the city slums.

The NGOs recently expressed

concern over the government

move to evict another 40 thou-

sand people who live in the city's biggest slum—the BNP

bustee at Agargaon --- would

disrupt their development pro-

They also felt that simply bulldozing the shanty townships would only swell the ranks of the city's homeless and floating people and create unemployment and spurt crime.

The move to evict the Agargaon slum also prompted the High Court to ask the authorities to first collect the judgement given by the court last week which made a clear demarcation on the ground rules for eviction.

It should be in phases under a master plan arranging rehabilitation of the slum residents. respecting their right to life and living using maximum restraint, the court said suggesting that the government could enlist the NGOs for help in such a gigantic task.

appointment of a consultant

under the US funds. However,

due to various reasons, the con-

sultant has not yet been ap-

the viability and technicalities

of the project and float a tender

to seek "matching proposals"

the tender will provide a very

short time for making "match-

ing proposals" and it is unlikely

that any company will submit

3 to die for

murder in

from other oil companies.

any "genuine proposal".

The consultant will review

But the sources claimed that

# Support for WRIP

pointed.

From page 1 take the risks it should take as

the investor, they maintained. The government experts' observations were reinforced by World Bank's (WB) stance on the project. WB repeatedly said at ministry-level meetings during 1998-1999 that the WRIP proposal was not done on the basis of any feasibility study and the whole project sounds "unrealistic"

Finally, the US Energy Department which is currently helping the government in implementing a number of energy related schemes, gave its opinion that WRIP was a very complicated scheme and it should be implemented after carefully scrutinising its' components. The Energy Department also added that the project must be implemented in a transparent Otherwise. manner. Bangladesh's interest may be

However. Unocal officials believe that the project does not have any loophole. Through implementing WRIP, the growing economic activities in the western region will bring benefits worth millions of dollars, they claim. The Prime Minister gave a

harmed, it said.

Jamalpur From Our Correspondent JAMALPUR, Aug 29: A court here today awarded death sen-

tional murder case. The accused are Babu. Dipu and Haripada. According to the prosecution, Fakir Mia of Chamra gudam area was called out of his house by his friends Babu, Dipu

and Haripada on August 7,

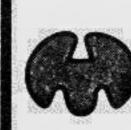
1996. Since then he was miss-

tence to three people in a sensa-

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For and on behalf of Bereaved Family Members



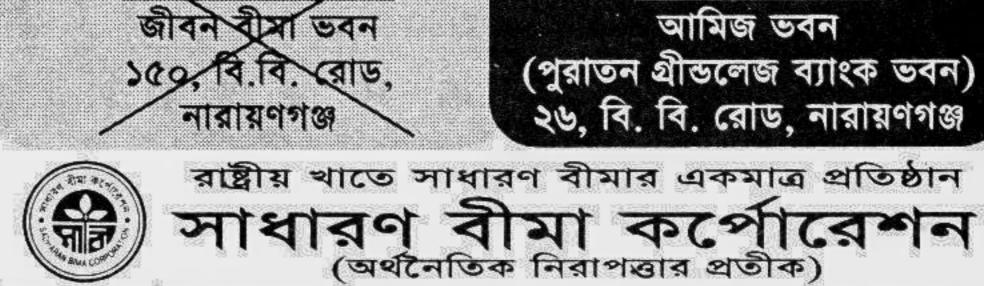
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# Conference of Asian MPs from Wednesday

Badruddoza Chowdhury in a peace conference. He said he will make further efforts to make the Opposition attend the against its political opponents, leaving no scope for the Opposiconference. The Speaker said that BNP leader M Saifur Rahman, who tion to participate in a peace conference. He also accused the was a member of the organising Speaker of 'proven bias' against committee, was still a member the Opposition in running the of the five-member delegation

of Bangladesh parliament. The general theme of the conference is peace. But to give the term a proper perspective in the Asian context, the organisers have elaborated its definition: "Peace is not merely absence of war, conflict or violence. It is a state in which each nation can flourish according to its own wish and includes overall social and economic growth, removal of injustice, respect for human rights and humanitarian laws, among

other factors." According to sources in the organising committee, four papers on different subjects relating to peace will be presented at the conference. The topics have been chosen in the light of the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice in the 21st Century which was adopted at an international conference held in May this year. The topics include Interna-

tional Humanitarian and Hu-

man Rights Laws and Institu-

tions; Prevention, Resolution

and Transformation of Violent

Conflicts: Disarmament and Human Security; and Root Causes of War and Culture of

While discussing the last subject, the conference will focus on issues specially relevant to the Asian region. The issues will include poverty alleviation, reduction of economic disparity and empowerment of women. Besides, a keynote paper on

Growth of Parliamentary

Democracy in Asia' will also be

presented.

Fifty-five countries have been invited to attend the conference. These include Azerbaijan, Bahrain. Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, DPR Korea, Republic of Korea, Kyrgystan, Laos, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Mongolia, Nauru, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Qatar, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Thai-land, Tonga, Turkemenistan, Turkey, Tuvalu, United Arab

Thirty-five countries have already committed to attend the conference, the Speaker told newsmen. Japan found the conference to be 'very important for re-

Emirate, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu,

Vietnam and Yemen.

gional peace', but expressed inability to attend it due to certain developments in politics Sixteen foreign Civil Society

Organisations including Nobel Prize winner Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs have been invited. Some of them have already responded positively. Besides, international figures like former Prime Minister of Indian I K Gujral, Vice-chairman of International Court of Justice C. J Christopher Weeramantry and Acting President of International Parliamentary Union Nazma Heptullah will attend

the conference. Bangladesh will spend Tk two crore for the conference, while the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will provide a 'substantive amount' of money for it. The seven-member organising committee headed by

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury includes Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister's Adviser on Parliamentary Affairs and ruling party legislator Suranjit Sengupta, Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain and M Saifur Rahman, an lawmaker belonging to opposition BNP. Secretary of the JS Secretariat is Member Secretary of the apex

#### deposits. The AVP assured them of security of their deposits at any Two outsiders arrested from DU hall