

What's on today....

Cultural competition: The 2nd day of selections for the inter-university cultural competition will be held at Rajshahi University. Venue: TSC auditorium of Dhaka University. Time: 10:00 am.

Inauguration: Poribesh Rakkha Shopoth (Porosh) will inaugurate its Bangladesh Environment Movement. Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 11:00 am.

Iranian Film Festival at JU: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen two Iranian films "The Runner" by Amir Naderi and "Children of Heaven" by Majid Majidi on the first day of the 3-day long festival. Venue: Muktamancha, the Amphitheatre of Jahangirnagar Varsity (in the Auditorium, if it rains). Time: 6:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Andrei Tarkovsky Retrospective: On the first day of the 4-day long Retrospective of Russian filmmaker Andrei Tarkovsky, Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen "The Sacrifice" and "Solaris". Venue: Goethe Institut, Dhanmondi 9. Time: 5:00 pm and 6:45 pm respectively.

Iranian Film Festival at JU: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen "The Apple" by Samira Makhmalbaf and "Gabbah" by Mohsen Makhmalbaf. Venue: The Muktamancha (Amphitheatre) of Jahangirnagar Varsity. Time: 6:30 pm.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderately heavy falls at one or two places over Chittagong division is also expected during the period. Met office said adding that day temperature may rise slightly over the country. The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 35.0 degree Celsius at Chittagong and the lowest 24.3 degree Celsius at Srimongol.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.48 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.22 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.5	26.3	82	61
Chittagong	35.0	24.6	72	80
Rajshahi	33.8	26.5	77	69
Khulna	33.6	26.5	82	67
Barisal	32.2	26.5	88	83
Sylhet	34.2	25.0	83	74
Cox's Bazar	32.4	26.4	76	83

Rise in Jamuna

Sirajganj town protection embankment threatened

SIRAJGANJ, July 16: The Sirajganj town protection embankment is under threat of strong current and whirlpool following sudden rise of water level in river Jamuna today, reports UNB.

Officials said the hard point at Raninagar is under severe pressure and might give in to the strong current.

The 300-meter embankment was constructed by construction firm Hundal at a cost of Tk 365 crore two years ago to protect the town.

The whirlpool created at the vulnerable point, which was affected during the prolonged floods in 1998 and the embankment may be damaged if the situation continued, officials apprehended.

Water Development Board Engineer Abdur Razzak Khan said the riverbed became very deep ranging up to 100 meters at the termination point due to strong current.

Cable operators threatens demonstration

Cable operators will stage a sit-in in front of the office of National Telecommunication Ltd on July 30 if their 15-point demands are not met by July 25, reports UNB.

Pay-Channel Charge Hike Resistance Committee, an organisation of the city's cable operators, announced the programme at a meeting yesterday.

Their demands include withdrawal of additional charge for different satellite channels.



A scene from Bangladeshi Hridaya Hotel (From the Heart of Bangladesh), a dance drama based on the six seasons, presented by Mridanga Sangskritik Sangathan at the Russian Cultural Centre auditorium in the city on Saturday.

PDB generates 2758 MW power

By Staff Correspondent

PDB generated 2758 megawatt of power yesterday, exceeding the day's countrywide power requirement, PDB officials said.

The average amount of power generation last week was about 2750 MW which is equal to the country's requirement.

But residents of some parts of the capital and its adjacent areas are still suffering from power crisis although 'officially' there is no load-shedding in the capital as well as in the country.

PDB allocation for DESA yesterday was about 1038 MW. DESA control room claimed that there was no load-shedding in the metropolis yesterday.

But the residents of Mirpur, Bangla Motor, Khilgaon, some parts of Dhanmondi and old part of the city complained about power disruption yesterday. When asked, DESA officials attributed the problem to 'line overloading'.

Meanwhile, three power plants in Khulna remained inoperative yesterday. The units are Khulna Barge Mounted Plant-1, Khulna 110 MW and Khulna 60 MW power plant.

Besides, six more power plants — Rajan 2, Sylhet Gas, Shahjibajar 3, Fenchuganj Gas Turbine 1 and 2 and Rangpur Gas Turbine — did not work yesterday.

BNP rally at Paltan today

By Staff Correspondent

A public rally will be organised in front of BNP national office at Naya Paltan in the city today at 3 pm as a mark of protest to the recent attack on a BNP condolence meeting, arrest of 26 of its activists and filing of 'false' cases against others.

City dwellers hailing from Feni will organise the rally.

The statement said that the ruling party-backed terrorists were responsible for the attack.

JSD leader laid to rest in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHITIA, July 16: JSD leader Mahmud Hossain Shachchu, chairman, Haripur Union Parishad, was buried at Haripur graveyard after namaj-e-janaza at Haripur football ground today at 10 am.

He died following injury in an armed attack by unidentified gunmen at his elder brother's residence in Kushtia on July 11.

Earlier his body was brought to Kushtia at 8 pm from Dhaka. A namaj-e-janaza was held at G K mosque premises after arrival of his body.

Meanwhile, JSD has announced a day-long hartal in Kushtia tomorrow to protest the killing and demand arrest of the accused persons.

Mosharraf Hossain Master, Shachchu's father, filed a case with Kotwali police station accusing 17 persons. Hasanul Huq Inu, general secretary of JSD central committee while addressing workers of his party at the circuit house last night bitterly criticised the police administration for its inefficiency in arresting those accused of Shachchu's killing. He said that declaration of Home Minister that terrorism has been curbed in south-western region is not correct.

Fourteen people have been killed during the last three months in Kushtia Sadar upazila at the hands of terrorists.

Basir, a close friend of Shachchu died of a cardiac arrest on hearing of his friend's death.

Flag raising ceremony held at Bogra cantt

The flag raising ceremony of a new unit of the Air Defence Artillery Regiment of the Bangladesh Army was held at the Bogra Cantonment yesterday, says a press release.

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, Bir Bikram, attended the function as the chief guest. The ceremony was followed by a munajat for the peace and prosperity of the country.

The unit has been raised in keeping with the policy of building a strong armed forces for the country.

Jute, textile workers may call strike this month

The country is likely witness another lengthy industrial strike at the end of this month, reports UNB.

Leaders of Jute, Yarn-Textile Workers Employees Action Council were finalising the strike programme at the concluding session of their daylong convention here yesterday.

The delegates coming from various industrial areas of the country, however, were pressing the central leadership for a road-rail blockade that will also affect public life.

Abul Bashar, convener of the council, however hoped that they would be able to convince the grassroots leaders to give the government some more time.



BCL activists ransacked several rooms of Shibir activists at the Fazle Rabbi Hall of Dhaka Medical College on Saturday night.

— Star photo

PM takes responsibility for their education

It was a day of reverie for street children Urmi and Nazrul as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina personally took up responsibility for their higher education, reports UNB.

Urmi came from Madaripur with her parents and took shelter at Ramna slums in the capital after their home was destroyed by the river. She has four brothers and sisters and used to work as a domestic help for a while.

Later, she was enrolled in a Hard-to-Reach education centre and got two years' basic learning. At present she is a student of class 3 at Nayatola Govt Primary School.

Nazrul Islam is the son of a rickshawpuller from Betagi in Barguna. He has three brothers. His mother works as maid and he works as porter at a city market. They reside at Mirpur TMS slums.

He studies in class 3 at Haji Abdul Gani Primary School.

Urmi and Nazrul were among 500 working students selected for stipends for continuation of their studies by the government. They came with their parents to receive their cheques and made brief speeches before

the audience at Osmani Auditorium in presence of the Prime Minister.

"I want to be a doctor in future," said a beaming Urmi, and so said Nazrul. After becoming doctors, they want to treat those who live in the slums, they said.

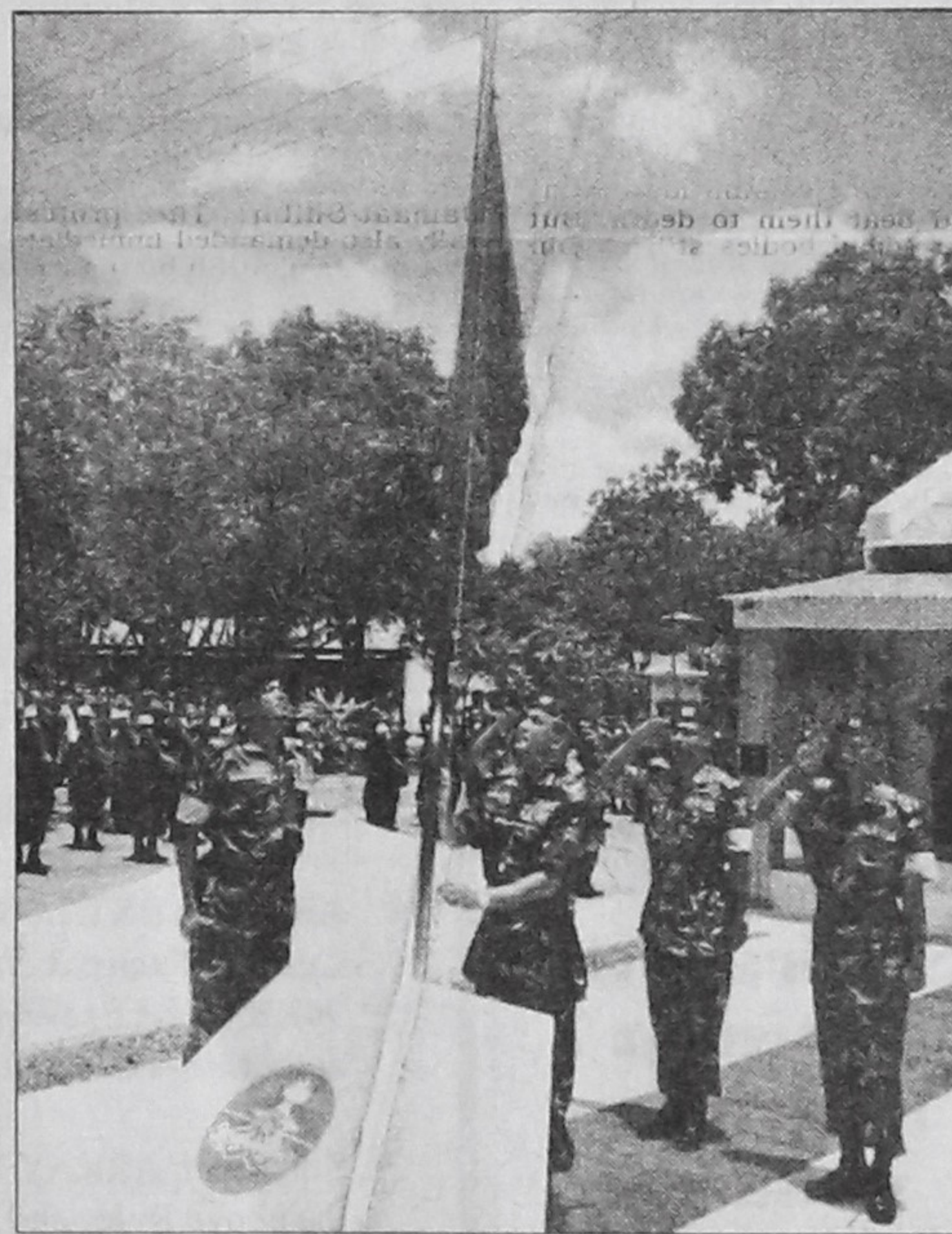
Visibly moved by their speeches, the Prime Minister declared: "I take responsibility of these two children."

Hasina will now take care of their higher studies after they would pass their SSC examination. Under the stipend scheme, the government will bear the expenses of the working students up to class 10.

The Prime Minister said the property she and her sister own is vested to a Trust. Expenses of higher studies for Urmi and Nazrul will be met from the Trust Fund.

Hasina, a champion of child rights, who wrote a book "Ora Tokai Keno", said: "After retiring from politics, I will dedicate myself to the welfare of neglected children in society."

She distributed cheques for stipends among the brilliant working students and took group photos with the tots and their mothers.



Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, Bir Bikram, hoisting the flag of a newly-raised unit of the Air Defence Artillery Regiment at the Bogra Cantonment on Sunday. — ISPR photo

Strike at NICVD

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yesterday afternoon had almost the same story to tell to this correspondent.

Between 200 and 230 patients usually come to the outpatient department to consult doctors during office hours between 8:00 am and 2:30 pm everyday. However, there was unusual rush yesterday as the two-hour strike lingered until official hour for seeing patients was over.

About 100 patients were lucky enough to consult doctors yesterday. Most of them had prior appointment though.

"We are very shocked. Why should commoners suffer for a cause that does not concern them?" asked a woman escorting her sick mother to the hospital. Sitting next to her, a man in his mid forties, said, "I have come from Jatrabari and I know this is the only government hospital that has proper facilities for heart treatment. But I'm terrified at what I've seen here today."

Meanwhile, the routine visits by doctors to cabins and wards were also disrupted by the strike as well as the meeting of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) at the hospital premises yesterday.

The doctors who were made officers-on-special duty and faced temporary suspension are Associate Professor Mohibul-lah and Assistant Professor Mizanur Rahman. Dr Joyanta Kumar Poddar was also suspended temporarily.

Bangladesh Cardiac Society and NICVD Teachers Association has termed the suspension unfair and said there was no negligence on the part of the doctors who had treated Bhutto.

Meanwhile, the BMA has urged the government to withdraw suspension orders immediately and arrange proper security for the doctors working at the hospital.

Condemning the recent attack by outsiders on doctors at the hospital, the BMA leaders warned that the government would be responsible for any consequences in the wake of the suspensions.

Khaleda

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quit through united movement, and after that elections would be held.

Before meeting Begum Zia, the Secretaries General and members of the Liaison Committee sat together and discussed, in detail, the future anti-government movement programme.

Bhulayan said the Secretaries General and members of the Liaison Committee will also meet Jatiya Party Chief HM Ershad, Jamaat Chief Prof Golam Azam and IOJ Chairman Moulana Azizul Huq.

Recalling the contribution of journalists in the past democratic movements, Bhulayan urged them not to publish any report that might create confusion about the unity of the four party alliance.

Military tribunal

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bands were innocent and that were hanged without proper trial. Widows of two other officers — Maj Fazlul Huq and Maj Rezaul Karim who were sentenced to various jail terms — also appealed that their husbands were innocent.

"We have broken the taboo that nobody can oversee the armed forces' affairs," said the BNP parliamentarian. "But today we have established authority of the parliament."

"It's a great achievement for us," said Col (Rtd) Faruq Khan, another member of the sub-committee. "This will pave the way for scrutiny of many more whimsical decisions of the armed forces during Ershad regime."

In its meeting yesterday, the sub-committee also had a list of 22 army, navy and air force officials who were allegedly victimised. The body reviewed some of these cases and felt that "great injustice" was done to them. These cases will be further reviewed by the body.

The sub-committee will also review cases of two armed forces officials who were convicted for alleged involvement in the attempted coup on October 1, 1977 when a Japanese Air Lines (JAL) aircraft was hijacked to Dhaka airport.

Sub-Committee Chairman Col (Rtd) Shaukat Ali chaired the meeting while high civil and military officials were present.

Defence Secretary Idris Ali told The Daily Star last night that the government decided to send the documents to the sub-committee for the sake of transparency.

UNB adds: The committee yesterday also reviewed few other irregularities in the armed forces, including the cases of Wing Commander Nurul Islam, Md Waliullah, an employee of Ordnance Factory, Brig Glasuddin, Air Force Sergeant N K Azad, Col Didar and an application of Shabek

Sainik Sanghstha.

Wing Commander Nurul Islam was tried by a martial law court in 1988 for misusing money during the period 1975-77 and was dismissed.

The Air Chief informed the committee that following a mercy petition they had reviewed the case and process was on to retire Islam giving all benefits.

The committee also took up the case of Waliullah who was dismissed, along with 23 others, even after court acquitted them of the allegation brought by the ordinance force management.

Brig Glasuddin was sacked from the army in 1981, but the Ministry of Defence said they knew nothing about it while the Army Headquarters said he was dismissed following an order of the President. But there was no recommendation from the Army Chief.

Sergeant N K Azad was dismissed from the Air Force, even after a tribunal exonerated him from all charges. He was charged for his involvement in 1977 Air Force mutiny. The sub-committee recommended reinstating him.

Col Didar was dismissed and sentenced to 10 years in jail for allegedly planning a coup to oust government in 1980.

In the meeting Maj Akhteruzzaman questioned if an army officer can seize state power, why another can't plan to resist that or plan some other things and suggested giving him retirement with all benefits.

However, the sub-committee of the Parliamentary Defence Committee in the meeting was quoted to have observed that "the armed forces were not abiding by the rules, regulations and Armed Forces Act, and running the institutions as per their whims."

Maj (ret'd) Akhter proposed that the defence committee should see and review whether the armed forces headquarters are functioning as per respective acts.

BCL procession in Ctg

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rested from Mirsharai area, police said.

However, a tense situation was prevailing in the city and its adjoining areas today.

Additional police force was deployed in the city to maintain law and order.

BSS adds: Massive hunt for arresting the killers and masterminds of the gruesome killing of eight people at Bahaddarhat continues in the city and other places of the district.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police and district police said, several special teams are searching the suspected areas while different thanas of the district have been instructed to find out the culprits and arrest them.

Front line leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student wing, Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) have already gone into hiding to avoid arrest, police said.

The authorities of Chittagong Government College and Mohsin College closed three dormitories of the colleges sine die and the students were asked to vacate their hostels by 6 pm this evening, sources concerned said.

Police raided three dormitories, two of Chittagong College and one of Mohsin College and adjacent areas before closure of the hostels.

Chittagong College and

Journalist

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Shalikona under Sharsha thana of Jessore district.

BSS adds: A bag containing a bomb was found left by the killers.

The people of this southern district town were stunned by the brutal killing of the well-known journalist. Politicians and colleagues rushed to Jessore General Hospital where Rahman's body has been kept.

Rahman's friends said he had been receiving threats over telephone for the past few days for his stories on various outlawed groups and their activities.

Buriganga

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sels in the river.

Encroachments on the river as well as pollution are slowly killing the river Buriganga. If the government fails to take immediate action, the city dwellers will soon face an environmental catastrophe, the experts warned.

Left parties lay siege to Rajshahi DC's office

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 16: Several hundred leaders and activists of the left-leaning 11-party unity laid siege to the office of Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi and staged a sit-in there for about four hours.

They demanded arrest of the terrorists who stabbed Workers Party leader Shamsujjoha and snatched the complaint paper of the case from thana.

They also submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister through DC.

Bangabandhu

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There are confessional statements of five more persons in the paper book. Of them, Taheruddin Thakur and Hon Capt (ret'd) Abdul Wahab Joardar are acquitted of the charges. Army personnel Yunus Ali and Abu Musa Majumdar were not made accused. Zohaida Rashid, wife of Col Abdur Rashid, was acquitted by the High Court earlier.

Earlier in the day, a petition was filed for treatment of another retired Major Bazul Huda, at Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital, providing him with daily necessities and allowing him to meet his counsel Mahbubur Rahman, Afzal Hossain and Azra Ali.

The court asked prosecution whether they received the notice. As assistant attorney general Haider Ali replied in the affirmative, the court asked the prosecution to come up with preparations for their submissions on the petition.



A long queue of outdoor patients at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) Hospital yesterday during token strike observed by the doctors and employees of the hospital.

— Star photo