

What's on today

Uttam Kumar retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *Debdas* starring Uttam Kumar, Supriya and Sumitra. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House No 25, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

Film show: A film 'The Light, the Shadow and the Colours' will be screened. Venue: Auditorium of the Goethe Institut, House No: 10, Road No: 9, Dhanmondi. Time: 6 pm.

Discussion on Tagore: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has organised a discussion meeting and cultural programme to observe the 59th death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Venue: Gallery Building of the Academy (first floor). Time: 5:30 pm.

Exhibition: An exhibition of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's work on colours titled 'Goethe's Theory on Colours' will begin. The exhibition will remain open from 2 pm to 8 pm till August 24. Venue: Exhibition Hall of Goethe Institut, House No: 10, Road No: 9, Dhanmondi.

..... and tomorrow

Seminar: 'Governance Coalition' will hold a national seminar on 'Rethinking Confrontational Politics: A Reform Agenda.' Chief guest: Prof Rehman Sobhan. Moderator: Mahfuz Anam. Editor of The Daily Star. Keynote paper: Feroz M Hassan. Venue: IDB Bhaban Conference Room (2nd floor), E/8-A, Rokeya Sharan, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9:30 am.

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen 'Ogo Badhu Sundari' starring Uttam Kumar, Sumitra and Mousumi. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House No: 25, Road No: 2, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:15 pm.

Musical soiree: Abhudo Music Associates will present a musical soiree to commemorate the death anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra premises. Time: 7:30 pm.

Premiere: The premiere of 'Hitech Valley', a documentary film on Bangladeshi living in Bangalore, India, will be held. Venue: Auditorium of the Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:30 pm.

Condolence meet: Bangladesher Nari Sangathan (Women's Organisation of Bangladesh) has organised a programme to condole the death of Prof Rokeya Rahman Kabir. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 4:30 pm.

Weather

Light rain forecast

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 places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions is also expected during the period, Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature 37.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and the lowest 22.2 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:38 pm and rises on Monday at 5:31 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.5	26.0	76	77
Chittagong	32.0	23.5	85	81
Rajshahi	34.8	27.3	84	81
Khulna	35.6	24.8	74	66
Barisal	34.0	25.0	80	74
Sylhet	31.5	22.2	82	76
Cox's Bazar	31.7	24.0	78	78

Obituary



Professor Mohammad Afsar Ali, a retired teacher of Bangla Department of Rajshahi Government College died yesterday in Bangladesh Medical College Clinic in the city, says a press release.

His *namaz-e-janaza* will be held today at 8 am at Mohish Bathon Eidgah Maidan in Rajshahi city.

He is the father of renowned architect Enamul Karim and journalist Enayet Kabir.

BCL protest rally on DU campus today

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) will organise a protest rally across the country today demanding speedy implementation of the verdict of Bangladesh Murder Case, reports BSS.

As part of the countrywide programme, the BCL central committee will organise a rally at the foot of *Aparajeya Bangla* of Dhaka University at 11 am today.

Body of teenage girl recovered in Bogra

BOGRA, Aug 5: Body of a teenage girl, missing since Thursday, was found in a pond in her village Nimgam under Nandigram upazila on Friday, reports UNB.

The victim, Jyotsna (12), daughter of Ismail Hossain, was strangled to death after rape, said the police who recovered the body.

Family sources said Jyotsna accompanied her elder brother, Jahangir Alam, who went to a nearby pond to catch fish on Thursday afternoon. Jahangir sent her home with some fishes. On the way unknown rapists kidnapped her.

8 arrested, arms recovered

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) arrested eight alleged terrorists from the city and recovered large number of arms and phensidyl syrup from their possession on Friday and Saturday, reports BSS.

A team of police led by Additional Deputy Commissioner (North) Mohammad Mizanur Rahman searched a Pabna-bound night coach near Khilkhet overbridge and seized 1652 bottles of Indian made phensidyl syrup Friday night.

Police also arrested one Shafi from the bus for his alleged involvement in trafficking of the drugs. The estimated value of the seized phensidyl is approximately Taka 3 lakh.

A team of Detective Branch (DB) led by Assistant Commissioner Masum Rabbani, acting on a tip off, arrested Moazzem Hossain Babul and his accomplice Ali Ahmed from Mitford Road area under Kotwali police today.

Police said arrested Babul is alleged to be a notorious terrorist of Keraniganj thana area and accused in several criminal cases, including two murder charges. The same team also recovered a .32 bore revolver loaded with three bullets and four live cocktails from near the office of the Mitford Hospital Fourth Class Employees Association.

A special team of the Detective police arrested Mohammad Rahim Bhuiyan and Ali Ahmed from Syedabad inter district bus terminal and seized 500 bottles of phensidyl from their possession in the early hours of yesterday.

4,635 held from 10 western dists in one month

KHULNA, Aug 5: A total of 4,635 persons were arrested from ten western districts during the last one month, reports BSS.

Police sources said, these people were arrested under various criminal charges during the special drive conducted in ten districts under Khulna Division.

The special drive was launched on July 1 to free the southwestern region of the country from crime and acts of terrorism by the extremists.

The sources said that the sixty arms of various kinds and calibres, and a large quantity of ammunition were recovered during the drive. The arms included four rifles and forty-seven pipe and shutter gun.

Film star Shakil Khan arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Film star Shakil Khan was arrested yesterday morning for his alleged involvement in physically assaulting and confinement of an actress at a Maghbar residence on Wednesday.

Ramna police quoting the FIR said Shakil Khan abducted Sadika Parveen Poppy from in front of her residence at 8/1 Eskaton Road at gunpoint and confined her at his residence for about two-and-half hours.

The incident took place when she was about to ride a taxicab, to take part in shooting at about 11 am on the day along with her production manager Mizan and cousin Amanat.

She was forced to enter into the taxicab and taken to 113 Kazi Office Lane at Maghbar, the residence of film star Shakil.

Poppy told the journalists that Shakil beat up her and she became unconscious twice during her confinement at the residence of Shakil.

"At one stage of beating, blood rolled from my nose and I lost my sense," she told the journalists at her residence yesterday.

During her confinement, Poppy managed to inform her brother who was waiting for her on the ground floor of Shakil's residence about her confinement.

Later mother of Poppy along with her cousin Amanat and others went to the first floor of the house and rescued her at about 1:30 pm. Poppy in her FIR alleged that Shakil misbehaved with her mother and threatened her not to take any legal action against him.

Ramna police said that earlier Shakil Khan filed a case with Ramna police for ransacking his house by Poppy's mother and her associates on Wednesday.

A case was filed with Ramna police station in this regard on Friday. Police arrested Shakil from his residence early yesterday morning.

Shakil was produced before the CMM's court yesterday and the court ordered to send him to the Dhaka Central Jail.



Rear Admiral MA Khan's death anniversary today

The 16th death anniversary of Rear Admiral Mahbub Ali Khan, former Chief of Naval Staff and Minister for Communications and Agriculture will be observed today, says a press release.

Elaborate programme has been taken up to observe the death anniversary, which includes laying of wreaths at the Banani graveyard, *Quran Khwani*, distribution of sweets in a number of orphanages and special prayer for the peace and salvation of the departed soul at important city, mosques after *Zohr* prayer.

A *milad mahfil* will be held at 'Mahbub Bhaban' House # 40, Road # 05, Dhanmondi R/A on the occasion after *Maghrib* prayers at 7:15 pm.

Rear Admiral MA Khan Memorial Committee, Sylhet, has also taken up various programmes including *milad mahfil*, special prayer and distribution of food to the poor at the *Darga* premises of Hazrat Shah Jalal (R). Seminar and discussions on the life and works of the deceased, distribution of sweets in different orphanages will also be arranged.

Bangladesh Navy has arranged *milad mahfil* at all its bases in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Kaptai & Mongla to pray for the peace & salvation of the departed soul.

"Surovi" a voluntary organisation founded by Begum Mahbub Ali Khan has also arranged *milad mahfil* in different branches across the country.

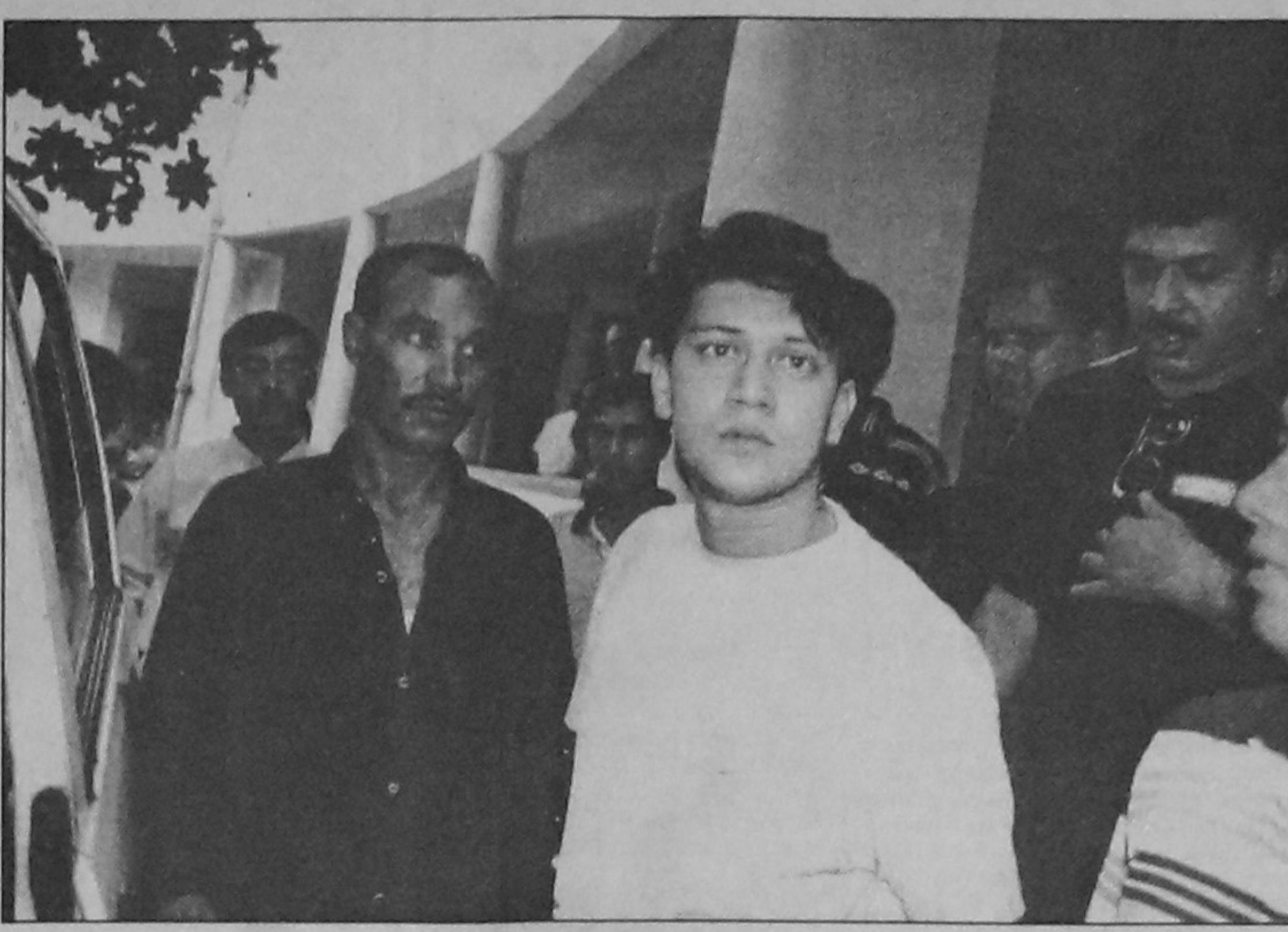
Office-bearers of DUJA greeted

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday felicitated the newly elected office-bearers of Dhaka University Journalists Association (DUJA), an organisation of the Dhaka University correspondents working in different dailies and news agencies, reports BSS.

In a statement, BCL President Bahadur Bepari and General Secretary Ajay Kar Khokon hoped that the young journalists of the Dhaka University would play an important role in disseminating objective news for enhancing the image of the university.

They opined that the newly elected office-bearers of DUJA would be able to bring dynamism in the activities of the organisation.

A nine-member executive committee of DUJA was elected on Friday with Abu Naser Rajib of BSS as president and Ashrafur Alam Khokon of Muktakantha as general secretary.



Film star Sakil Khan was arrested yesterday by Ramna Thana Police for his alleged involvement in the abduction and physical torture of film actress Poppy. — Star photo

Portion of VIP road near Hotel Sheraton at risk of cave in

Star Report

A portion of the pavement beside the Mymensingh Road, adjacent to a thirty-foot deep excavation site on the western end of Hotel Sheraton has already collapsed and a portion of the VIP road might cave in, sources feared.

They said that the southern end of the excavation site is also at risk of a landslide as gushing water from two broken sewer pipes and heavy shower has almost overflowed the deep construction pond Wednesday night.

Bangladesh Services Limited (BSL), owner of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, is constructing the seven-storey extension building with additional two-storey basement car park for the NAM Summit scheduled for September next year.

Both BSL officials and representative of the Dubai based construction firm — Arab Construction Limited, however, claimed that the main building of the five star hotel was 'totally out of any risk' as it was at 'a safe distance of about 12 metre' from the construction site.

Water that rush into the excavation site from the broken sewer lines on Wednesday night resulted in a 'minor landslide' at the western portion attached with the pavement of the VIP Road, sources said.

When asked whether there was any shore protector at the end attached with the VIP Road, a BSL official said that on the basis of 'soil tests' and 'slope stability analysis' the technical

committee comprising experts opined that there was no need of shore protection at the west portion of the excavation site.

The construction process was going on as per the design of the consultancy firm and approval of the technical committee, the official said.

BSL officials blamed the sluggish pace of the construction firm, who allegedly failed to complete the raft of the basement and RCC wall on time which caused the landslide on Wednesday.

K M Haque, the authorised country representative of the construction firm, told The Daily Star that the pavement collapsed on June 19 when we were about to start the construction of the raft of the basement and RCC wall.

According to suggestion of the consultancy firm and members of the technical committee, sand bags were piled up and steel pipes were installed at the west end soon after the incident to avoid any untoward incident, he added.

Haque termed the incident of Wednesday night as an 'accident'.

Talking about the risk of landslide at the south end and land subsidence at the west end, BSL officials said that to avoid any sort of risk, they have decided to make 'sheet piling' for protecting the shore from sliding or subsidence.

The BSL official, however, denied that there was any fault in their construction plan.

Mannan Bhuiyan protests filing of 'false' cases

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has strongly protested filing of 'false' cases against 40 leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) of Sylhet district under the 'repressive' Public Safety Act (PSA).

In a statement yesterday, he also protested the arrest of Kalapara thana unit JCD president Mujibur Rahman and attack and forcible occupation of BNP offices at Gopalganj and Narail.

He said the Awami League government, failing to run the country, has resorted to repression, suppression and terrorism across the country to divert the attention of people. The ruling party has also chosen the path of undemocratic means after being isolated from the people, he added.

Bhuiyan alleged that police recently attacked on a JCD procession in Sylhet without any provocation and arrested Javed Rahat, Majumder, Shahed Ahmed Chaman, Zanu Ahmed and Javed Ahmed.

Besides, the police filed false cases against 40 leaders and workers, including Humayun Ahmed Mashuk, Shaqir Rahman Tutul, Shamun Majumder, Akbar Rahman, Asaduzzaman Shahid, under the 'black' PSA.

The BNP secretary general in his statement further said the 'anti-people' government has recently attacked and damaged the district unit office at Gopalganj and further grabbed the land of the office. Later, the AL started construction of Chhatra League office on the land. The AL also attacked the Narail district BNP office on Thursday last.

He said the AL government has now started occupying offices of the opposition parties side by side occupying and grabbing of private and public houses, land and property.

JATI training course

Justice Mahmudur Rahman yesterday called for timely issuing of summonses and notices to parties concerned for speedy disposal of cases, reports BSS.

Newspaper men to observe 'Demand Day' tomorrow

Journalists and employees of all newspapers and agencies will observe Demand Day tomorrow demanding their security and arrest of the killers of journalist Shamsur Rahman, reports UNB.

As part of the central programme, they will hold a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club at 11 am on the day. It will be followed by a silent procession.

Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad had called upon all journalists, workers and employees of newspapers and news agencies to take part in the programme, said a press release.

Turkey arrests 109 illegal immigrants

ANKARA, Aug 5: Security forces in Turkey's eastern province of Erzurum today detained 109 illegal immigrants, Anadolu news agency reported, says AFP.

The group, which included Afghan and Iraqi nationals, were rounded up in a truck during a traffic check near the town of Horasan.

Police also detained the Turkish driver of the truck, to whom the immigrants had paid 2,000 dollars each to take them to Istanbul, according to Anadolu.

Italy and Greece are the usual destinations of Asian and African immigrants who use the Turkish route to reach Europe in search of a better life.



A procession by the members of Bangladesh Stenographers' Association in the city marking its conference. — Star photo

Hundreds protest anti-racist attack in German town

DUSSELDORF, Germany, Aug 5: Several hundred people demonstrated today to protest the July 27 shrapnel bomb attack in a rail station here that wounded 10 immigrants from the former Soviet Union, most of them Jewish, reports AFP.

Organisers said 800 demonstrators attended the march, which united far-left groups with more mainstream anti-fascist organisations in Germany. Police put the turn-out at closer to 550.

The route of the protest march took it past the site of the bomb attack, a local commuter railway station in this western German city. The device had been placed on a busy footbridge leading into the Wehrhahn station.

The two most seriously wounded victims were a 26-year-old woman who lost her unborn baby and nearly lost a leg, and her 28-year-old husband who suffered abdominal wounds.

Although the demonstration linked the bombing to a recent wave of racist violence in Germany, police have still not ruled out other motives for the attack.

They questioned two people on Thursday and Friday before releasing them.

Cold war on

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The trouble between Fisheries Minister ASM Abdul Rob with State Minister Abdul Kudus is an open secret. They are at odds over appointment of a DG of the Livestock Research Institute.

Trouble began when DG Dr Emdadul Huq was made OSD on recommendations by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the ministry because of various irregularities. But he was recently reinstated, reportedly at the initiative of the minister, sources there said.

This led to a 'virtual cold war' with his deputy who reportedly gave his blessings to Dr Zahangir Alam, who had succeeded Dr Emdadul Huq.

The relations deteriorated further over holding of the National Fisheries Week this month. It was postponed last month as the PM could not to attend it. Last year, ASM Abdul Rob inaugurated the fisheries week as the PM was in Rabat, Morocco to attend the funeral of King Hassan.

The DG Fisheries has written a letter to the minister on behalf of officials, who expressed their resentment over holding of the fisheries week during the month of national mourning. They were quietly backed by the State Minister, the sources said.

The 'cold' relationship between the Foreign Minister and the State Minister is also an open secret. Although Abdus Samad Azad denies this, his deputy practically has nothing to do. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury has been sidelined, sources said.

Mahfuzul Islam, Secretary of the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MOEF) was transferred on the 28th day of his appointment because of his differences with the minister, sources said.

Islam had replaced Syed Marghub Murshed on July 1. Earlier, Murshed had to leave the ministry reportedly due to his differences with the minister on appointment of the Chief Conservator of Forests, sources said.

Iran closes another paper

TEHRAN, Aug 5: Iran's conservative press corps closed down another pro-reform publication today after its editor was charged with insulting government officials, the state IRNA news agency said, reports AFP.

The Tavana weekly, known for its biting caricatures of the regime's top politicians, was ordered closed and editor Iraj Rastegar charged after he allegedly ignored 'numerous warnings'.

The suspension comes just five days after the culture ministry told newspapers to stop publishing caricatures of the regime's clerics and politicians.

Satirical drawings have long been a regular feature of Iranian newspapers, although the depiction of the Islamic leadership has never been explicitly authorised.

Hasina

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make any sacrifice for this country.

"I am living only to serve the nation, to take the nation forward, I am living for the people, to ensure a better life for them," the Prime Minister told the audience, who were also visibly moved by the agonies of Sheikh Hasina.

Recalling the memories of Sheikh Kamal, she said Kamal was highly interested in sports and music. He had a great devotion and with his own effort he had developed this big club which is leading the nation in cricket and football.

Continuing the flashbacks on her family Hasina said when Kamal was a kid, Bangabandhu was in jail and when he saw his father, Kamal could not recognise him. "While I was embracing my father and calling him *Abbu*, at that time Kamal said to me: *Abu may I call your father as *Abbu*?*"

And in such an environment they grew up, she said, adding that from his boyhood Kamal had a penchant for sports and music. He played football, badminton and when he grew up, he learnt playing Sitar.

And Kamal could maintain his devotion to sports and Sitar simultaneously at the same time, at night used to play Sitar, Hasina said recalling that whenever she would go to 32 Dhanmondi house, she could hear the sound of that music.

She recalled the memories of her beloved brother with tears in her eyes and said "all my beloved were brutally killed on that night leaving me alone. I will have to live with this memory of great tragedy."

ARSENIC

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The filter is made of readily available local materials and has been tested for removing arsenic from groundwater in Bangladesh, he said.

Prof. Abul Hossain, Associate Professor at George Mason University in USA said, organic and inorganic toxic substances can be removed through this simple method.

Among others, Prof. M. Alauddin of Chemistry Department, Wager College, New York; Prof. Khairul Karim, Rajshahi Education Board; Nurul Azam Khan, former additional chief engineer, Roads and Highways Department and Sharier Btu Rasul, Senior Chemist of DPHE were present at the press conference.

preceding a number of officials.

Trouble began when seven officials were retired under the Retirement of Public Servants Rule, 1974 to pave the way for promotion of Nuruzzaman. He is yet to complete his two-year tenure as Conservator of Forests for his next promotion as Deputy Conservator of Forests. Nuruzzaman was promoted to the post of conservator of Forests in December 1998. Despite retirement of so many, his appointment superseded four others. Forest Department sources said.

An expensive two-column advertisement on the back page of Daily Ittefaq on August 3 with a picture of Nuruzzaman said he has taken over as the Conservator of Forests. But it was not mentioned who gave the advertisement.

The sources said all this had its bearing on the premature departure of Islam, who was replaced by Mamunur Rashid, Secretary, Statistics Division. Rashid was transferred to the Election Commission as its Secretary. He has been transferred again to the MOEF.

NBR

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tify those involved in corruption in the name of garments export, Sinha said.

"Actually they are doing other business by the name of garments export," he said.

BGMEA and Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) are jointly conducting a survey to identify fake garment factories, he added.

The BGMEA at a general meeting recently adopted a resolution providing for action against those factories which will be found involved in forgery and corruption. Their BGMEA membership will be cancelled, Sinha said.

Protect river

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proceeded towards Kamrangirchar, the extent of encroachments on the river became more evident. On both sides, encroachers have built multi-storey structures stretching into the river.

At Kamrangirchar where the procession ended, leaders of the Movement including AMA Muhi of POROSH, Prof Muzaffar Ahmed and Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud of Dhaka University vowed to continue the fight till the river is freed from encroachments and pollution. Khushi Kabir of ADAB was also present.

The organisations and institutions which participated in the procession include ADAB, ARMCDO & ANADCO, BASA, BAWPA, Dhaka University, Jagadhat University College, NEAB, Pratyasha, Nagorik Samaj, Rotary Club Dhaka Mid Town, SED, WVA, DORP Design Vision, FEMA and TMSS.

FS leaves

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concern.

Sami, who is a former High Commissioner to Delhi and well-known in the diplomatic circles there, is expected to put forward Dhaka's views 'forcefully and correctly'.

Cross-border clashes and movement of criminals are likely to be discussed with Indian officials. In recent times there have been a series of clashes and casualties on the Indo-Bangladesh border.

The relations between the two governments have also seen some thaw in recent months, observers pointed out.

Issues like transit, transportation, pipeline sale of gas and opening of the second bus route on the Dhaka-Agartala sector have not made any headway, which analysts attribute to an election year in Bangladesh, while the BJP government in Delhi views as 'foot dragging' on the part of Dhaka.

The date for the annual consultation meeting between Dhaka and Delhi at Foreign Secretary level which was due to be held last year, is yet to be fixed. The last annual consultation meeting took place in Dhaka between Bangladesh Foreign Secretary and then Indian External Affairs Secretary K Raghunath in 1998.

Indian floods