



Jahanara Imam (L), AL leader Abdur Razzak (R) and Maj (retired) Hafizuddin, MP, Independent, rushed to CMH on hearing the rumour of Menon's death yesterday. — Star photo

### Rumour of death

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possession from the spot and was beaten by the mob. He identified himself as an envelope vendor near GPO but the mob suspected him as an 'agent' of Juba Command, which allegedly blasted bombs after the meeting. The agitation fizzled out after about one hour of clash between police and the political activists.  
Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) called a nationwide student strike for today to protest the attempt on the life of Rashed Khan Menon.  
The call came from a rally held in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday with Bidhan Ray in the chair. Nasrud-za, Uday Pal and Rajkuz-zaman Ratan addressed it.  
Activists of GCO, a unity of eight left-leaning student organisations, came out in the streets of the capital protesting armed attack on the Workers Party leader.  
The leaders blamed the axis of Jamaat-Shibir, Freedom Party and Juba Command for the armed attack and demanded immediate ban on activities of the 'anti-liberation parties'.  
They also demanded immediate removal of the Home Minister for his 'failure to en-

### Menon improving

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range by unidentified assailants in front of the Tophkhana Road party office Monday evening. Rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, he was later shifted to the CMH.  
A health bulletin by the CMH authorities, issued at 2 pm, said that the condition of the wounded parliamentarian was stable and that he was being kept at the ICU under a group of expert physicians.  
Issued by Lt Colonel Mohammad Taufiqul Alam, the CMH Commanding Officer, the bulletin pointed out that Menon was admitted to the hospital at 9 pm Monday with gunshot wounds in the chest and abdomen.  
He was in a state of hypovolaemic shock due to profuse loss of blood when he was brought to the hospital, the bulletin said, adding that he was operated on at 10 pm.  
There were extensive lacerated wounds of the liver and also had prolapsed lung tissue due to traumatic rupture in the right dome of the diaphragm, the bulletin read, "the liver was repaired, wound debrided, shock corrected and the patient was later kept in the ICU under a group of experts."  
"His present condition is stable," the CMH bulletin added.  
A hospital source said that he needed 17 bags of blood transfusion during the operation.  
Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and chief of Awami League Sheikh Hasina, ministers, members of parliament, diplomats, political leaders, civil and military officials and cultural workers visited the hospital on the day.  
People from different walks of life also crowded the hospital premises following a rumour of Menon's death which spread across the capital in the morning.  
Sheikh Hasina, after visiting Menon at the ICU and talking to his family members, said: "I talked with him and held his hand, he is doing better," while urging everyone to pray for his quick recovery.  
Describing the attack on Menon as a 'dastardly act', the AL leader also quoted him as saying "What wrong have I done... is it wrong to do politics?"

### Govt, opposition

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an alliance.  
But they agreed that the immediate task was to intensify to the movement against violence by making the hartal on August 20 a grand success.  
The leaders who attended included Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman, Matiya Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Mostafa Jalal Mohi-uddin, Obaidul Kader, Nurul Islam Nahid, Mursheed Ali, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Haider Akbar Khan Rono, Bimal Biswas, Abul Bashar, Tipu Biswas, AFM Mahbulul Huq, Mohtuddin Khan Badal, Lutful Rahman, Saiful Islam, Shahjahan Siraj, Panjaj Bhattacharya, Shamir Das, Nirmal Sen, Hasanul Huq Inu, Sharif Nurul Ambia, Kazi Aref Ahmed, Naim Jahangir, Amirul Islam Badsha and Dilip Barua.  
Syed Hasan Imam of Ektattor Ghatok Dalil Nirmul Samannaye Committee was also present at the meeting.

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Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at the Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 28/1, Toybee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: PABX- 246023-4, 245061-2. Advertisement: 245063 & Ext. 20. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box. No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.

### Hartal

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ble for attack on Menon.  
The government had completely failed in containing the deteriorating law and order, it observed.  
Leaders at the meeting also demanded arrest and "exemplary punishment" to those involved in the attack on Menon.  
Presided over by Sramik Krishak Samajhadi Dal leader Nirmal Sen, the all-party meeting was also addressed, among others, by Awami League (AL) General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, AL leaders Dr Kamal Hossain and Amir Hossain Amu, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, JSD leader Shahjahan Siraj M.P. Hasanul Huq Inu, NAP leader Panjaj Bhattacharya, Workers Party's Haider Akbar Khan Rono, BSD leader, Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan, Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Naim Jahangir, Begum Jahanara Imam, Col (retired) Kazi Nuruzzaman and Badaruddin Umar.  
Speaking at the meeting, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury condemned the attack on Menon, demanded immediate arrest of those involved and resented the government for failing in ensuring security to the political leaders.  
The Awami League general secretary held the activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Freedom Party responsible for the attack on Menon.  
The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) also brought out a procession and held a rally in front of the DUCSU building yesterday noon to condemn the attack on Menon.  
Our JU Correspondent reports: Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), Jahangirnagar University Unit brought out a procession today (Tuesday), protesting the attack on Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon.  
Addressing a meeting held after the rally, the President of the Bangladesher Chhatra Union (BCU) Mozammel Hoque, said that the present government failed to cope with the fast deteriorating law and order situation in the country. He demanded the removal of the Home Minister.  
The Vice President of Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union (JUCSU), in a press release, condemned the attack on Rashed Khan Menon.

### Shantibahini kills one in Matiranga

RANGAMATI, Aug 18: Suspected Shantibahini men gunned down a farmer Monday afternoon while working in a field at a hill village in Matiranga thana, reports UNB.  
The attack on the microbus led to clashes between sup-

### Five hurt in attack on restaurant

By DMCH Correspondent  
A group of armed men stormed into a city restaurant at Sukrabad at noon yesterday and left five people injured after being refused 'tolla'.  
The armed men severely stabbed the manager of Mohammodia Restaurant, Moslem-uddin, 35, beat the employees and set the furniture on fire at around 12:30 pm Tuesday.  
Moslemuddin was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with four stab injuries while others were given first aid.  
The restaurant owner said, the armed men after being refused to pay 'tolla' made the attack, wounded the workers and damaged the restaurant.  
He lodged a case with Mohammadpur police in this connection.

### More parties condemn attempt on Menon

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The General Secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Hasanul Huq Inu and member of the presidium, Kazi Aref Ahmed in a statement said the attempt on Menon's life proved that no political leaders and workers were safe in the country.  
They said the government was nourishing these terrorists and killers to cling to power. They also asked all to build up resistance against the killers of 1971.  
Badruddin Umar of Ganatantrik Biplobi Jote condemned the attempt on Menon's life and urged all to come forward in resisting terrorism.  
He also condemned the government for its failure in maintaining law and order in the country.  
The President of Bangladesh National Awami Party, Prof Mozaffar Ahmed and General Secretary Panjaj Bhattacharya said the Juba Command attempted on the life of Menon due to the government's support for the fun-



Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya brought out a procession in the city yesterday. — Star photo

### Tension, violence grip Chittagong, Rajshahi

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Aug 18: The attack on Worker's Party leader Rashed Khan Menon yesterday also triggered tension and violence in Chittagong today.  
The mobs exploded crackers, pelted stones and damaged about hundred vehicles in different parts of the city, witnesses said.  
The situation took alarming turn after 1 pm when a rumour spread in the city that Menon had succumbed to his bullet injuries. Violent mobs then damaged vehicles including BRTC buses in the city particularly in New Market, Razuddin Bazar, Darul Fazal Market, Jubilee Road, Enayet Bazar and Dewanhat areas, witnesses said.  
The mobs also pelted stones at various shops beside these roads and blasted crackers, they added.  
People in the streets were seen running for safety during that time.  
Later, police rushed to the spots and brought the situation under control by dispersing the mobs. A large number of people were seen listen to radio news while some others began ringing Dhaka to be sure about Menon's condition.  
However, situation cooled down when news spread that Menon is alive and improving.  
The supporters of Workers Party in Chittagong organised a protest rally in the afternoon in front of New Market crossing and brought out processions that paraded main streets of the city calling for immediate action against the assailants who made an attempt on the life of Menon.  
Our Jessore Correspondent says, the Five Party alliance today held a meeting at Daratana square to protest the attempt on Menon's life.  
Held around noon the meeting also accused the government of failure to ensure security to public life.  
Our Rajshahi Correspondent adds: Sporadic clashes and violence spread in the city this evening, leaving at least five people injured following rallies protesting the attack on Rashed Khan Menon.  
Tension prevailed on the Rajshahi University (RU) Campus and the city since early morning.  
Witnesses said the arrest of Chhatra League leader Md Alauddin this evening sparked off violent protests by Chhatra League workers.  
The activists damaged over 20 vehicles in the city, one of which belonged to the Rajshahi University. Witnesses also said some leaders of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were going to the city from the RU campus by the RU microbus.  
The attack on the microbus led to clashes between sup-

### Employees demand withdrawal of OMCH Director

From Our Correspondent  
SYLHET, Aug 18: The class IV employees of MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital have threatened work abstention in demand of withdrawal of the Director of the Hospital, Colonel Roknul Islam for his alleged involvement in corruption.  
The employees charged Col Islam with large-scale corruption in his recent selection of people for some posts of the hospital.  
The employees have decided to go on a two-hour abstention from work beginning Aug 22 if their demand is not met. They have started wearing black badges which would continue till Aug 20.  
The agitating employees have sent memoranda to the Health Minister, Health Secretary and others.  
The protesters are reported to have damaged several shops in the city.  
Following this, all shops of the city were closed and vehicles went off the roads. Tension was prevailing in the city till 10 pm.  
Earlier at 5.30 pm, the five-party alliance, Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF) and Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) jointly held a rally at Saheb Bazar Bara Rasta, protesting the attack on Menon.  
The rally, presided over by Workers' Party leader Ferdous Kamal Masud, demanded the arrest and trial of the attackers and denounced the government for failing to provide security to the citizens. Speakers at the rally also demanded the resignation of the Home Minister.  
Earlier Workers' Party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree (BCM) brought out a procession on the campus at midnight Monday to protest the incident.  
At 10 this morning (Tuesday), the Chhatra Oikya Parishad, a conglomeration of Awami League-backed Chhatra League and the left-leaning Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya, defied resistance from law enforcement agency men and held a protest rally on the campus.  
The rally, presided over by Karim Shikder, asked Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury to step down for his failure to ensure security to citizens.  
BCM President Sadakat Hossain Khan Babul, BCL (M-I) leader Md Hannan, RUCSU AGS Alamgir Hossain, BCU leader Gazi Golam Mostafa and Aslam Sarker also spoke at the rally.  
Meanwhile, the RU authorities imposed Section 144 on the campus, which provides for the barring of rallies and movement of the gathering of five persons together, following chase and counter-chase between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Shibir activists.  
The incident took place when both JCD and Shibir declared to hold separate rallies at the same time and venue tomorrow (Wednesday) morning.

### PM: Begging

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priority on development of the country's human resource and removing unemployment in order to create a balanced society according to the tenets of Islam, she said.  
The activity of Zakat Board has been recast keeping in view the national priorities, she said.  
She expressed happiness over different programmes undertaken by Zakat Board which include distribution of sewing machines, running of makhtabs, children's hospitals and orphanages and scholarship for poor and talented students.  
The Prime Minister hoped that everyone of the society will come forward to aid the Zakat Board. This will enable the board to take up more welfare oriented and employment generating programmes.  
Begum Zia also hoped that those who received rickshaws would work with new confidence and inspire others.  
The function was also addressed by State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof MA Mannan, Religious Affairs Secretary Abdul Awal and Director General of Zakat Board Mansurul Haq Khan.  
State Minister for Women Affairs and some MPs were also present.  
The Prime Minister later handed over licenses to the poor rickshawpullers outside the auditorium.

### Jamaat

From Page 1 Col 5  
The Jamaat leaders protested such activities.  
Khan and Nizami alleged that police searched the Jamaat office on Monday night and took six of their workers into custody for 'no reason'. "We protest such harassment by the police and assert that such activities tarnish the image of Jamaat-e-Islami," they said.

## The Midnight File

### Rocket hits presidential palace in Kabul

ISLAMABAD, Aug 18: A rocket hit the presidential palace in Kabul Tuesday afternoon, the Pakistan based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said. AIP, quoting a radio message received from Kabul, reported renewed rocket attacks on the capital but gave no details. The French embassy's chancery building in Kabul's diplomatic enclave was damaged in a rocket attack in the early hours of Tuesday, reports said, reports AFP.

### Fire breaks out aboard Egyptian plane

BEIRUT, Aug 18: A fire broke out aboard an Egypt Air jetliner Tuesday a few minutes after it landed at Beirut International Airport, airport officials said. No injuries were reported among the eight crew members or the 73 passengers, who were disembarking from the Boeing 707 when the fire started at 7:30 pm (1630 GMT), according to an official, who insisted on anonymity. The official said the flames were quickly put out by the airport's fire brigade, reports AP.

### Delhi, Pindi concerned over violence in Afghanistan

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: India and Pakistan today expressed concern at the extremist violence rocking Afghanistan as the foreign secretary-level talks firm up two agreements to be signed on the concluding day tomorrow. The agreements relate to a code of conduct for treatment of diplomats and banning the use of chemical weapon, reports PTI.

## Press Note

From Page 1 Col 8  
a result, some unruly people and interested quarters set ablaze four cars and damaged some others in different areas in the capital. They also indulged in disrupting public life. With the timely intervention of the police, the situation became normal quickly. The situation was now under control, the Press Note added.  
The government expressed the hope that the concerned quarters would refrain from disrupting public life and damaging the properties of the government by circulating false and baseless rumour. The government has taken all steps to maintain law and order in the country and ensure the security of the people's property, the Press Note said.  
Seeking the cooperation of all sections of people, irrespective of party affiliations, to maintain peace and discipline in the country, the government said in unequivocal terms that any attempt to create law and order situation, perpetrate terrorist activities, disrupt public security and economic activities and creating situation leading to confusion in public life would be curbed with an iron hand.  
The Press Note said, Rashed Khan Menon MP, General Secretary of Bangladesh Workers Party, was critically wounded when unidentified gunmen shot at him in front of the Workers Party Office at Tophkhana Road around 8.30 pm Monday (August 17). Immediately after the incident, he was first taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and then to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH). At the CMH, a team of the Country's leading surgeons carried out successful operation lasting four hours on him.  
Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia went to see Menon at the CMH Monday night and enquired about his welfare. The Prime Minister issued instruction to call in the country's best surgeons and specialists and take all possible measures for his treatment.  
President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Information Minister Bariar Nazmul Huda, other members of the cabinet, Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina, some MPs, leaders of different political parties, distinguished personalities and relatives of Menon went to the CMH Monday night and enquired about his welfare.  
Menon has now been kept in the intensive care unit.  
A team of doctors led by Maj Gen Abdul Mohaimen and Maj Gen Anis Waz has been taking care of him round the clock. He is improving steadily, the Press Note said.  
Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia again visited Menon Tuesday morning. Menon talked to the members of his family when they visited him Tuesday afternoon.

### Picked up

From Page 1 Col 7  
The MP's younger brother Zahurul Islam Rumi, General Secretary of Shantigan Club and their uncle Quayum, a WASA official were also rounded up from the street near the MP's residence.  
Jahangir, a house servant of the MP was also taken to the Detective Branch office of questioning.  
Police early Tuesday raided the Shantigan Club and detained three players, Zia, Liton and Taher Ali for interrogation, sources said.  
"Police also raided the office of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh Monday night and picked up six party workers from there. They were however released afterwards, party sources said.  
Meanwhile, Workers' Party leader, Haider Akbar Khan Rono Tuesday morning lodged a case with Ramna police for attempt on their leader, Rashed Khan Menon. But he did not name any suspect in the complaint, police source said.  
An investigating officer of police said, they picked up the persons for questioning. None of them were arrested, he added.  
The police officer declining to give any detail further said, the persons are being interrogated but police are yet to identify the assailants.  
Workers Party sources said, the three alleged assailants often visited the party office and its nearby shops during the last few days. They also visited a tea stall adjacent to the office three Monday, they added.  
Party members said, since three Left organizations earlier merged into Workers Party few months back, three assailants' visit did not raise suspicion. Party workers thought that they were workers from other groups, they added.  
Party sources also said, two unidentified persons looked for their leaders Rashed Khan Menon and Fazole Hossain Badsha at around 7:30 pm Monday.

### Khaleida

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given for his recovery. The team of surgeons who are attending the Workers Party Secretary General include Maj Gen Abdul Mohaimen and Maj Gen Anis Waz. The Prime Minister had Monday night rushed to CMH after she was informed about injury of Menon.  
Forest and Environment Minister Abdullah Al Noman, members of parliament including Niamatullah Sabu, Farida Hasan, Raushan Elahi, Raushan Ara Hena and Naval Chief Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohamminul Islam were present there.  
The Prime Minister stayed at the hospital for half an hour and spoke to Menon's relatives. She condemned the incident.  
She directed the Home Minister to take measures for immediate arrest of the attackers.  
She gave the directive to call the country's best surgeons immediately for the treatment of injured Menon.

### Three Rohingya

From Page 1 Col 7  
Officials reached by telephone at Cox's Bazar said BDR and police had been posted in the riot-prone camps to head off any possible unrest.  
They said the 8th round of repatriation talks scheduled for Saturday at Cox's Bazar between Bangladesh and Myanmar will take place in spite of the protests.  
Ukhia police recovered the bodies of three refugees. But five refugees were killed—two bodies still held by their compatriots inside the camp.  
In the past three months refugees' protests stalled their repatriation due to start from May 15.  
The refugees say they will not return home until human rights condition improves in Myanmar. They want their repatriation to be monitored by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.  
Nearly 2,65,000 refugees, who have escaped a military crackdown in Myanmar during last one year, are now housed in 17 camps along Cox's Bazar—Teknaf region.