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# The Daily Star

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Dacoity in city**

A dacoity was committed at a house in the Sector Number 5 of the Uttara Residential Area in the early hours of Thursday. The dacoits numbering about seven armed with automatic weapons entered the house by breaking grille, owner of the house said. The dacoits tied the inmates of the house in a room and safely decamped with cash, electronic goods and gold ornaments worth about Taka 30 thousand. They also tied the nightguard near the house, reports BSS.

**Ghali to attend Confce on Yslavia**

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 20: UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today that he would attend next week's international conference in London on peace in former Yugoslavia. Boutros-Ghali made the statement just before entering the Security Council chamber where discussions were being held on the crisis in the Balkan region as well as the situation in Iraq. The Secretary General said he was saddened by the death of a Ukrainian soldier with the UN peacekeeping force in Bosnia, killed by sniper fire in Sarajevo Thursday, and offered his condolences to the soldier's family, reports AFP.

**581 arrested in Comilla**

COMILLA, Aug 20: Police arrested 581 persons and recovered a sizeable number of arms and ammunition from different places of the district till Wednesday under the Operation August. Police said arrested people including 359 absconding accused were wanted in connection with various cases. Recovered arms and ammunition included seven pipe guns, three randaos, two kiriches, one dagger and two rounds of bullets of cut-rifle, reports UNB.

## Stray clashes: Govt buses damaged: Scores hurt Hartal paralyses country

By Staff Correspondent

A day long hartal called to protest the attempt on Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon crippled normal life Thursday in Dhaka and other parts of the country.

The countrywide shutdown, sponsored by 12 major opposition political parties, was spontaneous and by and large peaceful barring a few incidents of violence and sporadic clashes between police and pickets.

The attack on the prominent opposition leader outraged the nation with the government and the Opposition both condemning the incident as an attempt to undermine the country's fledgling democracy.

The hartal sponsors — the

Awami League and its former partners in the now-defunct 15-Party Alliance, blamed the Jamaat-e-Islami, the Freedom Party and the Jubo Command for the attack on Menon.

In post-hartal rallies speakers reiterated their demand to outlaw the three organisations.

In Dhaka, capital city of 70 lakh people, the hartal halted traffic, shut down shops, banks and commercial houses and closed educational institutions. Though government offices stayed open attendance was thin, witnesses said.

Many commuters were seen walking down Dhaka's traffic-free streets patrolled by riot police and helmeted BDR troops

Bands of pickets, shouting various anti-government and anti-terrorism slogans paraded the streets to enforce the hartal.

In stray incidents of violence police used a few rounds of teargas and batons to disperse pickets mainly in Bijaynagar, Purana Paltan, Jatiya Press Club, Segunbagicha, Bangla Motor, Kawran Bazar and Farmgate areas.

Police intervened as some unruly pickets stoned and damaged some government-run BRTC buses and exploded a few fire crackers. Witnesses said at least 20 people suffered minor injuries.

Reports filed by The Daily Star correspondent said that the hartal was also observed

peacefully in Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and other towns.

Flight operations at the Zia International Airport were hampered because of the hartal, airport sources said.

The Dhaka-Kathmandu flight of Bangladesh Biman was suspended in the morning, the sources said adding that two domestic flights to Jessore were combined into one while the Rajshahi and Syedpur flights were also combined.

Most of the other flights were also delayed, the source added.

Train services between the capital and other parts of the country were also disrupted. See Page 12 Col 3



Police baton-charging a picket at Farm Gate during hartal hours yesterday (top) and riot police running for shelter after a cracker exploded near them at Paltan Square (above). — Star photo

## Pakistan seals border with Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, Aug 20: The Pakistan government has sealed its border with Afghanistan to prove its impartial role in the on-going fighting in Kabul, local press reports said today, reports Xinhua.

However, there is no ban on return or arrival of Afghan refugees though they will not be allowed to transport goods by vehicles through the border. The defense ministry claimed its troops captured three strategic outposts from the renegade Hezb-e-Islami faction soon after the offensive began Wednesday. But government field commanders said the rebels recaptured one of the positions overnight.

They said government forces pulled back after several of their soldiers were wounded by land mines.

Government commanders have said the stalemate could drag on for months and appealed to the interim and the Hezb-e-Islami chief, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, to negotiate a permanent truce. The fighting has been the worst since the

He said an official declaration on the restriction measure would be made in parliament today.

AP adds: government troops and dissident rebels fired artillery at each other Thursday as a government offensive to oust the insurgents from the war-battered capital stalled.

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various rebel factions ousted the Communist regime in late April after a 14-year civil war. Since then, the factions have been fighting amongst themselves. Military sources said Hezb-e-Islami fired rockets on ammunition depots Thursday morning, igniting a huge fireball that burned nearby houses. Exploding shells forced firefighters away from the blaze.

The government used heavy artillery and air strikes to try to knock out the rebel rocket launchers.

Hekmatyar appears bent on taking power and imposing his brand of radical Islamic state. Several key installations, including the presidential palace, the defense ministry and hospitals, are now within range of his forces' weapons from the recaptured hilltop.

The fear of another civil war has virtually shut down Kabul, turning Afghanistan's once bustling city of 1.5 million into a ghost town.

## Extortionists kill one, injure two in city

By DMCH Correspondent

Extortionists killed a young man and wounded another two in three separate incidents in the city Wednesday night and Thursday.

A young man, Mohammad Shaheed, was stabbed to death at Mohammadpur when he refused to pay tolls Wednesday night. Shaheed was 22.

Extortionists stopped Shaheed, a hawker, at BNP Bazar at Mohammadpur at around 7:45 pm Wednesday and demanded money. When he refused, the extortionists stabbed him to death and fled away.

In another incident, extortionists demanded Taka 1,000 from Aynul Haq, an owner of a meat-shop at Kalamia's Market at Jurain. When he refused, the extortionists stabbed him Thursday afternoon. Aynul was admitted at the DMCH.

Muggers stabbed Delwar Hossain, 22, and looted his gold chain, ring, wrist watch and Taka 9,000 in cash at S K Das Road, Gandaria, at around 11 am Thursday. He was also admitted at the DMCH.

## Matin may be axed Monday

By Staff Correspondent

A change in the Home Ministry leadership is expected around the middle of next week, according to authoritative sources.

Mearwhile, in a bid to reinvigorate the administrative measures to improve the law and order situation the government has appointed Manzur-ul-Karim the new Home Secretary.

Karim, a seasoned bureaucrat, with a long stint in the Home Ministry, is planning certain initiatives to bring the law and order situation under control.

Karim, when contacted, told The Daily Star that there would not be major changes in the upper echelon of the po-

lice administration.

Authoritative sources said that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) policy planners, known as kitchen cabinet, in their meeting Tuesday night agreed in principle to change Abdul Matin Chowdhury from command of the Home Ministry. Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, a veteran freedom fighter, is the most likely replacement. Sources further said that Matin Chowdhury had also expressed his willingness to resign, if asked to by the Prime Minister.

As the kitchen cabinet does not include all the ministers, the Prime Minister Begum See Page 12 Col 8

## AL, allies announces week-long programme

By Staff Correspondent

Twelve opposition political parties, including the Awami League, announced a week-long programme Thursday to protest the assassination bid on Workers' Party leader Rashed Khan Menon MP and continued terrorism in the country.

The protest week is to begin today, said sources.

During the protest-week, the Awami League, the five-party alliance, the Patriotic Democratic Front (PDF), the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Siraj) and Ganotantri Party will hold rallies, bring out processions and carry out other programmes throughout the country, said a statement.

The decision to hold the week-long protest programme came at the adjourned meeting of the political organisations with Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Sheikh Hasina, in the chair.

The meeting took place at the official residence of the opposition chief at Minto Road in the capital Thursday evening.

Sources present at the meeting said that the one-and-a-half hour talks elaborately discussed the possibility of a long drawn movement against terrorism and unabated violence.

The political parties will held dialogue among themselves to thrash out a combined programme during the week of protest.

Thursday's meeting, the third round since August 18, would be followed by another meeting over the week, the sources said.

They said that a committee with representatives from all these parties present might be formed after the protest-week to chalk out the combined action programme. See Page 12 Col 7

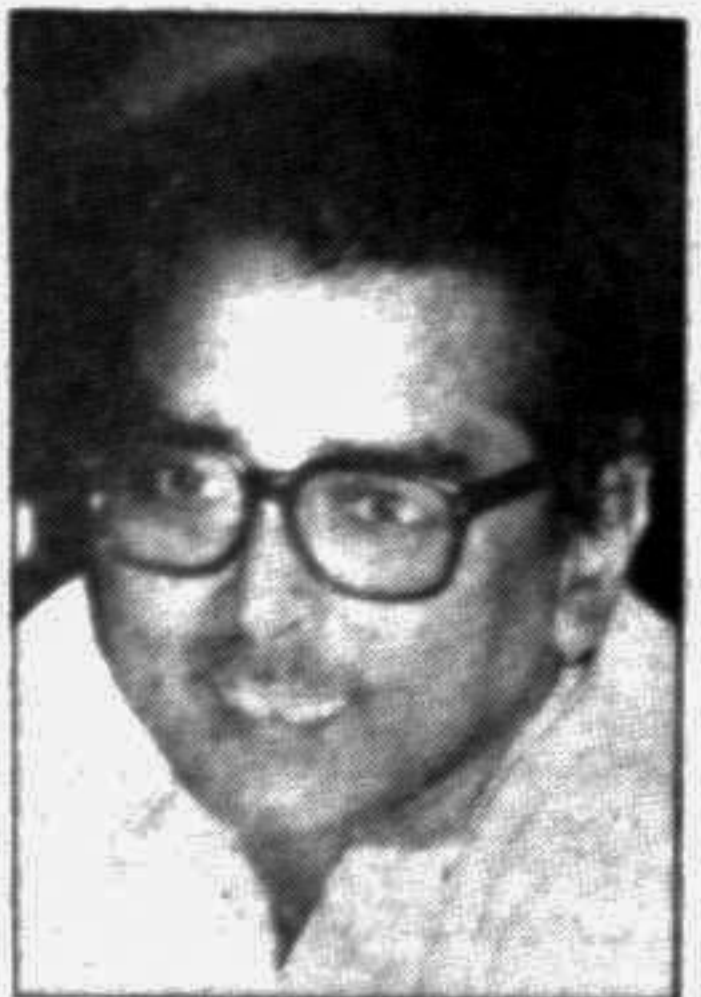
## Cement crisis to add Tk 1 cr to TCB coffer

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi and Sharier Khan

In a case of faulty policy decision, the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) did not get the supply of a large quantity of cement in due time leading to a scarcity in the market, but eventually the failure on the part of its foreign suppliers is likely to fatten the TCB's purse by

more than one crore taka.

The India Exim Ltd that won the bid in June '90 tender to supply one lakh metric tons of Romanian cement defaulted in shipment due to have taken off in May and end next January. No Romanian firm, however, took part in the tender. See Page 12 Col 1



## Menon recovering well but under constant observation

By Staff Correspondent

The condition of Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon, MP, is improving, according to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) authorities yesterday.

Menon was on intravenous fluid and remained under observation at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

"His condition is improving and remained stable throughout the day as he talked to attending physicians and relatives," said the on-duty medical officer (DMO) at the ICU last night.

Earlier, a CMH health bul-

See Page 12 Col 8

## Monir, his brother on remand

By Staff Correspondent

Detective Branch (DB) police Thursday brought former Jatiya Party MP, Alhaj Monirul Islam Monir and his younger brother Zahurul Islam Rumi, general secretary of Shantinagar Club, on two-day remand for further questioning in connection with the attempt on Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon.

Detective Branch police See Page 12 Col 7

## Five-party says it 'knows' the assailants

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Five-party alliance yesterday accused the government of protecting the assailants of Menon by not pursuing a proper investigation.

Five-Party leader Hasanul Haq Inu at a rally said, "The government, since the murder attempt, had not, for once, called the Five-party leaders, nor had it shared any idea or See Page 12 Col 1

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার  
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড  
ঢাকা

বিড়ির আবগারী কর তথা ব্যান্ডরোল ফাঁকির বিরুদ্ধে সতর্কবাণী

- \* ইদানীং গভীর উদ্বেগের সাথে লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, কিছু সংখ্যক বিড়ি প্রস্তুতকারক ও বিক্রেতা ব্যান্ডরোল বিহীন বিড়ি বাজারে বিক্রয় করে ফাঁকি দিয়ে যাচ্ছে। উল্লেখ থাকে যে, প্রতিটি বিড়ির প্যাকেটে ০.৪৮ টাকার ব্যান্ডরোল লাগানোর বিধান রয়েছে।
- \* সকল বিড়ি প্রস্তুতকারক ও বিড়ি বিক্রেতাগণ ব্যান্ডরোল বিহীন, ব্যবহৃত ব্যান্ডরোলযুক্ত ও নকল ব্যান্ডরোলযুক্ত বিড়ি বিক্রয় পরিহার করুন।
- \* ব্যবহৃত ব্যান্ডরোল সংগ্রহ, পুনঃ ব্যবহার, ব্যান্ডরোল ক্রয়-বিক্রয় ও হস্তান্তরের মাধ্যমে তাহা ব্যবহার করা থেকে বিরত থাকুন।
- \* বিড়ি উৎপাদনে আবগারী আইন ও বিধিমালা অনুসরণ এবং সঠিকভাবে ব্যান্ডরোল লাগানোর মাধ্যমে আবগারী কর প্রদান বাধ্যতামূলক। ইহা অমান্য করা আইনভে দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ। এতে জেল ও জরিমানাসহ বিড়ি উৎপাদনের আবগারী লাইসেন্স এল-৪ সাসপেন্ড এমনিংকি বাতিল হতে পারে।
- \* বিড়ির আবগারী কর তথা ব্যান্ডরোল ফাঁকিরোধকল্পে বিশেষ স্কোয়ার্ড ইতিমধ্যেই দেশের সর্বত্র তাদের অভিযান শুরু করেছে।
- \* ব্যান্ডরোল বিহীন বিড়ি, ব্যবহৃত ব্যান্ডরোলযুক্ত ও নকল ব্যান্ডরোলযুক্ত বিড়ি বাজারে বিক্রয় হতে দেখা গেলে নিকটস্থ কন্সটবল, এন্ডাইজ ও ভ্যাট অফিসকে অবহিত করার জন্য জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড সকল সচেতন নাগরিকের প্রতি আহবান জানাচ্ছে এবং জাতীয় রাজস্ব আয়ের স্বার্থে সকল দেশপ্রেমিক নাগরিকের সহযোগিতা কামনা করছে।

ডিএফপি (জি) ১৫৪৩০-১৯/৮  
জি-১০৩৯

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড