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# The Daily Star

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Hasina visits Rahmat Ali

Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited Rahmat Ali, MP, at the Diabetic hospital. Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Khan Panini and several ministers including Commerce Minister Khurshed Anwar and Energy Minister Dr Mosharraf Hossain also visited Ali at the hospital, reports BSS.

### AL to interview candidates today

The parliamentary board of Bangladesh Awami League is scheduled to meet today at 10 am at its central office to interview the candidates seeking party nomination for by-elections in Mymensingh-3 and Rajbari-1 Jatiya Sangsad constituencies. Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting, reports BSS.

### 645 more arrested, arms recovered

Police arrested 645 people on various charges from different parts of the country in 24 hours till Monday evening. During the countrywide drive, police recovered 94 illegal arms — 56 pipeguns, 4 rifles, 3 revolvers, 3 pistols and 28 guns and 266 rounds of ammunition and four explosives, reports UNB.

## NAM summit begins in Jakarta today

JAKARTA, Aug 31: The six-day 10th Non-Aligned Movement summit begins here tomorrow to reaffirm the commitment of the member states to strengthen the movement, achieve economic security of the developing countries and establish peace and understanding among them, reports BSS.

The heads of state and government of the 106-member Movement have been meeting at the Jakarta Convention Centre in this beautiful city after three years with the realisation that world needed the NAM despite the unipolar world for their own betterment.

Indonesian President Soeharto, who is the chairman of the 10th NAM summit, will open the meeting at the Centre at 9 am.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who arrived here this afternoon to attend the summit, will lead the Bangladesh delegation comprising Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, State Minister for Forest and Environment Gayeshar Chandra Roy and Foreign Secretary, Reaz Rahman.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, talking to BSS correspondent on board the Biman flight, said this summit would provide an opportunity to the highest leaderships of the Third World to reinforce the role of the movement in the emerging new world order. See Page 12 Col 3



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia (left) has a chat with Indonesian President Suharto upon arrival in Jakarta yesterday. — AFP photo

## Khaleda in Jakarta

JAKARTA, Aug 31: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was given a red-carpet welcome when she arrived this afternoon to attend the six-day summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) beginning here tomorrow, reports BSS.

Indonesian President Soeharto was at the Jakarta Halim International Airport to greet the Bangladesh leader when the special Biman flight carrying the Prime Minister and the members of her entourage landed here at 4.33 pm (local time).

A smiling President Soeharto gracefully dressed in blue-black suit warmly greeted Begum Zia.

Two young girls wearing traditional Indonesian costumes presented bouquets to the Bangladesh Prime Minister.

President Soeharto then took Begum Zia to the saluting platform and the national anthems of their countries were played.

Begum Zia took salute from a smartly turned-out contingent of the Indonesian armed forces.

Young girls from Bali Island also performed a traditional dance at the airport to welcome the Bangladesh leader. Flags of all the participating countries fluttered at the terminal building of Halim International Airport.

Airport ceremony over Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia drove in a ceremonial motorcade to Hilton Hotel where she will be staying.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, and

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## FBCCI against political movement Govt policy blamed for industries' turning sick

By Staff Correspondent

A conference of over 1000 entrepreneurs of sick industries Monday blamed the policy of the government and non-cooperation of the banks and financial institutions for the industrial units' becoming sick.

The conference, organised by the Inter-Association Sick Industries Rehabilitation Council at the National Press Club, demanded immediate implementation of the recommendations of the Sick Industries Revival and Rehabilitation Cell to salvage the sick units as well as to create a favourable atmosphere for investment.

Participants at the conference said that 90 per cent of the total 40,000 industries in the country had become sick because of some reasons beyond their control.

Undue pressure from the World Bank and the other donors to change government policy on industries had also contributed in hindering the industrialisation of the country leading to a number of industrial units' becoming sick, they said.

The conference was attended by the President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Mahbubur Rahman as chief guest while it was addressed by the leaders

of a number of business groups and associations.

The FBCCI President informed the conference that he would soon sit with the government on behalf of the Federation to discuss the rehabilitation of sick industries.

The government attitude in this regard was positive, he claimed pointing out to the inclusion of the rehabilitation of sick industries for the first time in the industrial policy of the country.

He also said that the officials and bankers included in the Cell, set up by the government for the sick industries, had admitted that the banks were largely responsible for making the industries sick.

The government has admitted the reality and a positive process in this regard has been launched. This is a great achievement for us, Rahman said, adding that the movement for the rehabilitation of sick units should not be like that of the political parties.

Criticizing the action programme taken up by the Council to compel the government realise its demands, the FBCCI chief said that the Federation would not support the Council's position if it launched a movement with political overtones to destabilise the government. See Page 12 Col 1

## Saifur leaves for Calcutta today

Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman leaves Dhaka today for Calcutta en route to New Delhi for a four-day visit to India, reports BSS.

During his brief halt in Calcutta, the Finance Minister will meet Chief Minister Jyoti Basu and address the West Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry today.

In New Delhi, Rahman will meet his Indian counterpart Dr. Manmohan Singh.

Besides calling on the Indian President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, he will hold talks with the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry P. J. Kurien and Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Pranab Mukherjee.

Rahman is also due to address a meeting of the confederation of Indian industry.

## Halt repression on AL workers: Hasina

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the administration to halt repression on her party workers in Kurigram and lift 'false' cases against them, reports UNB.

In a statement, she condemned the unprovoked attack on Awami League procession on August 15 in Kurigram allegedly by the government-backed terrorists.

The Awami League chief, in separate statement, protested 'terrorism unleashed by the

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## Commentary

## Menon case: A plea to Hasina to take a responsible line

By S. M. Ali

This is a direct plea to the Leader of the Opposition and the Chairperson of the Awami League (AL), Sheikh Hasina: 'Please, for heaven's sake, call a halt to your campaign implicating the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) in the attempted assassination of Rashed Khan Menon. Your unsubstantiated charge aggravates the mood of confrontation in the country and threatens to create a situation that no political party — or the administration — can handle.'

Addressing a discussion meeting at her party's central office on Sunday, Hasina asked bluntly, 'How could such a daring attack on an Opposition leader like Menon take place unless it was inspired by the government?'

Then, at the same meeting, reported in the press yesterday, the AL leader repeated her charge, originally made

last week, that Menon came under attack after the 'provocative speech' made by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia during the no-confidence debate in Parliament.

Finally, to quote from the same speech of Hasina, 'The government apparently knew about the attack on Menon beforehand. The head of the government was so nervous that defying all medical restrictions, she (Khaleda Zia) entered the operation theatre with TV camera to show her pseudo-sympathy for him.'

It is strong attack on the Prime Minister, strong but irresponsible, provocative and inflammatory. It can set in motion — we hope, it does not — chain reactions throughout the political scene in the country, provoke waves of anger and fear within the parties and make Bangladesh look like a country facing a possible

bloodbath to the outside world, to our prospective investors, trading partners and donor nations.

We can well imagine what kind of reports are being sent to world capitals from various diplomatic missions in Dhaka.

To accuse a ruling party of being behind the attempted killing of an Opposition leader is irresponsible. It is more so when no proof is offered to justify the charge. Here, one may suggest, if the AL leader has the slightest evidence, even within the realm of probability, in this regard she should take up the matter with the police, in her role as a law-abiding citizen and a member of Parliament. If the police should refuse to accept her complaint, she would be free to demand an explanation from the government.

Since Sheikh Hasina has

See Page 12 Col 7

## High Court sets lovers free

A High Court division bench yesterday ordered release of detained couple — a Kuwaiti girl and her Bangladeshi beloved — and they were also allowed to go wherever they wished, reports UNB.

Court sources said, Batha Essa Hamad Al-Anazi of Kuwait and Ali Ahmed of Feni were taken into police custody from Feni railway station on August 24 and the couple were produced before the High Court division Monday following a habeas corpus petition filed by father of Ali Ahmed.

The bench consisted of Justice Anwarul Haque Chowdhury and Justice Khandker Mahmudul Hasan.

According to prosecution, she fell in love with Ali Ahmed, who was working as chauffeur in their house in Kuwait. When Ali Ahmed left for Bangladesh she followed him to his village at Feni and got married to him under Muslim shariat law.

Batha told the court that she married Ali Ahmed at her own will and without any force. The couple Batha and Ahmed were released from Rajarbagh police line at about 6.30 Monday evening.



LOVE'S LABOUR LASTS: Ali, along with his Kuwaiti wife Batha, leaving the High Court after being ordered released Monday morning. — Star photo

## BNP founding day today

The founding anniversary of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will be observed today throughout the country, reports BSS.

Secretary General of BNP Abdus Salam Talukder has requested all party units to observe the day through hoisting party flags atop party offices and holding milad mahfil, discussions and public meeting.

In the capital, Dhaka city unit of BNP has chalked out two days' programme in observance of the anniversary.

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## Businessman shot in city

By DMCH Correspondent

Unidentified assailants shot at a young businessman at West Rajabazar in the city Monday morning.

Nurul Alam, 28, a contractor, sustained five bullets on his chest, abdomen, throat and two hands and was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Doctors immediately operated on Alam's body and later sent him to the intensive care

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## Wholesalers up drug prices

Star Report

Prices of most of the locally produced medicines will go up from today (Tuesday).

The prices will go up by 3 per cent to 32 per cent. According to the pharmaceutical wholesalers, most of the prominent drug manufacturers of the country except Beximco have already sent new price lists to the wholesalers and retailers effective from today.

Earlier, one of the leading pharmaceutical manufacturers of the country, Beximco reduced prices of 68 medicines on August 1.

New price lists effective from today have been circu-

lated by Fisons, Glaxo, Pfizer and other companies.

The wholesalers said that the price refixation by these companies had been made after a long time but the ratio of the price hike was rather unusually high with some medicines.

The Beximco Ampicillin with the brand name of Decapen capsule in a pack size of 100's had scored an 80 taka jump from 250 to 330 taka within July-August.

The Tk 285 Tylenol Capsule of the same pack size had made a 65 taka jump to Tk 350 within

the same period.

The Glaxo Paracetamol will go up by 10 paise from today and will be priced at 60 paise per tablet. The Beximco Paracetamol 'Napa' tablet already went up by 6 paise making the price at 64 paise per tablet.

Desfero injection of Ciba-Geigy which cost Tk 160 will now be priced at Tk 240.

However, prices of some of the medicines will remain the same as before while those of others will go down by a small percentage, the wholesalers disclosed.

## Menon improving

The condition of Rashed Khan Menon, now under treatment at London's Kings College hospital, was stated to be improving, family sources said in Dhaka last night, reports BSS.

Lutfunnesa Khan, wife of Menon, quoting the hospital's attending physicians, told her family members in Dhaka over phone that treatment of Menon had been progressing well under Prof. Roger William, a renowned liver specialist.

Menon was admitted to Kings' College Hospital Sunday after he was flown to London by a Biman Bangladesh flight from Dhaka.

## Anne is not coming

By Staff Correspondent

Britain's Princess Anne has decided against her planned visit to Bangladesh this month (September), a British High Commission source confirmed to The Daily Star on Monday.

The Princess was scheduled to come to Bangladesh in her capacity as chairperson of Save the Children's Fund, a British voluntary organisation.

The cancellation of the visit was reported by The Daily Star in its Aug. 27 issue. Two days later a New Delhi-dated international wire service reported.

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## US sees signs of Iraqi move for land attack

WASHINGTON, Aug 31: As allied warplanes patrol the skies over southern Iraq to protect Shiite Muslim rebels, the United States has detected signs that Iraq is preparing a ground offensive in the region, President George Bush's National Security Adviser said Sunday, reports AFP.

The official, Brent Scowcroft, said in an interview on NBC television that the United States had detected 'signs of preparation for a ground offensive against guerrillas operating in the vast marsh regions of southern Iraq near the

border with Iran. He said the Shi'ites periodically attacked Iraqi troops, emerging from the marshes to stage hit-and-run attacks.

'There are a couple of (Iraqi) divisions in the south that have moved out of their garrisons, and there have been signs of preparation for another ground offensive for several weeks now', he said.

Scowcroft declined to say how the United States and its allies might respond to such an offensive but he appeared to suggest that Bush might order an attack from the air. 'I don't

want to speculate, but were flying over there for a reason', Scowcroft said.

AP adds: President Saddam Hussein has told Iraqis to prepare to resist the US-led air embargo protecting Shiite Muslim rebels because western powers plan to sunder his nation and seize its oil.

'The leadership is determined to reject the bold aggression and confront it with all means available and on all levels', Saddam said Sunday in his first statement about the flight ban imposed Thursday to protect Shiite Muslims in the

southern marshes from Iraqi warplanes.

Their aim is to partition the region into weak statelets and seize control over their oil wealth,' Saddam said, warning other Arab nations and neighbouring Iran they would suffer the consequences of cooperating with the 'no-fly' zone.

Meanwhile, a UN nuclear inspection team arrived in the Iraqi capital Monday, the first to visit since the allied 'no-fly' zone went into effect last week over southern Iraq.

Italian team leader Maurizio See Page 12 Col 2

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 31:

The 200 United Nations personnel in Iraq have been placed on a state of maximum alert following a series of harassment incidents and threats against them, a UN spokesman said here Monday. Francois Giuliani said the warning was made following acts of harassment on Monday, including threatening phone calls at night and broken windows on the vehicles of UN personnel, reports Reuters.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Board of Revenue Dhaka

### Notification

It is being observed with great concern that cars/jeeps/micro-buses imported under temporary importation facilities for subsequent re-exportation by different foreign aided projects are tremendously misused. It is also reported that instead of using yellow number plates as per rules, in some cases, these vehicles are being used having local black number plates applicable for duty paid vehicles. Under these circumstances, henceforth, all such vehicles will have to be cleared at the import stage on payment of leviable duties and taxes with a claim of refund under Duty Drawback Rules. However, special types of vehicles required for project implementation such as trucks, dump-trucks, crane mounted trucks etc will not come under the purview of this order.

2. This order comes into force with immediate effect and all types of foreign aided projects will come under the purview of this order.

DFP (G)15859-29/8 National Board of Revenue G-1100