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# The Daily Star

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**Announcement**  
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**STOCK MARKET**

DSE price index	783.80 (-0.13%)
Market capital Tk	48.54 billion
Transactions in volume	183218
Transactions in value Tk	47.56 million

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Always the Real Thing  
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**CJ off to China**  
 Chief Justice A T M Afzal and Justice Latifur Rahman of the Appellate Division of Supreme Court left Dhaka yesterday for Beijing to attend a five-day long 'law Asia-6th' chief justices conference beginning there on August 16. Meanwhile, the President has authorised Justice Mostafa Kamal of the Appellate Division, to carry out the duties of the Chief Justice during the interim period, reports BSS.

**UP member shot dead**  
 JESSORE, Aug 14: A member of Baguhati Union Parishad in Avoynagar thana was shot dead early today. Police said a group of unknown miscreants called Ashraf Alam, 35, out of his residence at Madhyapur village and gunned him down at about 1 am. The body was sent to Jessore Sadar Hospital for autopsy, reports UNB.

**Tk 14.7 cr remittance**  
 Expatriate Bangladeshis remitted about Tk 14.71 crore through foreign money orders in July this year, said an official handout.

## Six more killed in Savar, Rajshahi 10 of a burial party die in Comilla accident

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Sixteen people were killed and over 70 injured in three road accidents in Comilla, Rajshahi and Savar yesterday and the day before. Of the 16, 10 were killed in Comilla and 5 at Savar. During the past one week, a spate of road accidents in different parts of the country claimed at least 36 lives. Ten passengers of a microbus, carrying a body, were killed on the spot when the vehicle collided head-on with a bus at Chhoighara, three km off Chandina thana head-

quarters yesterday, reports our Comilla correspondent. At least 30 others were injured in the accident that took place at around 12:15 pm as the Dhaka-bound passenger bus collided with the microbus coming from the opposite direction. Wahed Ali, a security man at the Subarwardi Hospital in the city, his family members and relatives were accompanying his mother's body in the microbus to his village home at Maligaon in Hajiganj in Chandpur. Wahed, his wife, son and relations died on the spot, said Chandina police. The injured — all passengers of the bus — were given first aid at different hospitals. Of the dead, seven were identified as Wahed Ali, 45, his wife Kanchali Begum, 35, their son Bhulu, 3, and relatives — Abul Hussain, 40, Abul Quasem, 50, Earunnessa, 45 and Abdul Hakim, 35. The other three could not be identified immediately. The bodies were sent to Comilla General Hospital morgue for autopsy. Chandina police seized

## 2 drown, 4 bodies recovered Floods grip fresh areas in 6 districts

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Floods have gripped fresh areas in six eastern and northern districts due to onrush of waters from the upstream and heavy rainfall over the last few days. Most of the rivers in the flood affected districts were flowing above the danger levels. Our staff correspondent in Chittagong reports: Police and fire brigade personnel yesterday morning recovered the bodies of four persons of a family buried under piles of earth following the landslide at Motjharina of Lalkhan Bazar area caused by rainfall Sunday night. The dead were identified as Johra Khatun (35), Hafizur (51), Rubie (2) and Tarikul (5). See Page 12 Col 4

## Tornado hits 6 villages of Netrokona

**NETROKONA, Aug 14:** At least seven persons were injured, two of them seriously, when a tornado lashed six villages in Netrokona district last night, local administration officials said here today, reports BSS. They said more than four hundred shanties, a primary school and a mosque were blown away by the tornado which raging at a speed of 120 to 150 kilometres per hour battered the area for fifteen minutes. Over one thousand trees and a dozen of electric poles were uprooted in the tornado. The district administration distributed three metric tons of wheat and 20 tins of biscuits as relief among the affected people of the areas.

## AL calls half-day hartal today

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Awami League has called a country-wide hartal from 6 am to 12 noon today demanding repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance to pave the way for trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Awami League, which observes August 15 as 'National Mourning Day' has appealed to the people to observe the hartal and register their protest against the killing. The programmes of the day include placing of wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu and hoisting of national and party flags at half-mast. Black flags will be hoisted at party offices See Page 12 Col 3



## Death anniversary of Bangabandhu today

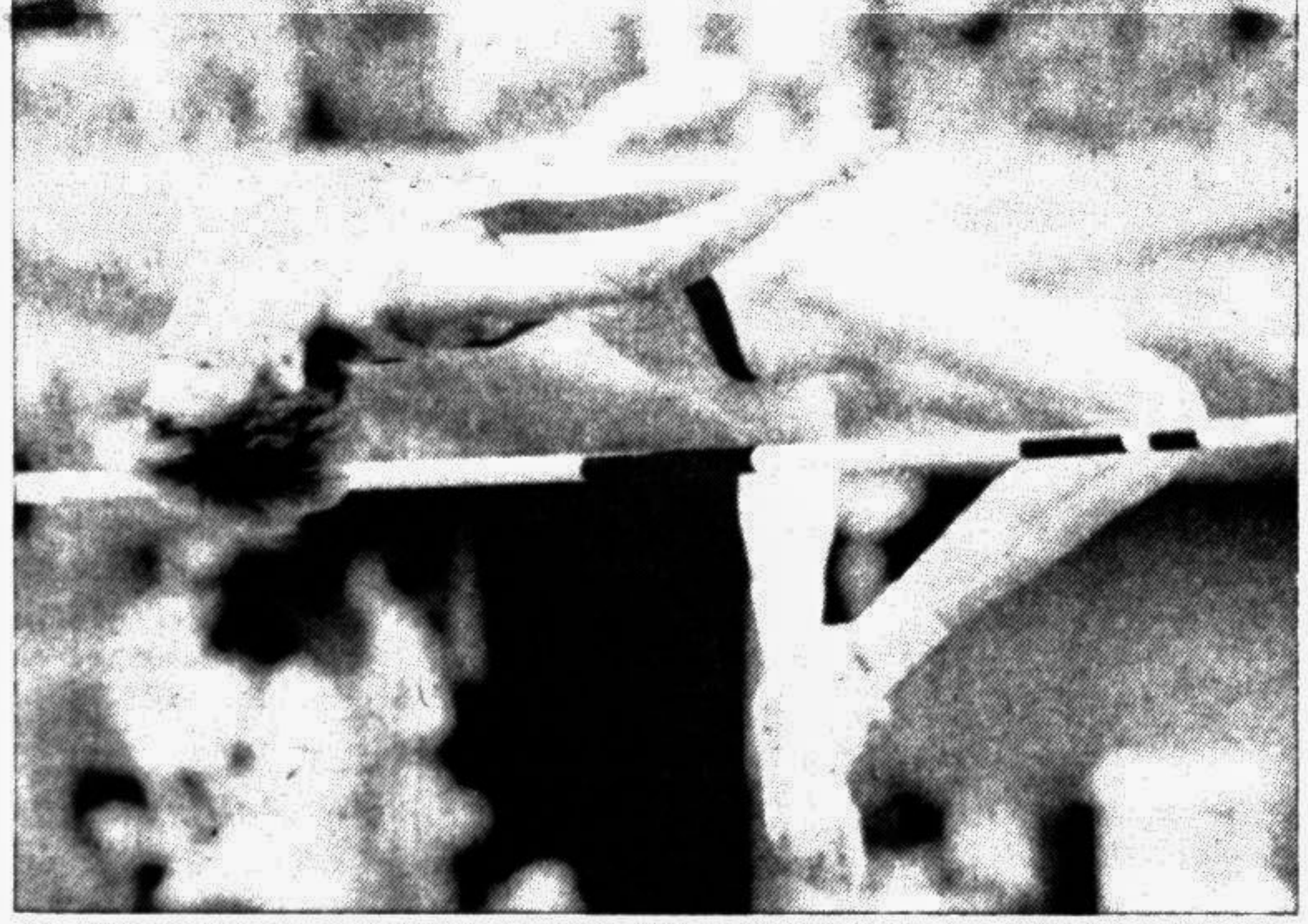
**By Staff Correspondent**  
 The 20th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be observed throughout the country today. The Awami League, and other political and socio-cultural organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to observe the day as a 'National Mourning Day'. Awami League's programmes include a nationwide general strike from 6 am to 12 noon today, putting up black flags atop and hoisting the National Flag at half-mast, garlanding the portrait of Sheikh Mujib and holding *milad mahfil* at the Bangabandhu Bhavan at 12:31 pm, offering *fateha* at the graves of the martyrs of August 15 and wearing black badges from today to August 31. The party will also arrange feeding of destitutes at all city units as elsewhere in the country, special prayers at religious places, *milad mahfils* and *Qurankhwani*. Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will address a public rally at 4 pm tomorrow at the Bangabandhu Avenue. As part of the observance programmes, a week-long programme began at the mazar of Bangabandhu at Tungipara in Gopalganj on August 11 with Sheikh Hasina laying wreaths at the grave. Meanwhile, AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman in a See Page 12 Col 6

## PM's Bosnian Muslim Fund created

The Cabinet in a meeting yesterday decided to create 'Prime Minister's Bosnian Muslim Solidarity Fund' to raise money for helping the Muslims of war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports UNB. The regular weekly Cabinet meeting, held at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, expressed solidarity with the Bosnian Muslims confronting world's one of the worst ethnic cleansing by the Serbs. It was further decided that the Prime Minister would donate a sum equivalent to one month's salary and ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers their seven days' salary to the fund. To collect donations to the fund, an account has been See Page 12 Col 8

## People will reject hartals: BNP

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 The ruling BNP is likely to ignore the Opposition's planned agitations for dissolution of parliament and election under a caretaker administration as the party stalwarts believe that programmes like 'hartals' would damage their popularity. "Let them call hartals and barricades people will definitely reject those who cause sufferings in public life," said an influential minister asking not to be named. The senior BNP leader, talking to The Daily Star yesterday said the opposition's planned agitation will fail to evoke public support. "People are fed up with destructive programmes and are gradually withdrawing their support from the parties that do such agitations." See Page 12 Col 2



An airborne Bulgarian Stefka Kostadinova, 30, clears 2.01 metres on her way to winning the gold in women's high jump event at the World Athletics Championships in Gothenburg on Aug 13. — AFP/UNB photo

## 5 risky bridges on Dhaka-Aricha highway

**SAVAR, Aug 14:** At least five bridges on the Dhaka-Aricha highway have become very risky following incessant rains for last three days and might collapse at any moment causing serious accidents, officials said today, reports UNB. Besides, hundreds of potholes have developed on the 90-kilometre national highway during the last three days causing severe hindrance to vehicular traffic. Sources in the local Roads and Highways Department said all the 48 bridges on the important highway were damaged by bombing during the 1971 War of Liberation. Constructed in the 60s, three bridges suffered further damage during the severe flood in 1988.

## Bilateral meet begins Aug 29 Bulging trade gap with Delhi to dominate talks

**By Sharier Khan**  
 The country's bulging trade gap with India, which increased by more than 22 times over the last 10 years, is expected to dominate the upcoming bilateral Trade Review talks due to start in the capital on August 29, official sources said. The country's trade gap with India increased from Tk 71.43 crore in 1984-85 to Tk 1567.97 crore in 1993-94, according to Bangladesh Bank statistics. The ministerial level Trade Review Talks between Bangladesh and India is also likely to focus on tariff barriers by India, sources in the Foreign Ministry said. The trade talks, last held in Delhi in 1992, will also discuss unresolved issues of the last meeting and issues relating to the South Asian Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAFTA). While Bangladesh has reduced tariffs at a faster rate down to 25 per cent this fiscal, under the trade liberalisation policy, India's rate remains as high as 70 per cent. Traders often blame the Indian tariff level as a barrier to the marketing of Bangladeshi products there. According to Bangladesh Bank figures, during the period of 1984 to 1994, Bangladesh imported goods worth Tk 6153.98 crore from India. In contrast, over the same period the country's exports to India stood at Tk 519.31 crore only. In total, the trade gap of the last 10 years stands at Tk See Page 12 Col 3

## Adhikari survives chopper crash

**KATHMANDU, Aug 14:** Nepali Prime Minister Man Mohan Adhikari received minor injuries today when an army helicopter in which he was travelling crashed near Nepalgunj, about 550 km from Kathmandu. Radio Nepal said, reports Reuter. It said the helicopter crashed on the banks of Rapti river near Nepalgunj two minutes after it took off for Kathmandu. Adhikari, 74, was taken to Nepalgunj for treatment, the radio said. Nepali Home Minister K P Sharma Oli and deputy general secretary of the ruling communist Unified Marxist Leninist Party Bandy Gautam were also travelling with Adhikari. The radio did not say if they were hurt in the accident.

## Ex-minister Major Iqbal jailed for 5 years

Major (Retd) Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury, a former state minister for food under Ershad regime, was convicted yesterday for corruption and sentenced to 5 years simple imprisonment, reports UNB. The court also fined him to pay Tk 10 lakh, or in default, to suffer one year simple imprisonment. Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed a case against him with Ramna police on January 20, 1991. According to the Bureau, accused Iqbal Hossain — when he was state minister for food in 1989 — had violated the government import policy and abused his official power to import two lakh metric tons of rice from See Page 12 Col 8

## Delhi's move to free remaining hostages

**SRINAGAR, India, Aug 14:** The Indian government said it had contacted militants, holding four Western tourists in Kashmir today in an effort to win the release of the hostages, reports Reuter. "There was a contact this morning," a spokesman for the government of Jammu and Kashmir state, KB Jandial, told reporters in Srinagar, the state's summer capital. Jandial offered no details on the results of the contact with Al-Faran militants but said a government intermediary had been in regular touch with the abductors throughout the six-week-old hostage crisis. He said that in discussions with Al-Faran before Norwegian hostage Hans Christian Ostroe was found See also page 8 beheaded on Sunday, the captors never said they would kill him or any other hostage. Asked if the government had asked Al-Faran today for assurances it would not kill any more captives, Jandial said: "The militants made no assurances." See Page 12 Col 7

## Kostadinova, a rare reviver!

**GOTHENBURG, Aug 14:** Stefka Kostadinova of Bulgaria brought back memories of her golden triumph in Rome eight years ago when she won the women's high jump title at the World Athletics Championships here on Sunday, reports Reuter. Kostadinova, now 30 years old, won with a clearance of 2.01 metres to reclaim the title she won in the Italian capital in 1987 on the day she set the current world record of 2.09 metres. Alina Astafei, who became a German citizen this year, added a World Championship See Page 12 Col 8

## Newly wed woman murdered

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 A newly married housewife was allegedly murdered at her husband's residence at Ulan in the city Sunday. Police arrested the husband and mother-in-law of the victim Nasrin Akhter, 23, yesterday for interrogation. Police said marks of injury were found on Nasrin's body. Nasrin's husband Bazul Rahman, a trader, had gone to Daudkandi in Comilla earlier. He returned Sunday evening but found his bedroom closed from inside. Not getting any response from inside, he called some local people, broke the door and found his wife dead. See Page 12 Col 8

## Killings mar Pakistan Day festivities

**KARACHI, Aug 14:** Thirteen people were killed in Karachi, six of them shot and dumped in a van, marred Pakistan's independence day festivities today during which Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto vowed to end 'terrorism', reports AFP. As Benazir spoke at a grand open-air ceremony outside parliament in Islamabad, marking the 48th anniversary of Pakistan's independence from Britain, police said they found six bullet-riddled bodies in an abandoned van, slumped over the seats, bound and blindfolded. The victims, shot in the head and chest, were probably kidnapped in various parts of the city and their bodies dumped in the stolen vehicle in the central district, police said. A sailor, leading a band at a military parade at the mausoleum of the founder of the nation Muhammad Ali Jinnah, was killed by a sniper in a nearby buildings, police said. In Orangi, western Karachi, two bodies were discovered and two men and a woman were shot dead by unidentified gunmen.

## Mastans, terrorists get arms from 'clandestine markets' in Ctg

**From Nurul Alam**  
 gh this channel also reach student activists in Chittagong, Dhaka and Rajshahi universities for campus violence. The supply of arms from the Shantibahini is routed through the northern parts of Chittagong, the sources added. Some of these arms reach here through the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf channel from hilly areas in the border; they said. Once in a raid in December '94 police recovered one LMG and some other weapons from two young terrorists at a Raozan village. Police believe fund constraints sometimes compel the Shantibahini men to sell arms. Sources in the areas said Shantibahini men in plain clothe frequently visit the hilly villages of Raozan and Fatikchhari to contact the mastans and terrorists. With the easy availability of large quantities of illegal arms and ammunition from the Shantibahini, law and order situation in the whole of Chittagong has deteriorated with abduction, dacoities and terrorist acts becoming rampant. Local people alleged that law enforcing agency personnel did little to recover the illegal arms and ammunition and to contain terrorism. Victims of terrorism also hardly lodge complaints against the terrorists for fear of further victimisation. Shantibahinimen, aided by local mastans and terrorists also collect tolls from land owners and farmers of the hilly villages including Dubua and Yasinnagar of Raozan and tea garden owners of Fatikchhari bordering the Hill Tracts, other sources said.

## White panel sweeps DU dean polls

**By DU Correspondent**  
 The pro BNP White panel swept the election of deans of faculties of the Dhaka University for the 1995-96 and 1996-97 academic sessions, securing five out of the seven posts. The Blue panel supporting the Awami League and the left leaning Pink panel won one seat each. The election was held yesterday at the Teachers Students Centre (TSC) from See Page 12 Col 1