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Dhaka Day by Day

## Malaysian Opposition leader discloses 28 Bangladeshis die at a detention camp

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 25: At least 28 Bangladeshis died at a detention camp for illegal immigrants here, according to newspaper reports Thursday, says AP.  
 The news reports were based on statements by opposition leader in parliament, Lim Kit Siang, who visited the camp on Wednesday and reported the deaths of 42 illegal immigrants — 28 Bangladeshis, seven Indonesians, five Indians, a Myanmar and a Nepalese.  
 Lim's visit was prompted by investigations by a voluntary group, which first reported on July 27 that many immigrants had died of disease, malnutrition, neglect and physical abuse.  
 The Indian embassy meanwhile, has asked the

Malaysian government for details about the deaths of five Indians, a diplomat said here today.  
 The High Commission, or embassy, learnt about the deaths through newspaper

### Bangladeshi journalist beaten up

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 25: Malaysian policemen beat a South Korean businessman two journalists from Nepal and Bangladesh in their hotel rooms, mistaking them for drug runners, news reports said today, according to AP.  
 The policemen barged into the rooms of Parsuram

reports Thursday, said Deputy High Commissioner Deepak Vohra.  
 "Since we had not been informed about the deaths we have asked for details from the foreign ministry," Vohra told the Associated Press.  
 The Indian High Commission is the first to seek explanation from the Malaysian government. Indonesian and Myanmar Embassy officials said they were checking the reports but refused to elaborate.  
 The government has denied allegations of torture and abuse at the camps made by the volunteer group Tenaqumita, which based its report on interviews with 340 inmates.  
 But Malaysian officials have



### Mixed fortunes for host teams

Sports Reporter  
 The Bangladesh boys team continued their impressive march in the Sixth Commonwealth youth handball championship when they squeezed past Nigeria 30-29 at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday.  
 The result ensures the local outfit a place in the semi-finals as the Group-A champions.  
 Meanwhile, the Bangladesh girls' team was outplayed by their Indian opponents 32-15 in the first match of the day.  
 None of the two host teams are scheduled to play today.



Rabiul of Bangladesh is in full flight, on his way to score one of four spectacular goals, as Mugu of Nigeria tries to get out of his way in the sixth Commonwealth youth handball championship at the Mirpur Indoor Stadium yesterday. The hosts edged past the visitors (Details on Page-10) — Star photo



President of Mali Alpha Oumar Konare, Madam Adame ba Konare, President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Begum Hosne Ara Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the State banquet hosted in honour of the visiting Malian President at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

## Banquet at Bangabhaban Dhaka, Bamako vow to face common challenges

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, and the visiting Malian President Alpha Oumar Konare, called for expanding economic cooperation for mutual benefit of the peoples in the two countries, reports BSS.  
 They were speaking at a state banquet at Bangabhaban hosted by the President and Begum Biswas for the Malian leader and Madam Konare.  
 The two presidents also called for strengthening cooperation among developing countries to face the common challenges of economic development and eradication of poverty experienced by the

## Formal talks today

Official talks between Bangladesh and Mali will be held here this morning to devise ways for further strengthening cooperation between the two countries in all fields, reports UNB.  
 Visiting President Konare of Mali will lead his country's side. The home team will be headed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.  
 The talks, to be held at the International Conference Centre (ICC), will cover bilateral matters as well as regional and international topics of common concern.  
 The two leaders are expected to discuss implementation of Bangladeshi agricul-

## DSE trading sinks to year's lowest

By Sharier Khan  
 Trading of shares and debentures marked a sharp fall at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) floor last week as small investors were unwilling to invest in the bearish market, market sources said.  
 The daily average volume of trading fell by 48,000 shares and debentures last week and the average value of trading fell by more than Tk 1.85 crore daily from the averages of the previous week.  
 The volume and the value of trading at the closing of last week were the lowest in the year, the sources said, adding only 42,324 shares and debentures worth Tk 78 lakh were traded Thursday.  
 The week began with a negative note as the all share price index of the DSE fell by 9 points to 773.29 from the previous week's closing point of 783.24. The index moved up to 777 points Wednesday but again fell to 775.45 at the

## Guest birds start early visit

By Staff Correspondent  
 Migratory winter birds, popularly known here as 'guest birds' have started arriving in the country quite early this year.  
 Arrival of the common Swallow (Hirundo rustica) birds was recorded in the second week of July, says a press release of the Wildlife Society of Bangladesh.  
 The field-study team of the society, which has been stationed at the site of the proposed Jamuna Bridge area in collaboration with the Environment Unit of the bridge authority has recorded these migratory species.  
 The Curlew or Mongolian Sand Plover were seen in the third week of July, the Little Ringed Plover and the Common Sandpiper in the fourth week of July, the Yellowheaded Wagtail and the

## 'Establishing democracy no easy task'

The visiting Malian President said Mali was keenly observing the ongoing efforts to maintain democratic process in Bangladesh under Begum Zia's leadership tackling initial odds and obstacles, reports UNB.  
 "We have also understood from our own experience that establishing democracy is not an easy task, it involves various obstacles and painstaking efforts to overcome those," Alpha Oumar Konare told Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.  
 The Malian President was talking to Begum Zia when she made a courtesy call on him yesterday at state guest house Korotoa in the evening.  
 Konare said his country is sincerely eager to strengthen bilateral ties with Bangladesh and hoped that the existing relations between the two Muslim countries would further develop in the years to come.  
 The Malian President said

## Tk 2.25 cr smuggled goods recovered : 4 arrested

From Our Correspondent  
 COX'S BAZAR, Aug 25: BDR, police and Customs officials have geared up their drive to recover smuggled goods allegedly unloaded from foreign ships recently, official sources said.  
 Conducting raids in different areas of the district, they recovered smuggled goods worth about Tk 2.25 crore and arrested four persons in this connection yesterday.  
 The recovered goods include 557 cartons of Benson



## Hillary to attend Beijing confce

WASHINGTON, Aug 25: Hillary Rodham Clinton will attend the United Nations conference on women in Beijing early next month, administration officials said today, reports Reuter.  
 The decision followed the expulsion from China on Thursday of Harry Wu, an American citizen and human rights campaigner, who had been sentenced by a Chinese court to 15 years in prison for espionage. "We would not have gone, if Wu was still being held," one official said.  
 Hillary will only attend the conference and related activities and will have no official contact with Chinese authorities, the official added.



Sheikh Hasina addressing a meeting of pro-Awami League ward commissioners of the DCC at a city hotel yesterday. — AI photo

## 'Protest EC's motivated decision'

By Staff Correspondent  
 Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina said yesterday her party was struggling hard to establish people's right to vote and food.  
 She was speaking as chief guest a gathering of pro-Awami League ward commissioners of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) at a local hotel.  
 Hasina accused the government of keeping alive an inoperative Parliament by violating the Constitution.  
 "People's suffering will increase further if this government hangs on to power anymore," she said.  
 Hasina called for organising country-wide demonstration tomorrow (Sunday) to protest the Election Commission's "capricious and politically motivated decision."  
 She said price-hike of commodities made the people's life miserable. The government has no control over the market and law and order situation.  
 Hasina urged all to make the party's agitation programmes including the counter-

## Fire at sweater factory

By Staff Correspondent  
 A fire broke out in a sweater factory partially damaging machinery and other goods at Patuati in the city yesterday evening.  
 None was, however, injured.  
 Police and other sources said that the fire originated from an electric short circuit at the factory on the second floor of a four-storied building.  
 Fire service sources, however, said that they were not sure how the fire broke out.

## 20 military observers off to Kuwait

A team of 20 officers of the Bangladesh Armed Forces left Dhaka for Kuwait Thursday night to work as observers in Iraq at the invitation of the United Nations, reports UNB.  
 An ISPR press release said yesterday that the team will join as observers in the United Nations Guard Contingent in Iraq (UNGCI).  
 Led by Lt Col Ahamad Muktadir Arif, the team comprises 14 army officers, three naval officers and three air force officers.

## Child lifting phobia grips Chittagong

From Nurul Alam  
 CHITTAGONG, Aug 25: A child lifting phobia has gripped the port city. For about a month now, at least one innocent person is being victim of mob beating everyday on suspicion of being child-lifter.  
 Police rescued a mad man from mob beating at Agrabad this morning, Police said, an unruly mob, suspecting the innocent mad man to be a child lifter, beat him mercilessly until he was rescued. He would have been beaten to death, police later said.  
 The victim was admitted to the Chittagong Medical Hospital for treatment.  
 Such incidents have become so frequent that at least ten innocent people were assaulted by unruly mob in the last one week on suspicion of allegedly being child lifters, police and witnesses said.  
 However incidents of child lifting in Chittagong has not increased in the past one month, police said.  
 Yesterday evening, one Abdus Sattar (45) was beaten by an unruly mob at Muradpur under Panchlaish

## Two more BAU halls raided: 4 arrested

MYMENSINGH, Aug 25: Violent demonstrators of a faction of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) damaged a microbus of a ruling party MP at Natun Bazar in the town today, reports UNB.  
 Witnesses said the activists of the Chanchal-Hasu Mukti Parishad brought out the torch procession in support of a half-day hartal in the town tomorrow for release of their leaders.  
 They swooped on the microbus of AKM Fazlul Haq while it was crossing Natun Bazar area in the evening, they said.  
 Police arrested Shahadat Hossain Chanchal, VP of BAUCSU and four other leaders on Wednesday and recovered huge arms and ammunition from their possession.  
 Police also raided the Bangladesh Agriculture University's Shamsul Haq Hall

## Dining out in Style

Page 3

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Jamuna erosion hits 550 families

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 25: Severe erosion by the river Jamuna has rendered some 550 families homeless in three thanas of the district during 48 hours till Friday noon. Of the homeless families, 150 were in Sadar thana, 200 in Kazipur and 200 in Chowhatti, official sources said, reports UNB.

### Father, 2 sons electrocuted

From Staff Correspondent  
 CHITTAGONG, Aug 25: Two college-going brothers and their father were electrocuted last night at Durgapur village under Mirsharai thana, police said. They were identified as customs inspector Nizamuddin, 50, and his sons Badrul Alam, 23, and Shamsul Alam, 22. No further details were available.

### Bridge on river Shibsha

KHULNA, Aug 25: A 300-metre bridge on the river Shibsha on Tala Betgram road will be constructed soon at a cost of Tk 12 crore. Communications Minister Oli Ahmed laid the foundation of the bridge on Thursday evening. Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali was present there on the occasion, reports UNB.

### Wu returns to US

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug 25: Chinese-American human rights activist Harry Wu returned home Thursday after a two-month ordeal in which he was convicted of spying charges, sentenced to a 15-year prison term, and quickly expelled, reports AP.  
 His wife and associates met Wu on the tarmac at San Francisco International Airport at about 8 pm (0300 GMT Friday).  
 "I believe you all know how happy I am now," Ching Lee Wu told reporters shortly before her husband's flight arrived from Shanghai.