

Auto-rickshaws  
stay off roads  
for second day

Star Report

Auto-rickshaws barring some did not pay on the streets of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and elsewhere in the country for the second day yesterday protesting the fuel price hike.

The absence of the familiar smoke-belching auto-rickshaws and auto-tempo carrying a bulk of city's commuters caused inconvenience to people. The rickshaws charged higher rates. Few auto-rickshaw however defied the wild-cat strike and reaped a bonanza on the day.

Some stray incidents aside, the strike was peaceful. In the evening some unruly elements set fire on an auto-rickshaw near the Dainik Bangla cross-

See Page 12 Col 6

**BNP agitation begins today**

The four-day agitation programme of main opposition BNP, demanding cancellation of 'anti-people' decision to enhance the prices of petroleum products, begins today, reports UNB.

The BNP will hold protest rallies and bring out processions in all thanas, district and divisional headquarters today.

On Friday, processions in all wards and villages in support of Sunday's dawn-to-dusk nationwide hartal.

On Saturday, BNP will take out torch processions across the country to drum up support in favour of the hartal.

BNP Secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement yesterday called upon the leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations to observe the programmes and make the Sunday's hartal a success.

Another report adds, an emergency meeting of Dhaka city BNP will be held today at 7 pm at 29 Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

A joint meeting of central and Dhaka city committees of Jatiyatabadi Morcha Dal will also be held today at 5 pm at the BNP central office.

**Fuel price hike was inevitable: AL presidium**

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League Presidium at a meeting last night resolved that price increase of petroleum products was 'inevitable' for keeping it at par with the price in world market.

Prime Minister and AL chief Sheikh Hasina chaired the 90-minute meeting held at the Ganabhaban, said party sources.

The meeting was continuation of the previous day's meeting of the presidium.

Though a number of Presidium members argued in favour of two-phase increase of petroleum prices, the meeting noted that the country could no longer bear the burden of Tk. 450 crore as revenue loss in the fuel sector per year.

The meeting also took stock of the latest situation arising out of sharp reaction of various quarters to the price hike and expressed concern at the hartal call for August 24 protesting the price increase.

Besides, the AL presidium noted that rampant power failures throughout the country made people's life miserable.

**Inside Today**

**Article**

**Charisma and the Leadership Question in Bangladesh**

by Dr Abul Kalam  
Page 4

**Focus**

Verbatim text of cross-examination of seventh prosecution witness in Bangabandhu Murder Case

Page 5

**Business**

BNP resolves to fight GSP cancellation move

DSE index recovers another ten points

Pages 6, 7

**International**

Pak president endorses Anti-terrorism Law

Page 8

# The Daily Star

Congestion surcharge on Ctg port

## Port users likely to sue CFTC

Port users may seek legal actions against CFTC which, they said, imposed congestion surcharge on Chittagong Port without any valid ground in contravention of international shipping rules, reports UNB.

"If possible, we'll go for legal action," said Farid Ahmed Chowdhury, leader of the Bangladesh delegation which negotiated with the CFTC in Singapore, at a press conference yesterday at the BGMEA office.

The Singapore-based Chittagong Feeder Trade Committee (CFTC) imposed congestion surcharge for one month from Au-

gust 15, forcing the port users to lose a huge amount of money.

Chowdhury said as per the code of conduct of the UN convention on shipping, the CFTC could not explain valid reasons or account for the surcharge before the users.

"It's contrary to the international shipping convention. Therefore, imposition of any such surcharge by the CFTC is totally illogical and illegal," he told newsmen.

In this situation, Chowdhury mentioned that the port users have the right to take legal action against them as per

See Page 12 Col 7

the code of conduct of the UN convention on shipping.

Mahbub Ali, senior vice-president of BGMEA and also a member of the delegation, said the exporters would have to spend Tk 25 crore as surcharge in one month.

"Why we'll bear the extra cost when we're not responsible for the congestion in the port?" Garments exporters will have to pay major portion of the surcharge, he said.

Farid A Chowdhury said during the meeting with the CFTC on August 14, the

See Page 12 Col 7

Injunction sought on Khaleda's birthday on August 15

By Special Correspondent

A case was filed with the Fourth Assistant District Judges Court, Dhaka yesterday by Advocate Mohammad Subhrawary, an Assistant Public Prosecutor (APP), seeking Mandatory Injunction restraining BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia from celebrating her birth day on August 15.

According to court sources, the APP said that as per documents available from the Dhaka Education Board, Begum Zia was born on September 5.

The plaintiffs are moving

See Page 12 Col 6

**Salman's death**

**CID interrogates Aziz Bhai**

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday interrogated business tycoon Aziz Mohammad Bhai implicated in the controversy over the death of film star Salman Shah, reported UNB.

During a three-hour interrogation at the CID office at Malfibagh in the city, sources close to the investigators said, they mainly asked him if Aziz knew the people mentioned in the 'controversial' confessional statement of Rezvi.

CID investigators — Special Superintendent Abdul Hannan Khan, additional SP Subodh Chandra Chanda and investiga-

See Page 12 Col 5



Employees of the Power Development Board demonstrating in the city yesterday protesting the government move for privatisation.

—Star photo

**Project to improve JS support services**  
**AL-BNP dispute over authority to supervise implementation**

By Nurul Kabir

Implementation of a project to improve support services in Jatiya Sangsad is facing fresh trouble as the ruling party and the Opposition has been engaged in a dispute over the 'appropriate authority' to supervise the work.

The project involves over Tk 50 crore, funded by donors.

According to sources, the ruling Awami League (AL) maintains that the Jatiya Sangsad Task Force, constituted last year, will supervise the overall reform process while the recently constituted Steering Committee will implement the project. But the major opposition party in Parliament, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), says the Steering Committee is the sole authority to supervise implementation of

parliamentary reforms, and the Steering Committee, on Monday said he did not find any dispute between the JS Task Force and the Steering Committee.

The Task Force is supposed to be responsible for the overall implementation of the reform projects while the Steering Committee will look after the day-to-day affairs in the implementation process.

While talking to this correspondent at his office, the Speaker emphatically said that he would go ahead with the implementation of the projects after those are approved by the Jatiya Sangsad Commission. Headed by the Speaker, the JS commission, comprising Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Law, Justice

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, who is the head of

See Page 12 Col 7

**Can you please help Simky's father, Mr Home Minister?**

Star Report

For over 10 days, seventeen-year-old Simky has been missing. Her sister Sweety, two years older than her, was just luckier. She returned home. Poor Simky didn't.

Their father, not knowing where to knock after normal process failed to bear fruits, was frantically looking for a journalist, of all the people.

And Shamsul Huda came to The Daily Star. He thinks the Home Minister is the one who can help him find his daughter.

Police? Yes, he had knocked that door, but was told: "We'll definitely try to find your daughter. But you do too."

The problem is Huda knows who they are. So do the local police, if what the officer in charge at Keraniganj police station said had some meaning.

On August 9 evening, Simky, along with her sister Sweety, was walking back home from her uncle's house. Some men, brandishing knives and such other weapons, jumped on

ment to local police. Haunted by the frightening event, the girl still in bad shape, mentally.

The incident took place in Zinjira, the other side of the Buriganga that separates the area from capital Dhaka. And anybody having some knowledge of the crime scene there knows what it is.

The Keraniganj police, approached immediately, were efficient enough to catch at least one of the accused, Anu, but not enough to rescue Simky, prompting the poor father to believe he would need to go further.

Huda thinks Minister Rafiqul Islam is a 'sensitive person', and asks if one of us at Star knows him personally and can make him act.

Huda strongly believes her daughter is the victim of an old enmity between a group of 'well-identified terrorists' of the locality and himself.

They are known cadres of

See Page 12 Col 7

Judgement in Yasmin murder case Aug 31

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Aug 20: The judgement in Yasmin rape and murder case will be delivered on August 31, the District and Sessions Judge, Rangpur, declared in the court on conclusion of arguments today.

The arguments continued for four days.

The case was divided into two parts and the trial was held separately in two courts. Judge Abdul Matin was the presiding judge in both the courts.

In the first part of the case, trial of the three main accused out of nine was held in the Special Court, Rangpur.

They were charged under the Children and Women Repression Act. Hearing and arguments in this case concluded on February 15.

In the second part of the case, trial of all the nine ac-

See Page 12 Col 4

**Flood situation in six southern districts worsens**

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 20: Flood situation in the low-lying areas of Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Jhalakati, Barguna and Pirojpur districts have deteriorated following sharp rise in water levels of the rivers in the region.

The water levels in Meghna, Kirtankhola, Paira, Atrial Khan, Sandhya, Agunmukha, Bishkhali, Baleswar and Tetulia have marked a sharp rise while some of them are flowing above the danger marks.

Crops on thousands of acres of land and dwelling houses in the low-lying areas of the affected districts have been inundated.

See Page 12 Col 3

## Bangabandhu Murder Case

**Army chain of command was not broken on Aug 15: PW-8**

By Staff Correspondent

Maj (retd) Shahdat Hossain, eighth prosecution witness in the Bangabandhu murder case, during his deposition told the court that he saw senior Army officers assembling at the office of his unit Commanding Officer in the morning of August 15, 1975.

During cross-examination, he also said that it was not true that the chain of command in the Army had broken down. He said that he was the Adjutant of his Unit and was very much under the Commanding Officer of his unit.

"Because of some disgruntled officers, the top brass of the Army on that day seemed to be scared," Shahdat said.

When the lawyers suggested that he was a tutored witness, he said, "It is not true."

Shahdat Hossain in his deposition said that he was a Captain and Adjutant of First East Bengal Regiment under 46 Brigade, when Bangabandhu and his family members were killed on August 15, 1975.

He was repatriated to Bangladesh in December, 1973 and he joined the First East Bengal Regiment.

He is now working as Secretary, Bangladesh Paritarian Corporation (BPC). He had joined the BPC in 1986 after his retirement from Army in 1983.

The deposition of Shahdat

was taken down by SPP Ramzan Ali Khan. He was assisted by Moshtarrif Hossain Kajol and Touhidul Islam Ba-

10:30 am Tuesday. Lt Col MA Hamid, then Station Commander of Dhaka will make his deposition before the court on Tuesday.

The PW-8 also identified the panjab and spectacles of Bangabandhu which were produced before the court at the end of his deposition.

The proceedings began at 10:55 am yesterday in the court of the District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka and continued for about five and a half hours.

The court was adjourned till

HC grants Beximco prayer

By Staff Correspondent

The Beximco Investment Company Limited (BICL) has sought two weeks' time to reply to show-cause notice to explain why a petition from one of its creditors, Eastern Bank Limited (EBL), seeking its liquidation, would not be accepted for hearing by the Company Bench of the High Court.

Yesterday was the date for hearing, fixed by Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim on July 31. The Court granted the petition from the creditor.

The deposition of Shahdat

was taken down by SPP Ramzan Ali Khan. He was assisted by Moshtarrif Hossain Kajol and Touhidul Islam Ba-

10:30 am Tuesday. Lt Col MA Hamid, then Station Commander of Dhaka will make his deposition before the court on Tuesday.

The District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, will hear