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## Key man behind bringing rocket launcher held

Police yesterday arrested the key person responsible for bringing in the much-talked rocket launcher recovered by the detective branch about two months ago, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Motijheel thana arrested Kaiyum, 28, from in front of Natoreddam College in the city at about 9 pm. He was taken to thana custody.

Police sources indicated that he might be brought under DB custody on remand for further interrogation.

The DB recovered the foreign-made rocket launcher along with a gun from Arambagh in the city on June 27 following statements by four people — Lahu, Sultan, Russel and Kharuddin.

They mentioned Kaiyum's name as the key person for bringing the rocket launcher in the country.

Police and intelligence agencies had taken the recovery seriously as they considered the presence of such rocket launcher.

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## Autorickshaw strike postponed

Autorickshaw drivers have postponed their non-stop strike and decided to drive their three-wheelers from today, reports UNB.

They observed the strike in the city for the sixth consecutive day yesterday expressing solidarity with the hartal called by the BNP to protest the increase in fuel price.

The drivers brought out processions in different parts of the city and joined a rally of Dhaka District Autorickshaw Workers Union.

The union leaders told the rally in front of its Paltan office in the morning that the people should not join the strike.

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## Khaleda leaves Karachi for Islamabad

BNP Chairperson and leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia arrived in Karachi on Saturday night, reports UNB.

The BNP Chairperson was received by Social Welfare Minister Tahmina Daulat Ara at the Karachi Airport at 1.30 pm.

Begum Zia is on a three-day visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

High officials and Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner to Pakistan Aktaruzza-man were present at the airport, according to a party press release in Dhaka.

Later Begum Zia was taken to a State Guest house in a motorcade from the airport.

She left for Islamabad yesterday morning.

## 70 'pushed back' from India

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Aug 24: Bangladesh Rifle (BDR) personnel arrested 70 people 'pushed back' from India near Hakimpur border area of Chapainawabganj district.

BDR sources said that those people had been illegally trafficked to India four months ago. They had been arrested by Indian police and later sentenced to three months and 10 days' imprisonment.

They were pushed back to Bangladesh on Thursday last after completion of jail term.

BDR personnel arrested them and handed them over to the local police.

All 70 people, 66 male and four females, are residents of Chagnaiya of Feni district.

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Police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse pickets at Topkhana Road in the city during hartal hours yesterday.

— Star photo

## Dawn-to-dusk hartal observed 100 hurt in sporadic clashes, 40 arrested

By Staff Correspondent

At least 100 people were injured, one of them critically, in sporadic clashes during yesterday's dawn-to-dusk hartal across the country, called by the BNP in protest against price hike of petroleum products.

Besides, more than 40 pro-hartal activists were arrested and several people including a few women were beaten up during police-picket clashes in the capital.

Those beaten up by police in the city included BNP Vice President M K Anwar MP, former home minister and BNP leader Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Amanullah Aman MP.

Habibur Rahman, a photo journalist of the government-owned Dainik Bangla, was seri-

ously injured when hit by a tear gas shell at the back of his head in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the morning. Police was firing shells at a small BNP rally there.

Habib was operated upon at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). After a three-hour operation, surgeons told newsmen that they would be able to make a "positive comment" on the condition of the injured after 48 hours.

A news agency report, however, quoted leading neurologist Prof Rashiduddin Ahmed, who examined the victim as saying, "Habib's condition is good, he is improving."

A Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of police, based at the Po-

lice headquarters, has been assigned to investigate the incident and submit a report within three days.

Meanwhile, the Health Minister, Minister of State for Information and Prime Minister's press secretary visited the DMCH to see the condition of Habib.

Trouble in the Press Club area began when some activists from a BNP procession started tearing banners hoisted on the occasion of 'National Mourning Day'. The banners were inscribed with messages honouring Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Police teargassed the processionists and chased them

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## BNP to hold countrywide demonstrations tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

At least 150 BNP activists were injured in 'indiscriminate and unprovoked' police action and another 100 arrested in the capital during yesterday's hartal, the party Secretary General, Abdul Mannan MP, claimed at a press conference.

Besides, a large number of party workers were subjected to police repression in many other parts of the country while 'people were observing the hartal peacefully,' Mannan Bhuiyan told the press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

The BNP Secretary General

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## Press Club auditorium ransacked, seminar foiled

A seminar on the National Mourning Day was foiled when a section of alleged terrorists raided the seminar venue at Jatiya Press Club yesterday evening, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Awami Ainjibi Parishad has organised the seminar to mark the 22nd anniversary of death of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

According to witnesses and organisers, the attack came from a post-hartal rally organised by BNP in front of the Press Club.

The attackers snatched away the banner and festoons from the dais and ransacked the au-

See Page 12 Col 7

## Clash on Kashmir border denied Bid to sabotage peace talks : Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Aug 24: Pakistani defence ministry officials vehemently denied Indian military reports today that 51 Pakistani soldiers were killed in heavy fighting between the two armies along their border in disputed Kashmir state, reports AFP.

"No exchange of fire has taken place in the past two, three days in Uri and Kargil sectors" as claimed by Indian officials, a defence ministry spokesman here said.

An Indian military spokesman earlier said 51 Pakistani troops were killed and 45 others wounded when the Indian army retaliated after gunbattles erupted late Satur-

day and continued today. Indian officials said the worst fighting involving heavy artillery was going on today at Uri, 400 kilometers northwest of Jammu in Indian held Kashmir, as well as at Kargil.

Earlier story on page 8

There is no question of heavy casualties as there was no clash in the two sectors," a Pakistani defence ministry spokesman told AFP.

The Pakistani defence ministry earlier said clashes took place in Chakhoti, Pandu and Sank sub-sectors along the

See Page 12 Col 7

## Nari Samaj rally attacked

By Staff Correspondent

Some unruly elements attacked a women's rally marking the death anniversary of Yasmin, in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday evening.

The rally was organised by the 'Sammilito Nari Samaj,' a women's rights organisation on the occasion of its 'Women's Oppression Resistance Day.'

According to witnesses, some unruly people who were attending a BNP meeting in the vicinity, suddenly attacked the rally of the Sammilito Nari Samaj.

The activists suddenly disrupted the meeting of the Nari Samaj when one of the speakers, Sultana Ruby, was delivering her address. They seized the microphone and snatched the torches which were kept by the women's group to bring out a

See Page 12 Col 8

## People express no-confidence in govt: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has congratulated the countrymen for making the countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal a success, reports UNB.

Begum Zia, who is now in Islamabad on her way to USA, in a faxed statement yesterday said people have demonstrated their no-confidence in the government by observing the hartal spontaneously.

She said people have also expressed their protest through the hartal against the unprecedented price hike of gasoline.

"Now it will be wise for the government to cancel immediately its anti-people decision of enhancing the fuel price," she observed.

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament protested and condemned the police action on pro-hartal activists without any provocation.

She blamed the government for instigating and instructing the police to attack the opposition activists.

Begum Zia also protested the

See Page 12 Col 7

## Rajuk wears a deserted look

By Staff Correspondent

More than 90 per cent of Rajuk staff were absent from work during the hartal hours yesterday.

When this correspondent visited Rajuk Bhaban at around noon, a guard at the main gate said, "There is none in the building, where do you want go?"

See Page 12 Col 4

## Bills for village, union council polls to be placed in JS

The government is going to introduce two separate bills on the newly created village and union councils in the next parliament session beginning August 30.

Disclosing this to UNB, LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday said the bills would also be passed in this session to ensure Village Council and Union Council elections in December.

He said voting would be held simultaneously from December 1 to December 31 in some 4471 union and 40,239 village councils.

Zillur said two more bills regarding the Upazila Council and District Council would be placed in parliament's seventh session, possibly in October-November.

Replying to a question, he said Upazila and District Council elections are likely to be held early next year. Schedules of the elections will be announced by the Election Commission.

During an hour-long interview at his Secretariat office, the Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister explained the objectives of the four-tier local government administration.

He said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government is committed to decentralising the administration to reach the fruits of democracy to the people.

The proposed four-tier local administration will be made accountable to the people, ensuring democracy and development at the grassroots level through devolution of power.

About the structure of Village Council, the Minister said there will be nine elected Wards in each union. Under this new formation, almost each village will have its elected representative. An elected member of the Ward will be ex-officio Chairman of the proposed Village Council.

Zillur said the Village and the Union Councils would pre-

pare their own development projects and implement those in their respective areas.

The two councils will have the power to assess and collect revenue under their jurisdiction. The government will also provide necessary funds for their development projects.

Zillur said people's participation in the infrastructure development would provide an opportunity to change their economic condition.

About the modality of Upazila Council, he said 30 per cent women members would be elected directly. The strength and modality of the Upazila Council are under study.

The District Council will also have elected representatives of women. A proposal for giving status of State Minister to the elected District Council Chairman is under consideration.

Zillur said some 40 offices under 23 ministries and divisions would be placed under the

See Page 12 Col 8

## \$400m for dev projects likely ADB to send team to study feasibility of Ganges Barrage soon

The Asian Development Bank will send a mission to Bangladesh soon to study the feasibility of a barrage over the Ganges, the project crucial for about 40 million people facing the hazards of desertification and arsenic poisoning, reports UNB.

The ADB, one of the major donors to the country, is also expected to provide some 400 million US dollars in assistance to Bangladesh for its various development projects during the current 1997-98 fiscal.

During the official-level talks between the ADB and the government at a city hotel yesterday, ADB president Mitsuo Sato agreed to send the expert team for the study from the Bank's Manila headquarters.

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Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria led the Bangladesh side in the meeting while the ADB team was headed by Sato, who arrived in Dhaka Saturday night on a four-day official visit to Bangladesh.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Dr Masihur Rahman and ADB Alternative Executive Director M Faizur Razzak were included in the Bangladesh side.

ADB Resident Representative in Dhaka Bhanuphal Horayngura was in the ADB team during the meeting that lasted for more than one and a half hours discussing various economic issues and future projects.

"We had a very satisfactory discussion," Kibria told newsmen of the outcome of the meeting. He said the government's economic policies and future development agenda were explained to the ADB chief.

The minister said they had detailed discussions on poverty alleviation, government's commitment to education and eradication of illiteracy, rural infrastructure development and regional cooperation.

Kibria said the ADB chief expressed his satisfaction over the overall success of the Bangladesh economy, particularly the economic stability, low level of inflation and economic growth rate.

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## Juba League activists shot dead in N'ganj

By Staff Correspondent

A Juba League activist was fatally injured as unidentified gunmen shot him at Morapara under Rupganj thana in Narayanganj yesterday morning.

Tarik Bin Jamal, 29, was hit in his chest when the assailants opened fire from a close range near the TNO office in Rupganj at about 11 am, police said.

Son of a former Upazila chairman, Tarik was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Later, he was shifted to the Chest Diseases Institute where he succumbed to his injuries at about 4:30 pm, according to police and hospital sources.

The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately. A UNB report quoting the SP of Narayanganj said the incident was a sequel to previous enmity.

Our Narayanganj Correspondent said Tarik was attacked by a gang of BNP activists. He was a thana level leader of the Pro-Awami League Juba League.

Tejgaon police sent Tarik's body to the DMCH for autopsy.

## Businessman murdered in Savar

SAVAR, Aug 24: A young businessman was killed allegedly by his friend at Nagarkonda village here on Saturday night, reports UNB.

Police said Golam Sarwar, 28, of Savar Bank Colony was killed by his friend Helal of Nagarkonda village as he went to visit his (Friend's) residence on Saturday.

Helal confessed to the police as he was interrogated after his arrest.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

## BCL activist hurt in attack in Feni dies

FENI, Aug 24: A Chhatra League activist succumbed to his injuries at the Sadar Hospital here yesterday, report agencies.

Nazrul Islam (20), was admitted to the hospital after being seriously injured in an attack by BNP terrorists near Feni Polytechnic Institute on the day.

Nazrul was a degree student of Feni College and joint secretary of Chhagnainaiya thana unit of BCL.

The Chhatra DA activists allegedly had abducted Nazrul Islam. They also snatched away the body of the victim from the Hospital early today.

Awami League sources said, eight Awami League, Juba League and Chhatra League leaders and workers were killed by the terrorists of BNP in Feni district since the BNP government stepped down from power.

Chhatra League workers Bahar Ahmed (25) was beaten to death today by the JCD activists on Tuesday night. The miscreants abducted the victim along with his friends Obaidul Haq Babu and Delwar Hossain when they were gossiping in front of

See Page 12 Col 3

## Truck driver hurt in Ctg clash dies

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 24: Truck driver Bacchu Meah, who received bullet wounds during a clash with members of the Ansars at Chittagang Port on Friday evening died at Chittagang Medical College Hospital this morning, hospital sources said.

Meanwhile, port police today arrested two members of Ansars on charge of firing on trucks that led to the death of Bacchu.

## DMCH yet to have a centrifuge to separate blood components

By Naimul Haq

The blood bank at Dhaka Medical College Hospital lacks a centrifuge, an instrument for separating blood components, affecting vital life saving therapies.

According to sources in the blood bank, a centrifuge was wanted since it was established but it is yet to be supplied despite repeated appeals to the appropriate authorities.

"They never thought why the apparatus is so important. A former director last year had allocated funds to buy two fridges to preserve blood. But without a centrifuge machine, we are crippled," said a doctor in the blood bank requesting anonymity.

"Everyday we receive requisition for about 60 bags of blood but we can supply less than half the demand. In most cases, patients require different components of the blood and not the whole blood. We could serve more patients had there been a centrifuge in the blood bank,"

he said. Giving an example, the doctor said, a patient suffering from thrombocytopenia will feel greatly relieved if he is given a sufficient quantity of platelets separated from blood. In such a case, the doctor is prescribing treatment of 'whole blood' which partly relieves the patients. Similar is the case with a patient suffering from anaemia, a common disease. An anaemic patient suffers from deficiency of red blood cells (RBC). 'Whole blood' would partly relieve the sufferings. The correct treatment is injecting concentrated RBC, the doctor said.

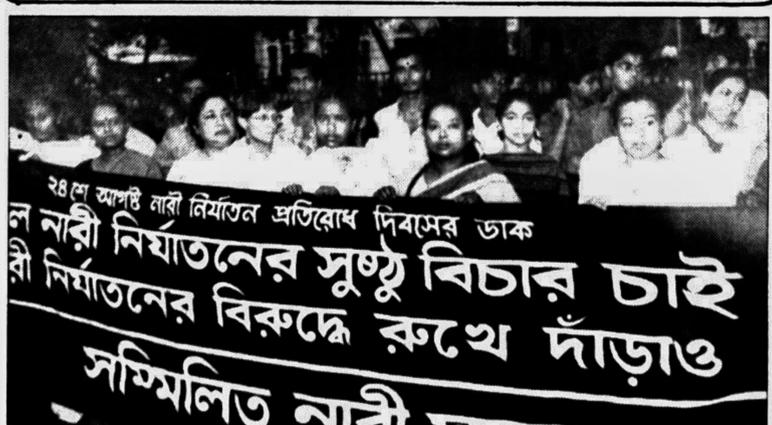
There are many other components like plasma, white blood cells, anti-bodies, serum, blood factors in the blood. These components have various densities and are separated from the fluid portion of the blood by the centrifuge through application of centrifugal force.

"We will be able to overcome the crisis of blood if we are equipped with a centrifuge device. Instead of giving 'whole blood' we would separate the components and give the patients the required thing. With about 25 bags of blood, we will be able to satisfy more than 100 patients a day," the doctor said.

A centrifuge machine costs between Taka 7 and 18 lakh. The authorities concerned promised many times to provide the blood bank unit with a machine but did not give, he said.

Other sources said most of the existing machines in the department are over 25 years' old. Some of these are in use without undergoing servicing for the last 30 years. The distill water tank and the microscope need to be replaced immediately.

When contacted the DMCH authorities said, "The department will be given the required devices according to priority when funds will be available."



Sammilito Nari Samaj brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting violence against women.

— Star photo