

The Daily Star

Today's issue
20 pages

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Threat: Security around US embassy in city beefed up

By Staff Correspondent
Security around the US embassy at the diplomatic enclave of Baridhara has been beefed up following a threat by an anonymous telephone caller on Thursday.
Gulshan thana said that a US embassy official informed them about the threat.
Visa seekers who queued up in front of the embassy were immediately evacuated for an hour on Thursday afternoon.
A young man named Kader was picked up yesterday under Section 54 for using abusive language near the embassy premises at around 6.30 pm. Po-
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No festivity on Khaleda's birthday

By Staff Correspondent
BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia has decided to forego festivity on her 53rd birthday today in view of the deteriorating flood situation across the country, a party press release said yesterday.
Instead, she will distribute relief materials among the flood-hit people in Cantonment thana area in the capital today.
Begum Zia, also Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad, has asked her party leaders, workers and well-wishers to devote themselves to help the flood-affected people.

HOLIDAY
The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of National Mourning Day.
Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow.

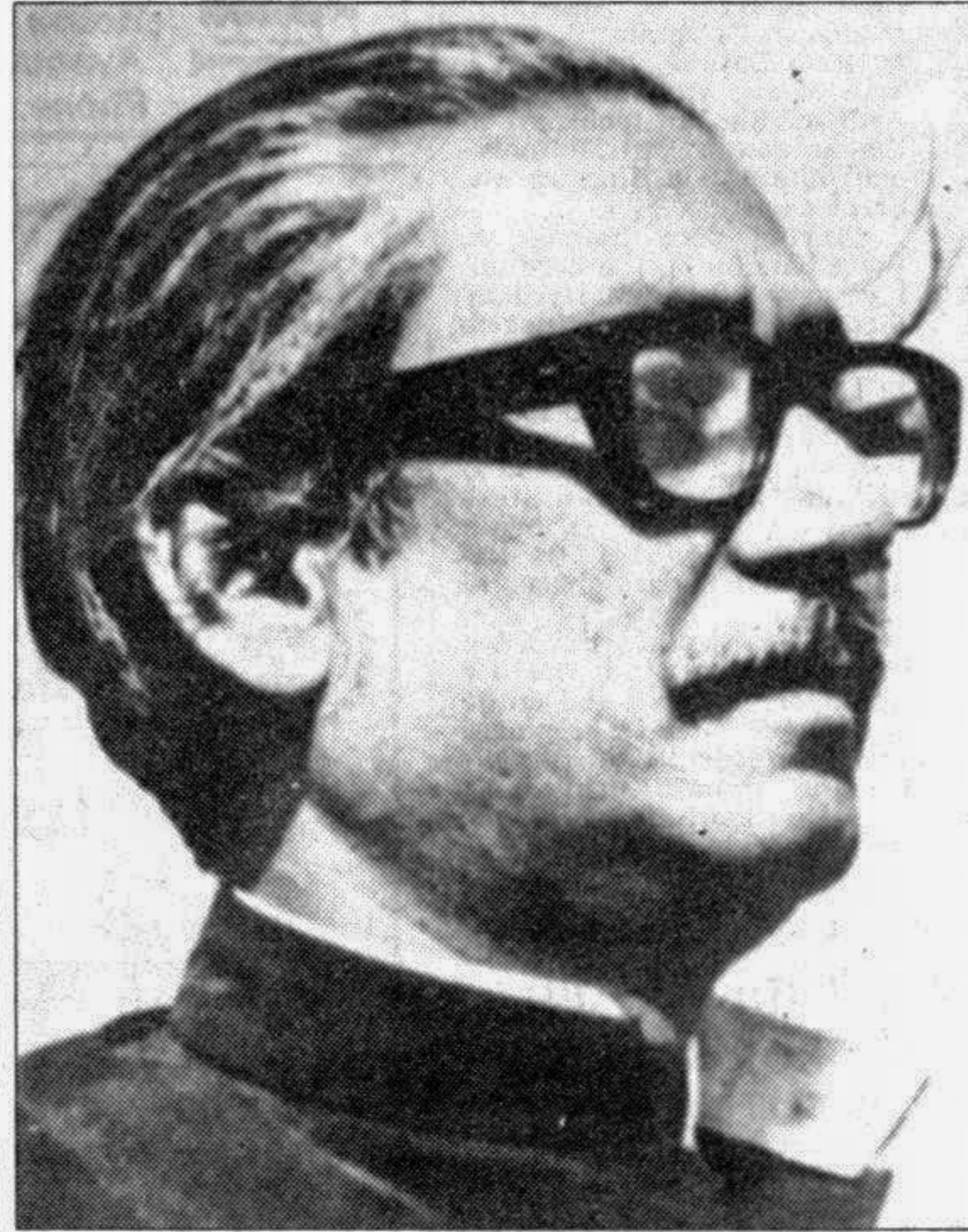
Inside Today Article

Turning Our Grief into a Nation-Building Force
by Mahfuz Anam
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Supplement

Today's 20-page issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page supplement on National Mourning Day on Pages 17-20

Assassination of Bangabandhu Shameful chapter in nation's history: President



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

By Staff Correspondent

The nation today pays homage to the founder of Independent Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, marking the 23rd anniversary of his death.
The day is being observed as National Mourning Day. On the fateful night of August 15, 1975, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib was assassinated in a military putsch.
They day is a public holiday. The National Flag will be flown at half mast today as a sign of respect to the great leader by a grateful nation.
The day is being officially

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observed as National Mourning Day since 1996 when Awami League, led by Sheikh Hasina, one of the two surviving daughters of the slain leader, came to power after 21 years.
On this day 23 years ago, the founder President of the country was killed along with his family members and many close associates at his Dhanmondi residence.
His two daughters — Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana — survived as they were in Germany then.
Other than his wife, sons and daughters-in-law, Bangabandhu's brother Sheikh Naser.
See Page 12 Col 4

Educational instts in Dhaka asked to open shelters

Flood situation takes serious turn

Rolling waters from the upstream and monsoon rain raised the water levels in most rivers, further aggravating the overall flood situation in the country, report agencies.
Relief Ministry control room said the situation has taken a serious turn in 14 districts while Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre predicted that it will continue to deteriorate further across the country, including capital Dhaka and its adjoining areas.
The situation may remain unchanged only in upper part of the Meghna basin.
In the capital, water-logging due to heavy rain over the last two days caused limitless sufferings to the city dwellers.

People still remained stranded in most parts of the city that went under rainwater Thursday.
Only a few areas marked improvement as the water was flushed out through drains and pumps.
The city experienced 117 mm rain in the last 24 hours till 9 am yesterday.
The district administration

yesterday requested the heads of all educational institutions in Dhaka to open their respective shelters to the flood affected people.
In Chittagong, flood waters started receding as there was no significant rainfall yesterday.
Meanwhile Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has put her administration on full alert and

asked the agencies concerned to step up relief operation in the flood-hit areas.
"She (PM) is concerned about the flood and is in constant touch with all DCs and Divisional Commissioners to see the relief goods reach each flood victim in time," a spokesman for the Prime Minister's office said yesterday.
See Page 12 Col 7

100 fishermen missing in Bay

From Our Correspondent

BORGUNA, Aug 14: At least 100 fishermen are missing in the Bay after 21 fishing trawlers and boats capsized in high waves due to downpour and storm in last four days, according to sources.
The capsized trawlers were identified as FB Patharghata-2, FB Patharghata-5, FB Shajahan, FB Monju, FB Ali Kadam, FB Josna, FB Farhana, FB Jalkonna-4, FB Rahat Khan, FB Sadia, and FB Afrin. The names of the capsized boats could not be known immediately.
Some 50 fishermen of the trawlers and boats capsized could swim ashore. They were admitted to the local hospitals.



Rain water has flooded the Ramna Park area in the city.

— Star photo

All power projects likely to be delayed further

By Sharier Khan

All private and government power plant projects already delayed by over a year, will be delayed further while the country continues to experience a loadshedding of 350 mw to 450 mw a day.
A number of projects were scheduled to come into operation in July-August this year. But due to various problems, the schedules for these projects were revised several times. As a result, loadshedding continues to bring misery to public life.
The private power schemes were delayed mostly due to private companies' inefficiency, poor negotiation on the part of the government and poor power project guidelines set by consultants for the Power Develop-

ment Board, sources said.
At the same time, different power plants in the PDB's fragile power generation network are either developing problems one after another or are being shut down for maintenance. As a result loadshedding has once again shot up to 350 mw to 450 mw.
The Ghorashal 210 mw fifth unit was shut down recently for maintenance. It is expected to restart operation on August 16. A couple of months ago, the Ghorashal third unit collapsed as a major component of the plant was damaged. The third unit was later repaired with components belonging to the Ghorashal sixth unit which is still under construction.

The sixth unit, a project being implemented by a Russian company under a Suppliers' Credit scheme, has already been delayed by over a year. Sources said that as per the last schedule, the contractor was supposed to complete the project by last month.
"Now it appears that it would take at least six more months to complete the project," said one source.
The Raozan 210 mw first unit tripped recently. It was restarted five days ago. But now, the Raozan second unit will be shut down for maintenance from the next week.
No progress has been made in the Meghnaghat power project.
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Dhaka WASA to install 200 generators in pump houses

By Mizan Ali

The Dhaka WASA plans to install 200 diesel generators in its pump houses in the city to ensure that water supply is not dependent on power supply.
"These generators will be installed in the pump houses in the city well ahead of the next dry season which begins from mid February," Dr Azharul Huq, Managing Director of Dhaka WASA told this correspondent.
"Once installed, these generators are expected to be used round the year during the peak hours of electricity consumption," said a source. The peak-hour consumption begins at 6:00 pm and continues for four hours.
See Page 12 Col 6

Statements of Rubel's family members to be recorded Sunday

By Staff Correspondent

The CID interrogated three more constables of the Detective Branch yesterday in connection with Rubel murder in the DB custody.
The CID is expected to start recording statements of Rubel's family members from Sunday, sources said.
When contacted, sources close to Rubel's family said, the family members may give statement to the CID on Sunday.
The sources, however, said that Rubel's family members had "reservations" about the CID investigation into the murder.
Home Secretary Shafiqur Rahman, when asked about the

alleged delay and biased approach of the CID in the investigation, said, "The CID is doing the investigation properly."
"I do not see any irregularity in the process of taking AC Akram at the prison cell of hospital," Shafiqur Rahman said in reply to another question. No explanation has been asked from the IG Prison or the DIG of CID in this connection, he added.
Akram, the principal accused in the Rubel murder case, was taken to the prison cell of the PG Hospital as an outdoor patient at about 5:00 pm, on Monday without any permission from the court.
See Page 12 Col 3

Matiur Rahman resigns as Editor of Bhorer Kagoj

By Staff Correspondent

Nationally reputed journalist and founder-editor of the leading Bengali daily Bhorer Kagoj Matiur Rahman yesterday took leave of office following his resignation from the daily a month back.
When asked by The Daily Star Matiur Rahman said, "I believe in an independent media and in the independent role of the editor. This has been my cardinal principle in journalism. Partisan politics and independent journalism cannot function together."
It was learnt that Rahman was facing problems in exercising his non-partisan role as the editor of Bhorer Kagoj for quite some time.
It may be recalled that Saber Hossain Chowdhury, publisher of Bhorer Kagoj and a well-
See Page 12 Col 1

Killers yet to be nabbed Babul Shaha's family demands justice

By Gobinda Bar, back from Savar

Madhabi Shaha (24), widow of Babul Shaha, was speechless and tears rolled down her cheeks when her four-year-old daughter Manti asked her where her father had gone.
A devastated Madhabi, who has also a two-year-old son Akash, cast a vacant look and said she has nothing to support herself and the two children.
"I had everything but now I am ruined. I am worried what will happen to my children," she told this correspondent on Thursday.
Babul Shaha (35), a small trader at Bhagalpur in Savar was allegedly stabbed to death by his next door neighbour Bipul Shaha (27) on July 30 following a family feud over grazing of cattle in a field near his house.

Madhabi's grief stricken mother-in-law Kananbala Shaha said, "My quest for life has evaporated. I am alive to bear the shock of my son's death after 27 years of the killing of my husband by the Pakistani occupation army in 1971."
"I do not know how the innocent children will survive. There is no earning member in the family and we have no property," she said. "I have no hope for anything in life. I only want justice for the killing of my son," she said with tearful eyes.
Even after 16 days of the murder, police could not arrest any of the prime accused.
The prime accused, Bipul Shaha, his father Kalicharan
See Page 12 Col 3



Madhabi, widow of Babul Shaha, with her two children. — Star photo

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