



# The Daily Star

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## Opposition calls 8-hr hartal on Sunday

By Staff Correspondent  
The BNP-led opposition alliance has called for an eight-hour nationwide hartal on Sunday protesting the killing of three BNP workers in Narayanganj yesterday allegedly by ruling party activists.  
He said that one BNP worker died on the spot while two others succumbed to injuries after being admitted in hospital. He mentioned the names of the deceased as Ibrahim, Hafiz and Shahen.  
He claimed all of them to be BNP workers.  
The hartal will be observed from 6 am to 2 pm.  
The alliance has also announced a three day protest.  
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## Salam Talukdar still in coma

By Staff Correspondent  
BNP leader Salam Talukdar, who was admitted to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) on Sunday evening, is still in a critical condition, hospital sources said.  
The Director of NICVD Professor M A Zaman, when contacted yesterday evening, told The Daily Star, "Talukdar's condition further deteriorated Wednesday as his breathing problems worsened."  
Professor Zaman said, "The stimuli is not up to one expectation and his heart beat is not regular but we are giving medication to bring it to normal."  
Professor Zaman also said, "Talukdar is on ventilator. He often breathes on his own but requires breathing aide (ventilator) most of the time which is automatically turned on."  
His blood pressure had dropped last night but it is now under control.  
Salam Talukdar also former secretary general of BNP is still in coma in the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital.

## Inside Today

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### Prayer Timings

August 19		
	Azhan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-15
Johr	12-50	1-25
Asr	5-00	5-10
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



Wife and daughter wail after death of Ibrahim at Narayanganj yesterday. Inset: The deceased.

## Violence during opposition programme One killed, 50 hurt in Narayanganj

By Staff Correspondent

Unidentified gunmen sprayed bullets on a group of BNP activists in Narayanganj, killing at least one and leaving 50 others wounded, as they were preparing to lay siege to the deputy commissioner's office yesterday as part of a nationwide anti-government campaign.  
The dead was identified as Ibrahim, a 35-year-old Jubo Dal activist.  
BNP led opposition alliance reacted with an eight-hour hartal on Sunday and nationwide demonstrations today protesting the violence. The alliance claimed three people were killed and charged the "ruling party goons" with the murders.  
There was also violence in Dhaka city when unidentified

people used guns, home-made bombs and brickbats to thwart demonstrators. The attackers allegedly operated from a rooftop guarded by police at Roy Sahab bazar crossing. The procession at that point was reportedly stopped by police on way of DC's office.  
At least 50 others were injured in the subsequent violence, in which Daily Star photo-journalist Amran Hossain was also hurt. Amran received plastic bullets on his face and body after police fired on the angry BNP supporters who were retaliating with rocks and bombs.  
Trouble also broke out at Barisal where BNP demonstrators were chased by ruling party supporters trying to foil their march.

The BNP and its partners - Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islamic Oikya Jote -- as part of their three-week action programme, was scheduled to lay siege to the DC offices throughout the country to press the government to withdraw its decision to provide "corridor" facility to India "in the name of transshipment".  
The alliance has various other demands including the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner and cancellation of municipal elections results.  
In Narayanganj, Ibrahim (who later died) and 50 others were wounded including 20 with gunshot when a group of armed terrorists opened fire on a BNP gathering, which was preparing

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## Jail Killing Case

### HC sets aside July 4 order

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday set aside the Dhaka Metropolitan Session Judge's July 4 order for further investigation in the Jail Killing Case.

Upon a criminal revisional petition the HC also directed the Session Judge to dispose of the petition of accused KM Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manjur under Section 265C of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) for discharging them from the allegations.

Upon another petition under Section 561A of the CrPC the HC further directed the Deputy Commissioner, Dhaka to show cause within four days why the statements recorded under Section 161 of the CrPC which was not made part of the judicial record and the confessional statement of accused Taheruddin Thakur shall not be expunged.

The Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Hamidul Hoque and Justice Md Hasan Amin also directed the

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## Turkish quake 3500 killed, thousands still missing

ISTANBUL, Aug 18: The death toll from one of the century's strongest earthquakes neared 3,500 today as disaster relief teams from around the world joined overwhelmed Turkish crew facing a deepening humanitarian crisis, reports AP.

At least 3,479 people were killed and nearly 17,000 injured in Tuesday's 7.4 magnitude quake, which left an area of destruction from Istanbul to the Golcuk area about 130 kilometers southeast, according to a special crisis office headed by Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit.

The outpouring of international assistance is certain to accelerate the work among the toppled buildings and homes. But the outside teams may also face frustrating logistical problems of reaching remote villages and squalid Istanbul shantytowns before all hope of finding survivors disappears.

It was almost certain the casualty count would climb, however.

As many as 10,000 people could still be trapped in rubble around Golcuk, a navy base town near the quake's epicenter, said the town's mayor, Ismail Baris. Thousands more were missing in Istanbul and elsewhere.

Amid the ruins in Golcuk, the shock of the disaster gave way to anger. Some residents complained rescue efforts appeared focused on the collapsed buildings at the naval base, where more than 150 military personnel, including some top commanders, were missing.

"Who is helping us?" cried an old woman standing before a toppled home where she said neighbours and family members were buried.

Meanwhile, another potential disaster flared among the

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A body of a quake victim is pulled out of the ruins of a house in Adapazari, near Izmit yesterday. — AFP photo

## Kader Siddiqui meets Khaleda, Ershad

In a major move dissident ruling party leader Bangabir Kader Siddiqui MP yesterday met Khaleda Zia and HM Ershad, reports UNB.

He discussed with them his planned resignation from Parliament.  
Kader Siddiqui told the news agency over telephone that he had one-to-one parleys with Khaleda at 29 Minto Road and Ershad at his Bariidhara office.

"I had one-to-one discussion with them in a very cordial atmosphere. I informed them of my resignation because I think I should inform the opposition leaders following the norms of politics," he said.

Siddiqui, suspended from Awami League on charge of anti-party activities, also told the BNP and JP leaders to take stand against the eviction of slum dwellers in the city.

In reply to a question, he

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## Army withdraws from Chittagong port today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 18: The food cell set up at Chittagong port will be abolished after completion of withdrawal of Army from the port tomorrow morning, port sources said.

Army was deployed at Chittagong port on September 17 last year after formation of the food cell to expedite and supervise discharge of food items from the vessels.

About 500 Army and Navy personnel were deployed at Chittagong port in two phases.

In the first phase, Army personnel were deployed under food cell. In the second phase, they were placed at Chittagong port for security reasons, especially to keep watch on jetty gates. This was aimed at preventing pilferage, looting of

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## Extortionists kill one in city

By Staff Correspondent

A young man was stabbed to death by unidentified extortionists at Maradia in city's Khilgaon area on Tuesday.

The dead was identified as Azim, 30, son of Rasul Box and a resident of Maradia area.

Few days ago the extortionists demanded toll from Azim at his laundry. But he refused to give toll, hospital sources said.

The gang again came on Tuesday and demanded toll at about 1:30 am. They started beating Azim when he refused to pay them toll. At one stage they stabbed him the chest.

Fatally injured Azim was rushed to the Chest Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday.

Azim's body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Brother of the victim Mostafa lodged a case with Khilgaon thana in this connection but none was arrested till filing of this report last night.

## No individual umrah visa

The Saudi Ambassador in Dhaka yesterday called on the State Minister for Religious Affairs and told him that individual Umrah visas would henceforth be discouraged, reports UNB.

"In future visas would be issued in group basis," Saudi Ambassador Abdullah Omar told State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana M Nurul Islam.

The Ambassador emphasised on issuance of non-baltoe Hajj visas to the pilgrims to be recommended by the government, especially by the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

The state minister assured him that all necessary help would be extended in the interest of hajjis from Bangladesh, said an official handout.

## Evicted slum people 'take over' Osmany Udyan

By Shehab Ahmed

Osmany Udyan was 'invaded' yesterday by at least 5000 people who were evicted recently from different city slums.  
"We would stay here until the government plans for rehabilitation is completed, Shahidur Rahman, identifying himself as president of the 'Bangladesh Bastuhara Samity', told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon. His 'troops' took over the park's wooded section earmarked for the convention site of the NAM conference in June 2001.

A banner of the Samity showed its address at 23 Bangabandhu Avenue which also houses the central office of the governing Awami League and its affiliates.

Zohra, a mother of four children who lost her bamboo hut to bulldozers at Kamalapur slum on August 3, said she has been shelled to find a place in the shaded park. She is planning to raise her shanty, she said.

People have been brought in from TT para, Gopibagh, Malibagh, party house at Azampur and other places where the police ran bulldozers to level the slums. They have no shelter, said Nurul Amin, who described himself to be an official of an NGO called 'Development Central International' of Adabor.

Asked about their future plans whether they are going to raise shanties on the park or how they would live during monsoon he insisted that 'Sabbhapati Saheb' should be spoken to.

The 'Sabbhapati Saheb' finally appeared, sporting a mobile phone and introduced himself as 'engineer' Saidur Rahman. He was careful about the plans when he was given the identity of this correspondent as demanded by him.

He said all those who had been evicted in the city are coming to the park since they have

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## Measures to rehabilitate slum dwellers

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced a series of measures for rehabilitation of the slum dwellers in their respective village homes, report agencies.

Each family intending to return to their village will be provided with travel expenses, three months' free food support under VGF programme and micro credit facilities through various institutions and agencies of the government.

The Prime Minister announced the programmes while addressing first meeting of the recently constituted slum dwellers rehabilitation committee.

The meeting held at her office was attended by Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Housing and Public Works Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, Minister for Social Welfare Dr Mozammel Hossain, State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Talukder Abdul Khalek, Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the

Prime Minister and other secretaries and high officials.

The Prime Minister referred to the government's massive programme for providing shelter and employment in the rural areas and said, we are working to ensure home for the homeless and better living for the people.

The slum dwellers are leading a subhuman life in the city slums and are being exploited by a section of people, she said, adding that some people are using the city slums as haven for crimes.

"Government wants to rescue the innocent slum dwellers from this subhuman life and ensure a better and healthy living condition for them in the rural areas," she added.

The Prime Minister said the government is running the Asyran project for the homeless, housing project for the low-income group people, Adarsha Gram (ideal village) project and providing loan and training for the rehabilitation of the poor.

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## EC extends time for 2 BNP MPs

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission has extended the deadline for the two BNP legislators to explain their position in the controversial floor crossing case till August 24.

The EC had asked the contending parties on August 10 to defend their respective positions in writing in a week from the date of receipt of the letters. The BNP submitted its reply on August 17, the last day of the one-week time.

But the two MPs separately wrote to the EC on August 16 seeking one month time to prepare for legal arguments.

The three-member Commission yesterday decided to extend the deadline for them up to 24th of this month, EC Additional Secretary Aziz Ahmed Chowdhury said. "The Commission would decide the date for hearing on the case after the fresh deadline is over."

Two BNP lawmakers, Mohammad Alaiddin and Hasibur

Rahman Swapan, had joined the government of Awami League in February last year against the party decision.

Since then, the BNP has been claiming that the two MPs' conduct amounted to violation of the Constitutional provision that bars floor crossing, and thereby they should lose their seats in parliament. But the MPs have been claiming that they did not violate the Constitution, as neither did they resign from the BNP nor vote against the party.

However, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury referred the disputed matter to the Election Commission on August 8. The Speaker referred the case only after the Supreme Court had asked him to do so.

The Commission had asked the parties concerned on August 10 to put forward their respective arguments in a week from the date of receipt of the Com-

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to unavoidable reasons the wedding of our son OBEID has been cancelled.

Hence all our related functions such as wedding ceremony on 20th August at Sheraton and Walima Reception at Sena Kunja, Dhaka Cantonment on Sunday 22nd August have also been cancelled.

We regret the inconvenience and wish to apologise to all our guests.

H Rashid Nizam

C-656

## Girl killed as terrorists exchange fire in city

By Staff Correspondent

An eight-year-old girl was shot dead during a gunfight between two groups of terrorists in the city's East Bashabo area last night.

The dead was identified as Sathi Huq alias Tumpa, 8, daughter of Emdadul Huq, a resident of 1/27 East Bashabo.

Tumpa was a student of Class Three of a local kindergarten, police and hospital sources said.

Two other local people, identified as Hasan, 28, and Jalal, 18, were injured when the terrorists attacked them as they were chased by the locals. The injured were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

Local people caught one of the terrorists, identified as Masud Ahmed Milon with a loaded revolver. Later he was handed over to police, police said. The incident took place when the two feuding groups

were trading gunshots in Kamadola area of East Bashabo at about 6:30 pm.

Tumpa was standing besides a road adjacent to her residence during the clash. She received two bullets in her chest.

She was rushed to DMCH where the attending doctors declared her dead at about 7:30 pm. The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy, sources added.

Hospital sources said when some local people found the bloodstained Tumpa lying on the road, they started chasing the terrorists and were able to catch Milon.

Milon then made an attempt to free himself from the custody of local people and at one stage he shot Hasan, an auto-rickshaw driver, in his back and leg. Jalal was stabbed by another terrorist.  
Hasan was later shifted to Chest Disease Hospital.



## REMINDER

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We regret the inconvenience.

Abdullah Mohamed  
Area Manager, Bangladesh  
Malaysia Airlines