

VOL. X NO. 193 REGD. NO. DA 781 • www.dailystarnews.com • DHAKA WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2000

Biman's TUs to stage sit-in in city today

By Staff Correspondent
 The steering committee of five trade unions of the Biman employees will stage a two-hour sit-in demonstration in the city today as part of their ongoing protests against the government decision to convert the Biman Bangladesh Corporation into a public limited company.

The demonstration will take place in front of the Biman headquarters at Kurmitola.

The Biman Board of Directors had decided for partial privatisation of the national carrier, offloading 40 per cent of its shares to the strategic partner, nine per cent to the employees while the remaining 51 per cent will go to the government.

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Jubo Dal leader murdered at Feni

From Our Correspondent
 FENI, Aug 1: A Jubo Dal leader was murdered by some unidentified assailants at village Sonarpur under Sadar upazila last night.

Police and witnesses said the victim Khurshed Alam, 28, joint secretary of Jubo Dal GM Hat unit under Fulgazi thana, was kidnapped at gunpoint by a group of eight youths from the house of his father-in-law at midnight.

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Inside Today

Article

Voters Want More than Rhetoric and Diatribes

By Rashiduzzaman
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August	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Aug 2	6-41 pm	
Aug 3	5-29 am	

Prayer Timings

August 2	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	4-55
Zohr	1-00	1-30
Ast	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Malaysian businessmen offered 10 areas for investment

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 1: Identifying Bangladesh as an ideal destination for investment, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today urged the Malaysian businessmen to invest massively in her country, reports UNB.

"I am sure you will find Bangladesh as your prospective location for investment, I welcome you all to my country in near future," she said, addressing a luncheon meeting hosted by National Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (NCCIM) at Istana Hotel.

The prime minister offered 10 specific areas for Malaysian investment in Bangladesh.

The areas are: Power generation, oil, gas and mineral exploration, computer software, telecommunications, textiles, agro-based industries like poul-

try and dairy farming, tourism development, air transportation, private EPZ and gem cutting and polishing.

Unveiling a 12-point incentive package, Hasina said foreign investment in Bangladesh is secured against nationalisation and expropriation. It also guarantees repatriation of dividends, capital and return from it.

Describing Bangladesh as a bridge between the emerging markets of South Asia and fast growing markets of South East Asia and the ASEAN countries, the prime minister said foreign direct investment is an emerging phenomenon in Bangladesh.

"Our country's needs for investment in infrastructures for the expanding cities and growing population cannot be met

from the government and domestic savers alone."

She said with improved economic management, reforms in key areas and liberalised investment regimes, Bangladesh is capable of attracting significant part of the private capital now flowing into developing countries.

The government has undertaken comprehensive macroeconomic and structural reform measures as a part of its overall market friendly liberalisation programme, the prime minister said.

Hasina referred to the various steps to protect foreign investment and said Bangladesh ensured intellectual property rights and is a signatory to different multilateral agencies like MIGA, OPIC and ICSID.

She said Malaysia and

Bangladesh have concluded Investment Treaty for promotion and protection of investment and bilateral agreement to avoid double taxation.

President of NCCIM Tan Sri Tajuddin Ramli also spoke on the occasion.

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abdul Hasan Chowdhury, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Dr S A Samad, her sister Sheikh Rehana and members of Bangladesh business delegation, Privatization Board Chairman Kazi Zafarullah and FBCCI President Abdul Awal Mintoo attended the function.

Replying to question, the prime minister admitted that some problems still exist in Bangladesh. But in near future

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Khaleda alleges several attempts on her life, blames PM

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has accused Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of sponsoring several attempts to kill her ever since the Awami League government took over power.

"Several attempts had been made to kill me after this government took over. Now I understand that the prime minister had been involved in these attempts," Khaleda told BBC Bengali Service in an exclusive interview last night.

The BNP chief categorically denied the allegation of opposition's involvement in planting bomb in a bid to assassinate the prime minister.

"I want to say that we do not

believe in the politics of killing. But it was proved that the prime minister herself was involved in the politics of killing," Khaleda said.

Earlier in an interview with BBC World Service, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina alleged that the opposition had been trying to kill her.

The prime minister had also tried to implicate the opposition by bringing similar types of allegations against it," Khaleda said.

Quoting a book, which is authored by an Awami League activist and a close associate of the prime minister and was published recently, the opposition leader said the prime minister wanted to kill me.

Instead, she alleged that the nephew of the prime minister illegally occupied a five-storey building and that ruling party people encroached upon the Buriganga and forcibly took over a bank, sexually assaulted girl students at Dhaka University.

The record was even worse in 1991 when he polled only 16,357 votes. His previous high was 35,094 in 1986, according to available records.

Aud on all those occasions.

Stunning reversal!

By Nazmul Ashraf

The latest by-election has seen a stunning reversal in the fate of Awami League heavyweight Amir Hossain Amu.

He has enticed public support over four times more than that in the previous occasion back in 1996 in his home district of Jhalokathi.

Having a dubious record of losing all the parliamentary elections in this remote southern district except in 1973, Amu secured 99,303 votes in Monday's by-election in Jhalokathi. He bagged only 23,792 votes in the 1996 election.

The record was even worse in 1991 when he polled only 16,357 votes. His previous high was 35,094 in 1986, according to available records.

Aud on all those occasions.

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Fiery debate over Mig, frigate purchase

JS body chairman under fire for 'disregarding court order'

By Inam Ahmed

The parliamentary standing committee on defence ministry had a fiery debate yesterday over a number of issues including the purchase of MIG-29s, Leyland trucks and the authority of the parliamentary body.

The committee after hours of debates decided to discuss in its

next meeting the contentious issues and also the one on defence budget in the parliament, according to meeting sources.

The other issues on the agenda are alleged corruption in MIG-29 and frigate purchases and corruption in the unscheduled overhauling of army air-

craft AN-32 in Russia. It has been alleged that the reason behind taking the aircraft to Russia was to legitimise personal pleasure trips.

BNP lawmaker Major (rtd.) Akhteruzzaman charged the committee chairman for disregarding a court order to show all documents regarding the MIG-29 purchase to the committee.

Akhteruzzaman said he had submitted the court verdict to the chairman's office although it was the chairman's job to collect the verdict from the office of the attorney general. And yet, the documents are being held up to hide facts about corruption, he alleged.

However, Committee

Chairman Maj. Gen. K M Shafiqullah (rtd.) said he had not received any copy of the court verdict. He asked Defence Secretary Idris Ali to collect a copy of the judgement and submit it before the committee.

The members also observed that the standing committee has become a paper tiger, as the executive bodies have implemented none of its recommendations. They felt that the committee recommendations are in line with the constitution and the executives should implement those.

The frigate purchase from South Korea also figured in the four-hour meeting and the opposition members once again

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Journalist murder

Three held from Litu's house in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 1: Police arrested three persons from the residence of Ward Commissioner Asaduzzaman Litu at midnight on Monday.

The arrested were identified as Kabirul Islam, Chairman of Dumuria Union, Litu's car driver Habibur Rahman and cook Azizul Huq.

Litu fled his house sensing presence of police, said a source.

Meanwhile, a nine-member special team has been formed by KMP to launch operations to nab Litu and Hirok.

Besides, plain-clothes policemen and informers have been engaged in different places of Khulna, Sathkhira and Bagerhat districts for confirming whereabouts of the fugitives

who are seriously wanted in connection with Shamsur Rahman murder case, said a source in KMP.

A section of lawyers belonging to the Awami League moved a petition on Monday afternoon seeking bail for Hosne Ara Parul and Akhter.

The CMM rejected the bail prayer and sent them to Khulna district jail.

Hosne Ara is mother of professional killer Shahid. She allegedly carried the arms from Khulna to Jessor which was used to kill journalist Shamsur Rahman. Her son Shahid is yet to be nabbed.

Akhter is driver of the car which carried the woman to

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6 cos short-listed to set up NGL plant

From Iqbal Siddique

SYLHET, Aug 1: Six foreign oil companies have been short-listed for setting up of an NGL (Natural Gas Liquids) fractionation plant in Sylhet at a cost of 30 million US dollars.

A six-member team conducted a field survey in some areas of Golapganj and Beinabazar thanas two weeks ago to select a site for the joint venture project, Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary Dr Toufique Elahi Chowdhury told The Daily Star. "We are expecting to start structural work on the

project some time next year."

The team headed by Petrobangla Secretary, included representatives from Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), LP Gas Limited, Sylhet Gas Fields Limited (SGFL), Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Limited (RPGCL) and Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFL).

The main reason for setting up the proposed plant in Sylhet is to ensure best utilisation of NGL, which is found in good

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Dengue: 5 die in Ctg so far

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Aug 1: Chittagong unit of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) today claimed that so far five dengue patients died in Chittagong of 57 cases detected.

Addressing a press conference at BMA office here Dr Imran Bin Yunus, Convenor of Dengue Surveillance Sub-committee said that the information on deaths and attack by dengue fever were gathered from hospitals, clinics, laboratories and practitioners.

He said dengue patients were identified through definitive tests.

Dr Imran suggested that blood test of suspected patients should not be done before five days as it takes time to develop anti-body.

He stressed the need for concerted efforts to combat the dengue menace.

He pointed out that dengue virus were detected in 13.7 per cent people below 15 years dur-

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78 more dengue cases in city

By Staff Correspondent

More 78 dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals in the city yesterday, according to sources in the hospitals.

Of them, 21 were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, eight each to Mitford Hospital and Shishu Hospital, two to BIRDEM, three to Rajabagh Police Hospital, three to Red Crescent Holy Family Hospital, three to Bangladesh Medical Hospital, five to Central Hospital and two were admitted to Dhaka Community Hospital. The rest were admitted to some other private clinics.

Doctors said most of the cases were of 'classical' dengue, which pose no threat. There was no case of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF), which is dangerous.

Many patients went to hospitals with high fever, but all those were not cases of dengue fever. There were also instances of wrong diagnosis by doctors, sources said.

Normally, infection by dengue virus causes fever within 2 to 7 days. The 'gold' method of test is quick and easy but less reliable. Occasionally it gives positive result, which is not correct, doctors said.

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