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**Opinion poll**  
**Shamsur Rahman had to die for professional commitment**

By Staff Correspondent.  
More than 73 per cent of the respondents in an opinion poll say journalist Shamsur Rahman was killed due to his honesty and commitment to the profession.  
Of those polled, 48.6 per cent said they are pessimistic about arrest and trial of the killers while 29.4 per cent expressed their optimism. About 6 per cent said the killers should be tried in a special tribunal.  
Over 50 per cent said they do not have any confidence in the Home Minister's statement that security would be provided to all journalists. 22.8 per cent expressed confidence and 11.4 per cent said it is a political stunt.  
The poll was conducted recently by The Opinion, an organisation doing research on enforcement of law.  
Nine per cent thought that Shamsur Rahman was killed by a smuggling syndicate or masterminds of Udichi killings, who have backing of some leaders of the ruling party and the opposition.  
All the respondents condemned the killing.  
The poll, conducted between July 26 to 30, covered 500 people, 300 in Dhaka and 200 in Jessore. Of them, 85.2 per cent were male and 14.8 per cent female.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had an audience with Malaysian King Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah and Queen Tunku Sitt Aishah Raja Permaisuri Agong at Istana Negara Palace yesterday. —PID photo

**Survey to determine density of aedes population begins**

By Staff Correspondent  
The Health Ministry has started a 'special survey' in divisional headquarters and district towns to determine the density of aedes mosquito population, carrier of dengue virus.  
The survey has already started in Chittagong city and Sirajganj town.  
As per a decision taken on Sunday, the initial survey will continue till mid-September and after that surveys will be conducted once a month to monitor the situation in the country regularly, sources in the ministry said.  
The World Health Organisation is providing technical assistance for the survey, especially training of personnel and preparation of programmes.  
"We have decided to conduct the survey mainly to determine the density of aedes mosquito population," said Md Azizur Rahman Choudhury, a senior entomologist attached with the Directorate of Health.  
"The thorough survey will give us a first hand picture of the aedes mosquito population now. It is considered a priority," Chowdhury said.  
Talking to this correspondent, Narayan Prasad Maheswary, a medical entomologist and WHO consultant, said, "Mosquito population seems to be declining and if this trend continues we hope dengue scare in Dhaka and other cities will be over by mid-August."  
But the present scanty rainfall may jeopardise the efforts

**Malaysian king invited to visit Bangladesh**

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 1: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today had an audience with Malaysian King Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah and Queen Tunku Sitt Aishah Raja Permaisuri Agong at the Istana Negara Palace here, reports BSS.  
During the audience, the King showed keen interest in the development activities in Bangladesh initiated by Sheikh Hasina. The King said he knew about the development efforts of the present Bangladesh government.  
Sheikh Hasina invited the King to visit Bangladesh, which he accepted.  
The Prime Minister apprised the King of the various development activities undertaken by her government for the uplift of the country.  
Labour and Employment Minister Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr S A Samad, and Sheikh Rehana were, among others, present on the occasion.

**Khaleda visits dengue ward at DMCH**

By Staff Correspondent  
BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday afternoon visited the newly opened 'dengue ward' at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) to see the condition of dengue infected people.  
She talked to the patients and the attending physicians at Ward 4.  
While talking with the patients and doctors, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament expressed grave concern over the outbreak of the dengue fever. She requested the doctors to ensure proper treatment and wished early recovery of the patients suffering from dengue.  
Khaleda also asked the DMCH authority to maintain cleanliness in and around the hospital and take steps to eliminate the killer mosquito.  
BNP leaders Mirza Abbas, Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, Abdus Salam, Kazi Abul Bashar and Chowdhury Alam, physicians Prof M A Jodi and Dr A Z M Zahid Hossain accompanied the opposition leader.

**Attempt on PM's life**  
**Persons involved will be tried in spl court Nasim**

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday said those involved in the assassination attempt on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would be tried in special tribunal, reports UNB.  
The minister spoke about the July 20-22 bomb incidents at Kotlajpara while inaugurating a blood-donation camp at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Museum here.  
Organised by Bangladesh Krishak League as part of August 15 National Mourning Day programme, with BKL president and State Minister for Land Alhaj Rashed Mosharrar in the chair, the function was also addressed, among others, by LGRD State Minister Alhaj Rahmat Ali and AL central leader Abdul Mannan.  
Referring to the planting of two powerful bombs at Kotlajpara to kill the Prime Minister, Nasim said, "It is not possible for anybody or any group without provocation or shelter of any powerful one."  
He said: "The anti-liberation fundamentalist groups are planning to kill the daughter of Bangabandhu fearing their defeat in the next election."  
**CSE declares Zenith Securities Ltd defaulter**  
From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Aug 1: Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) today declared Zenith Securities Ltd defaulter and forfeited its share certificates, CSE sources said.  
The Board of Directors of CSE took the action under Clause No 45(b) of the general rules and regulations of CSE for not fulfilling its obligations to the clients, CSE sources added.  
The membership is now lying vacant and ready for sale, CSE sources said.

**Embezzlement of Tk 2.78 cr**  
**10 staff of Rupali, Uttara banks sued in Ctg**

CHITTAGONG, Aug 1: Bureau of Anti-corruption today filed 18 cases against 10 officials and employees of Rupali Bank, Female Branch, and Uttara Bank, Reazuddin Bazar Branch, for embezzlement of Tk 2.78 crore, reports UNB.  
Bureau sources said 17 cases were filed against eight officers and employees, including Principal Officer Purabi Barua, of Rupali Bank, Female Branch, for misappropriating Tk 1.5 crore.  
Sources said the accused misappropriated Tk 70 lakh of 200 depositors during the long 22 years between 1978 and 1999.  
Besides, Tk 25 lakh was drawn by false signature of Gen Padmanabhan new Indian army chief

**Gen Padmanabhan new Indian army chief**

NEW DELHI, Aug 1: India today appointed Lieutenant General Sundararajan Padmanabhan as the new chief of the army, reports Reuters.  
Padmanabhan, who currently heads the southern command, will take charge of the world's fourth largest army on October 1, a defence ministry spokesman said.

**Jhalakati by-polls**  
**7 out of 9 have lost their deposits**

From Staff Correspondent  
BARISAL, Aug 1: Seven out of the nine candidates have lost their deposits in the parliamentary by-election in Jhalakati-2 constituency held on July 31.  
The candidates are — Moulana S K M Nurul Islam Nejaee of Jatiyatadabi Palli Dal who bagged 137 votes, S M Rafiqul Islam of Liberal Party (115 votes), Prof Rafiqul Islam Raja of Jatiya Party (87 votes), Krishak Mohammad Sadek of Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolan (79 votes), Dr S A Mannan Sardar (54 votes), Advocate Jalluddin Howlader of Jatiya Party (M-M) (53 votes) and Alamgir Kabir (34 votes).  
According to unofficial results, Awami League candidate and Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu bagged 99,303 votes against 30,510 polled by his nearest rival Elen Bhutto, an independent candidate.

**Bomb explodes at RU hall**

From RU Correspondent  
RAJSHAHI, Aug 1: A bomb exploded in a room of Syed Amir Ali Hall of Rajshahi University at 5.20 pm today, police and varsity sources said.  
None was present in the room during the explosion.  
The single seated room (No 145) was allotted to Abdulah Al-Mamun, a final year student of Islamic Studies and an activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir.  
The room was locked from outside during the explosion.  
A five-member committee headed by Proctor Prof Azizul Islam has been formed to probe the incident.

**Dengue in Feni**

From Our Correspondent  
FENI, Aug 1: Two patients with dengue fever were admitted to Feni Sadar Hospital today, hospital sources said.  
They were identified as Abul Bashar, 23, of village Nurpur in Fulgazi upazila and Abdur Rahim, 24, of village Belatpur in Chhagalnaiya upazila.

**Bangabandhu Murder Trial**  
**Col Farook was not involved in killing or conspiracy: Defence**

Col Farook was neither involved in killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib nor in the conspiracy and the allegations against him were not proved in the trial court either, his counsel said, reports UNB.  
Continuing submission of his arguments for a second straight day, advocate Khan Saifur Rahman yesterday told the High Court that even the FIR didn't mention Farook and Col Muihuddin of artillery unit of the army as conspirators.  
Zobaida Rashid had been described as chief planner of the killings while Taheruddin Thakur and two others as conspirators. "But all the four were relieved of the charges, why not Faruq," he questioned.  
On participation in the killings, the defence lawyer said the FIR showed Faruq went to 32 Dhanmondi at least two hours after the crime committed.  
"If we admit the so-called visit of Faruq Rahman to the house, it was during the time of innocence," pleaded the counsel for the principal accused in the most gruesome murder case in the country's history.  
At one stage of his submissions, the court pointed out that

Major (ret'd) Bazzul Huda in front of the house had told Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Faruq Rahman that "all are finished."  
"It was a mere information after the incident. It doesn't involve them in the killing," Khan Saifur said, raising confusion also about presence of Huda as Sheikh Yunus Ali of Huda's unit didn't mention his name.  
He submitted that the FIR didn't say whether Faruq asked Huda anything while many witnesses said army from outside wanted to know and army from inside replied all were finished.  
Again interpolating in his forensic presentation of arguments, the court of Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin and Justice A B M Khairul Haque asked the defence lawyer whether the word army doesn't include the officers.  
"You will see, the witnesses from army personnel whenever talked about officers they categorically cited the names. When it was among the troops, they only used the word army," Khan Saifur argued.  
- In a bid to confute Farook's complicity in the carnage, his

lawyer said had Farook wanted to kill Bangabandhu, he could have done it when he was security-in-charge of the President till August 2, 1975.  
"It would have been much easier for him as the entire security chain was under his command. Why he will take the risk of fighting with security not under his command or bringing them under the conspiracy."  
Presenting an analogy with the impugned situation, the defence lawyer cited the assassination of Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her own security men and an abortive bid to kill Rajiv Gandhi in Colombo by the man very close to him.  
Khan Saifur, also counsel for another condemned army officer, Lt Col (ret'd) Muihuddin of Artillery, raised question about the veracity of witness accounts made before Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court, saying that they were taught by the prosecution.  
"But the witnesses are divided in two. One group said the killing took place after hoisting the national flag with music of bugle while another group be-

**AL city unit**  
**Only one out of 7 attend extended meet**

By Staff Correspondent  
Only one out of seven Awami League lawmakers from the city attended an extended meeting of the city unit of the party at the party head office yesterday.  
Opposition BNP has one lawmaker from one of the eight constituencies in the city.  
City AL President Mohammad Hanif convened the meeting to discuss a month-long programme to mourn the August 15 killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with some members of his family. The meeting also discussed preparations for the party's August 3 rally on the occasion.  
All leaders of the party's city unit, its front organizations and the seven party MPs from the city were invited to the meeting.  
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**Agri scientists unite to resist joining of tax official at BARC**

By Staff Correspondent  
Agriculture scientists working in government institutions have formed a new body styled 'NARS Agriculture Scientists Federation', vowing to resist joining of a taxation official as a Member Director of BARC.  
The Federation is headed by Dr MA Razaque, Chief Scientific Officer of BARC, as its President.  
The scientists are protesting posting of Tax Commissioner Ashim Kumar Roy as Member Director (Administration and Finance) on deputation. He was given the new assignment on July 7.  
Leaders of the Federation told The Daily Star yesterday that a fresh movement would be launched from August 7 and the current sit-in from 9 am to 5 pm on the BARC premises every day would continue till the government order is rescinded.  
Meanwhile, Executive Chairman of BARC, Dr. Z Karim, in his reply to a letter from Agriculture Ministry yesterday said the protesters requested Roy not to take charge, and normal activities at the institution was not disrupted due to the protest.  
"The participants in the protest programme have not created any obstacle to normal activities at BARC. The participants include members of Bangladesh Krishibid Institution, BARC Officers' Welfare Association and scientists of NARS (national agricultural re-

**Death threat to photo journalist in Khulna**

From Staff Correspondent  
KHULNA, Aug 1: Three ward commissioners of KCC allegedly threatened to kill Bappy Khan, treasurer of Khulna unit of Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association on Monday noon for supplying dengue-related pictures for publication in a local Bangla daily.  
They are Kazi Rashiduzzaman, Maniruzzaman Munna and Gausul Azam, who is now the acting Mayor of KCC.  
Gausul Azam had summoned Bappy in the Mayor's office and abused him. At one stage, the two other commissioners threatened to kill Bappy if he continues to supply such pictures to the newspapers.  
Bappy Khan filed a general diary (No 2217) with Khulna thana on Monday evening fearing attempt on his life by the ward commissioners who all belong to BNP.  
Khulna unit of BPJA held a meeting where unanimous decision was taken to boycott all functions and programmes of KCC till Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman comes back from the USA.

**Jute, textile workers may call 72-hr strike**

By Staff Correspondent  
Workers of the state-owned jute, yarn and textile mills may go for a 72-hour strike and countryside rail-road barricade programme to press their 7-point demand, sources said.  
Meanwhile, the 48-hour strike at the mills ended yesterday morning.  
The Jute Yarn and Textile Mills Workers and Employees Action Committee backed by Sramik Karmachari Oikay Parishad (SKOP) enforced the strike.  
There was no initiative from the government side to hold dialogue on the demands of the workers and employees, leaders of the workers said.  
The Action Committee will hold a convention in Dhaka on August 4 to decide their next programme of action, they said.  
The seven-point demand includes cancellation of move to privatise state-owned jute and textile mills, implementation of wage commission report, withdrawal of illegal audit complaint and regularisation of temporary workers.

**BCL activist, another stabbed to death in Ctg**

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Aug 1: Two persons including a BCL activist were stabbed to death in separate incidents here last night, police sources said.  
Md Faruk, 20, was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants at Patiya thana headquarters at 8 last night, police sources said.  
BCL identified Faruk as its activist and blamed Chhatra Shibir for the killing. But Shibir denied the charge.  
In another incident, an alleged terrorist Jan-e-Alam, 24, was chopped to death by his rivals at Uttara Sarta village under Haladia Union of Raosan thana at 12 last night, police said.  
Police said Jan-e-Alam was wanted in connection with some criminal cases.

**Former Pak minister jailed for corruption**

QUETTA, Aug 1: An anti-corruption court sentenced a former minister today to five years in jail and disqualified him from politics for 21 years on charges of misuse of power and embezzlement, reports AP.  
Sardar Abdul Rahim Khetrian, a former education minister of the southwestern Baluchistan province, was also fined 500,000 rupees.  
The court found Khetrian, a leading member of deposed prime minister Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League, guilty of embezzling cooking oil supplied by the World Food Programme.  
Khetrian has a right to appeal.  
Pakistan's 10-month-old military-led government, which threw out the elected government in a bloodless coup last October, has set up special courts to try politicians, industrialists and bureaucrats in an attempt to curb rampant corruption in the country.  
The army accused the Sharif government of corruption, abuse of power, destroying institutions and the country's economic turmoil.  
Sharif, who is serving two concurrent life terms on charges of hijacking and terrorism, has also been disqualified from politics for 21 years.



Bangladesh Scouts brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding government measures to eradicate aedes mosquitoes spreading dreaded dengue fever. — Star photo

**Delhi contacts emissary of Kashmir militant group**

SRINAGAR, Aug 1: The Indian government today contacted a Kashmiri separatist named as an emissary by the Hezb-ul Mujahadeen militant group to work out procedures for a long-lasting cease-fire in the Kashmir Valley, reports AP.  
"Both the federal government and the Jammu-Kashmir state government intelligence officials contacted me on the phone this morning to ascertain my availability," said Fazal Haq Qureshi at his home on the outskirts of Srinagar.  
Qureshi, a former Kashmir-based separatist leader, was detained by Indian police for nearly three years in the early 1990s.  
Qureshi said the Hezb-ul Mujahadeen leadership approached him on Monday and suggested that he become their emissary.  
"I have accepted the offer," the 56-year-old Qureshi told The Associated Press in an interview.  
Qureshi, who is considered to be a moderate leader, is the chairman of the People's Political Front, a constituent of the All Party Hurriyat Conference, an umbrella organization of 32 political, religious and separatist groups.  
He has participated in what is called Track-2 diplomacy, in which eminent personalities, retired generals, diplomats and bureaucrats from India and Pakistan have met regularly in New Delhi and Islamabad over the past three years to find a solution to the Kashmir dispute.  
Last week, the Indian government and the pro-Pakistan Hezb-ul Mujahadeen group announced cease-fires in the troubled Kashmir Valley for the first time since the insurgency was erupted in 1989.  
The two sides also agreed to hold talks to find a permanent settlement of the dispute over Kashmir, the only Muslim majority state in India. Both India and Pakistan claim all of Kashmir and have fought two of their three wars over the Himalayan region.  
But more than a dozen other militant groups have rejected the Hezb-ul Mujahadeen's cease-fire proposal and a Pakistan-based group attacked a camp of Indian soldiers near Srinagar on Sunday night, killing at least three soldiers.  
Reuters adds: A Kashmiri militant group that declared a cease-fire last week appealed today to other rebel groups to lay down their weapons and urged security forces to suspend operations in Kashmir.  
Hezb-ul Mujahadeen's appeal came shortly before police killed one gunman when militants tried to storm a school in Jammu where Hindu pilgrims were registering for an annual pilgrimage.  
Jammu Deputy Commissioner RK Goel said security forces were still searching for two militants.  
In its statement, the Hezb-ul Mujahadeen said: "We appealed to other militant groups to support the cease-fire and we expect the Indian troops to suspend their offensive operations against all the militant groups."