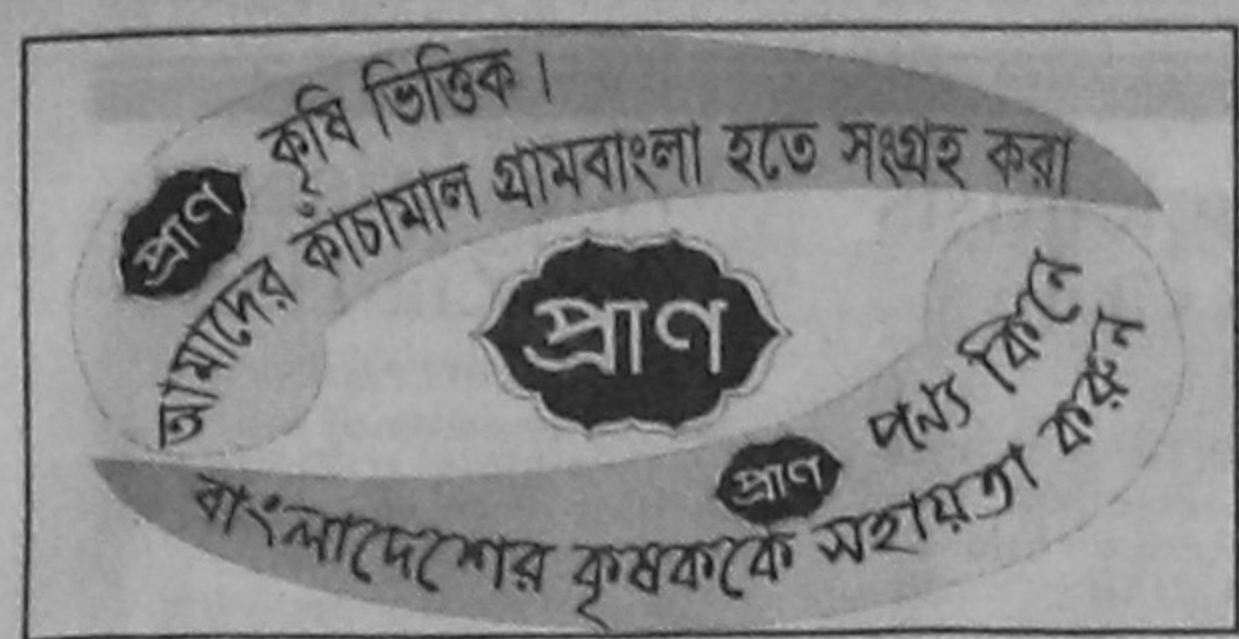




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PM returns today

Mahathir to visit Bangladesh

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 2: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today renewed her call to the Malaysian government to invest more in Bangladesh to bolster economic and trade relations between the two countries, reports UNB.

"We are inviting more investments from Malaysia," she said when the Malaysian Prime Minister made a farewell call on Sheikh Hasina at Istana Hotel this morning.

Appreciating the leadership of Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad, Hasina said under his dynamic leadership Malaysia has achieved tremendous progress within a short period of time. When Bangladesh premier invited Mahathir to visit Bangladesh, the Malaysian Prime Minister gladly accepted her invitation. The date for the visit will be worked out soon at a mutually convenient time.

Dr Mahathir also praised Sheikh Hasina for her able leadership and guidance, and mentioned the development in economic sector.

Sheikh Hasina today said See page 11 col 7

Announcement



Dengue fever has paralysed the city swimmers with fear. This week's cover story of Star Magazine focuses on how to cope with this dreaded disease.

Inside Today

Article

End of Isolation for North Korea

Column: The Horizon
This Week
By Arshad-uz Zaman
Page 4

Supplement

A two-page supplement on 'BCS Software Expo 2000' on Pages 6 & 7

August	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Aug 3		6:40 pm
Aug 4	5:30 am	

Prayer Timings

August 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:25	4:55
Zohr	1:00	1:30
Asr	5:00	5:15
Maghrib	6:55	6:58
Esha	8:15	8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Kashmir militants opposed to truce massacre 101

PAHALGAM, India, Aug 2: Eight attacks by suspected Islamic guerrillas opposed to a cease-fire in Kashmir have killed 101 people in less than a day in the disputed territory bordering Pakistan, police said today, report AP, AFP.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee blamed Pakistan-backed guerrilla groups for the attacks, saying it was reprisal against the cease-fire declared by the Hezb-ul Mujahadeen, the main guerrilla group in Kashmir.

The attacks last night and this morning came as the Indian government prepared to talk to the Hezb-ul Mujahadeen to end violence in Kashmir, where more than 25,000 people have died during an 11-year Islamic insurgency.

Gunmen killed 12 people in the Hindu-dominated village of Pahalgaon this morning, said Police Inspector-General S.P. Vaid in Jammu, the state's winter capital. He said the militants first killed two Hindus in the adjoining village of Danvata.

Villagers armed by the government fought back militants in another attack in Keyar village in the Doda region but the guerrillas returned to kill eight villagers in the remote, densely forested area, Vaid said.

In Kalaros, armed men killed five family members in the home of a special police officer, a member of a civilian unit armed and trained by the state government to fight militants. There were three attacks yesterday evening.

Armed guerrillas swooped on the Mir Bazar village near Anantnag, forcing people out of their homes and separating women and children from the men, said a police spokesman in Srinagar, the state's summer capital.

The men, workers at a brick factory who had migrated from other Indian states, were lined up and shot dead, the policeman said on condition of anonymity. Press Trust of India said 18 were killed.

In Achhabal, militants last night stormed into houses and killed seven migrant labourers from eastern Bihar state, said Vaid, who added that curfews had been imposed on several towns and the army was putting on shows of force.

He said police were still gathering details about the attacks as new reports came in throughout the morning. One person who was thought to have been killed was in critical condition, he said.

It is clear that after Hezb-ul Mujahadeen's step and talks of a cease-fire, militant groups directed by Pakistan have decided to step up the attacks, Vajpayee told the lower house of Parliament.

The first attack occurred yesterday evening when gunmen opened fire on unarmed Hindu pilgrims and Muslim porters on their way to a deeply revered religious shrine at Pahalgaon in the Muslim majority state. Police in Jammu and See page 11 col 8

More rain may trigger floods

By Staff Correspondent

Heavy rains with intermittent drizzles continued across the country yesterday, disrupting life.

The heavy rains will continue for more days, the Meteorological Department here said last night.

There was rain in all over the country. If this continues, it may trigger floods," said a weatherman at the MET office.

The rainfall in the city, recorded at 133 mm from 6 am on Tuesday to 6 am yesterday, inundated many areas. Ground floors of houses were also inundated in some areas due to poor drainage and sewerage systems. Drizzles continued in the city till writing the report at 9 pm yesterday.

The city traffic was in a mess yesterday as vehicles got stranded on inundated roads, creating long jams. It started after the downpour on Tuesday night when hundreds of cars, buses and autorickshaws clogged the inundated roads.

WASA sources said the sewerage system in most areas of the city also got clogged because of the poor drainage system.

"There were worms and leeches in my bedroom," said Gopesh, a resident of Elephant See page 11 col 8



Residents of Bakshibazar in old city are leaving for safer places as their houses have been submerged by rain water. — Star photo

Commentary From political competition to physical elimination?

By Mahfuz Anam

If we are to believe our two prime ministers — one former and the other present — then their respective parties — obviously according to the other — are infested with killers and they themselves are potential murderers, capable of putting out death contract for the other's life. Khaleda Zia has personally and publicly accused Sheikh Hasina of trying to kill her. Sheikh Hasina, on the other hand, did not do so directly, but implied the same by accusing the BNP, and thereby Khaleda Zia as its chief, of being behind the bombs that were supposed to go off during the PM's meeting in Kotalipara.

Is this the stuff our prime ministers and political leaders are made of? When leaders themselves denigrate each other like this, why are our politicians surprised when their acceptability is questioned all around? How far are we going to denigrate ourselves?

How far will our leaders' personal hatred for each other drag us down? Think of our image in the world when our two prime ministers say such things about each other.

Let us examine the latest of the utterances that forced this writer to raise these questions. Our former prime minister and the current leader of the opposition, Khaleda Zia, told the BBC Bangla service, that our present prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, plotted to kill her and had even put out a contract for that purpose. Sheikh Hasina is supposed to have offered Tk. 5 lakh for the job (rather cheap) and had even paid an advance of Tk. 50,000.

The basis of Khaleda Zia's sensational claim is a book recently published by a young AL activist, formerly a close confidant of the AL chief who has now not only fallen out of grace but is officially debarred from his former leader's presence.

There are lots of questions about the authenticity of the book, the factual accuracy of many of its claims and, most importantly, the personal agenda of the author (Would he have written this book if he had continued to receive the favours from the AL chief that he did, and for so long? Is it pangs of conscience that made him suddenly tell the public how vicious, misrepulsive and vengeful Sheikh Hasina is, with streaks to commit murder?).

As has been the practice in this part of the world from the days of military dictatorship of Gen. Ayub (starting from late fifties), no sooner had the book come out than the government banned it on the ground of national security. There was no security threat except that some very serious allegations were brought against the ruling AL and its leader, Sheikh Hasina.

See page 11 col 4

Bibiya has 1.8 TCF of recoverable gas : Petrobangla

By Staff Correspondent

Petrobangla yesterday contradicted American oil company Unocal's technical report on gas reserve in Bibiyana gasfield, saying that the actual recoverable gas there might be around 1.8 trillion cubic feet (TCF).

Bibiya gasfield may have three TCF of which 60 to 70 per cent could be actually extracted, Petrobangla told Unocal at a meeting of expert that examined the technical report.

Unocal in its report had said that Bibiyana had a reserve of 5 to 6 TCF of gas, of which 60 to 70 per cent was recoverable. It submitted its technical report to Petrobangla last week and stuck to its report at yesterday's meeting, sources said.

Unocal assessed the reserve on the basis of a 3D seismic survey and geological data after drilling one well in the gas field. However, Petrobangla experts said they will need some time to scrutinise Unocal's report to draw a conclusion.

See page 2

10 including four newsmen on hit list in Khulna

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Aug 2: Journalists in Khulna are fearing attempt on their lives by a group of armed terrorists.

According to a report of police and intelligence branches, ten people including a minister, four journalists, a former mayor, a former MP and two leaders of Jubo League are in the 'hit list' of the terrorists.

The 13-page report released to the press on Monday also stated that the group prepared the 'hit list' to create a law and order situation in Khulna city and stop publication of reports against them in 'Dainik Janakantha' and some other Bangla dailies including some local ones.

The murder of journalist Shamsur Rahman is the beginning, the report said.

The report contained the names and addresses of the persons mentioned in the 'hit list'.

It also contained the names of godfathers of these professional killers.

KMP's failure to recover illegal arms of Ershad Shikder and from the godfathers and cadres of Purbu Banglar Communist Party and Biplobi Communist Party despite confessional statements of Shimul and Ershad's accomplices has prompted the armed terrorists to be reorganised.

They are still maintaining links with those ring leaders who surrendered last year, responding to government's amnesty call.

Shimul's disclosure about illegal arms and their possessors has made the terrorists more furious. Role of a local minister and some journalists and also a former MP has annoyed them, the report said.

Meanwhile, CID has started See page 11 col 4

Dengue : 82 more hospitalised in city

By Staff Correspondent

More 82 dengue patients were admitted to different hospitals and clinics in the city yesterday.

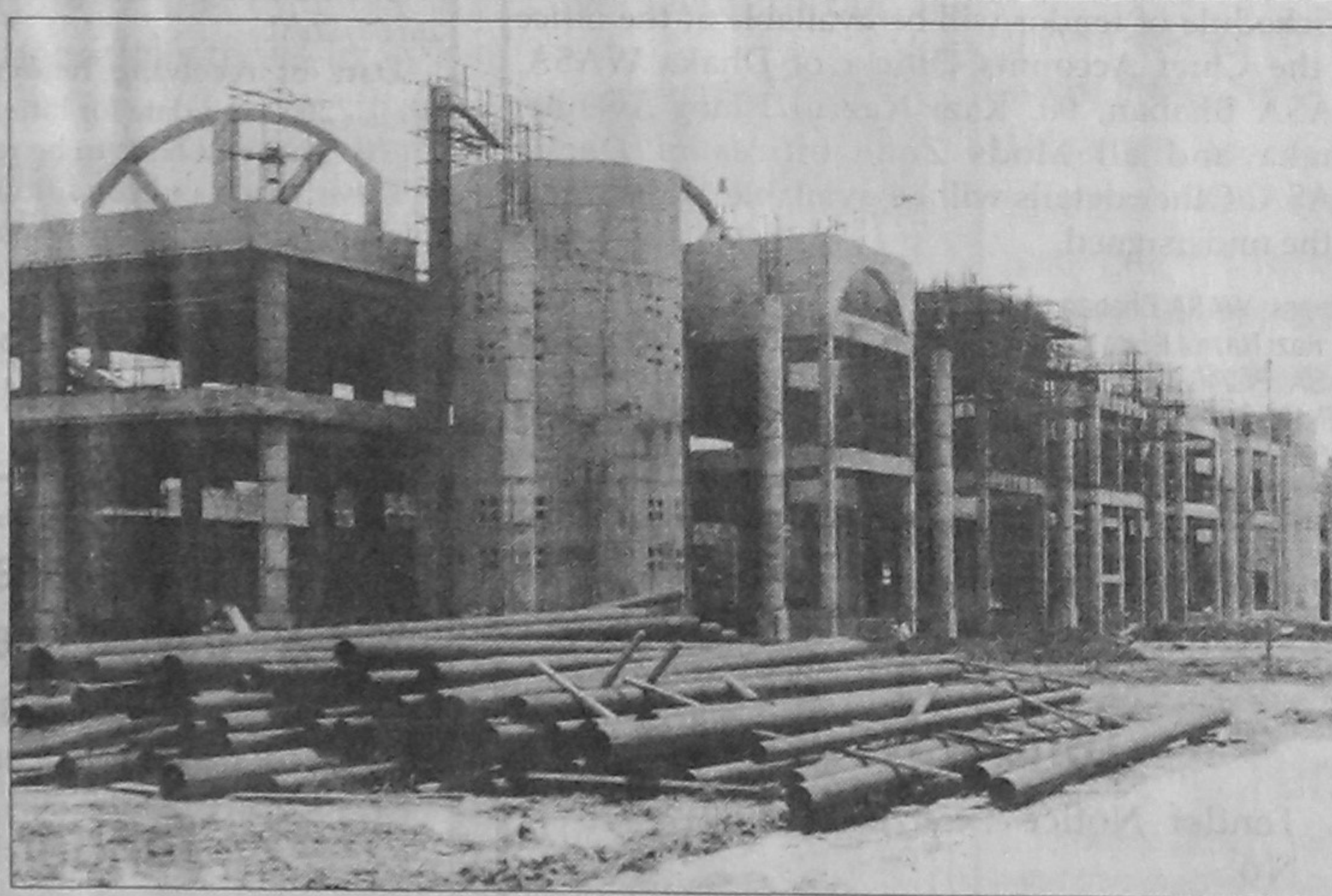
All the cases were of 'classical' dengue, which pose no threat, sources at the hospitals and clinics said.

Of them, 27 were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and 11 to Mitford Hospital.

Six patients were admitted to Dhaka Shishu Hospital, four to BIRDEM, one each to Suhrawardi Hospital and National Hospital, four to the Red Crescent Holy Family Hospital and seven to Bangladesh Medical College Hospital.

Central Hospital and Samarita Hospital reported admitting five patients each. Al-Rajj Hospital three, Ibn Sina Hospital six and Ma-O-Shishu Hospital reported admitting two patients.

Meanwhile, experts said dengue infection in the city has taken an epidemic form. "If you look back, Dhaka experienced dengue before, but not as it is now. The number of cases is unprecedented now and as an epidemiologists, I have to admit that it is an epidemic," one expert said.



The under-construction International Conference Centre at Agargaon in the city for NAM Summit due in early September next year. — Star photo

NAM confce centre Main structure to be completed by next month

By Diplomatic Correspondent

The International Conference Centre being built at Agargaon in city for the 13th Non-aligned Movement Summit will be completed well ahead of the mega-meet, due in early September next year.

Chinese engineers and technicians with a large local manpower are making rapid progress and the main structure and engineering work will be completed next month, sources said.

The Centre will be named after Bangabandhu.

After the structure is in place, work on giving finishing touches will be undertaken, which will include designing and some pre-fabricated things being done in China.

See page 11 col 7

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ডেজুজুরের চিকিৎসা ও প্রতিরোধের জন্য যা করণীয়

ডেজুজুরের আক্রান্ত হলে আমাদের প্রধান করণীয় হচ্ছে হাসপাতালে চিকিৎসকের সাহায্য নেয়া এবং প্রতিরোধের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা।

চিকিৎসা

- মারাত্মক উপসর্গ দেখা দিলে রোগীকে হাসপাতালে ভর্তি করে চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা করতে হবে।
- জ্বর কমানোর জন্য প্যারাসিটামল জাতীয় ওষুধ ব্যবহার করা উচিত। এসপিপিরিন বা এসপিপিরিন জাতীয় ওষুধ ব্যবহার করা উচিত নয়।
- রোগীকে সার্বক্ষণিক পর্যবেক্ষণের মাধ্যমে চিকিৎসক তাঁর ব্যবস্থাপনার দায়িত্ব নেবেন। বিভিন্ন প্যাথলজিক্যাল পরীক্ষার ফলাফলের ওপর রোগীর চিকিৎসা নির্ভর করবে।
- মারাত্মক (হেমোরেজিক) ডেজুজুরের আক্রান্ত রোগীর চিকিৎসার ক্ষেত্রে রোগীর পানিবদ্ধতা (dehydration) এবং রক্তচাপের চিকিৎসার জন্য কোন কোন ক্ষেত্রে আই ভি স্যালাইন বা রক্তসঞ্চালনের প্রয়োজন হতে পারে।

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Political front to be volatile again

By Nazmul Ashraf

After a lull of nearly six months, the political front, by all indications, is set to witness renewed confrontation with both the ruling and opposition parties preparing for massive street protests.

The war of words between the two sides on the recent acts of terrorism has made matters worse, pushing their relations to a new low.

And with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia charging each other with attempts on their lives, the situation has become volatile.

Opposition's planned hartal on August 6 is likely to set the tone for the next course of politics. Both sides are preparing for massive street showdown on the day, insiders said. But they noted that the outcome of the hartal will shape the course. Called by BNP and its allies

to protest the deteriorating law and order, the planned shut-down across the country is raising fears of fresh political clashes on the streets.

It is more than five months now that the pro- and anti-government activists fought street battle during a three-day countrywide hartal following the passage of the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) in mid-February.

Since then, the opposition sponsored three more hartals, the last one being on June 12, and staged demonstration protesting appointment of the new chief election commissioner. However, all those programmes passed off almost peacefully. Even two other hartals earlier this year were also peaceful.

The August 6 hartal was called in the wake of a series of See page 11 col 6