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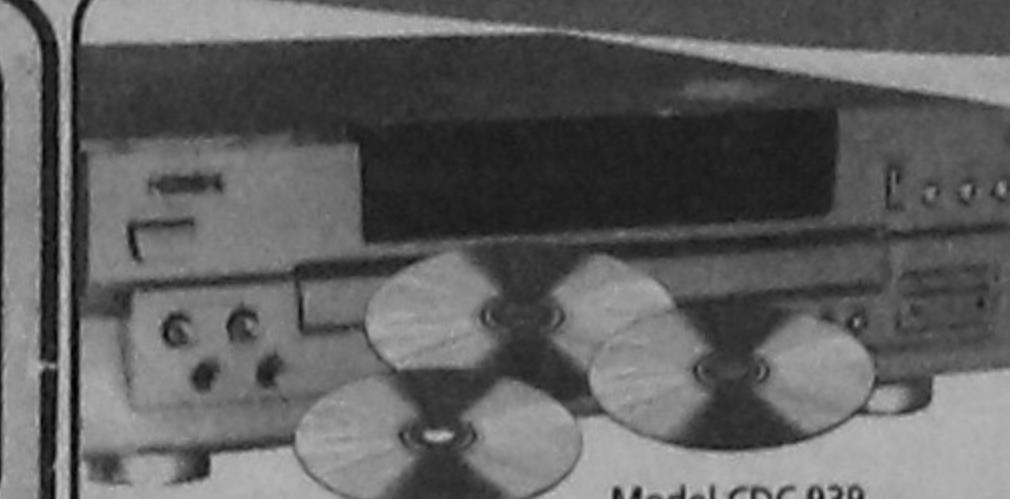
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Bhuiyan blames govt for crushing 5 under wheels

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday blamed the government for crushing five people under the wheels in the city during the seven-hour countrywide hartal.

"The Awami League government obstructs us whenever we call a hartal. The government hires terrorists and rents vehicles, spending huge amount of money," he said. "The five people were killed by the government-sponsored vehicles yesterday."

At the post-hartal briefing at 29 Minto Road last evening, Bhuiyan said that buses and trucks rented by the ruling party ran over the victims, including two female garment workers, at Motijheel, Naya-bazar, Mirpur and Uttara.

"Yesterday's killing of five people are not merely accident... these are murder," he said, demanding adequate compensation for the families of the victims.

Like in the previous hartals, ruling party activists attacked opposition workers leaving scores of people injured in Barisal, Narayanganj, Rajshahi and Jessore, the BNP leader claimed.

Dengue fever has already taken a serious turn in Dhaka

and many other districts, but the government is not taking any step to check the spread of the diseases and rather criticising the opposition parties for withdrawal of hartal, Bhuiyan said.

About the current flood in some parts of greater Rangpur, Bhuiyan said that over two lakhs of people were marooned, but the government had sent only three bags of rice and 13 cartons of biscuits. Most of the rice and biscuits are rotten, he added.

Bhuiyan asked the government to step down immediately and hand over power to a caretaker government; otherwise mass upsurge would lead to AL's downfall.

BNP leader M Shamsul Islam MP, on behalf of the liaison committee of the alliance, announced that the parties would carry out mass contact programme from today to August 20 and fresh programmes would be announced afterwards.

Jatiya Party leader Kazi Firoz Rashid and Saifur Rahman, Jamaat leader Abdul Alim, Islami Oikya Jote leader Abdul Latif Nizam also spoke at the briefing.

Savagery

By JU Correspondent

Unidentified miscreants killed one and cut off another's tongue on the Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus in the early hours of yesterday.

The dead was identified as Ali Hossain, son of Nowad Ali of Durgapur village in Savar. Savar police recovered the body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy. Ali Hossain was a vegetable trader.

The injured Jamiruddin Junu, a van driver of Savar, was first taken to the Savar Gana Shasthya Hospital and later shifted to the Savar Rabeya Clinic.

Police said the victims came under attack while they were returning home at about 3 on Sunday night.

Police later recovered two pairs of shoes and a shirt from the spot.

A murder case was filed with Savar police.

BDR-BSF accord to build 'walking boundary' along Muhurir Char

FENI, Aug 8: Border guards of India and Bangladesh struck an accord for building 'walking boundary' along Muhurir Char and maintaining status quo until settlement of lands dispute between the two countries, reports UNB.

Those who show interest to keep a person detained without any crime will try to implicate others in false cases to protect the real murderers, terrorists and toll collectors, the Bar Association president said.

People are also being victimised under false cases. It seems the PM has no information on how the people are suffering and becoming victims of false cases. Barrister Hosein said.

Arrest of AL leader Tejgaon thana OC, patrol inspector closed

By Staff Correspondent

The Officer in Charge of Tejgaon thana, Monowar Hossain and Patrol Inspector Mohsin were closed for arresting an Awami League leader near the Prime Minister's office on Sunday, police said.

The two police officers arrested Waker Khalek, joint secretary of AL Dhanmondi thana unit Sunday noon.

Police arrested him after an altercation as he stopped his motorbike on the street through which the Prime Minister was going to her office.

Khalek was taken to police custody and later released at the initiatives of senior Awami League leaders, police said.

Defence sees third-party involvement in killings

Bangabandhu was killed by a third party and not by condemned prisoner Col Farooq Rahman or his group, said the defence yesterday denying the murder charge against the condemned army officers, reports UNB.

Putting up his arguments defence counsel Khan Saifur Rahman told the High Court bench hearing the appeal case that Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed might have link with that third party that killed Mujib.

Mushtaque declared himself as President and sat in the chair before the occurrence at Bangabandhu Bhaban, the counsel said.

Reading out from the confessional statement of Farooq Rahman and quoting different prosecution witnesses, the lawyer said the Bangabandhu Murder Case was designed by the prosecution side as a conspiracy of killing but analyzing the PWs it was found that the plan was of overthrowing the government.

And if it is a case of overthrowing the government and that it required sanction from higher authority, which is absent, for instituting the case, Khan Saifur told the court in

his bid to save his client from the charge of murder.

Lifting from Farooq's confessional statement, he said while briefing the other officers and troops Farooq said, "There is no alternative to changing this government. Otherwise the country will be subservient to India and the army will be disbanded."

We will have to change this government and for that the key is Mujib. We will have to force Mujib for the change by a proclamation. If he (Mujib) does not agree and if there is resistance, then we will have to execute."

The defence counsel argued that the dictionary meaning of the word execution is not killing rather bringing change.

He said it was learnt from different witnesses that soldiers who found Bangabandhu in a room at his residence dragged him 20 feet when Bangabandhu asked them: "Where you want to take me? Why are you misbehaving with me?"

Citing this, the counsel said the troops had arms with them and if they had the intent to kill Bangabandhu, they could kill him at that time.

But they didn't. In fact a third group killed Banga-

bandhu, and Khandaker Mushtaque might have link with them. Otherwise, it is the Vice-President who would have taken over charge, but Mushtaque proclaiming him as President assumed the chair before the incident took place, the lawyer told the court.

"So, it is clear that the troops who went to Bangabandhu's residence had no intention to kill him rather went there to bring Bangabandhu to the cantonment."

Quoting Barendra Kumar case of 1910, the defence counsel said if it is a case of overthrowing government, then it required sanction of the government.

He said even in the lower court verdict, the matter of overthrowing government was mentioned.

At this stage, the court wanted to know why then bodies were lying scattered on the floor of that house.

"I am not going to that point now, if there is element of overthrowing the government, then it requires permission of the government to start the case," he replied.

The bench of Justice Ruhul Amin and Justice ABM Khairul Huq will resume at 9:30 am today.

16b yen Japanese loan for four projects on pipeline

MOUs to be signed during Mori's visit

Mori would reaffirm Japan's friendly relation with Bangladesh.

Mori would also reassure Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Japan's continued assistance in the economic development, the Japanese bureaucrat said here today.

Talking to UNB, Kunihiko Makita, Director General of Asian Affairs Bureau of Japan Foreign Ministry, said the new loan would be formally announced by Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori on his visit to Dhaka on Aug 19.

The Japanese loan would be available with the signing of Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) against the four projects during Mori's visit.

The loan includes about eight billion yen for the ambitious Rupsha Bridge project in Khulna.

Japan is the largest bilateral donor for Bangladesh with the disbursements of US\$ 3,019.42 and US\$ 2,807.40 million in aid and grants respectively till 1998.

While commenting on Mori's visit to Bangladesh Makita said Prime Minister

and international peace initiatives and the signing of CTBT and NPT.

When asked what Bangladesh may gain through Mori's visit, Makita said the Japanese Prime Minister's visit to Dhaka might contribute to an increase in Japanese investments in Bangladesh. He, however, said Bangladesh needs to do certain things for ensuring safety and security of Japanese investors.

Japan's actual investment in Bangladesh as of August 1999, stood at about US\$ 57.84 million.

In reply to another question, Makita said Japan may consider the possibility of taking in skilled manpower from Bangladesh in accordance with its immigration law and providing more scholarship for Bangladeshi students and teachers.

Mori is expected to lead a 50-member official delegation, including several MPs and top ranking bureaucrats from different ministries. A 40-member media team will also accompany the Japanese premier.

On Aug 19, Mori will meet the Prime Minister and other officials.

He will also meet the Foreign Minister and other officials.

On Aug 20, Mori will meet the Prime Minister and other officials.

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