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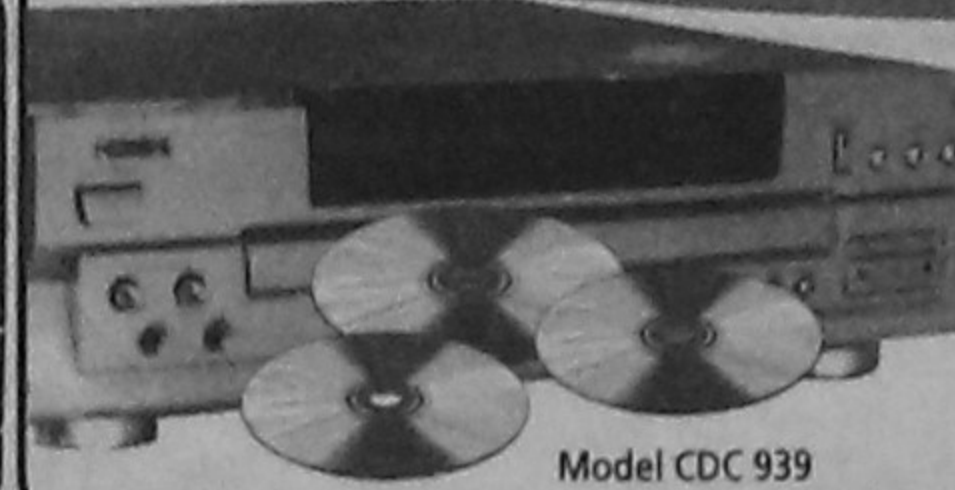
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## Bhuiyan blames govt for crushing 5 under wheels

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 Abul Ah-Sani Okiya Jote leader Abdul Latif Nazami also spoke at the briefing.



Awami League leader and State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya leads a party procession during hartal hours in the city, denouncing the opposition-called countrywide shutdown, while (right) police watch a BNP procession passing by Kakrail road.

## Hartal observed peacefully in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Aug 8: The 7-hour hartal called by BNP-led opposition alliance today passed off peacefully in the port city and its adjoining areas.

Pre-hartal activists held rallies and brought out processions at Kazir Dewri, Muradpur and other places here while ruling party's student wing BCL organised anti-hartal rally and procession at New Market crossing.

No untoward incidents were reported during the hartal, police said.

Paramilitary BDR and a large number of police mostly in riot gear were deployed at all important points of the city.

Most of the vehicles except rickshaws stayed off the roads. Train service to and from Chittagong was as usual, railway sources said. Delivery of

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## 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 Ganga 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.

BDR and BSF reached a consensus and signed a memorandum in this regard after a marathon flag meeting on Monday at the International Checkpost at Bilonia on Indian side of the frontier.

"The decisions will be sent to the governments of the both sides for their approval," said a BDR official.

## Arrest of AL leader Tejaon thana OC, patrol inspector closed

By Staff Correspondent

The Officer in Charge of Tejaon 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, then 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.

## Biman to remain a corporation

Management, Union sign memorandum

By Special Correspondent

The management and employees' unions of Bangladesh Biman signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) yesterday, defusing the employees' agitation against turning the state-owned airlines into a Public Limited Company (PLC), Biman sources said.

As per the MoU, Biman will remain a corporation while off-loading its 49 per cent shares.

The government wants to off-load 49 per cent share of Biman, retaining nine per cent for its employees and giving 40 percent to a 'strategic partner' under a World Bank aided privatisation plan.

There will be two separate valuations on two bids, which will be through public notification. After the bidding process, the tie-up with a 'prominent

airline' other than from South Asia will require Cabinet approval.

The MoU provides that there will be a Director in Biman board, who will represent the employees and officers holding the nine per cent share.

The employees will be kept aware of negotiations with the foreign airline. No employee will be declared surplus and their benefits will be protected.

Director (Administration) of Biman and Mohiuddin Ahmed, Convenor of the Steering Committee of five trades union and associations, signed the MoU, the sources said.

Consultants from Citibank, New York, are arriving Dhaka shortly to finalise their recommendations for Biman's privatisation, the sources said.

## Fresh areas flooded in five districts

As water levels in the Brahmaputra, Jamuna and Padma marked further rise, the overall flood situation in five districts of the country deteriorated inundating fresh areas, reports UNB.

In Sherpur, the low-lying areas in different unions of Sadar, Nakla and Sreebardi upazilas of the district went under water.

Road communication of Sherpur with other districts via Jamalpur-Sherpur highway remained suspended for the second day yesterday as flood-water submerged several points of the road.

A farmer, identified as Habibur Rahman, was killed and three others were injured by lightning in Jhinaigati upazila on Monday.

In Rajbari the river Padma rose by 9cm during the last 24 hours till 6pm yesterday, inundating the low-lying areas of Sadar and Goulundo upazilas.

The Padma was flowing 58cm above red mark at Doulatdia point.

Erosion by the river Padma has taken a serious turn, rendering some 20 families of Debgam, Bishwanathpur and Baghabari homeless.

In Pabna, the overall flood situation in the district worsened inundating 25 villages.

The water level of Padma rose by 8cm at Hardinge Bridge point while Jamuna by 7cm at Nagarbari point.

About 5,000 people took shelter on the flood protection embankment in Sadar, Bera, Ishwardi and Sujanaigar upazilas of the district.

The overall flood situation in Sirajganj district deteriorated further following inundation of five unions of Belkuchi upazila on Monday night.

In Munshiganj the river Padma marked further rise, the flood situation worsened in the district yesterday.

Water level of the Padma rose by 6cm and the river was flowing 70cm above danger level.

An approach-road at Muk-tarpur Ferry-ghat went under water threatening direct traffic movement on Dhaka-Munshiganj road.

## Elen demands repolling

Elen Bhutto yesterday demanded reelection in Jhalakati-2 Constituency and resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner, reports UNB.

"I reject the election as it was marred by administration's partiality and demand reelection in my constituency," she told a press conference in the city in the afternoon.

Anisur Rahman Chowdhury, chief election agent for Elen, Mansur Chowdhury, her brother, Alamgir Hossain Khan, Jhalakati Jatiya Party leader, and JP leader Mattur Rahman were also present at the press conference.

Elen, widow of JP MP Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was defeated by Awami League candidate Amir Hossain Anu in the by-election held on July 31.

## Remarks on judiciary SC Bar president wants details

By Staff Correspondent

Barrister Mainul Hossain, President of Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday urged the government to make public relevant facts regarding Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's remarks on granting of bail to alleged criminals.

This will enable lawyers to examine what kind of 'credible facts' were given to the Prime Minister and whether the courts concerned had made mistakes in granting bail by rejecting government appeals, he said.

He said, "The Prime Minister not only reiterated her defamatory remarks against the judiciary and the lawyers, but citing certain cases, also tried to point out what kind of murderers, terrorists and toll collectors were enlarged on bail."

"Firstly, one can not be proved a murderer, a terrorist or a rent seeker when arrested by police under certain charges. It is the basic point of the Constitution and rule of law. It is the basic constitutional and fundamental right of the accused to remain on bail to defend himself."

"If the Magistrate court makes any mistake in granting bail, there is scope to appeal up

to the Supreme Court to cancel the bail on the basis of evidence. But it is not known how much the government used that privilege.

"Granting bail is not a secret matter of the court. After hearing both the sides—the prosecution and the accused—the court grants bail. If the prosecution lawyer is absent during hearing, that is a different matter," Hossain said.

"It should also be remembered that mention of the accused person's name in FIR and his confession given in police remand under torture does not constitute the legal basis to deny bail."

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 Hossain said.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### Dialogue on Women in Parliament

Time and Date: 8:30am-6pm, Thursday, 10th August  
Venue: LGED Bhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

A day-long dialogue will be held on "Women in Parliament" organised jointly by The Daily Star, the Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) and Centre for Alternatives (CA).

Sixty four women activists from 64 districts will take part in the dialogue. Leaders from AL, BNP and other political parties, academicians, development workers, cultural activists, women activists and leaders of other professional groups are expected to participate. You are invited to attend and strengthen the cause of greater number of women in the parliament.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215. Telephone Numbers: 8124944, 8124955, 8124966, Fax: 8125155, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

## Anwar gets 9 yrs for sodomy

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 8: Former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim was found guilty of sodomy Tuesday and sentenced to nine years in prison, the climax of his two-year battle against what he has called a political conspiracy against him, reports AP.

Before sentencing Anwar, 52, accused his one-time mentor, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, of using the judiciary to destroy him and vowed to keep fighting for democracy from behind prison walls.

The nine-year sentence will begin after Anwar finishes six years for a corruption conviction handed down in 1999, removing him from the Malaysian political scene that he once seemed destined to lead.

Judge Ariffin Jaka could have imposed a maximum sentence of 20 years for the sodomy conviction, but his verdict was still more harsh than the six years Anwar had predicted.

"These are despicable acts in our society," Ariffin said. "This order of offence should meet

with utmost condemnation. People who commit such an offence should be dealt with properly."

Anwar's last to the judge were: "See you in 2014."

Anwar's wife, Azizah Ismail, who led a political party carrying his banner of reform in elections last year, lost her composure and their two daughters wept.

"An appeal will be filed in 14 days," Azizah told reporters in a shaky voice.

The sentence came two hours after Ariffin found Anwar guilty in the yearlong trial. Anwar had predicted the verdict as he was led into court, but veered between acceptance and outrage after it was read.

"You have to be realistic," Anwar said. "Bloody, rotten judiciary! I can't blame him. He's just following orders."

Then he shouted, "Sick!" and threw up his hands up in frustration.

The trial was Anwar's second since he was sacked in 1998 and has raised concerns about

Malaysia's human rights record and Mahathir's iron determination to extend his 19-year rule, the longest in Asia.

Before he was sentenced, Anwar said that Mahathir had used his dominance of Malaysian politics to crush all dissent.

"He is a coward who will not seek responsibility for his own evil, so he used the court," Anwar declared. "Dr. Mahathir's lust for power is insatiable. He will lie and force others to lie."

Anwar then quoted verses from the Koran and about 40 of his supporters chanted, "Allah Akbar," or "God is Great."

The defendant and judge accused each other of being "sick" and Ariffin snapped: "You don't seem to understand what this is about. There is no point blaming everybody now."

Ariffin, who had maintained that he would render a verdict based on the facts, not politics, rejected Anwar's claims of conspiracy and also found

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## ডেজুজুরের চিকিৎসা ও প্রতিরোধের জন্য যা করণীয়

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