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Announcement Anatomy of a coup



From next Tuesday, 15th August, as a part of our National Mourning Day Observance, The Daily Star will serialise a report by the eminent American journalist and South Asia specialist Lawrence Lifschultz on the August Coup that killed Bangabandhu along with most of the background events of that black day still remain shrouded in mystery, especially the role of the international forces. Lifschultz earned considerable fame for his reports on those tumultuous days of the mid-seventies in Bangladesh. He has spent the last quarter century investigating the August coup, especially the role of the US and of its intelligence agencies. Partial outcome of his extensive research will feature in our serial.

The writer is presently working as a Research Associate at the Yale Centre for International and Area Studies, Yale University. He was recently named a Fulbright Scholar for South Asia. He was South Asia correspondent for the Far Eastern Economic Review and has written extensively on the region. He is also the author of several books on international issues.

Manju expresses doubt about next election

By Staff Correspondent

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju has expressed apprehension about holding of the next general election 'because constitutional politics is yet to be established in the country in its true sense.'

'I have doubts about holding of the national election as we are yet to ensure that polls would be held in the country after every five years. There was always such apprehension in the past and it still persists because we have failed to establish constitutional politics in the last 50 years,' he said.

The minister was speaking on 'State of Politics in Bangladesh' at the 'Meet the Reporters' programme organised by Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) and held at its auditorium in the city yesterday.

Manju, who is Secretary General of Jatiya Party (Mizan-Manju), said a sense of panic and uncertainty is prevailing among the people.

DRU President M Anwarul Haq chaired the session while its General Secretary Monwarul Islam made introductory remarks.

During a question-answer session after his speech, the minister spoke on construction of roads and bridges, split in JP, law and order, corruption, opposition movement, use of money from unknown sources by politicians, absence of understanding among politicians, instability, patronisation of terrorists and corrupt elements.

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Anwar Hossain Manju

'Avoid SAARC cumulation to save textile, RMG sectors'

By Staff Correspondent

The textile mills owners said yesterday that the recent government support to export of garments to the EU under generalised system of preference (GSP) facilities, using raw materials of SAARC origin, will in fact give Pakistan and India access to EU market using the Bangladesh trade channel.

Urging the government to avoid 'SAARC cumulation' within its capacity, they said otherwise it will 'definitely kill the textile industry in the short run and the RMG sector by 2005.'

They noted that the EU GSP facility is given to weaker partners by allowing market access and waiver or reduction of duties to develop their industries.

'Bangladesh has been enjoying this facility as its backward linkage industries were under

developed unlike in Pakistan or India whose fabric and yarn export to EU attracts duty and is limited by quota,' Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) President Salman F Rahman said at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

He said by lending support to export of garments using raw materials of SAARC origin, the government has allowed the two countries to export their goods using the facility which was given to Bangladesh only.

He also criticised the government for not discussing the matter with the parties concerned -- BTMA -- before lending support to the provision.

The government did not follow the rules of business, the BTMA leader said and demanded investigation into re-

ported signing of the 'acknowledgement letter' in this regard by a joint secretary.

'We have been told that neither the minister concerned nor the secretary signed the letter but a joint secretary signed it on verbal consent from the minister.'

He said the decision may yield short term gain but it will kill the local backward linkage industries in the long run as the MFA regime will be phased out by 2005.

In the last 12 months, BTMA has produced 90 million kg of yarn which have been exported to the EU. Taking the average price at three US dollars per kg, export earning of BTMA for the year was 270 million dollars, he said.

Rahman said the multi fibre

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President, prime minister to have executive jets

By M Anwarul Haq

A process is on to purchase two executive jets for exclusive use by the President and the Prime Minister primarily for their visit to foreign countries, sources concerned said.

The budget for acquiring the two aircraft was not known and no official was willing to give any estimate.

The jets are likely to be procured to create an exclusive VIP fleet for the head of state and the head of government. The exclusive passengers' list for the executive aircraft could later be amended for use by important ministers visiting abroad and Chiefs of Staff of the three services, the sources told The Daily Star.

The office of Directorate General of Defence Purchase (DGDP) run by the Armed Forces has already received several offers against the 'budgetary tender' floated a few weeks ago for the executive jets.

If procured, the jets would allow planning of unhindered foreign visits by VIPs without affecting Biman's commercial operations. No estimate of cost or mode of purchase of the aircraft is learnt to have been made yet.

'We have received several offers. An evaluation team headed by an Air Force officer is currently evaluating the offers,' an official involved in the process said. Director General of DGDP Brigadier Tabarak, however, declined to give details

of the offers, saying, 'The media is not supposed to know.'

But a top official said, 'It was an open international tender in which several parties participated and once the evaluation team completes study of the offers received, details will be known.'

Explaining, he said whether to go ahead with the procurement is an executive decision. If the government decides to go ahead, then a procurement tender would be floated. The budgetary tender has no implication for procurement. It is just to find out what types of aircraft are available and the budget required, should the government decide to go ahead

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Flood: 3 drown in Manikganj, situation in Munshiganj deteriorates

Flood situation in Munshiganj deteriorated yesterday following further rise in Dhaleswari and Meghna rivers, reports UNB.

About 100 yards of Dhaka-Kunderbazar road went under ankle deep water at Radhabinari as fresh areas were submerged. Plying of motor vehicles over the submerged road was restricted for fear of its damage.

Residents hit by flood in low-lying areas were shifting cattle and other domestic animals to highways, bridges and culverts.

In Manikganj, three people drowned when a boat capsized into swirling floodwaters in Daulatpur upazila Friday night.

One of the victims was identified as Sunil Goswami, 40, of Khalist village while identities of two others could not be ascertained.

Meanwhile, new areas in seven upazilas of the district were inundated by water rolling down from upstream aggravating flood situation.

Floodwaters also engulfed many areas of Dhamrai and Savar upazilas of Dhaka district yesterday.

The situation in and around Dhaka, Narayanganj and Manikganj districts is likely to remain unchanged, said a regular bulletin of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC).

Due to heavy rainfall in the



A flood-hit family moving to a safer place from Kamrangirchar on the outskirts of the city yesterday. — Star photo

Senior lawyers to meet PM today

A group of senior lawyers of the Supreme Court are scheduled to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina this evening.

They are likely to discuss the situation arising out of Prime Minister's remarks about the judiciary and the lawyers, Supreme Court Bar Association president barrister Mahul Hossain told UNB last night.

He said Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru informed him about the meeting with the Prime Minister.

The lawyers scheduled to meet Sheikh Hasina include the 11 signatories to the statement against her reported remarks and the President and General Secretary of the SC Bar Association.

Meanwhile, a statement issued last night by President of SC Bar Association said he met with opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia and leaders of Lawyers Oikya Parishad yesterday.

He and Begum Zia requested Oikya Parishad lawyers not to go for filing contempt petition against the Prime Minister outside the decision of the Bar Association.

They can move such petition if and when the Bar Association decides against filing contempt petition, the statement said.

60 more dengue patients hospitalised in city

By Staff Correspondent

Sixty more people with dengue fever were admitted to different hospitals and private clinics in the city yesterday.

Of them, 20 patients were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, two to Mitford Hospital, three each to Dhaka Shishu Hospital and BIRDEM, eight to Red Crescent Holy Family Hospital, four to Bangladesh Medical College Hospital, five to Central Hospital in Green Road, three to Samarita Hospital and nine to Al-Razi Hospital.

Monwara, Ibn Sina and Mahanagar hospitals reported admitting one each yesterday.

Khaleda condemns killing of Khulna AL leader Rab

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia yesterday condemned the killing of Khulna Awami League leader SMA Rab and demanded immediate arrest of the killers, reports UNB.

She in a statement also protested against on Nasir Hossain, son of BNP MP advocate Kabir Hossain, in Rajshahi, and Nazim Uddin Alam MP at Charchashan in Bhola.

Khaleda said the country's law and order situation reached an alarming stage. 'Today, there is no security of life and property of the people.'

The terrorists are creating anarchy by resorting to killing and terrorism in broad daylight, she alleged saying 'The people are bewildered.'

The opposition leader blamed the government for failing to provide security to people as the administration has failed to nab the real culprits.

She said several incidents in the last couple of days manifested the alarming situation in the country.

'But we notice with regret that after the killing of Rab, the ruling party activists made indiscriminate attacks on the BNP leaders and workers, damaged their business establishments and the party offices, and also attacked a party conference and meeting at Khalishpur,' she said.

'I also protest such anarchy,' she added.

Eight bullet-hit Shariatpur BCL activists admitted to DMCH

By Staff Correspondent

Eight BCL activists, who were bullet-hit in an attack by a rival group at Shariatpur, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday, hospital sources said.

The injured were identified as Hanif, 25, Kuddus Sarder, 30, Sohai, 22, Shamim, 25, Salahuddin, 30, Abdul Alim, 28, Majnu, 25 and Jalaluddin, 25.

Sources close to the ruling party said, a group of armed people belonging to opposition BNP attacked a street gathering organised by BCL at Naria Bazar Friday afternoon, leaving a dozen people injured.

Some other sources, however, said that the clash took place between two rival factions of BCL.

The SP and DC of Shariatpur, however, could not be contacted for their comments on the incident even after repeated attempts.



Children hold up a model of aedes mosquito, carrier of dengue virus, during a procession in the city yesterday, urging all to help eradicate the killer insect. — Star photo

Fax message to divert attention? Rab's personal guard, another young man arrested

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 12: Police arrested two young men today suspecting their involvement in the murder of Awami League leader SMA Rab, a probable mayoral candidate in the Khulna City Corporation election.

They are Rangu (24) and James (22). Rangu was one of the personal security guards of Rab. James is an employee of a construction firm of Feroz, brothers-in-law of Rab.

Both Rangu and James are Christians and associated with Rob's family for long.

They were arrested on the basis of a verbal statement of a

minor boy, Abdul Kader, 12, one of the witnesses to the murder, said a police official heading the special team of interrogators.

The police official said Kader saw the person who fired shots. The boy has been taken into safe custody for interrogation, he said.

Homeopath doctor Abdur Rashid will also be questioned as he was accompanying Rab to the mosque when the murder took place. Rashid has been asked not to leave his house without prior permission of KMP authorities.

IGP Mohammed Nurul Huda

arrived Khulna today and held a closed-door meeting with top officials at the KMP headquarters at noon. He also visited the residence of Rob and assured the bereaved members of the family that the killers would be arrested soon.

SMA Rob was laid to rest at Basupara graveyard after Namaj-e-Janaja at the Babri square at Shibbari after Zohr prayer. Hundreds of people from all walks of life attended the Namaj-e-Janaja. A mourning procession was brought out by Awami League as part of a three-day mourning

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All three organs including judiciary lack accountability: Saifur

By Staff Correspondent

BNP leader Saifur Rahman yesterday said all the three branches of the state including the judiciary lack accountability needed for a democratic polity.

However, the former finance minister said he does not want to be involved in the on-going de-

bate centering Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's comment regarding accountability of the judiciary.

'Conflict between different branches of the state is nothing new. It can be resolved through political maturity,' the opposition lawmaker said.

Saifur Rahman was speaking at a seminar on 'Bangladesh Economy into 21st Century', organised by the Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) on the occasion of its thirteenth biennial conference, which concluded yesterday.

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August	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Aug 13		6:34 pm
Aug 14	5:33 am	

Prayer Timings

August 13

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:25	4:55
Zohr	12:45	1:30
Asr	5:00	5:15
Maghrib	6:40	6:45
Esra	8:15	8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

ডেঙ্গুর চিকিৎসা ও প্রতিরোধের জন্য যা করণীয়

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

আমাদের করণীয়ঃ

- * ঘর শুকনো ও অন্ধকারময় রাখুন।
- * ঘর বাড়ি পরিষ্কার-পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন।
- * বাড়ির আশেপাশে বহু পানি সরিয়ে ফেলুন। জমে থাকা পরিষ্কার পানিতে এ মশা জন্মায়। তাই অব্যবহৃত পান, কৌটা, ভাঙ্গা কলস, জলকান্দা, মালসা, নারিকেলের মালা, ভাবের খোসা, ফুলের টিব, ড্রাম, গাড়ির টায়ার, এয়ার-কন্ডিশনার ও রেফ্রিজারেটরের তলায় পানি জমতে দেবেন না।
- * বাহক মশার দমনই হচ্ছে প্রতিরোধের প্রধান উপায়।
- * প্রয়োজনে দিনের বেলায় ও মশারি খাটিয়ে ঘুমান এবং মশার কামড় থেকে সাবধান থাকুন।
- * জ্বর, মাথা ব্যথা, শরীরে ব্যথা ইত্যাদি হলে সাথে সাথে ডাক্তারের পরামর্শ নিন।
- * রোগীকে জ্বর তরল খাবার ও পানিবিক খাবার বারে বারে খেতে দিন।
- * ডেঙ্গুজ্বরে আক্রান্ত ব্যক্তিকে দিনের বেলায় ও মশারি ভেতরে রাখুন।
- * জ্বর সেরে গেলেই নিশ্চিত হবেন না। জ্বরের শেষেই সাধারণতঃ রক্তক্ষরণ শুরু হয়। অবশ্যই জ্বর সারার পরও কয়েক দিন সাবধানে ডাক্তারের পরামর্শমত চলুন।

সৌজন্যঃ

দি ডেইলী স্টার, বাংলাদেশ স্টাউটস ও রোন-পুল্যাংক