

**Mainul says
PM to issue
statement:
No contempt
case now**

By Special Correspondent

A meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and senior lawyers including President and General Secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) last night discussed her recent remarks on the judiciary.

It was agreed at the meeting that the PM would issue a statement on the issue. "We will have to wait till then. We hope that the issue would be resolved after the statement," Barrister Mainul Hosein, President of the SCBA said later.

The meeting began around 8 pm at the Ganabhaban and ended at 10:45 pm.

"We discussed the issue ... explaining our stand. The government side explained their points," Barrister Najuul Huda, a BNP MP and former president of the SCBA told the BBC

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**Mori's visit
BSS says off,
Embassy
says on**

By Diplomatic
Correspondent

State run news agency BSS last night reported that Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori's trip to Bangladesh beginning August 19 is "unlikely" to take place. However, a well placed Japanese embassy official confirmed that the trip was on.

No high official of the Foreign Ministry was available for confirmation or comments.

The official news agency BSS quoting an unnamed source said: "This uncertainty is due to the country's flood situation and affliction of a large number of people by dengue virus," the official said, adding that nearly 20 per cent land mass of the country is under flood waters. It is feared that the intensity of the flood might increase in the coming days as the forecast says there will be more rainfall.

He recalled that the worst flood of the country in 1998 had started on August 19.

In the prevailing situation, the high-ups in the government are in doubt about giving welcome to Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori," BSS reported.

A senior official of the Japanese embassy when confirmed

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**Case against PM
Aktheruzzaman
did not sign
vokalatnama**

BNP lawmaker Maj (retd) Aktheruzzaman did not sign the 'vokalatnama' prepared by BNP to file a case against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her recent remarks about the judiciary, reports UNB.

"I did not sign the 'vokalatnama' as I do not know where I will sign and what for. As Member of Parliament I have the right to know this clearly," he told UNB over phone last night.

He said he went to Minto Road while the move was on there.

"I do not know which forum has taken the decision to file a case," the MP from Kishoreganj said.

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August Sun Rises Sun Sets
 Aug 14 6:33 pm
 Aug 15 5:34 am

Prayer Timings

August 14	
Azan	Jamaat
4:30	5:05
Zohr	12:45 1:30
Asr	5:00 5:15
Magrib	6:40 6:45
Eshra	8:15 8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Opposition MPs to file contempt case against PM Wednesday

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition lawmakers will file a contempt petition with the High Court against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her remarks against the judiciary. The petition may be filed on Wednesday, sources said.

All the MPs of BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami will be plaintiff in the petition, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told newsmen after a meeting of BNP Parliamentary Party yesterday evening.

BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia chaired the meeting held at her official residence.

We have unanimously decided to file the petition to protect the judiciary and ensure

rule of law in the country," Bhuiyan said.

"As lawmakers, we can not sit idle when the Awami League government and the Prime Minister attempt to destroy the judicial system. The government has already politicised lower courts and is now trying to influence higher courts," he alleged.

Bhuiyan said the Prime Minister and some of her Cabinet colleagues are making frequent adverse remarks on the judiciary. The ruling party also brought out stick processions to hasten execution of a lower court verdict. All these are aimed at influencing higher courts, he said.

At the BNP meeting, 93

MPs, including Khaleda Zia, Prof AQM Badruzzaman Chowdhury, M Saifur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Khandaker Delwar Hossain and M Morshed Khan signed individual vokalatnamas.

BNP has 110 MPs. Some of them are out of the country and some could not attend yesterday's meeting because of illness.

Sources said vokalatnamas were sent to Jatiya Party (Ershad) Secretary General Nazirul Islam, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Matirul Islam Nizam on Saturday night for signature of MPs of those parties.

The three Jamaat MPs have already signed their vokalatnamas and returned those to

BNP. Vokalatnamas of JP MPs are expected this morning, the sources said. JP (Ershad) claims that it has 20 MPs.

BNP Standing Committee member Barrister Moudud Ahmed will file the petition on behalf of the MPs.

Bhuiyan said several hundred lawyers of High Court have already signed vokalatnamas to file a separate contempt petition against the Prime Minister.

They are expected to be filed the petition in a day or two, he said.

A meeting of the BNP Standing Committee will be held this evening at Khalada Zia's official residence to discuss filing of the contempt petition.

Mugger shot and injured two garment factory employees and allegedly took away about Tk 28 lakh in the city yesterday. The miscreants riding in a white car intercepted the microbus at Babar Road in Mohammadpur, shot at the driver and the accountant, and took away Tk 28.39 lakh, said police quoting the FIR. The gang left the spot firing gunshots.

According to an eyewitness, three people carrying firearms intercepted the microbus, broke open a windowpane and asked the employees to hand over the money to them. One of the muggers fired two shots at the driver, when the employees refused to oblige.

The employees of Alif Garments located at Babar Road had collected the sum from Is-

Third such incident in a month

Tk 28 lakh mugged from garment employees

By Staff Correspondent

lami Bank's Motijheel branch yesterday. The amount was to be paid to the workers as its salary, said Mohammad Atzul Islam, chairman of the organisation.

"The miscreants were probably following the microbus from the bank," Islam said, adding that the mugger insisted that the money be kept in two bags and both be surrendered to them.

This is the third such incident to have taken place in a month.

Earlier on July 27, mugger riding two motorbikes snatched Tk 11.5 lakh from employees of a construction firm at Karwan-bazar in the city, after the money was drawn from National Bank at Dilkusha.

The miscreants carrying mobile phones were following

the employees all the way from the bank, suspected the officials of the company.

In another such incident on July 11, mugger with their faces covered snatched Tk 6 lakh from travel agency employee from the premises of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Riding two motorbikes, the miscreants followed the employee all the way from a bank at Motijheel and took away the money in broad daylight in presence of security personnel.

Meanwhile, BGMEA President Anisur Rahman Sinha in a statement yesterday expressed concern at the latest incident of mugging. Drawing the attention of the home minister, he demanded immediate recovery of the amount of money as well as punishment to the culprits.



Teachers and employees of non-government schools and colleges formed a human chain on the sidewalk in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. They have been agitating since July 10 to press their six-point demand including 100 per cent salary from the public exchequer.

— Star photo

Statements of two witnesses recorded Rangu identified as one of the killers of Rab

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 13: Witnesses of the murder case. A special team comprising top officials of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP), headed by the Police Commissioner, will interrogate the accused and supervise the investigation, sources in KMP said.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rabur Reza Siddiqui recorded their statements today under Section 164 of Cr PC.

Rashid and Kader had accompanied Rab while he was going to mosque to offer Jumma prayers when he was shot dead.

Rangu and another young man, James, arrested yesterday, were placed on six days' remand today by Chief Metropolitan Magistrate P R Chakma.

The OC of Sonadanga thana is the investigation officer (IO)

of the murder case. A special team comprising top officials of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP), headed by the Police Commissioner, will interrogate the accused and supervise the investigation, sources in KMP said.

Police believe that Rangu and James were hired for killing the ruling party's mayoral candidate in Khulna City Corporation election. Intelligence agencies had advised Rab not to move unguarded.

They said rivalry in Khulna City may be one of the causes for the murder. The rivalry took an awful turn during the 'grand rally' of freedom fighters here last month, which was addressed by AL chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Rab was not allowed to sit on the podium. His rivals in the

district deteriorated further yesterday as major rivers, including Padma and Jamuna, continued to swell inundating fresh areas, reports UNB.

In Manikganj, two children drowned and three people were missing in a boat capsized.

The victims were identified as Swapani, 4, Robin, 4, Sunil Goswami, 40, Altaf, 45, and Liton, 17.

The flood situation in the district worsened as rivers Padma and Jamuna and their tributaries continued to swell, flooding low-lying areas in Sadar, Signor and Saturia upazillas.

The two rivers were still flowing 39 cm above their danger marks.

Road communications were disrupted in rural areas while standing crops and vegetables on vast tracts of land washed away causing huge loss to the farmers.

Another report from Mun-

SAARC cumulation

which was to be held at the

conference held at the