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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," said the SCBA president, 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," said the SCBA president. 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 contacted said:

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Case against PM Akhteruzzaman did not sign vokalatnama

BNP lawmaker Maj (ret'd) Akhteruzzaman 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 Minato 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.

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 plaintiffs 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 Badruddoza 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 Nazimuddin Rahman Manjur and Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Matinur Rahman Nizami 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 Khaleda Zia's official residence to discuss filing of the contempt petition.

Third such incident in a month Tk 28 lakh mugged from garment employees

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers 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 Mohammedpur, 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-

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

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

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

Earlier on July 27, muggers 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, muggers with their faces covered snatched Tk 6 lakh from a 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.

Non-govt teachers to continue strike

The striking school, college and madrasah teachers formed human chains in the district headquarters across the country yesterday amid reports of a clash among rivals groups, reports UNB.

At least 18 teachers were injured, three of them seriously, in a clash in Manikganj district centering the formation of human chain there as part of non-stop agitation of the non-government teachers to realise their 6-point demand.

The injured are lecturer of Khan Bahadur Awlad Hossain Khan College Ruhul Azam Sujan, Anisur Rahman of Kour MA Rouf Degree College and Moulana Jahurul Islam of Dholla BM High School.

Academic activity came to a halt as the teachers under the banner of Bangladesh Federation of Teachers Associations (BFTA) continued strike at the non-government educational institutions.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on education ministry was told yesterday that the gov-

ernment was ready to resolve the crisis through negotiation.

But the leading teachers said they won't "unlock schools, colleges and madrasah until their demand for hundred per cent salary and allowances from government exchequer is met."

Their demands include raising the government contribution to their salaries to 100 per cent, regular promotion, time scale, and increasing house rent, medical and other allowances.

In the capital city, the teachers, who are on strike since August 10, formed a human chain from Shukla Bhaban via Press Club to Muktagong.

Later, the speakers at a rally in front of the National Press Club vowed to go ahead with their movement.

In Manikganj troubles ensued after participants of a mourning procession attacked teachers' procession from behind while they were passing each other on the same road.

The attack was the sequel to anti-government comments

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Dengue: 77 more hospitalised in Dhaka, Ctg and Feni

By Staff Correspondent

Seventy-seven more dengue patients were hospitalised in Dhaka and Chittagong cities and at Feni yesterday.

Of them, 52 were admitted to different hospitals and clinics in Dhaka, 21 in Chittagong and four at Feni.

In Dhaka, 29 dengue patients were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, five to Mitford Hospital, two to Dhaka Shishu Hospital, four to BIRDEM, two to Suhrawardi Hospital and one dengue patient was admitted to Police Hospital at Rajarbagh.

The Red Crescent Holy Family Hospital reported admitting three dengue patients while

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Top businessman murdered at Beanibazar

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 13: A top businessman was chopped to death at his own business firm at Beanibazar thana headquarters today.

His employees allegedly killed him and fled away leaving the body under lock and key inside the office room, sources said. Ripon, the main suspect in the killing was arrested this afternoon from Ashuganj ferry ghat while fleeing to Dhaka.

Police said Haji Abdul Hannan, 60, was chopped to death some time after midnight. He died instantly.

Some staff of Joytara Store were counting huge money in presence of owner Haji Hannan at about midnight. Police suspect the employees killed him and fled the spot in the early hours of today. The body was recovered this morning by the police and the neighbours.

Police immediately sent a team to Dhaka. The team led by ASI Abdul Bari of Beanibazar thana caught Ripon at the ferry ghat at about 3 am today. Ripon hails from Netrakona district. He was employed to work at Joytara Store at Beanibazar last week, the police added.

Late Hannan came of a rich family at village Noyagram. He was owner of a number of big business establishments at Beanibazar. He also owned huge landed property, sources said.

Mainul Islam, a son of the deceased, lodged a case with the Beanibazar thana. Post mortem was done in the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College this afternoon.

Journalist murder 4 sent to Dhaka for interrogation

JESSORE, Aug 13: The four people arrested in connection with the killing of journalist Shamsur Rahman, were sent to Dhaka for interrogation, reports UNB.

The arrested — Rafiq Anwarul, Shahidul and Ali Hossain — will be interrogated in Dhaka Interrogation Cell.

They were sent to Dhaka after a court here today granted police to take them on a seven-day remand.

A police team, led by CID ASP Dulaluddin Akon, led Jessore along with the accused for Dhaka at about 11 am.

Meanwhile, local newsmen as part of their ongoing agitation programmes protesting the killing of Rahman and arrest of his killers, held a day-long convention at the local press club today.

Their tomorrow's programmes include formation of a human chain from local Biman office to the central bus terminal.

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

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 13: Witnesses homeopath doctor Abdul Rashid and minor boy Abdul Kader have identified Rangu as one of three persons who killed Awami League leader SMA Rab on Friday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rabiur 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 also seized the motorcycle used by James during the murder. James was an employee of a construction firm of Feroz, brother-in-law of Rab. Later, he was made one of armed security guards of Rab.

Rangu, who was a black-market of cinema tickets and deed writer at Sonadanga settlement office earlier, became one of the most trusted security guards of Rab. But Rangu was absent from duty on the day Rab was killed.

Rangu told police that he was on leave on Friday to take part in an angling competition. But police said Rangu had a quarrel with Rab on Thursday.

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 AL 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

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One shot dead, another stabbed in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, August 13: One person was shot dead and a jewellery shop owner was stabbed in two separate incidents in the city during the last 24 hours ending at 7 pm today, police said.

Md Tawhid, 18, was attacked by some muggers while he was going to Baroipara area under Chandgaon thana in the city in a rickshaw at noon today.

Police said the muggers shot him point blank as he refused to give them money. They took away Tk 20,000 from Tawhid and fled the scene, police added. Tawhid died on the spot.

In another incident at Hazari Lane, one Aji Bank, owner of a jewellery shop, was stabbed by some terrorists while he was returning to his house at 11:30 pm yesterday, police said.

Bank was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Bahaddarhat carnage Another SMG recovered from Hazarika's house

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 13: Police in a raid this morning seized another Chinese made SMG which was reportedly used in Bahaddarhat incident that left eight people including six BCL activists killed.

Police said the sophisticated weapon similar to AK-47, was recovered from the house of arrested Shibir cadre Gias Hazarika at Kuaish here at 9 am today.

According to his confessional statement, police conducted the raid and recovered the weapon from a garage.

Hazarika is now on a seven-day remand in connection with Bahaddarhat killing case.

Police seized another Chinese made SMG with 13 bullets from Hazarika's residence at Kuaish on Thursday night.

Police suspect that there are

more arms and ammunition under Hazarika's possession and are questioning him to recover those.

A senior police official preferring anonymity told this correspondent that Hazarika used to conduct arms and ammunition trade through an agent in Chittagong city and earned huge amount of money.

He also said that drive was on to nab Hazarika's agent who used to procure arms and ammunition from some insurgent groups active on Bangladesh-Myanmar border.

Meanwhile, police collected important information from Hazarika about those who bought arms from him.

However, six members of the seven-member killer gang are still at large, police said.

Flood situation worsens in 5 dists



A woman in Shamurbari village in Munshiganj thana stands on a raised platform in front of her thatched hut submerged by flood water and children push a boat. These people built their shanties here after the Padma eroded away their original homesteads. Nature threatens their lives once more.

2 children drown in Manikganj

Overall flood situation in Dhaka, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Narsingdi and Sylhet districts 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 Swapan, 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, Signori and Sauria upazilas.

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 Munshiganj said...

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Use of fabric from SAARC states Govt to study impact on RMG, textile sectors

By Rafiq Hasan

The government and stakeholders in the textile sector at a joint meeting yesterday decided to conduct a comprehensive study of the impact of government's support to a GSP provision on garments and textile sector in the country.

A professional consultant will be appointed to review all aspects of SAARC cumulation in exporting goods to the EU countries under Generalised System of Preference (GSP), meeting sources said.

The study would be completed in four months and it would also review the impact of SAARC cumulation on the national economy and the balance of payment.

The government recently consented to the EU provision that goods made with raw materials from any SAARC country would get the GSP facility, which is called SAARC cumulation.

Earlier, goods made with only local raw materials got the facility from the EU countries. Commerce Secretary Golam

Rahman presided over yesterday's meeting held at the commerce ministry. It was attended by, among others, President of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Anisur Rahman Sinha, President of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) Monjurul Huq, Chairman of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) Salman F Rahman, President of Bangladesh Terry Towel and Linen Manufacturers Association (BTTLMA) Col (ret'd) Anisuzzaman and President of Bangladesh Specialised Textile Mills and Power Loom Industries Association (BSTMPIA) Mohammad Shahjada Mian.

BTMA criticised the government for giving consent to SAARC cumulation while BGMEA and BKMEA spoke in favour of it.

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By An Observer
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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
Fajr	4:30	5:05
Zohr	12:45	1:30
Asr	5:00	5:15
Maghrib	6:40	6:45
Esh	8:15	8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation