

Pro-opposition lawyers file contempt case against PM

By Special Correspondent
 Another contempt petition was filed with the High Court yesterday against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her remarks on the judiciary.

The petition was filed by Barrister Rafiqul Huq on behalf of 339 pro-opposition lawyers including Khandaker Mahabubuddin Ahmed, Barrister Abdur Razzaq, Barrister Mainul Huda and Adilur Rahman Khan.

Barrister Huq also sought permission from the court for submission of photocopies of press reports in support of the petition.

Hearing on admissibility of the petition is likely to be held today.

A Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Huq and Justice Mohammad Abdur Rashid will hear the petition.

Earlier, a contempt petition against the Prime Minister on the same issue was filed with the HC by President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Barrister Mainul Hossain last week. Hearing on its admissibility will be held today.

Meanwhile, opposition

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Murders of two lawyers condemned

By Staff Correspondent
 Dhaka Bar Association (DBA) at an emergency meeting yesterday strongly protested the killing of its member Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal in the city and Advocate Kalidas Baral at Bagerhat by unidentified assailants.

Habibur Rahman Mondal, General Secretary of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, Dhaka unit and Advocate Kalidas Baral, General Secretary of Bagerhat District Bar Association were killed by unidentified miscreants yesterday.

Presided over by Advocate Lutfur Alam, President of DBA, the meeting demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of those responsible for the killings.

The bar members expressed sympathy with the members of the bereaved families and prayed for the salvation of the departed souls.

Bangladesh Bar Council at an emergency meeting strongly condemned the killings.

The meeting held at the Bar Council Bahaban here with Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council Barrister M Aminul Islam in the chair, expressed deep concern over the killings of the two reputed lawyers in the country.

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Announcement


 Following Lawrence L. Schulte's *Anatomy of a Coup: A Journey of a Guerrilla Century*, we publish from tomorrow *The Solar Correspondence: A Congressional Inquiry Deliberately Derailed*? by the same author in three parts on page 4.

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Where Outlaws Make the Law
 by Mir Ashfaquzzaman
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August	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Aug 21		6:27 pm
Aug 22	5:36 am	

Prayer Timings

August 21	
Azan	Jamaat
4:30	5:05
Zohr	12:45 1:20
Asr	5:00 5:15
Maghrib	6:40 6:45
Esha	8:15 8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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BEST
for the
3rd Millennium

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JAMADIUL AWAL 20, 1421 HIJRI

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2 lawyers belonging to BNP, AL shot dead

Gunmen open fire on mourners in city

By Staff Correspondent

Unidentified assailants yesterday shot dead two lawyers, one in Dhaka and the other at Bagerhat, triggering protests by lawyers who ransacked some lower courts in the city and staged demonstrations.

Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal, 44, was killed in the city and Advocate Kalidas Baral at Bagerhat.

Four people including two policemen were bullet-hit when unidentified gunmen opened fire again while mourners including lawyers were taking the coffin of Mondal towards the District Judge's Court area after Namaj-e-Janaza on the Supreme Court premises.

Mondal was Joint Secretary of city BNP and a leader of the

Police used tear gas and ba-

tons to bring the situation under control.

Chief Justice Latifur Rahman suspended work in all courts in the city after 1 pm following a request by a lawyers' delegation led by Barrister Mainul Hossain, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

Mondal, who was a defence counsel for Col (rtd) Sultan Sharier Rashid, a convict in the Bangabandhu murder case, was shot in the head from a close range at Chandra Mohan Bashak Lane at Banagram at 9:15 am. He, along with his mulhuri (clerk) was going to court on a Vespa motorcycle.

Mondal was Joint Secretary of city BNP and a leader of the

Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Parishad, front organisation of BNP. He was a former ward commissioner of DCC.

He was also a signatory to the *vokalatnama* for a contempt petition against the Prime Minister filed by pro-opposition lawyers yesterday.

Kalidas Baral, 45, Vice-president of Bagerhat district Awami League and General Secretary of the District Bar Association, was shot dead at the Sadhana Crossing at Bagerhat town at 8:30 am.

Baral was also a central leader of the Hindu-Boudh-Christian Oikyata Parishad.

In the city, witnesses said

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Wife of slain city BNP leader Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal (inset) wails with their two-month-old baby in her lap yesterday. Relatives who came to console the family also broke down.

— Star photo

Lawyer murder, oil & gas price hike Countrywide half-day hartal on Aug 23, day-long Aug 30

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance has called a half-day hartal on Wednesday and a dawn-to-dusk on August 30 across the country protesting the killing of a BNP leader in the city yesterday and price hike of gas and petroleum products, respectively.

The half-day hartal will begin at 6 a.m. and end at 1 p.m.

BNP Secretary-General Abdul Mannan Bhuyian announced the shutdown programme at a press briefing at 29 Minto Road yesterday evening. He also announced a series of demonstration programmes to mobilise public support to protest the killing of BNP leader Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal and price hike of oil and gas.

The programmes include countrywide protest rallies and processions today to protest the killing of Mondal, chv BNP

'71 war debacle Make public Hamood-ur Commission Report: PPP

ISLAMABAD, Aug 20: Pakistan People's Party (PPP) today demanded making public of the Hamood-ur Rahman Commission Report on the 1971 war debacle and said stern action needed to be taken against the army officials who brought disrepute to the country and the military, reports PTI.

They will hold demonstrations and bring out torch processions in all thana, district and divisional headquarters on Tuesday in support of the half-day hartal.

The opposition alliance will stage demonstrations in all thana, district and city headquarters on August 28 to protest the price hike of gas and petroleum products as well as to drum up support for the day-long shutdown on August 30. It will also hold rallies and bring out torch processions across the country on August 29.

Bhuiyan blamed the Awami League for the brutal killing of BNP leader Habibur Rahman

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Dengue: Govt hiding facts Fatality rate already reached epidemic level: Expert

By Naimul Haq

The government is covering up the fact that the rate of fatality from dengue infection has already reached 10 per cent of the total number of cases which, by definition, makes it an epidemic.

Touhid Uddin Ahmed, former chief scientific officer at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), made the observation in an interview with the Daily Star yesterday.

Ahmed, who has a 30-year experience in this field and has worked with competent WHO experts from time to time, said that between 1979 and 1994, he along with the visiting WHO consultants shared their studies with the government, warning that dengue infection was on the rise.

He said their visits were significant in the sense that WHO suspected Bangladesh mi-

ght have dengue cases considering its existence in neighbouring countries.

In fact, many of the people who died earlier from common viral infection (flu) are now suspected to have died of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF).

The growth of Aedes mosquito population is measured with the number of containers found with its larvae in 100 houses. This measurement is known as the Breteau Index and an index of up to 18 is considered normal.

A 1997 survey showed that the index had reached 30 in the city, rising further to 160 in 1999 and to an alarming 254 in June 2000, which is 14 times the normal level.

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and the Health Ministry ignored my warning of a dengue outbreak in the city. The government knew about the

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Mori goes round Bangabandhu Museum, leaves for Pakistan

Japan's Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori visited the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum yesterday and was visibly moved witnessing the marks and memories of the tragic event of Bangabandhu's assassination, report agencies.

Mori sympathised with Hasina saying: "I can now feel the grief you contain in your heart and what a life you're passing losing your near and dear ones."

"I hope you've learnt a lot from the life and struggle of your beloved father. I believe your grief has been turned into strength," he told Hasina.

The Japanese PM placed wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu and stood in solemn silence for sometime as a mark of respect to the Bangladeshi's independence leader.

Prime Minister Hasina and her only sister, Sheikh Rehana, See page 11 col 7



Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori (L) with his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina on his side looks at photographs on the life of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman yesterday at the Bangabandhu Memorial Museum.

— AFP photo

Cases against cops: Court orders go unheeded

By Chaitanya Chandra Halder

At least a dozen complaint cases were filed against some DMP personnel with the CMM's Court in the first seven months of the year for their alleged involvement in killing, extortion, intimidation, misuse of power and misbehaviour.

Mondal, joint secretary of city BNP and also of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, was shot dead by gunmen in the city yesterday.

In a message of condolence and condemnation, the Prime Minister "strongly protested the barbaric killing" of Advocate Mondal.

He prayed for the departed soul and conveyed sympathies to the members of the bereaved family.

In a similar message, Hasina condemned the killing of lawyer Kalidas Baral, an Awami League leader and former chairman of Chilmari upazila.

The Prime Minister said Kalidas was a follower of the ideology of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"We lost a devoted political leader at his death," she said.

The Prime Minister conveyed her sympathies to the members of the bereaved family.

The court had directed the OC of Shyampur thana to take it as a regular case after a thorough investigation.

On February 29, Mohammad Alimullah Alim of Dayaganj under Suptrupur thana filed a case against six policemen of Khilgaon thana on April 13 accusing them of trespass, physical torture and misuse of power. The court ordered a judicial inquiry.

Advocate Alina Khan, a director of Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights, filed a case against Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury, ADC of DMP (South), on June 1 accusing him of misusing power, intimidation and misbehaviour.

The court directed the DMP Commissioner to submit a report after thorough investigation.

Mosammat Farha Begum, a resident of Purana Paltan under Motijheel thana, filed a case against three police personnel of Motijheel thana on June 6 for trespass, theft, intimidation and misbehaviour.

Several hundred teachers and employees of non-government schools and colleges staged a sit-in in front of the Shikha Bhaban yesterday.

The strike was called protesting price hike of petroleum products and gas.

However, no untoward incidents were reported during the strike, police said.

Vehicles except rickshaws and some private cars were off the roads and highways, during the strike.

Delivery of goods to and from Chittagong port remained suspended due to lack of trucks, port sources said.

Transport owners and workers held rallies at different places in and outside the city protesting the price hike of petroleum products and gas.

Greater Chittagong Truck Owners Coordination Council organised a meeting at its office in port area today.

Chaired by SM Chan Meah, president of the council, the meeting was addressed by Abu Siddique, Jahur Ahmed, See page 11 col 6

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