



Wishing the
BEST
for the
3rd Millennium

BHADRA 8, 1407 BS

Center for International Studies (CIS)
Call for Information : 8822729

VOL. X NO. 213 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2000

3rd Millennium

JAMADIUL AWAL 22, 1421 HIJRI

12 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00

Sept 1 deadline to cut fuel prices

AL-backed road transport owners threaten indefinite strike

Star Report

The ruling party-backed road transport owners association has threatened an indefinite strike from September 1 if fuel prices are not reduced.

"We will be left with no alternative but to call a country-wide strike if the government does not take any initiative to reduce fuel prices before September 1," Khondaker Enayet Ullah General Secretary of Bangladesh Sarak

Paribahan Samity told The Daily Star on Monday.

The Samity's president, Aliaj Maqbul Hossain, a member of parliament from ruling Awami League, could not be contacted for his comments despite repeated attempts.

The Samity claims to have more than 80,000 members.

The other major transport owners association — Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners

Association — protested the fuel price hike but is yet to decide on any movement programme.

"We protested the fuel price hike and urged the government to reduce it. We are awaiting government's response," its general secretary Mohammad Hanif said.

He however said the issue could be resolved through discussion with the government.

He claimed that their Association does not belong to

See page 11 col 8

Half-day hartal today

By Staff Correspondent

The four-party opposition alliance has called a country-wide half-day hartal today to protest killing of BNP leader Habibur Rahman Mondal in the city.

Advocate Mondal, joint secretary of city BNP, was gunned down in the old part of city on Sunday by unknown assailants.

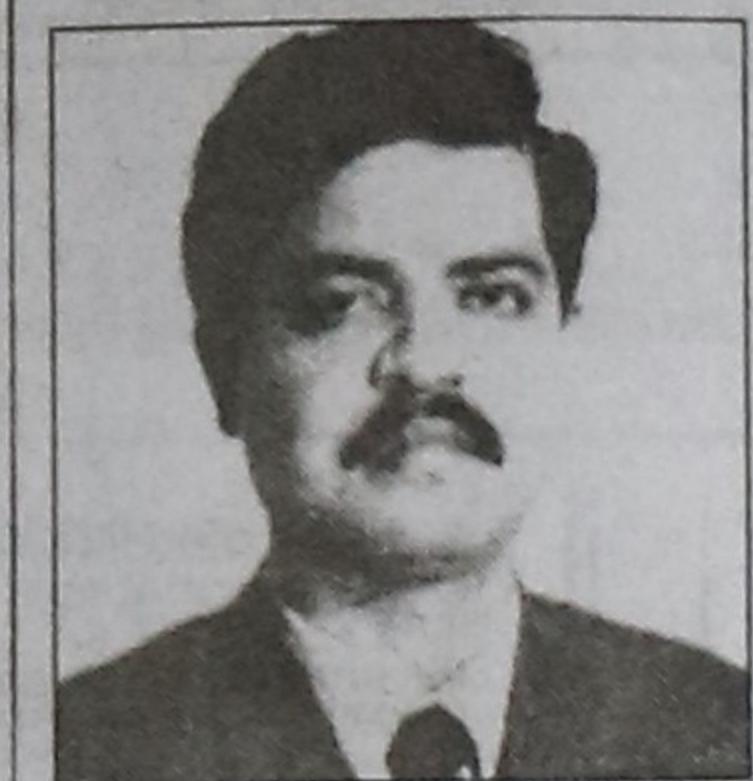
In support of the hartal from 6am to 1pm, the BNP and Jatiya Party yesterday brought out separate torch processions while Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote demonstrated in all city, district and thana headquarters.

Smaller opposition allies Jagra, Progressive Nationalist Party, Democratic League and Nationalist Democratic Alliance also brought out torch processions separately in the capital in the afternoon.

BNP brought out torch processions from seven places in the city — Mohakhali, Mirpur, Naya Paltan, Farmgate, Newmarket, Hazaribagh and Shyampur areas.

See page 11 col 7

Shahid's accomplice held: Hunt for Mondal's clerk



Allegations, but no case against Shahid

By Staff Correspondent

Despite alleged involvement in at least 13 murders, powerful DCC Ward Commissioner Sajidur Rahman Shahid's name once again escapes the police list of suspects in another murder case.

Twice elected ward commis-

See page 11 col 1

By Staff Correspondent

Police yesterday arrested Bachchu, an accomplice of DCC Ward Commissioner Sajidur Rahman Shahid, in connection with the killing of advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal.

Bachchu, arrested from a house at Maniknagar in the city, confessed to police that he was involved in planning the killing, done by a professional killer group, Supratap thana police told The Daily Star.

Hunt for Mondal's muhuri (clerk) Asad is on. Police yesterday searched several places for him, they said. Asad was driving the Vespa motorcycle on which Mondal was going to court on Sunday when the killing took place.

But Mondal's mobile phone set, missing since the killing could not be recovered.

During a visit to Banagram area yesterday, some local people while talking to this correspondent claimed that Ward Commissioner Sajidur Rahman Shahid, who is alleged to be behind the killing, is living in the city. Shahid is DCC Commissioner of Ward No 83

and a leader of ruling Awami League. It was reported earlier that he was in London when the incident took place.

Mondal's wife Nilufer Yasmin Diba also said earlier that Shahid might be behind the killing.

This correspondent also talked with Diba yesterday at their Banagram residence. Asked about Asad, she said "Asad talked to me over phone on Monday".

Asked about her conversation with Asad, she said, "He said he could not recognise the killers".

She said, "My husband always used to say that people of Sajidur Rahman Shahid might kill him. That is why we changed our house about two and a half months back."

"My husband was very popular in the area which the commissioner did not like."

Asad's wife was also at the house at that time. When asked, she told the correspondent that her husband was under treatment at a clinic in the city and

See page 11 col 7

Bird shooters at ZIA yet to get their guns

By Shehab Ahmed

Bureaucratic red-tapism is delaying CAAB's efforts to procure six guns to fully equip its 10-member bird shooters team to keep Zia International Airport free of birds.

Sources in CAAB (Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh) said it recruited five more bird shooters about two months back after several aircraft were hit by birds during landing and take-off.

But its efforts for the last three months to procure guns for them through the state owned Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) have so far been futile.

TCB officials were not available yesterday for comment.

In the latest such incident on Monday, a Bangladesh Biman Airbus A310 was hit by a bird during take-off. The aircraft returned to ZIA 25 minutes after take-off when smoke was detected in one of its two engines. It was on a flight to Kuala Lumpur with 41 passengers.

A Sri Lankan Airlines Airbus which took off immediately after the Biman Airbus saw the smoke and informed its captain, who immediately brought the aircraft back to the air port, CAAB sources said.

The Airbus flew again after necessary check-up and minor repair of the engine, Biman sources said.

But CAAB authorities denied that the Airbus was hit by a bird.

A top official of CAAB said it was yet to be ascertained whether the Airbus was hit by a bird. There could be some other reason for the smoke, he said.

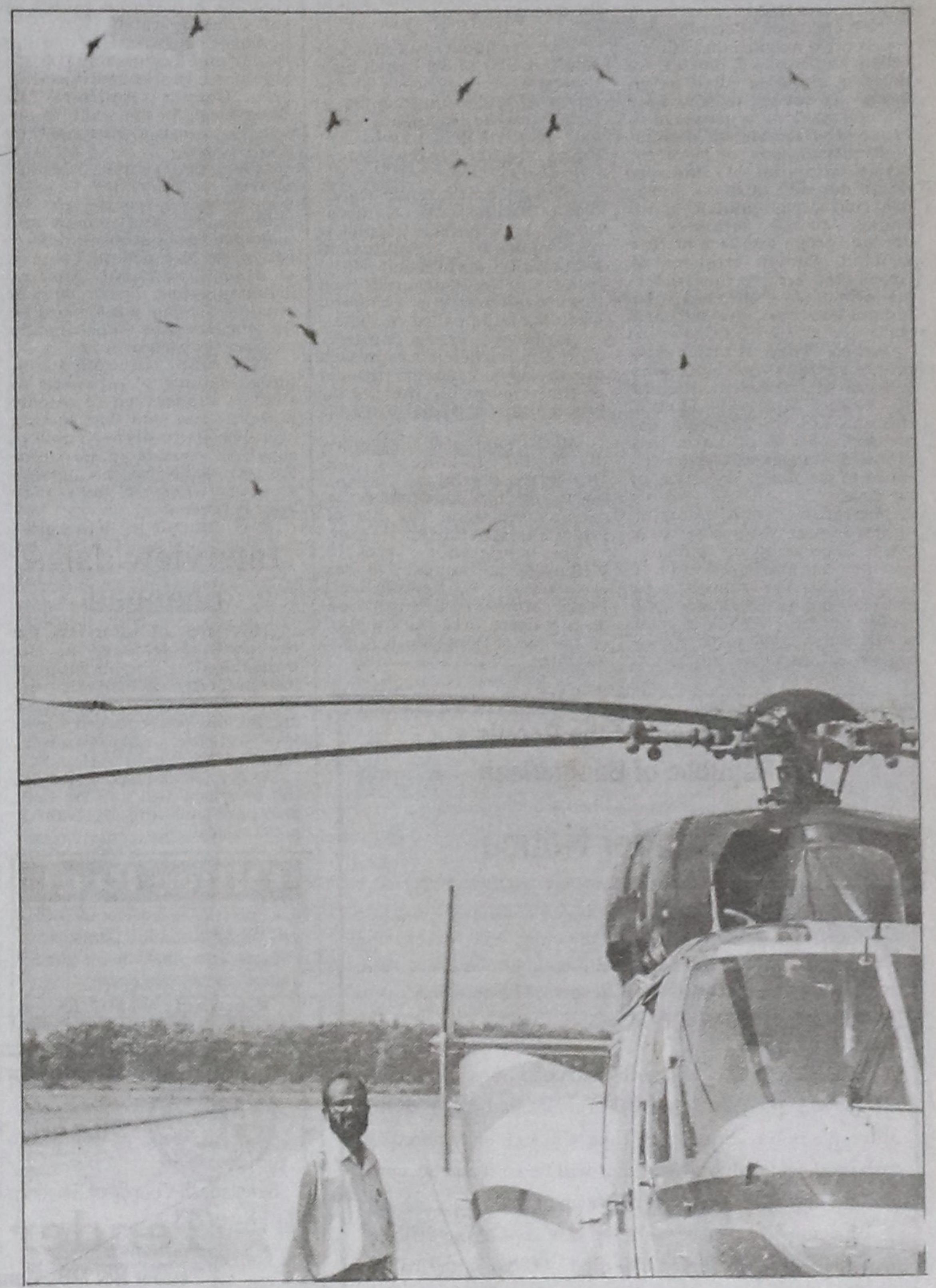
Biman sources pointed out that birds of prey, specially Pariah Kites, abound in the air port, surrounded by trees and wetlands.

These pose a hazard due to sloppy surveillance, they said.

CAAB official said lease of ponds inside the airport for pisciculture has been cancelled to keep the birds away.

They are also trying to procure an electronic bird deterrent system. But the problem

See page 11 col 8



Birds of prey like this flock of Pariah Kites are a common sight at Zia International Airport. The wetlands around the airport provide food for the birds luring them to stay on nearby. Four birds hit aircraft in the past three months during landing or take off, each time narrowly escaping an accident that could have been fatal.

— Star photo

Hearing on two petitions to resume today

By Special Correspondent

Hearing on the admissibility of two contempt petitions against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resumes in the High Court today.

A Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Huq and Justice Mohammad Abdur Rashid began the hearing on Monday.

The contempt petitions were filed separately by Barrister Mainul Hosein, President of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), and Barrister Rafiqul Huq on behalf of 339 pro-opposition lawyers for the PM's recent remarks on the judiciary.

The Bench would also hear today admissibility of a petition filed by former SCBA Barrister Shaukat Ali Khan seeking rejection of the petition by Mainul Hosein.

It also takes up a contempt petition on the same issue filed by 110 opposition lawmakers on Monday.

See page 11 col 8

Petition for quashing contempt case may be filed today

Star Report

About 560 lawyers are likely to file a petition with the High Court today for quashing a contempt petition filed against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Sources concerned said yes-

terday that pro-government lawyers planned to submit the petition for rejection of the contempt petition filed against the PM by 339 pro-opposition lawyers on Sunday.

Earlier on Monday, former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Barrister Shaukat Ali Khan filed a petition with the HC seeking rejection of another contempt petition against the Prime Minister filed by incumbent President of the SCBA Barrister Mainul Hosein.

See page 11 col 8

Young man hacked to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

A young man was hacked to death and two others were injured in separate incidents in the city yesterday, hospital sources said.

Shahidullah, 22, son of Abdul Baten of Maniknagar in Saburbagh thana came under attack by a gang of miscreants near power house at Maniknagar at about 7 pm.

They hit Shahidullah with an axe and fled the scene, leaving him in a pool of blood.

Shahidullah was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the attending doctor declared him dead.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

Pear Hossain, 25, son of Nur Mohammad at Masjid Lane, Rayerbazar, received bomb injuries in his head and other parts of the body yesterday.

The incident occurred at about 2:30 pm when two leading group exploded bomb to take control of the area.

He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Rony, 22, a fruit vendor in the city's New Market, received injuries when a gang of miscreants threw crackers at him at about 1 pm yesterday.

The miscreants appeared in front of him Kalkini Graveyard Lane at Pallabi and demanded toll from him. When he refused to pay toll, the gang beat up him and crackers threw him.

He was sent to the DMCH in a critical condition.

Rab's family under pressure to withdraw case

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 22: Members of S M A Rab's family are being threatened to withdraw the murder case or to face severe consequence, sources said.

Threats are being given over telephone.

Meanwhile, Rongul has identified Motaleb as one of the three shooters who killed the Awami League mayoral candidate. Witnesses Rashid and Kader have also identified Motaleb as one of the killers.

Members of the 13-member special team are still interrogating the five outlaws in a bid to find out the clue of fax message sent to different newspaper offices in the name of Purbo Bangladeshi Communist Party claiming responsibility of the murder of Rab.

Confession of Saeed, Bablu

Partymen instigated murder of Boral

From Staff Correspondent

of Lord Sri Krishna protesting the killing of Boral who was the president of the parishad.

A condolence meeting was held today at local Hori Sava Mandir with Principal of Sri Sri Ram Krishna Mission Swami Paramananda Dev.

State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Mohammad Hossain, State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaque, Mir Sakhuwan Ali Daru, MP, Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Nurul Islam and Superintendent of Police M A Salam, among others, addressed the meeting.

A procession was also brought out after the rally which paraded different roads of the town.

Police quoting Saeed and Bablu said decision to kill Advocate Boral was taken at the residence of Alamgir. Taka six lakh was fixed for paying six killers of the squad, police said.

Police refused to disclose the names of four other killers. Saeed and Bablu told police that Boral was killed at Alamgir's order as he was a probable candidate for the coming upazila election.

BSS adds, Bagerhat District Puja Uddyan Parishad has cancelled its all programme to celebrate the birth anniversary

See page 12 col 4

Unresolved murder Fear haunts Mosharraf's family as killers are still at large

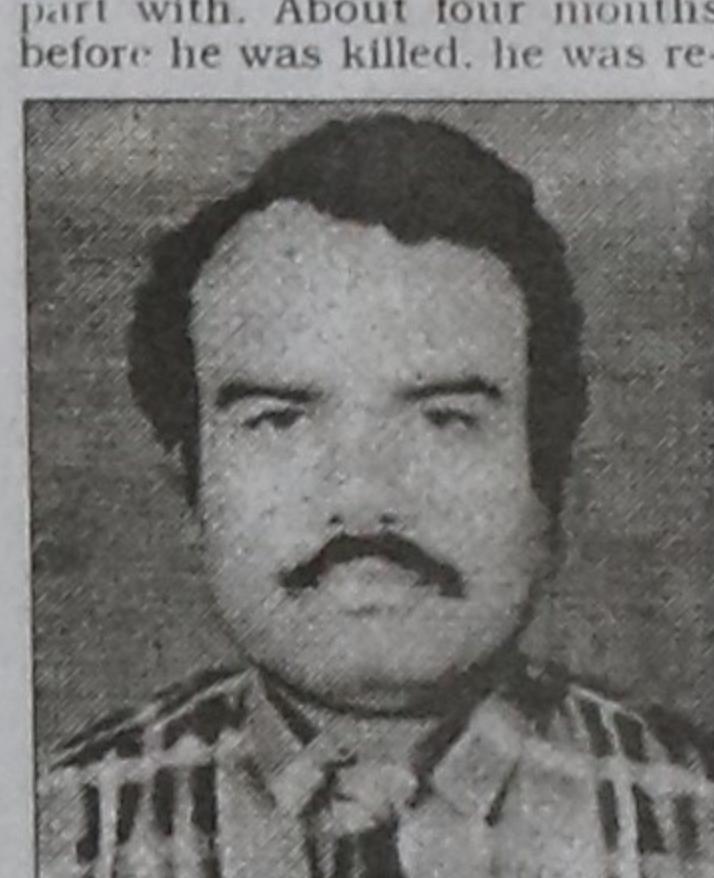
By Staff Correspondent

Fear still haunts the grief stricken family members and close relatives of Dr Mosharraf who was gunned down by assailants while taking his eight-year-old daughter to school in a rickshaw from his residence at Shyamoli in the city on November last year.

Since then Mosharraf's family — mother, wife and three minor children — has virtually remained in hiding. They have repeatedly changed their residence and have so far refused to talk to the press or any stranger. Any knock on their door terrifies them as the brutal killing is still fresh in their memory. The biggest apprehension for the family members is that the killers, still at large, had recognised the child who witnessed her father being shot in the head.

This correspondent had to come to door in a city area (location kept secret on request) to find out their present residence.

"There is no justice here. I lost my son and I do not want to lose any one else of my family in the same way, please go away," the victim's aggrieved mother said when this correspondent asked if police have made any progress as regards the nabbing killers.



Dengue: 45 more hospitalised

By Staff Correspondent

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

Of them, 13 were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, two to Mitford Hospital, six to Dhaka Shishu Hospital, seven to the Red Crescent Hospital and five to Bangladesh Medical College Hospital.

Central Hospital at Green Road and Samanta Hospital admitted one and three patients respectively while Al-Razi Hospital reported four new cases yesterday.

See page 11 col 8