

What's on today....

BSAF Seminar: Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) will organise a seminar on "child labour in Bangladesh: NGO Interventions and Future Directions." Venue: Women's Voluntary Association (WVA), House No 20, Rd No 27, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 9:00 am.

Discussion meeting: Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder Smriti Sangsad will hold a discussion meeting on the BNP leader in observance of his first death anniversary. Venue: Jatiya Press Club auditorium. Time: 4:00 pm.

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *Shilpi* starring Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen. Venue: Auditorium of Indian High Commission, House No 25, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Workshop: The National Stakeholder's Workshop (NSW) on Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) will be held. Organisers: Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief and UNDP. Chief guest: State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief. Venue: Conference room (3rd floor), IDB Bhaban, Begum Rokeya Sarani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 10:00 am.

Launching ceremony: Centre for Social Science and Public Policy Research of the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) will hold the launching ceremony of "Women and Islam in Bangladesh" by Prof Taj J Hashmi, Director of the School of Liberal Arts and Science of the university. Venue: IUB campus, House No 6, Rd No 14, Bandhara. Time: 4:30 pm.

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen *Harano Shoor* starring Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen. Venue: Auditorium of House No 25, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

Weather

Light rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 35.2 degree Celsius at Syedpur and the lowest 24.0 degree at Chittagong.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.25 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.37 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.5	26.4	69	66
Chittagong	33.6	24.0	78	78
Rajshahi	34.0	26.2	83	76
Khulna	35.0	27.5	87	76
Barisal	33.4	26.0	77	66
Sylhet	33.3	24.8	86	77
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.0	66	79

HERE and THERE

NetFinders

NetFinders, a private organisation has announced a special discount on their computer products for the first five merit positions in the upcoming HSC results of the current year, says a press release.

NetFinders will provide 5% discount on computers for these students and also extend year-long free service facilities to those among them already using computers, the release added.

DDDP

By DU Correspondent

The first founding anniversary of Dhaka Division Development Parishad (DDDP) was observed at the National Sports Complex auditorium in the city yesterday.

Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury, founder president of Manob Kalyan Society addressed the programme as the chief guest while Shariful Islam Bhuiyan chaired it.

Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka

By DU Correspondent

The Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka yesterday held a blood donation programme at the Shahjahanpur Railway High School in association with Bangladesh Scout, Sandhani and Dhaka City Rotaract Club.

A total of 52 bags blood were collected during the programme began at 9:00 am.

IUBAT

Dr Hafiz Rahman, Professor of Finance and Economics of the University College of the Caribbean (UCC), Canada called on Prof Dr Alimullah Miyan, Founder & Vice-Chancellor of IUBAT - International University of Business Agriculture and Technology at his office Monday, says a press release.

Dr Rahman's visit is part of academic linkage between UCC & IUBAT. The standing agreements on on-block mid-course transfer of students in areas of business, computer science and nursing between the two universities came up for review.

The discussions focussed on strengthening the existing agreements and exploring new areas of cooperation.

During the discussion Prof Miyan appraised the visitor about the infra-structural and other institutional developments of IUBAT. He recalled with satisfaction the visit of Prof Roger Barnsley, President of UCC to IUBAT as the Convocation Speaker last year. This has helped in developing ties between the two universities and in promoting higher professional education.

BAF

Bangladesh Air Force observed the death anniversary of Flight Lieutenant M Matiur Rahman, Bir Shreshtho on Sunday with due solemnity, reports BSS.

A *milad mahfil* was held at the BAF Base Matiur Rahman at Jessore, an ISPR press release said yesterday.

Discussion meeting on UN held

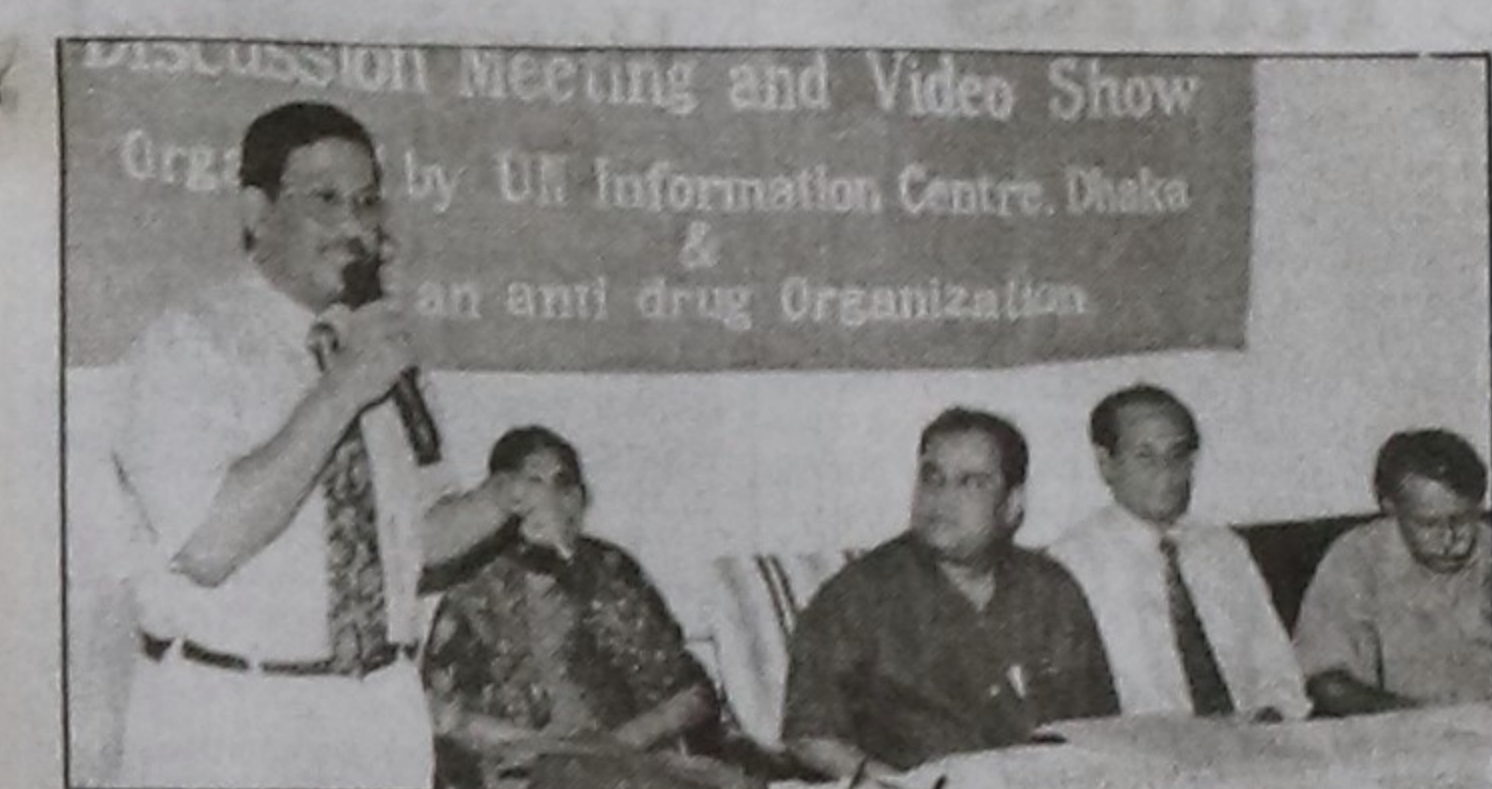
A discussion meeting commemorating the upcoming Millennium Summit of the United Nations was held at Sher-e-Bangla Government Boys' High School in the city on Monday, reports UNB.

The summit will be held at the UN headquarters in New York from September 6 to 8.

At the discussion meeting, the speakers lauded the role of UN in making bondages among the global people through its integrated efforts on different issues.

"We the global people feel each other very close due to the relentless efforts of United Nations," said Kazi Ali Reza, officer-in-charge of the United Nations Information Center (UNIC).

UNIC and LIFE, an anti-drug organisation, have jointly organised the meeting. Presided over by Hasina Jabbar, headmistress of the school, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Kamrul Islam Sony, Chairman of LIFE, Journalist Selim Samad, Dr Abul Hossain Milton and Saleh Shibly of LIFE and Moniruzzaman of UNIC.



The Officer-in-Charge of UNIC Dhaka speaking at a discussion meeting on "UN in the 21st Century" in the city on Monday.

Sonar Bangla Home brings hope for sex workers' children

A humanitarian venture in Tangail

By Abul Kalam Azad, back from Tangail

Bobby, a five-year-old girl, smiles happily and declares that she wants to be a doctor in future. Only a year back she had no such dreams but looked doomed to a similar fate as her sex worker mother.

But today, she can look forward to a far better future and stands a fair chance to lead a normal life like others in the civic society.

Like Bobby, 47 more children of sex workers are now optimistic of brighter future, thanks to the efforts of the Society for Social Service (SSS) an NGO that set up the Sonar Bangla Children's home in Tangail for sex workers' children.

Though confined within the boundary of the home, these children are happy with their new life away from the shabby brothels of Tangail and Daulatdia.

Situated at Kuchbari village, some 10 km away from the Tangail sadar, the home has been set up on 4 acres of land with a view to rehabilitate the children born to sex workers in different brothels across the country.

The 48 children, 21 girls and 19 boys, are aged between four to 14 years. At the home they

not only have normal schooling but also have lessons on healthcare and hygiene and cultural items. The children also have facilities to learn karate, swimming and fishing.

"The residential facility at the home is exclusively for the children of sex workers but school belonging to the home is also open to destitute children from Tangail town," said Abdul Hamid Bhuiyan, Executive Director of SSS which runs the home.

SSS started the three-year project in January 1999 in collaboration with the Terre des Hommes Netherlands (THN). Of the Tk 48 crore cost of the project THN contributed Tk 46.58 crore while SSS contributed the rest.

Sonia, who is in class two said she enjoys it more here than at her home. "I faced so many problems while I was with my mother at Tangail," the tiny tot recalls.

Reshma, 14, the eldest among the children smiles and shies away from talking about her new life in detail. But she says that she is better off here than at Daulatdia brothel. She is the only girl among the children brought from Daulatdia.

Mohammad Firoz Koreshti, principal of the home said that many of the children suffer from different problems and even some skin disorders. "Some of them even used to take drugs during their stay at brothels," he said.

He said that in the beginning the children showed lack of discipline but things were now under control and they are also more healthy.

"Initially, the children had psychological problems as well," he added.

"The ultimate goal of the project is to make the children self-reliant and enable them to lead a normal life like other people in the society," Abdul Hamid said.

The children are not allowed to go out of the home and their parents, mainly mothers, are permitted to meet them only once a month. "Their freedom is restricted on security grounds," Abdul Hamid explained.

The organisation has taken up another house in Tangail with its humanitarian goal of rehabilitating and educating the children of the sex workers. Another 40 children will be accommodated there soon.



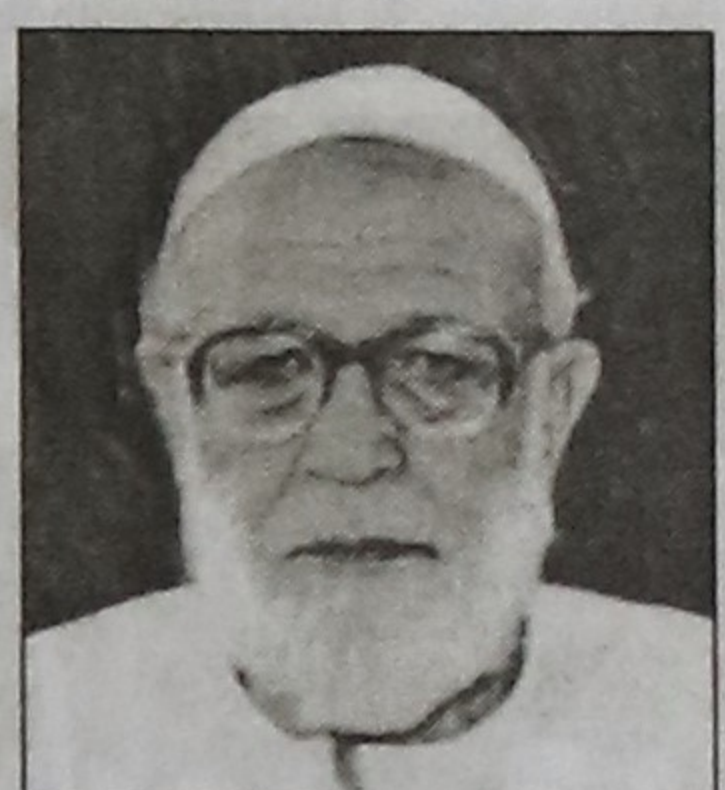
Hindu devotees brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday to celebrate Janmastami, the birthday of Lord Sri Krishna. — Star photo

JU admission from waiting list rescheduled

SAVAR, Aug 22: Admission into first year Honours courses from the waiting list for the session 1999-2000 at Jahangirnagar University has been rescheduled, university sources said today, reports BSS.

Application forms for admission from the waiting list will now be available and received till August 26.

The admission will continue from August 27 to September 7, the sources added.



Obituary

By DU Correspondent

Alhaj Abdul Mazid Mollah, a noted social worker and father of senior Sub-editor of Prothom Alo A K M Zakaria, died of brain haemorrhage at Shomorita Hospital on Monday. He was 90, says a press release.

He left behind wife, six daughters, a son and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was laid to eternal rest at his village home at Syedpur in Chandpur.

Gulshani of Mollah will be held at 687-c Mallbagh in Dhaka on August 25 and at his residence in Chandpur on September 1.

Dr Sheikh Amanul Kabir, husband of vice president of Uttara Thana Mahila Awami League Dilara Afroza Kabir, died of liver cirrhosis at BIRDEM here early yesterday morning, reports BSS.

Dr Kabir 63 is survived by his widow, one son, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death. Hearing the sad demise of Dr Kabir, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who is a relative of Dr Kabir rushed to his Uttara residence where she consoled the members of the bereaved family.

Meanwhile, in a condolence message the prime minister expressed her deep shock at the death of Dr Kabir. She prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

A *doz mahfil* will be held at the residence of the deceased at House No-16, Road-9, Sector-7 on Friday next after Asr prayers.

Janmastami celebrated

The Janmastami, marking the birthday of Lord Sri Krishna, was celebrated by the Hindu community across the country yesterday in a traditional gaiety and befitting manner, reports BSS.

The day was observed with a renewed pledge to uphold communal harmony by driving out the religious fanatics who have long been trying to create social discord by using religion as their weapon of politics.

The Hindu community in a joyous mood and festivity celebrated the day through colourful rallies, congregation of Hindu religious leaders, worship in temples and discussion on the life and deeds of Lord Krishna.

Bangladesh Puja Udyogon Parishad and Mahanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee took out a procession from Dhakeshwari temple.

Mayor Mohammad Hanif led the procession that paraded through different city streets.

Thousands of people joined the historic Janmastami procession. The devotees from different socio-cultural organisations joined the procession with colourful posters, festoons and banners.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday inaugurated a colourful procession organised by Sri Krishna Seba Sangha on the occasion of Janmastami.

The procession started from Panchbari Durga Mandir at Farashganj yesterday noon.

The BNP secretary general was accompanied by Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Goutam Chakrabarti MP, Sirajul Islam Selim, Abul Khair Bhuiyan, Enamul Saleh Prince, Kazi Abul Bashar, Chowdhury Alam, MA Shahed and Habibul Islam Chowdhury Boby.

Our Correspondent adds: In Narayanganj, a colourful procession was brought out by the Central Puja Committee which was attended by thousands of people.

In Chittagong, Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury inaugurated a four-day festival of Janmastami.

Speakers said Nazir Dewan, a farmer was murdered by some identified musclemen without any provocation while he was working in his paddy field on August 8.

The leaders demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the persons responsible for the killing of an innocent farmer like Nazir Dewan and compensation for the members of the deceased's family.

They also demanded immediate steps to combat terrorism in shoal lands to ensure safe and security of 30 thousand people rehabilitated in those areas under a government's project, according to land administration manual.

The leaders further demanded settlement of land demarcation through a flag meeting between two Deputy Commissioners of Patuakhali and Bhola.

Prof. Abdul Hakim, Vice-President of Bangladesh Grameen Buddhibi Front read out written statement while Badrul Alam, general secretary of BKF and Javed Iqbal Khan, general secretary of Bangladesh Floating Workers Union among others spoke on the occasion.

Municipal elections Sept 26

The Election Commission said Monday that election to 19 municipalities will be held on September 26, reports UNB.

Making certain changes in the schedule announced Sunday, EC fixed September 3 for filing of nomination papers, and September 4 for scrutiny of nomination papers. September 10 is the last date for withdrawal of candidature.

The municipalities where election will be held are Bagha in Rajshahi district, Sariakandi and Ducchahia in Bogra, Nazipur in Naogaon, Vangura in Pabna, Badarganj in Rangpur, Gopalpur in Natore, Domar in Nilphamari, Tongi in Gazipur, Gafargao in Mymensingh, Kulachar in Kishoreganj, Madarganj in Jamalpur, Dohar in Dhaka and Muksdupur in Gopalganj, Comilla in Comilla, Dhira and Jagannathpur in Sunamganj, Lalmoan in Bhola and Choumuhoni.

BGMEA team calls on Nasim

By Staff Correspondent

A delegation of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) called on Home Minister Mohammad Nasim at his residence Monday.

The delegation led by BGMEA President Anisur Rahman Sinha requested the minister to take stern action against those involved in the snatching of Tk 28 lakh from Alif Garments in the city on August 13.

They also requested him to take steps for the recovery of money immediately. BGMEA vice-president Anisul Haq, Chairman of BGMEA standing committee on law and order Tipu Munshi, Managing Director of Alif Garments Azizul Islam were also with the delegation, said BGMEA press release.

The minister instantly ordered the Inspector General of Police IGP to take steps to capture the miscreants involved with the snatching incident at Alif Garments. He assured the BGMEA leaders about ensuring proper law and order situation in the country.

SCF programme shifted

By DU Correspondent

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), a left leaning student organisation, yesterday shifted the date of its human chain programme in all the universities to August 29, which was scheduled to be held today.

BCL criticises opposition for calling hartal

President and General Secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League Bahadur Bepari and Ajoy Kar Khokon today strongly protested and condemned the oppositions for calling hartal, reports BSS.

In a statement, they said the defeated forces led by BNP are hatching conspiracies to create anarchy and unrest in the country.

They expressed hope that the countrymen would reject the hartal and urged the patriotic citizens and students to resist the isolated and vested quarters.

Vegetable vendor shot dead in Khulna

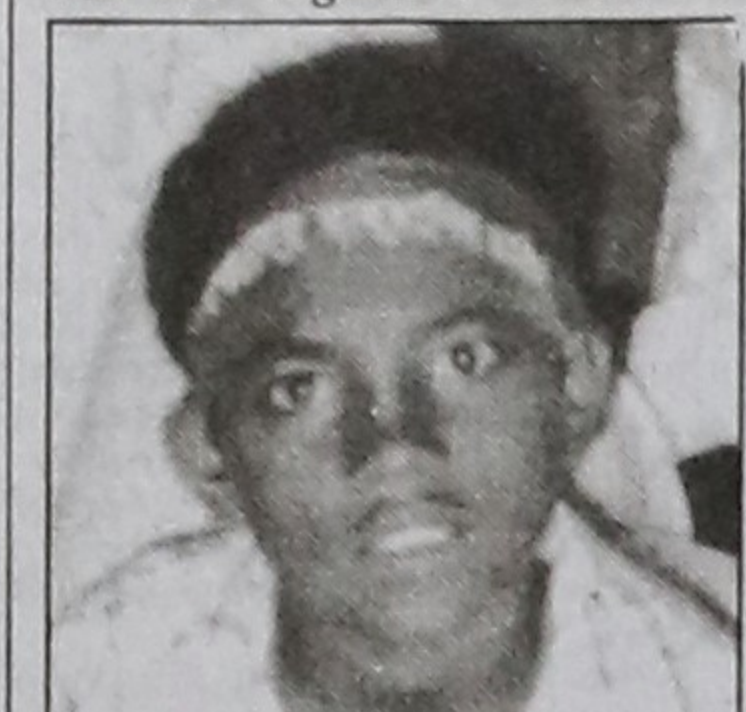
From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 22: Vegetable vendor Khairul Rahman, 35, was gunned down on Monday night at KDA avenue under Sonadanga thana.

Police arrested three persons Asad 30, Noor Mohammad 25, and Jahangir, 30, for interrogation.

The arrested are drug addicts, police said.

A pigeon was recovered from the place of occurrence soon after the incident. But police could not confirm if the recovered pipe gun was used to kill the vegetable vendor.



Boy missing

Md Abu Salam, 14, son of Md Nur Miah of 75/H Zahurul Haq Hall Staff Quarters, Dhaka, has been missing since August 2, says a press release.

Salam went out of his house in the morning to go to his workplace at Katabon, but he did not return home.

The boy was wearing a black vest and jeans trousers. He is of dark complexion and has a cut mark on his forehead.

A GD entry has been made with Ramna Thana in this regard. Anyone finding him may contact his father Md Nur Miah at 75/H, Zahurul Haq Hall Staff Quarters of Kuwait-Maitree Hall, Dhaka University.

Half-day hartal

From page 1

The party's main torch procession was brought out from its central office at Naya Paltan in the evening. Ramna, Motijheel, Sabujbagh, Khilgaon, Lalbagh, Kamrangir Chh, Sutrapur and Kotwali thana units jointly took out the procession at 6:55 pm that paraded Bijoyganj, Paltan, Dainik Bangla, Fakirerpool and dispersed in front of BNP central office at 7:30 pm.

Badda, Cantonment and Gulshan thana units jointly brought out a torch procession from Mohakhali Rail Crossing. A similar torch procession was also brought out from Mirpur No 10 with the participation of Mirpur, Kafrul and Pallabi thana units of the BNP. Teigaon thana unit took out torch procession from Farmgate, Mohammadpur and Dhanmondi thanas from New Market, Hazratibagh thana from Gajmahal Shishu Park and Shyamur thana from Alam Super Market premises.

Leaders and activists of Jatiya Party brought out a torch procession in support of today's half-day hartal from its central office at Kalabagan in the afternoon. Prior to the procession, the JP organised a rally in front of its party office.

Jamaat and IOJ brought out separate processions after holding separate rallies at the North Gate, Baitul Mukarram mosque and Pirana, Paltan Mosque premises respectively.

BNP Chairperson, Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the countrymen to observe today's hartal to protest the brutal killing of Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondal, terrorism and anarchy.

In a statement, she said the government, failing to run the country, has now chosen the path of terrorism. People have no security of life and property and are now frequently becoming victim of murder, terrorism and anarchy, she added.

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament said the government is providing shelter to the terrorist and patronising instead of arresting them.

Addressing the pre-procession rally in front of central office, the BNP leaders blamed the ruling Awami League for the brutal murder of Advocate Mondal.

They specifically blamed the Prime Minister for making provocative speeches in different places on various occasions. They said the PM's Chittagong speech has instigated the AL terrorists to kill opposition

Edn Minister

From page 12

tional. We want unconditional solution of our problems," he said. "We were not interested to share the movement with the Teachers Employees United Front (TEUF) as they want to politicise the movement."

Earlier, the government on Sunday offered talks with the striking teachers to resolve their problems.

The non-government teachers do not get festival bonus, gratuity, annual increment and pension and they get less medical allowance and fixed house rent of Tk 100, one leader pointed out.

BTACC will hold a 'grand rally' on August 26 at Osmani Uddyan in the city, instead of Central Shaheed Minar, its leaders said yesterday.

Mondal murder

From page 1

was not hiding. When asked whether she could take this correspondent to Asad, she said he is not in a condition to talk now.

Sources said Shahid was planning to contest from Ward No 83 and Ward No 81 in the next city corporation elections. Mondal was also planning to contest from Ward No 81, they said.

Besides, Mondal recently sued Shahid for allegedly occupying government land in the area illegally. Mondal also defended some persons in cases filed by Shahid and some of his associates, they said.

"On Saturday night, Mondal received five calls in his mobile phone but none of the callers spoke," said Diba. Earlier, some unidentified persons came to their house and behaved suspiciously. She felt that they came to identify her husband and monitor his movement, she said.

Police Sub-inspector Enamul Huq went to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and talked to Asad while he was being given first aid on Sunday, sources said. This was also confirmed by Sutrapur thana OC Lokman Hossain yesterday.

Asad was also injured when unidentified gunmen killed Mondal hardly 10-15 yards from his house Sunday morning.

Sl Huq was not available at the police station yesterday. Asked why the first hand information on the incident was not recorded from Asad immediately after the incident, Lokman said, "The situation was not favourable".

Biplob, a salesman at Mollah Departmental Store, few yards from the spot, said he went there after a few minutes and saw Mondal lying on the road. Later some local rushed him to DMCH.

Like Biplob, many others in the area said that they could not recognise any of the assailants.

Mobarak Ali, who runs a lathe machine shop in the area, said, "I know Mondal from his childhood and went to the DMCH soon after hearing the incident. I do not think he was involved in anything for which he can be shot dead".

leaders and activists. Sadek Hossain Khoka alleged that the terrorists belonging to the ruling party brutally killed Mondal and called upon the people to build resistance against the AL terrorists through observing today's hartal.

The rally was also addressed by Shajahan Siraj, Abdullah Al-Noman, Mirza Abbas, Amanullah Aman MP, Nazimuddin Alam MP, Barkatullah Bhulu MP, Kazi Abul Bashar, Chowdhury Alam, Habibur Rahman Habib and Reza Ahmed.

Hartal exemption: Hospital, ambulance, medicine shop, restaurant, vehicles carrying journalists, newspaper office, members of emergency electricity-gas-water and law enforcing agencies will remain out of the purview of the hartal programme.

New eruption at Japanese volcano

TOKYO, Aug 22: Japan's Mount Oyama volcano on a small Pacific island spewed ash in a minor eruption today, less than a day after hundreds of residents were allowed home, officials said, reports AFP.

The mountain was spotted blowing its top at 4:55 am. (2:55 BST) on Miyakejima, some 150 km southwest of Tokyo, the meteorological agency said.

"The meteorological station on the island saw the column of smoke going up about 600 meters (1,980 feet) high," said an agency official.

Ash fell on eastern part of the island, which had already seen tonnes of ash belching out in its latest eruption Friday, he said.

But no fresh evacuation order was issued, a local government official said.

"We are calling on the residents to be careful, but we are not currently planning to issue an evacuation order," he said.

Unresolved murder

From page 1

along with his daughter was going in a rickshaw, they stepped ahead, stopped the rickshaw and fired two shots in his head.

The case was handed over to the CID from Mohammadpur thana. But by then, several members of the gang including Masud were arrested.

When contacted, Special Superintendent of CID, Dhaka Zone, Lutfur Rahman said that just after taking over the case, they had prayed for remand of Masud and others.

"But we were told that they had already been granted bail and they were now absconding," he said, adding the doctor's family also refused to pursue the case any more.

"We are still trying to catch the criminals and if we have any new clue, we will proceed accordingly to book the criminals," Rahman said.

Petition

From page 1

submitted the petition on behalf of Barrister Shaikat on Monday, said yesterday. "In India, except the court concerned and the attorney general (AG), no one else can file criminal contempt case unless he or she is authorised by the AG."

It is a very unusual phenomenon in Bangladesh that other people, not the person concerned or the court, were feeling aggrieved, he added.