



PHOTO: STAR

Students of the Viharunnisa Noon School and College stand in defiance in front of a barricade on the second day of protest, demanding extension of tenure of Principal Hamida Ali, yesterday.

## New AL list of political killings

REAZ AHMAD

The main opposition Awami League (AL) has prepared a fresh list of 'political killings' that took place between July 16, 2001 and June 30 of this year.

Disclosing to The Daily Star yesterday, sources in the AL said a list of 312 'political killings' would be sent to the government within a day or two with a plea to probe into the matter and ensure justice.

The AL leaders believe that ever since its party's tenure came to an end, completing the five-year term on July 15, killings have taken place over the last 11 and a half months out of 'political vengeance'. Sources said, the AL leaders and workers fell prey to such killings during both the immediate past rule of the caretaker

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## Prothom Alo newsman receives death threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A journalist received a death threat on Sunday for publishing a report on extortion at Manikganj.

Arifur Rahman, a correspondent of Prothom Alo, received several anonymous phone calls threatening his life following publication of a report on extortion in Manikganj in July.

During the last call, the caller identified himself as Paban and told Rahman that his days were numbered. Paban said he was going off to London and would take care of Rahman once he returned home.

A general diary was filed with Tejgaon Police Station in this regard.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
July 16		6-49 pm
July 17	5-22 am	

  

Prayer Timings		
July 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

# Failed IOCs lobby for PSC renewal

SHARIER KHAN

Two US oil companies, the UMC and Ocean Energy, are lobbying hard to get their production sharing contract (PSC) for block 22 extended for a third time although they have the track record of failing to fulfil their previous minimum work commitment.

Their PSC for oil and gas exploration in the Chittagong Hill Tracts was terminated in January 2000 after three years of unsuccessful attempts. The PSC was then extended for a year although there was no such contractual provision. But again, the contract was terminated in February 2001.

The oil companies were given yet another one-year extension in March 2001, and this time again, they failed to fulfil their work commitment.

Earlier, Petrobangla liquidated UMC-Ocean Energy's bank guarantees of US\$ 6 million in 2000 and 2001 as per contract.

But the companies have not given up their hope and are lobbying hard at the political level to get a third chance, sources said.

The energy ministry has already asked for Petrobangla's view in this regard and latter has informed the ministry that there was no scope or

reason for another extension of the contract.

Industry insiders said although UMC-Ocean Energy spent over \$15 million for oil and gas exploration and lost another \$6 million in bank guarantee because of their contractual failure, they were seeking further extension in the hope of selling out half the right to the block to a new investor.

The American companies are in talks with an Indian oil company, GAIL, the sources said.

Petrobangla is officially unaware of such a sell-out plan and the UMC officials remain tight-lipped.

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## CCC mayor gets bail amidst tight security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

At least 12 important points surrounding the court building in Chittagong City was sealed yesterday, as the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury appeared before a court to seek bail in connection with graft cases filed against him by the Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC).

Judge M Fazlul Karim of the District and Sessions' Judge's Court, Chittagong, granted the mayor fresh bail on a bond of Tk 10,000. The court fixed August 15 for the next hearing of the case.

The CCC mayor along with his lawyers -- Dr Kamal Hossain, Jahurul Islam, Ehsanul Haq Hena and over six hundred more lawyers appeared in the court at 11:15am and sought bail. Renowned lawyer and constitutional expert of the country Dr Kamal Hossain moved the bail petition on behalf of the city mayor.

Moving the petition, Dr Kamal stated that it was a case filed in 1995 and the BAC came up with the case after seven long years. "This itself is enough to raise questions about the real motive and purpose behind reviving the case after so many years against a popular leader of the port city," he said.

Dr Kamal said, "Mohiuddin is not only a popular leader of Chittagong but of the country". He added "it is a matter of regret for everybody that such a case was filed against such a VIP citizen who used to accord receptions for VIPs at home and abroad during their arrival in this city".

He continued "there are enough reasons to believe this case is lodged at the behest of mere political gain and the intention is to harass Mohiuddin, since it could not be proved that the mayor engaged in the embezzlement of money. The mayor did everything for Chittagong City and for its people. Nobody could say that the CCC funds went into his pocket".

The Public Prosecutor (PP) advocate Abdus Sattar opposed the bail petition and said the proceeding of the case was never stopped nor adjourned. "The charges are very much specific and they have grounds," he added.

After hearing the arguments of both sides for about 15 minutes, the Judge M Fazlul Karim granted bail for the city mayor and fixed August 15 for the next hearing.

Earlier, the district and police administration here imposed an 'unofficial'

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## Tk 13.68 cr of AJM golden handshake disbursed

STAR REPORT

The authorities distributed Tk 13.68 crore among 1,831 officials, employees and workers of batching, preparing and spinning units of the mill No. 1 of the now liquidated Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) in the first phase of golden handshake yesterday.

The disbursement continued from 10.00am to 4.00pm through account payee cheques.

Meanwhile, a large number of workers have alleged that the government is not following the rules of golden handshake in clearing the dues.

Our Narayanjanj Correspondent reports that the government is following the procedure of laying-off, as alleged by the workers.

However, some officials of the jute ministry and the Bangladesh

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## College student, teacher among 4 killed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college student was gunned down near his residence by armed goons at Mirpur Section 2 in the city yesterday.

The victim Kamrul Hasan Russel, alias Mona, 20, was a second year student of Stamford College, Dhanmondi. Mirpur Police identified the young man as an accused in two murder cases.

Russell and his friend Sumon were passing through Mirpur, Section 2 at 12:30pm when they came under attack of a group of unidentified men. The attackers took several shots at them.

Russell received 15 bullets in his chest and legs and was taken initially to the Al-Helal Hospital and later to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the attending doctors declared him dead at 1:20pm.

Victim's elder brother Sawpon told newsmen at the DMCH that Sumon asked Russell to go out with him before the incident. Sumon, who also received bullet injuries, is presently under treatment at DMCH. Sumon's father Abed Hasan Badal, a film director, said that a

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# 150 feared dead in Nepal landslide

AFP, Kathmandu

At least 150 people were feared dead when massive landslides triggered by monsoon rains swept through two villages in eastern Nepal yesterday, the state news agency RSS said.

The landslides buried 35 houses in the villages of Dipsung and Sikundel in the hill district of Khotang, some 192 kilometres (120 miles) east of the kingdom's capital Kathmandu, the agency said, quoting local authorities.

So far 22 bodies have been recovered, officials said.

The landslides swept into the villages at 2:00 am (2045 GMT Sunday) as most of the villagers were asleep, leading to the heavy death toll.

The agency said 60 army troops and an equal number of police had launched a rescue operation both by helicopter and



by land.

But state television said there was little chance of finding survivors. Monday's search was called off for the day after sunset, with pouring rain and the remoteness of the district hampering the effort.

The rescue mission will resume Tuesday morning, the television said.

The landslides were the biggest disaster in Nepal since the monsoon erupted earlier this month.

The heavy rains have marooned an estimated one million people and left dead at least five in neighboring India. Water has also drenched about 20 percent of Bangladesh.

Hundreds of people die each year in Nepal, the land of Mount Everest, as the monsoons sweep from the Himalayas into villages often poorly equipped to deal with flooding.

## Flood on wane

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The overall flood situation in the north has improved with water levels in 19 points receding while in the south the water levels in 22 points have slightly risen, the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said yesterday.

The centre said all the rivers were flowing below the danger levels. Water levels in the Jamuna and Brahmaputra in the north have receded. The Padma has also receded upstream while it rose further downstream.

The Brahmaputra recorded a fall by 13 centimetre (cm) at Noonkhawa and by 18 cm at Chilmari. The Jamuna registered an 18 cm fall at Bahadurabad point in the last 24 hours and by three cm at Sirajganj. However, it recorded a rise by five cm at Aricha where the river is flowing only two cm below the danger level.

The water level at the Dharla receded by nine cm at Dhaka. The Lakhya registered a slight fall at Narayanjanj. The Turag river at Mirpur recorded a rise by five cm. The Kaliganga at Taraghat also registered a rise by five cm.

In the Ganges basin, the Padma registered a further rise by four cm at Goalando and Bhagyakul while it registered a fall by 11 cm at Pankha point and remained steady at the Hardinge Bridge.

The Mahananda registered a fall by five cm at Chapainawabganj. The Korotoa in Panchagarh rose by another 14 cm. The Purnarhaba in Dinajpur receded by 12 cm.

In the southeastern hill basin, the Muhuri fell by 16 cm at Pashuram. The Halda also fell further by 10 cm at Narayanhat and reduced by 11 cm at Panchpukuria. Water level in t h e

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## Car crash kills 1 near Sangsad Bhaban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The driver of a private car was killed while his employer and her daughter were seriously injured as two cars collided head on near Zia (Chandrima) Udyan in the city yesterday.

The driver, Nazimuddin, 22, died on the spot.

Owner of the car (Dhaka Metro-Gha-5925) Mahmuda Yasmin, 40, and her daughter Salma Yasmin, 17, a second year student of the Dhaka City College, were admitted to a city clinic.

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## Shawqat in hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Arrested Awami League MP Shawqat Ali was admitted to the prison wing of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital yesterday evening.

The opposition lawmaker was immediately sent to jail custody in Shariatpur on his arrest Saturday in the town in connection with a murder case. Shawqat was soon sent to the Shariatpur district hospital as he complained of heart ailments. He was shifted to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

A tense situation was prevailing in Naria. Shawqat's constituency in Shariatpur, after news broke out that he has been shifted to Dhaka. Additional police forces were deployed in different parts of Naria upazila.

Meanwhile, leaders of the ruling BNP in Naria yesterday demanded

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PHOTO: STAR

A laid-off worker of the Adamjee Jute Mills Limited receives his compensation cheque during the first-phase disbursement of golden handshake money by the authorities yesterday.