

COMMITTED TO  
People's Right to Know

REGD. No. DA 781 Vol. XI No. 20 DHAKA FRIDAY AUGUST 16, 2002 MAGH 20, 1407 BS ZELKAD 7, 1421 HIJRI 16 PAGES PLUS MAGAZINE PRICE: TK. 9.00

www.dailystarnews.com

## 4 killed in city as ansars go on shooting spree

### Malibagh turns into battlefield; two groups clash over mosque possession

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ansar personnel shot four persons dead as they opened fire during a clash between some local youths and devotees over the possession of a mosque at Malibagh in the capital yesterday.

At least nine others sustained bullet wounds as the ansar troops fired indiscriminately to disperse the clashing groups, police and hospital officials said.

Besides, another 40 were also injured in the fighting between the feuding groups.

According to locals, the clash took place as the local devotees attempted to reopen the Baitul Aman Jumma mosque at Malibagh T&T Colony, which some men, had occupied on Monday. The youths allegedly wanted to turn

the mosque into a club.

And the ansars opened fire indiscriminately to disperse the feuding groups, killing the four. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has ordered a judicial probe into the incident.

The dead include three students -- Rezaul Karim, 20, of Darul Qur'an Shamsul Ulum Daora Madrassah; Abul Bashir, 18, of Jamia Sharia Madrassah; and Yahia, 22, another madrassah in Malibagh. The fourth victim aged about 40 could not be identified immediately.

The injured were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The bullet-hit are: Ashrafal Anwar, 16, Jaz Mia, 50, Iqbal, 26, Aaulad, 17.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Sheikh Hasina, the Awami League president and daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, prays at the landing of stairs of the Bangabandhu Museum yesterday, where her father was killed on August 15 in 1975.

## Bangabandhu's killing mourned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The killing of the country's founding father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was mourned yesterday amidst a half-day countrywide hartal.

The main opposition Awami League enforced the six-hour shutdown to press home the demand for immediate execution of Bangabandhu's killers, and protest the recent government decision on rescinding of the national mourning day on August 15.

Tributes were paid to the great leader at different programmes in observance of the day. People sported black badges, laid wreath at Bangabandhu's portrait, prayed for his departed soul and recalled his contributions to the nation's struggle for independence.

The mourners also expressed grievances over the delay in the Bangabandhu murder case, now pending with Supreme Court, and demanded that the killers be hanged immediately.

The AL, meanwhile, defied a recently promulgated ordinance

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## WHEATGATE SCAM

### Sifting thru' evidence

REAZ AHMAD

The one-man secretarial probe committee on wheat scam is glean- ing clues from the late procurement phenomenon, official sources said yesterday.

During a visit to Bogra and Pabna last week, the committee detected that a huge amount of wheat was procured towards the end of the extended deadline, when local growers had already sold wheat out.

The committee formed on a prime ministerial directive on August 10, with Civil Aviation Secretary Shafiqul Islam as its head, has found a difference in size and colour of wheat procured in March-June and the one procured in late July.

However, the committee does

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



PHOTO: STAR

Police hurl brickbats at the Awami League (AL) Central Office on the Bangabandhu Avenue during a six-hour hartal the AL enforced yesterday to protest the rescinding of state mourning of Bangabandhu's killing.

## Clashes mark AL hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sporadic violence in the capital and elsewhere marked yesterday's countrywide six-hour hartal, called by the main opposition Awami League (AL).

About 100 people were injured in clashes between police and AL activists in Dhaka, Chittagong and some other places.

The clashes occurred when police tried to prevent pro hartal

activists from bringing out processions or swooped on peaceful ones.

The AL called the hartal to press its demand for immediate execution of convicted killers of the country's founding father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and to protest the government decision cancelling public holiday on August 15, introduced during the AL rule.

Bangabandhu along with a number of his family members was killed by some disgruntled former army personnel on August 15 1975.

The party also kept the national flag at half mast at its central office and at Bangabandhu's Dhanmondi residence in defiance of a recent government ban. Police however did not intervene.

In the capital, at least 50 people were injured as police and AL activists fought running battles during the hartal hours.

The Bangabandhu Avenue virtu-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## DENGUE ALERT

### Dengue grip on city tightens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The city is still in the grip of dengue fever. Eighty-five people, including the official estimate of 64, were infected with dengue yesterday.

Most of the infected were admitted to different private clinics and hospitals with Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever (DHF), sources said.

The total number of infected people since January this year stands at 2045 with 25 deaths so far.

Attendants of dengue patients have complained that most of the private clinics and hospitals do not have adequate beds for dengue patients.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

At the Dhaka Shishu Hospital and Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital, special dengue units have recently been opened to deal with the onrush of patients but bed crises persist in both the hospitals.

In New Era Clinic in Rajarbagh three dengue patients were admitted yesterday while at the Comfort Nursing Home the number of new patients stood at 6.

Thirteen new patients were admitted in Nibedita Children's Hospital, Shamorita Hospital and Central Hospital.

Meanwhile, platelet crisis continued to plague the attendants as they gather at different private

## BTTB cell phone project on

### ECNEC approves Tk 600cr for 2.5 lakh connections

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

The government yesterday approved a Tk 600 crore Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) project to introduce 2.5 lakh nation-wide cellular mobile phones.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) presided over by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday okayed the mobile project.

The BTTB would launch 2.5 lakh mobile phones in the first phase and later, the number would be increased to 10 lakh, sources said. However, the source of fund for the project is yet to be determined.

"The project has been approved by the ECNEC, but we are yet to tap funds," Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman told reporters following the meeting.

Sources said the project could be financed through joint venture or by floating bonds.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Shazneen case Hearing adjourned till Aug 21

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Second Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, yesterday adjourned the hearing of Shazneen rape case till August 21.

Judge Kazi Rahamat Ullah passed the order following a time petition by the prosecution lawyers.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998.

Latifur Rahman filed a murder case with Gulshan thana on April 24, 1998 accusing Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, a domestic help at his house.

Mojibur Rahman, SP of CID,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## 4 electrocuted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people were electrocuted in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

A young man was electrocuted in the morning when he switched on a water pump at an under-construction building at Islambagh in the city's Lalbagh area.

The victim was identified as Yunus Hawlader, 25. His body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Mohammad Masum, 16, an employee of a cast iron factory at Dhalpur, Jatrabari, died when he came in contact with a live electric wire yesterday afternoon.

At Uttara, Mafizur Rahman, a worker at Faiddabad graveyard, came in contact with an under-

g r o u n d

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2