



The Daily Star

COMMITTED
TO
People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIV NO. 213

DHAKA TUESDAY AUGUST 24, 2004

BHADRA 9, 1411 BS

RAJAB 7, 1425 HIJRI

16 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: TK 10.00



Cops, BNP men attack protest processions

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 Awami League (AL) activists were injured yesterday when workers of ruling BNP's labour wing aided by policemen swooped on a procession near Gulistan bus terminal to drum up support for the

dawn-to-dusk hartal today and tomorrow.

The transport workers of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal also beat up six journalists when they were taking snaps of the attack on the AL activists, who were demonstrating against Saturday's terrorist attack

on an AL rally that killed 18 and injured at least 200.

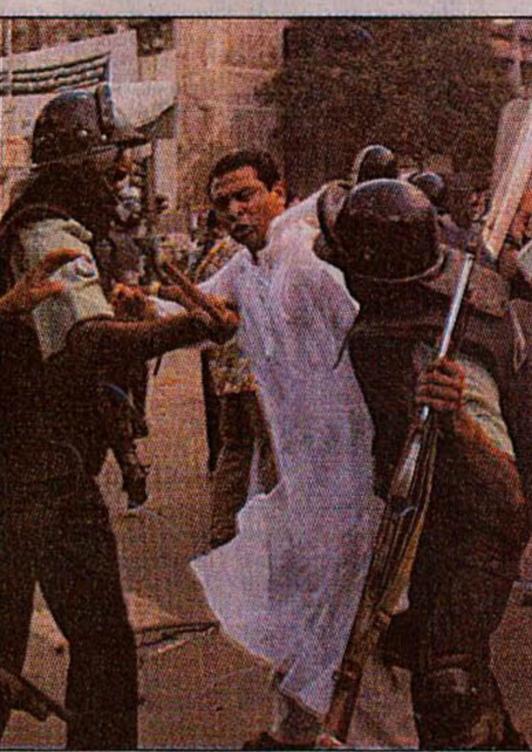
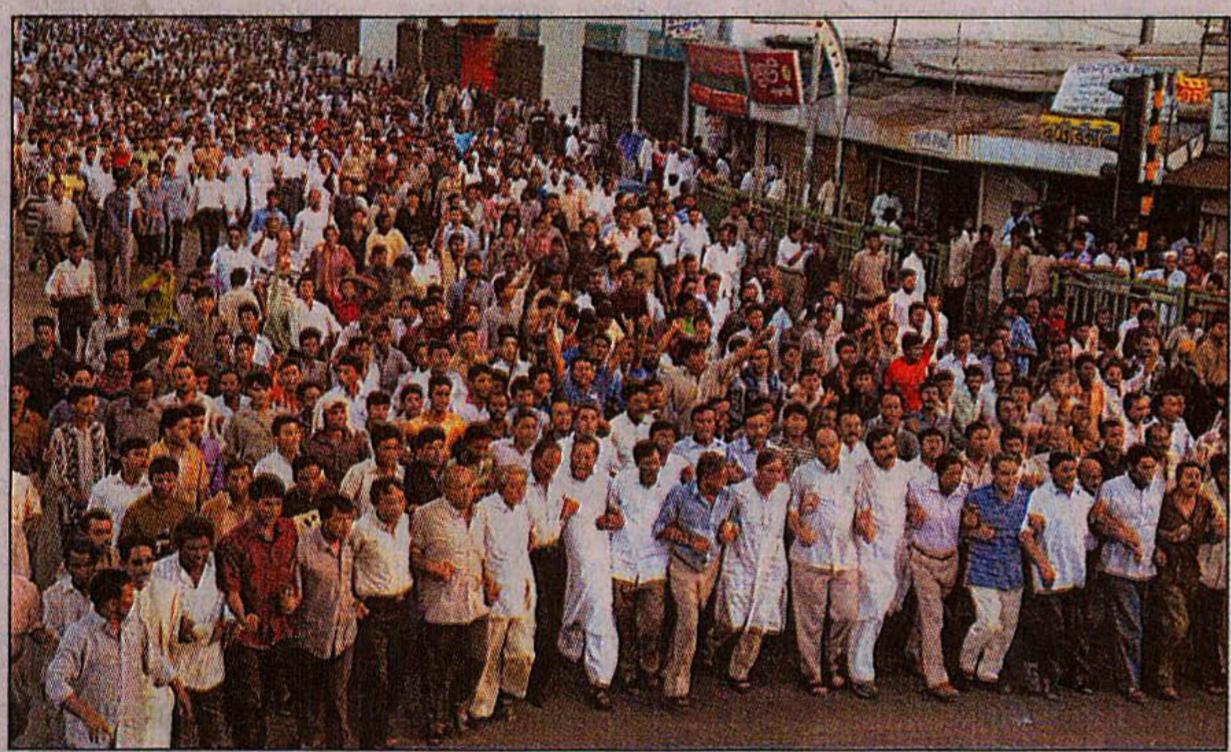
City-dwellers passed another day in anxiety and insecurity with apprehension of fresh terror attack and violence ahead of the hartals.

Classes and examinations remained suspended at educational

institutions across the country barring a few exceptions. Presence at the offices was thin and public lives were hampered as many transport owners kept their vehicles off the roads.

The AL ruled the entire Gulistan area with rally and series of processions, attended by top leaders Haji Mohammad Selim, Motia Chowdhury and Sohel Taj MP in a show of protest against the gruesome grenade attacks on AL President Sheikh Hasina.

After the rally in front of the AL
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Main opposition Awami League leaders and workers, left, take out a procession from the party's Bangabandhu Avenue headquarters in Dhaka yesterday in protest at Saturday's attack on a party rally and in support of the hartal called for today and tomorrow; and policemen club AL lawmaker Sohel Taj near Golap Shah Mazar.

Khaleda cancels Hasina visit amid protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday reportedly scrapped her planned visit to the Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina at the latter's residence amid a strong surge of protests by several hundred opposition activists.

The visit was cancelled following signal from intelligence men installed in front of the Sudha Sadan, sources said.

Top leaders of the main opposition termed the prime minister's probable visit a mockery and an attempt to distract people from the deadly grenade attacks on Sheikh Hasina and her rally.

On hearing news that prime minister was coming to see the Awami League chief to express her
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Ivy's kidneys, liver stop functioning

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The liver and kidneys of critically injured Awami League (AL) leader Ivy Rahman have stopped functioning, her family members and the Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) said.

Her (Ivy's) pulse is still too low for the organs to function normally," Rokhsana Rahman, daughter-in-law of the veteran politician, told The Daily Star.

Her urinary system failed and other organs also started to weaken since yesterday, sources at CMH said.

"Her (Ivy's) pulse is still too low for the organs to function normally," Rokhsana said.

AL Presidium member and Ivy's husband Jillur Rahman, who was kept in the dark about her condition until yesterday, visited her last evening.

"We finally broke the shocking news to him today (Monday). You could understand how miserable he might have been feeling. But he
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Bush expresses concern

Powell phones Hasina; Straw slates attack, envoys visit her

Clashes as hartal begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tension prevailed in the capital and elsewhere ahead of today's country-wide hartal jointly called by the main opposition Awami League (AL), left-leaning 11-party alliance and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) protesting Saturday's grenade attacks on AL rally in the capital and demanding immediate resignation of the ruling coalition.

Attacks on opposition activists, firing of tear gas shells by police and arrests preceded the back-to-back 12-hour hartals today and tomorrow that the mainstream opposition parties enforce from six this morning.

Reports received from our corre
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Washington: "The perpetrators of this heinous attack clearly intend to undermine democracy in Bangladesh. We reiterate our steadfast support for Bangladesh's democracy and call for those responsible to be brought to justice."

A host of countries including United Kingdom yesterday con
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Lawyers won't call 'My Lord' to new HC judges

Term their appointments political

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The appointment of 19 additional judges to the High Court has triggered resentment among lawyers who described the recruitment as the worst-case example of political motives.

The Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday at an emergency requisition meeting resolved that the judges whom the lawyers called unqualified should not be addressed as "My Lord" which should be replaced by a new term in consultation with the association.

Bar members conveyed a written resolution to Chief Justice Syed JR

Mudassir Husain, requesting him not to swear the appointees into office -- an appeal that fell flat as the judges took oath administered by the chief justice later in the day.

The appointment breached the principles of integrity, honesty and professional efficiency," the Bar alleged in the resolution, adding the government wants to hold sway over the judiciary, handpicking persons for the bench.

The BNP-led coalition government appointed the 19 in a fourth recruitment, taking the number of judges appointed to the High Court to 45 since 2002.

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Commentary

It was an attempt to kill our democracy

MAHFUZ ANAM

Once again assassination stalks our politics. Because of terrorists our democracy stands threatened, our freedom jeopardised and a Bangladesh as we know it on the verge of destruction.

Not since the vile and brutal murder of Bangabandhu along with most of his family in August 1975, the killings of Tajuddin and other leaders in jail in November '75 and the killing of Ziaur Rahman in May '81 did Bangladesh face such a threat as it did last Saturday. Let it be said without even iota of ambiguity that the attempt on Sheikh Hasina's life was in fact an attempt to destabilise Bangladesh in a very fundamental way and thereby destroy it as a democratic state.

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We vehemently condemn this attempt on Hasina's life and express our relief that she escaped unharmed. Our heartfelt condolences for those who lost their lives and sincere sympathy to the bereaved families of the deceased. We are deeply saddened by the terrible plight that has befallen Ivy Rahman, a woman

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PROBE INTO ATTEMPT ON HASINA

US, UK, Pakistan, India offer help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Britain, India, Pakistan and the United States yesterday offered to help Dhaka in its probe into a series of grenade attacks on an Awami League (AL) rally at separate meeting of their envoys with Foreign Minister Moshed Khan.

"We have offered to help in the

investigation, we want to work with Bangladesh on the matter," Veena Sikri, Indian high commissioner in Dhaka, told journalists after her meeting with Moshed.

Moshed also held talks with US Ambassador Harry K Thomas, British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury and Pakistani High

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Leader of the Opposition President Sheikh Hasina speaks to journalists at her Sudha Sadan house in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

How many more deaths would I have to see?

Emotion-choked Hasina asks visitors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Horror of deadly grenade attacks on her rally Saturday still haunts the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh

Hasina. Talking to visitors at her residence, Sudha Sadan, Hasina faltered recalling in emotion-choked voice

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Prevailing lending rates of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited

Serial	Particulars	Rate of Interest	Remarks
01	Export (Packing Credit)	7.00%	
02	Term Loan under FMO Export Credit for importing capital machinery	8.50%	Minimum Interest
03	Agriculture:		Rate
	a) Loan to primary producer	9.00%	7.00%
	b) Agro-based industry (Term Loan)	9.00%	Maximum Interest
04	Term Loan to Small & Cottage Industry	10.00%	Rate
05	Commercial Lending (Internal Trade/Import Financing etc.):		12.00%
	Composite facility:		
	i) Import/Export related facilities	11.50%	
	ii) Other than Imports & Exports e.g. LDBP	12.00%	
	iii) OD, COD, CC (Hypo), Loan General etc.	12.00%	
06	Industrial Term Lending (Large & Medium)	12.00%	
07	Other Term Loan	12.00%	
08	Working Capital for Industry	12.00%	
09	Housing Finance	12.00%	
10	Lease Finance	12.00%	

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