

# BNP denies AL JS body chairs in proportion to seats

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The ruling BNP has turned down the main opposition's demand for chairs of parliamentary standing committees in proportion to its share of Jatiya Sangsad (JS) seats, terming the demand unfair.

The chairs of 10 JS standing committees Awami League (AL) had asked for in early 2002 are

those on public accounts, public undertakings, and ministries of finance, home, communications, local government and rural development, education, agriculture, energy and mineral resources, and relief and disaster management.

"It's not fair for you to want a proportionate allotment of chairs," Treasury Bench Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain said in a

letter to Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, as 'in the Seventh JS the then main opposition BNP was also deprived of its due, proportionate membership in JS bodies.'

Despite repeated demands, Hossain added in his August-15 letter, the then ruling AL did not assign any chair of JS bodies at all to the main opposition BNP.

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Lawyers loyal to Supreme Court Bar Association who boycotted the chief justice's court yesterday demonstrate, left, demanding cancellation of 19 additional judges' appointment, while some pro-government lawyers, right, enter the court amid police guard to carry on activities.

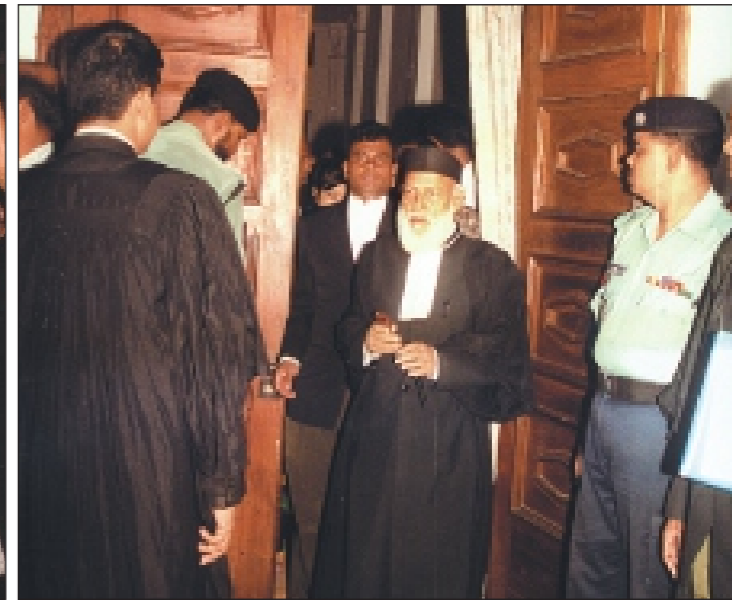


PHOTO: STAR

## All flaws worth pinpointing

Auditor general says in response to Saifur's comment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of Bangladesh Asif Ali yesterday defended the reports prepared by his office even on 'insignificant issues', saying audit reports should pinpoint all irregularities in financial transactions, big or small.

Commenting on remarks by the finance minister and law minister at a high profile regional conference of auditors in the capital, the CAG said all transactions, whether they are large or small, should be audited.

Speaking at the conference, he also suggested developing internal

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# Interpol explosives experts due soon

Advance team sends preliminary report to French HQ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Interpol experts' team including one specialising in plastic explosives will arrive in Dhaka in a couple of days to investigate the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally.

The two-member advance Interpol team on third day of their visit yesterday met with Bangladesh investigators at the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) office and finalised their preliminary assessment report, an investigator

said wishing anonymity.

The advance team of Jeffrey Eyles, an expert on public safety and terrorism affairs, and Jacqueline Pullums, a US analyst of civilian terrorism, also sent the report to Interpol headquarters in Lyon, France yesterday recommending the expertise needed for the high-profile investigation.

"Basing on the report Interpol will send an expert team of two or three members in Dhaka within a couple of days," said the investigator.

Eyles and Pullums during the

around-two-hour-meeting with Bangladesh investigators also reviewed the evidence that local investigators gathered from the scene and video footage, news stories and photos of the deadly grenade attack before preparing the report.

Inspector General of Police Shahudul Haque, when reached by telephone, however, said he has no idea about the matter.

An Interpol media release

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## Candlelight vigil to protest grenade attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a vow to oust the 'despotic regime' of four-party alliance, the Sammilito Sangskritik Jote yesterday brought out a candlelight procession protesting the August 21 grenade attacks on Awami League (AL) rally.

The procession that followed a protest rally at the Central Shaheed Minar, marched to the scene of the grenade attacks on Bangabandhu Avenue and set the candles on the ground there.

Leaders from different political

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## GREENADE ATTACKS PM adamant to find real culprits

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed the government's firm resolve to identify the perpetrators of August 21 grenade attack on Awami League's rally through neutral investigation, thwarting various evil attempts that may be made to subvert the probe.

"The government has taken all measures to find out the culprits involved," she said.

The prime minister made the

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## AL RALLY ATTACK Neela's condition deteriorates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condition of Awami League (AL) leader Neela Choudhury, now under treatment at a city hospital since getting seriously wounded in the August 21 blasts, has deteriorated yesterday with the loss of sensation from both her legs.

Neela, who sustained shrapnel wounds in both legs and parts of the abdomen, was still in extreme pains from the metal pieces still embedded in her body.

Doctors attending Neela stated her condition to be grave as internal

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# Bay pollution kills huge sea fish

NURUL ALAM, Chittagong

Thousands of sea fishes have died at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port apparently due to seawater pollution prompting the authorities to start an investigation.

The marine fisheries department conducted a survey in the sea yesterday as marine scientists, environmentalists and port officials are concerned over the epidemic.

During the preliminary survey a huge number of dead fishes, mainly hilsha and other small marine fishes, were found floating on seawater. The officials collected samples for laboratory test to ascertain the cause of the fish mortality.

"We believe the fishes died of pollution from the port city's domestic wastes dumped into the sea and oil spilled out of the vessels calling at Chittagong Port," said Ali Azam, principal scientific officer of Marine Fisheries Survey Department.

"We will probe the matter after further surveys in the affected areas," he said after the initial survey conducted by a team headed by Munir Chowdhury, a magistrate of Chittagong Port.

Deputy Director of the department Sabbir Ahmed also suspected oil spillage for the epidemic. "But we need thorough investigation and laboratory test of the samples."

The epidemic broke out two days after the incident of oil spillage from an oil tanker of state owned Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) in the port channel.

Immediately after the spillage that spread over 15 km area in the sea, Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) sued the oil tanker MT Banglar Sourav.

A probe body of CPA found that 180 metric tons of crude oil was not offloaded at the time of discharge of imported crude, port officials said. But the BSC officials brushed aside any incident of pilferage of crude from the lightering vessels.

The BSC officials claimed that a portion of the crude oil might have remained as residue inside the tanker after it carried about 15,000 MT of crude from mother vessels.

## Husband kills three over his polygamy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man chopped dead his wife, mother-in-law and sister-in-law yesterday to avert an arbitration over his polygamy and other fraudulent practices.

Sujan Saha, 35, committed the grisly murders at his house at Hoashnapara in Sarwatoli union of Boalkhali upazila near the city and went into hiding, locals said.

The victims are Sujan's wife

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## Abductors kill college student, kidnap another

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Unknown criminals slaughtered a college student they had abducted and a fertiliser trader bought his freedom from his captors in Kushtia on Monday.

Police said they retrieved the body of Aminuzzaman Talash, 20, a first year honours student of English at Kushtia Government University

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PHOTO: STAR

A faction of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal leaves the office of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) chief health officer ransacked yesterday noon.

# Alliance leaders attend criminal Litu's funeral

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Prompting disbelief and questions among members of the public, some leaders of the ruling alliance yesterday attended the namaz-e-janaza of top criminal Asaduzzaman Litu, killed in a 'gunfight' with law enforcers in the early hours of Monday.

Litu, who was wanted in a number of criminal cases including four for murders, was buried at his family graveyard at west Bania Khamar under Khulna thana yesterday afternoon.

Senior Vice-president of Khulna city BNP and former Jatiya Party lawmaker Abdul Gaffar Biswas, and Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) leaders Moulana Rafiqur Rahman and

Moulana Golam Kibria attended Litu's janaza held at Sher-e-Bangla road in the city, and also addressed the gathering.

The BNP leader said Litu was killed in police custody. He accused the government of depriving Litu of a scope for legal fight in court in self-defence.

The notorious criminal, arrested from Noapara under Abhoynagar upazila of Jessore early Sunday, was killed in a 'gunfight' with Detective Branch of Khulna Metropolitan Police and district police at about 3:30 am on Monday.

But his wife Sabina Zaman Shampa, also a ward commissioner of Khulna City Corporation, alleged

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## Sramik Dal men ransack DCC office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A faction of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal (JSD) of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) unit ransacked the office of chief health officer and DCC staff and workers union office yesterday noon.

An official of the health department asking not to be named said the attackers came under the banner of Sarbadaliya Sramik

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Prayer Timing		
September 1		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-23	6-26
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

# 12 Nepalese said executed in Iraq

Deadline for 2 French journalists extended

AFP, Dubai

Twelve Nepalese taken hostage in Iraq by the Islamist Army of Ansar al-Sunna group have been executed, according to a statement posted on an Islamist website yesterday.

The statement by the al-Qaeda linked group was accompanied by pictures of what was claimed to be the bodies of the hostages, one of whom was apparently beheaded while the rest had their throats cut.

The 12 were last shown in a videotape on Saturday reading a statement saying they had been misled into working in Iraq by "American lies".

Nepal was not part of the US-led

coalition in the war-torn country.

Nepal said yesterday it could not immediately confirm an Islamic militant group's claim to have beheaded 12 workers from the Himalayan kingdom kidnapped in Iraq.

"We have not yet received any information on this," foreign ministry spokesman Nabin Bahadur Shrestha told AFP.

A statement posted on an Islamist website by the Army of Ansar al-Sunna was accompanied by pictures of what was claimed to be the bodies of the hostages, one of whom was apparently beheaded while the rest had their throats cut.

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# Earth warned on 'tipping points'

BBC ONLINE

The world has barely begun to recognise the danger of setting off rapid and irreversible changes in some crucial natural systems, a scientist says.

Professor John Schellnhuber says the most important environmental issues for humans are among the least understood.

He told a briefing in Sweden that the Asian monsoon was one of the "tipping points" that could change very quickly.

He said a better understanding of the risks was as

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Antarctic ice shelf: One of the Earth's critical locations

PHOTO: STAR FILE