

SC to hear
Bangabandhu
killing case
from Aug 7

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court has set August 7 to hear applications of the condemned prisoners seeking leave to appeal to overturn the High Court order that confirmed their capital punishment for killing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.

Court sources said Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin has constituted a 3-member bench of the Appellate Division to hear the long pending applications of the condemned killers.

Those filed the applications are Lt Col (sacked) Syed Farooq Rahman, Lt Col (retd) Sultan

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Accounts of Hasina, her family members frozen

NBR also issues freeze order on accounts of families of Morshed Khan, Babar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday asked all commercial banks to freeze accounts of Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina and her five family members.

It also put freeze order on accounts of 49 other people and organisations including former foreign minister M Morshed Khan, his wife, son and daughter, ex-BNP state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and his rela-

tives and former vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof MA Hadi.

The NBR asked all banks to provide the account information about the people and organisation, sources said.

Hasina's husband Dr M Wajed Miah, sister Sheikh Rehana, son Saeed Wajed Joy and daughter Saima Wajed Putul and her husband are on the NBR list.

The account holders will also no longer be able to withdraw Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) or make

transactions, sources said quoting the NBR order.

Accounts of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Bangabandhu Memorial Trust and Grenade Affected Welfare Trust were also frozen.

Meanwhile, the central bank asked other banks to provide account information of 199 bigwigs by August 8.

On March 1, the NBR asked all commercial banks to immediately suspend transactions of accounts

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SC stays Hasina's
bail order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday accepted the government appeal and stayed till August 14 Monday's High Court (HC) order granting bail to detained Awami League chief and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in an extortion case, and not to hold trial of the case under the Emergency Powers Rules (EPR).

The full bench of Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin also directed both the parties in the case to complete hearing of the HC rule issued with its interim order as soon as possible.

The HC rule on the military-backed interim government asked it to reply within two weeks why its approving the case to be under the

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Rangs Bhaban to be torn down from today

Rajuk swings into action after SC ruling;
Rangs appeals for time

UNB, Dhaka

Rajuk starts demolishing the upper floors of Rangs Bhaban in the capital today as the Supreme Court yesterday overruled the High Court judgment that had declared valid the construction beyond the sixth floor of the 22-storey building.

A five-member Appellate Division bench headed by Justice M Fazlul Karim issued the order upon a government appeal against the HC judgment delivered in May, 2000.

The apex court judgment cleared the way for the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakha (Rajuk) to demolish the unlawful structure beyond the

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Equipment being removed
from Rangs Bhaban ahead of
its demolition.

Business leaders' fear unfounded
Says IMF executive
UNB, Dhaka

A visiting senior IMF executive yesterday assured Bangladesh of resisting any IMF attempt of imposing policy measure that could affect its economy and the welfare of the people.

In response to newspaper reports on 12 trade bodies' criticism about the IMF role in Bangladesh's economic policies, he said: "I saw the report. I think the fears are unfounded."

"I'll resist any attempt by IMF of imposing measure that will affect Bangladesh," visiting IMF Executive Director for South Asia Dr Aradsh Kishore told reporters, after a meeting with Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Salihuddin Ahmed at his office.

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JMB feared to strike again in August

Govt on top alert following
intelligence agencies' report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government fears attacks across the country in the lead-up to the second year of August 17 nationwide blasts by Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

The intelligence agencies believe that despite diminished organisational strength, remnants of the militant outfit are capable of

sporadic if not spectacular assaults to show they are still alive and kicking.

In view of the assessment, the interim administration plans tight security measures surrounding strategically important locations and structures for the entire month, said sources close to the state apparatus.

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10kg bomb, 10 grenades found at JMB den

Rab arrests 4 militants from Mirpur mess

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) recovered a powerful bomb, 10 improvised grenades, and bomb-making materials from a mess in the city's Mirpur early yesterday and arrested four suspected JMB operatives.

Major Monimur Rahman, an explosives expert of the elite crime busters, said the bomb weighing 10 kg could cause huge casualties

within a 25-metre radius of the point of impact.

It could detonate in two ways—three seconds after its pin is pulled out or after some pressure is exerted onto it, he added.

The arrestees—Ishaq Sheikh of Gopalganj, Mohammad Anis of Bogra, Rafiqul Islam of Jamalpur and Khalilur Rahman of Rangpur—have been working at two garment factories in Mirpur.

During preliminary interroga-

tions, Ishaq and Anis admitted to having involvement in the Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) while the other denied having any links to the outfit.

A top intelligence official of the Rab said condition of the grenades and the bomb suggests that the improvised devices were ready for immediate use.

The other items seized during the raid include three books on

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Dhaka signs Asean peace treaty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday signed Asean's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) at the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), which concluded in Manila last night.

By signing the non-aggression pact Dhaka renounces the use of force and calls for greater economic and political cooperation in the region.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury, who led the delegation to the ARF, signed the treaty on Bangladesh's behalf at a ceremony attended by foreign ministers from a large number of Asean and other countries of the region.

Bangladesh became the 13th signatory to the non-aggression pact, with Sri Lanka also signing the treaty yesterday to become the 14th signatory.

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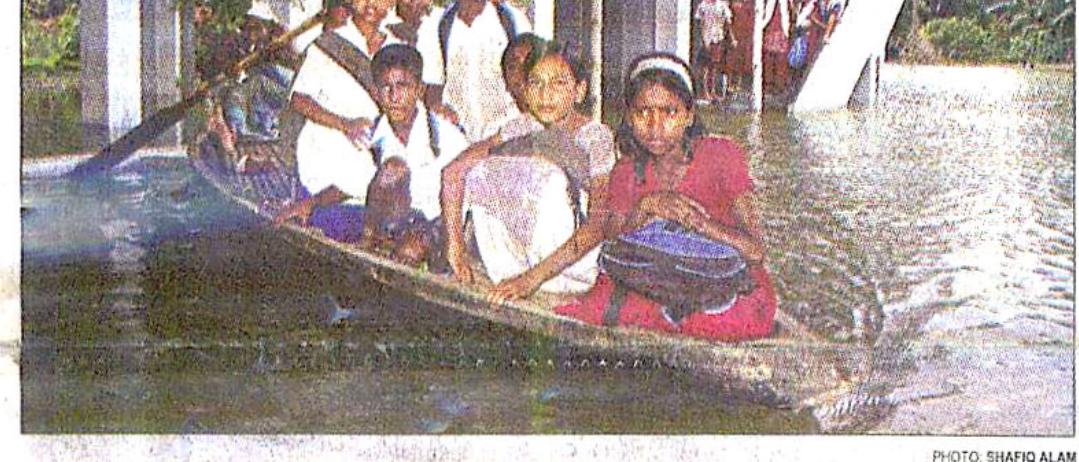
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Students of Arakul Government Primary School in Keraniganj use boats as transport to and from the school with floodwater inundating the locality.

FLOOD SITUATION WORSENS

Part of Dhaka-Aricha road goes under water

STAR REPORT

Dhaka-Aricha Highway went under a foot of water at 10 points, including Paturia, threatening to snap road communications between Dhaka and 16 south and south-western districts.

The overall flood situation of the country further deteriorated. Road communication between Manikganj and its five upazilas snapped, as the roads went under

floodwater. Many government offices, schools, colleges, market-places and homes were also inundated, our Manikganj correspondent reports.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said the water level of the Jamuna increased 10cm in 24 hours and was flowing 127cm above danger level at Aricha yesterday.

Meanwhile, people in the flood-affected north and north-eastern

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3 more sub-jails for VIP prisoners to be set up

UNB, Dhaka

Prison authorities will set up three more sub-jails in the capital for VIP prisoners in addition to the one where former prime minister Sheikh Hasina has been detained.

Deputy Inspector General (Prisons) Major Shamsul Haider Siddiqui told the news agency yesterday that all the things about setting up the sub-jails have not been finalised yet. "But we'll make it at the earliest possible time."

The DIG said they have initially selected some places for the sub-jails. These are the NAM flat, buildings at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar adjacent to the existing sub-jail, and the Railway Hospital at

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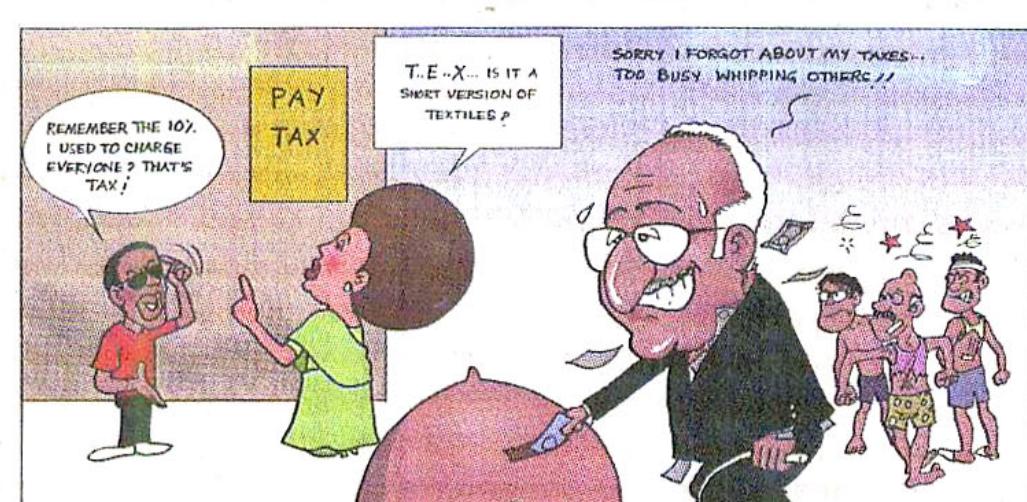
Intercom system at Khaleda's house removed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Intercom system at former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's residence was removed on Wednesday, sources close to Khaleda told The Daily Star yesterday.

The telephone sets, which were used for communication between the family members and the guards

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FRESH ROLL IN RAJSHAHI
Flood delays voter list launch plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) cannot officially kick off the field level task for preparing a fresh voter list with photographs on schedule as the chief adviser (CA) has declined to inaugurate the launch

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Conspiracy on to destroy democracy
Says Khaleda in teleconference
UNB, Dhaka

Former premier and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday stressed the need for lifting the ban on indoor politics saying

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