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Hasina alerts ministers, MPs

Fears 'untoward incidents' ahead of verdict in Bangabandhu murder case; renews strong warning against tender manipulation

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked her cabinet colleagues and party lawmakers to remain alert for at least next two months as 'untoward incidents' might occur ahead of the Supreme Court verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case.

The directive came at a meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) held at its conference room in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban last night with Hasina, also the chief of the ALPP and president of Awami League (AL), in the chair.

Sources said the ALPP meeting was convened to alert the party MPs to the possible danger.

"The verdict of Bangabandhu murder case is at final stage. Those who are beneficiary or directly and indirectly involved in Bangabandhu killing won't accept execution of the verdict. They will try to do something untoward, so everybody has been directed to remain alert," AL General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam told reporters after the meeting.

Ashraf, also the AL spokesperson and LGRD minister, said, "The prime minister has urged the countrymen to remain united so that the rule of law is established in Bangladesh."

Talking to The Daily Star some of the AL lawmakers said the prime minister referring to the reports of intelligence agencies drew attention of her cabinet colleagues and party lawmakers and said the country is and would be passing through a very critical time on security point of view ahead of the verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case.

Besides, the prime minister warned that stern action would be taken against tender manipulation, extortion and criminal activities. In this regard, she directed the party lawmakers not to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

BNP's absence from JS impedes democracy: PM
3rd session prorogued
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in parliament has said the main opposition BNP is not helping her government to strengthen democracy and resolve people's problems.

"They [BNP] are not offering support to strengthen the democratic process. What indication are they giving by abstaining from parliament? To whom are they extending support?" asked the leader of the House in her winding-up speech of the third session of parliament that was prorogued yesterday.

She also questioned whether the main opposition party is out to harm democracy.

"I urge people to remain

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Plot to attack US embassy unearthed

3 LeT men held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective branch of police Wednesday night arrested three suspected Lashkar-e-Taieba (LeT) leaders from a madrasa in Chittagong in connection with a plot to attack the US embassy in Dhaka.

The detained are identified as Mufti Harun Izahar, 33, son of Mufti Izaharul Islam who is the ameer of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote, Shahidul Islam, 26, and Al Amin alias Saiful.

They have reportedly worked also for Harkatul Jihad al Islam (Huji), another banned Islamic outfit.

One of the arrestees has claimed that he hailed from Bholi district while another from Mymensingh. But they could not show any documents, DB sources said.

Deputy Commissioner of DB (South) Md Monirul

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

'Crossfire' only worry

Most outlaws wait for scope to surrender, to weather the ongoing drive

SHARIFUL ISLAM and
AMANUR AMAN

Most of the outlaws and members of the left-leaning underground parties now consider surrender in fear of "extrajudicial" death sentence after carrying out a reign of terror in the southwest region for decades.

Sources have confirmed the outlaws are requesting AL local leaders to convince the government to give them an option to surrender like in 1999.

"As the law enforcers are causing much trouble and killing our members in the name of crossfire, our top bosses are asking local ruling party leaders to arrange our surrender," said a

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SOUTHWEST -3

through ceremonies in the region.

Although many of the outlaws surrendered, the problems remain unresolved as many of them later returned to their previous life again.

Around 2,700 outlaws responded to the previous offer and surrendered with 2,100 firearms. Over 500 outlaws were rehabilitated in the Ansar Battalion on temporary basis, but more than 300 of them disappeared and returned to their previous occupations of killing, mugging and other modes of crime.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Nahid Parvin Champa
Yet another
woman
'outlaw' held

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Police arrested another suspected woman cadre of outlawed Gono Mukti Fauz (GMF) from a house of Arupara in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

4 injured in
bomb blast
at Gulistan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four people, including two Awami League leaders, were injured yesterday afternoon in a bomb explosion at Gulistan in front of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra office.

Neither the law enforcers nor the victims could ascertain the motive behind the attack.

The law enforcers failed to collect any evidence from the spot near the Awami League central office.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

AL men ransack Barisal BNP office, set it afire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Ruling party men allegedly vandalised and set fire to Barisal BNP office complex on the city's Aswini Kumar Hall premises yesterday protesting the bomb blast near the Awami League (AL) office in Dhaka that left four people wounded.

Witnesses said a group of Juba League and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men led by district unit Juba League President Zakir Hossain and BCL city unit convener Ziaur Rahman swooped on the BNP office at about 6:00pm.

After breaking the entrance gate and doors of the three-storied building, the Juba League and BCL men damaged its flag

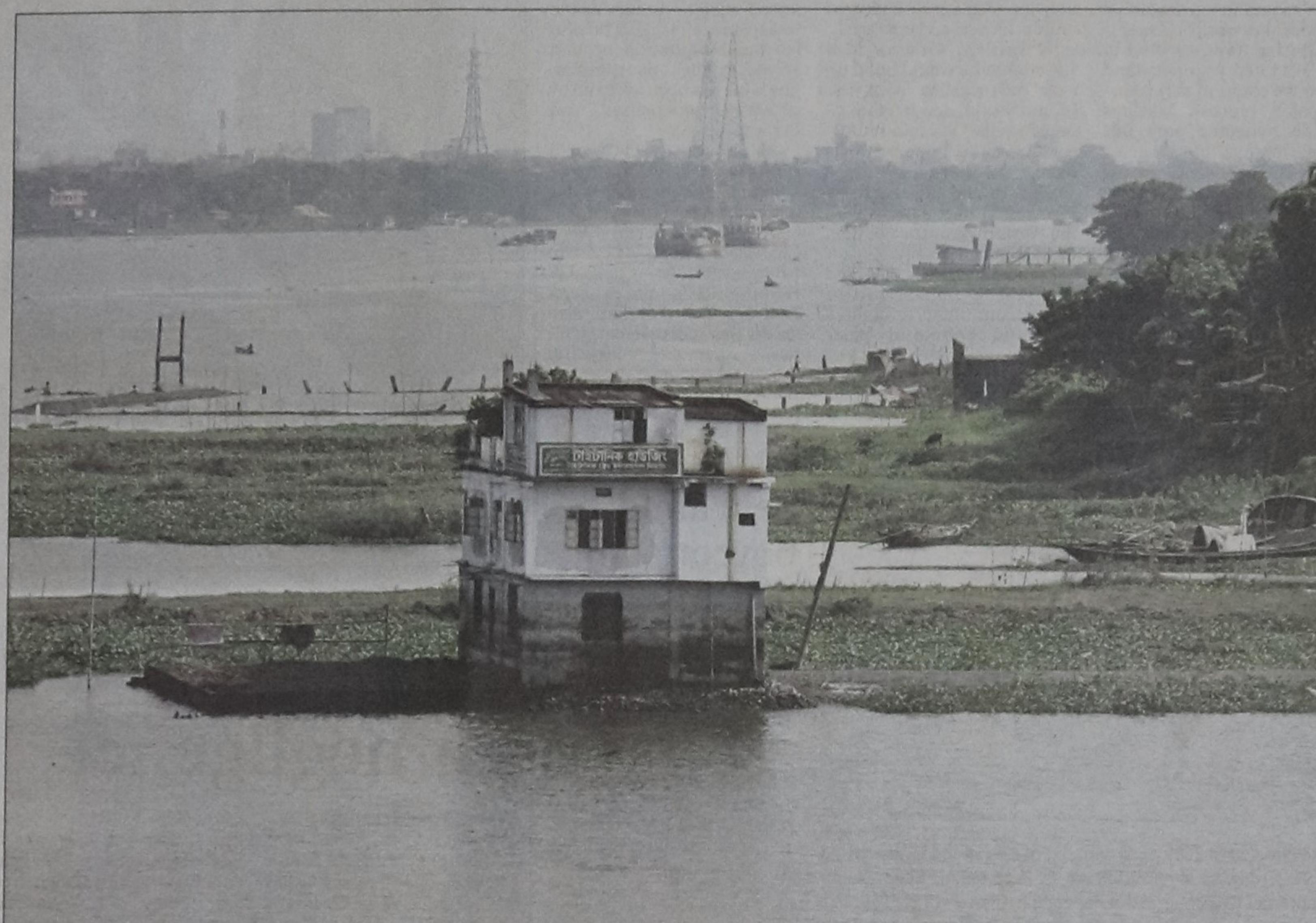
Khaleda out, Selim in
Plaque with former
PM's name removed
from hospital

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Some unidentified people have removed the foundation stone of the 250-bed Chandpur General Hospital inaugurated by former prime minister Khaleda Zia and replaced it with another plaque named after former Awami League health minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim.

The incident took place on Wednesday evening while

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



A property developer has built this building named Titanic Housing on the Buriganga at Waasper. The authorities tried several times to demolish it but the claimant produced a court order to turn away the bulldozers. Plans are underway to fill up the entire area of the river for setting up housing plots choking the city's lifeline - the Buriganga.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

US help for Bangladesh to continue
Obama tells envoy
UNB, Dhaka

US President Barack Obama assured continued assistance for Bangladesh's development works particularly in the field of education, health services and disaster management.

The assurance came when Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States Akramul Qader presented his credentials on Wednesday to the US

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

AUG 21 ATTACK
DCC councillor
Arif shown arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday showed Dhaka City Corporation ward councillor Ariful Islam Arif, also a city unit BNP leader, arrested in connection with the August 21 grenade attack case.

Second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Habibur Rahman Siddique granted CID's petition for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

RMG culprits warned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government will take punitive measures against the people, irrespective of workers and owners, responsible for unrest in the garment sector.

The government will conduct an investigation to find out the culprits behind the violence in the sector, she said as the chief guest while inaugurating the three-day 20th Bangladesh Apparel and Textile Exposition (BATEXPO)-09 at Hotel Sonargaon in the capital. At 86 stalls, a total of 62 companies from home and abroad participated in the fair to showcase their products.

The premier said, "We have noticed that vested quarters are trying to make chaos in the ready-made garment (RMG) sector. We will not allow evil-forces to be successful in creating anarchy in the sector."

She asked the owners to pay more attention to the workers' welfare as they are considered to be the driving force of the industry. She also mentioned that the government is planning to introduce industrial police and separate intelligence unit for the sector.

She asked the finance minister to take necessary measures to save 270 sick industries in this sector. The premier also directed the shipping minister to bring discipline in operation at the Chittagong Port.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Killers misled SC too

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman have also played foul with the Supreme Court by misinforming it about court verdicts, the chief state counsel for the case told the apex court yesterday.

Counsel Anisul Huq prayed to the SC to uphold the High Court verdict affirming the convictions and death sentences to the killers.

He made the prayer while concluding his arguments before the five-member SC bench headed by Justice Md Tafazzul Islam on the 24th day of hearing of appeals filed by five convicts challenging their convictions and death penalties.

Anisul Huq mentioned that of the five, AKM Mohiuddin was deported to Bangladesh from the US in June 2007. In an affidavit, he told a US court that he had killed Bangabandhu, a Bangladesh court sentenced him to death in this case, and if he returned to the country, he would be executed.

Mohiuddin appealed to the US court to allow his prayer for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

SC HEARING
DAY 24

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