

# AL vows

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of Tarique and Koko, Awami League men won't sit idle. We'll resist them," he said at a press conference at the party president's political office in Dhanmondi.

In last 20 months of the AL anti-government, BNP held several anti-government movements including the dawn to dusk countrywide hartal on June 27, but this is the first time the ruling party has formally announced to resist it.

A number of AL leaders in return for anonymity said Hanif's announcement is aimed at keeping BNP under pressure so it refrains from holding any movement.

Hanif, a special assistant to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also said the graft charges against Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman are being investigated and they will soon be brought back to stand trial.

"No corrupt person and looter of state wealth will be spared whether they stay home or abroad, or on parole or absconding."

He said Koko will be brought back home immediately after expiry of his parole, which the High Court has extended up to October 3.

"Bring back those money

# Kibria killing case

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Atiqur Rahman, also senior ASP of CID, through a petition informed the Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal about the necessity of "further investigation" on March 7, 2007.

Munshi went into retirement a few months later and ASP Md Rafiqul Islam of CID was given the task.

Former finance minister SAMS Kibria, his nephew advocate Shah Manzurul Huda, local AL leaders Abdur Rahim, Abul Hossain and Siddique Ali were killed in a grenade attack at a public meeting at Baiderbazar of Habiganj Sadar upazila on January 27, 2005.

Munshi Atiqur filed charge sheet in the case on March 20 the same year against 10 men.

Of the accused, eight were arrested while two remained absconding since the incident. The arrestees including Habiganj district BNP vice-president Abdul Quaiyum spent three years in jail, before they came out on bail in 2008.

The accused claimed they were falsely implicated in the case although they were innocent.

Rapid Action Battalion on March 8 this year detained Hujji operative Mizanur Rahman Mithu in this connection. Mithu gave confessional statement before the judicial magistrate at Habiganj the following day.

Following his statement, CID took former state minister for home affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar on remand.

# PM urges

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Parliamentary special committee headed by Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury is expected to recommend amendments to the constitution in a way that would strengthen further democracy in the country, said Hasina.

The country would run by constitutional government. People of the republic are the supreme authority to choose who will run the government, she added.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed reporter about the meeting.

She hailed the verdict of the Supreme Court on the fifth and seventh amendments to the Constitution that went against the illegal grabbers of state power.

Recalling her experiences the premier informed the Noab delegation that she was not allowed to return the country during the regime of Ziaur Rahman. She said Zia knew her democratic stand. That is why he had created impediments on her return home.

Hasina expressed her determination of holding trial of the war crimes in this soil as the trial of killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had been completed.

She said her government is working relentlessly for ensuring a smooth and brighter future for the posterity.

The PM said she came to power at a time when the world was groaning under economic meltdown and the country just experienced a fear like situation during the caretaker government.

She said to bring the country back to order, in terms of economic and other means, her government has faced a lot of obstacles and challenges.

Hasina said her government has worked a lot to upgrade the image of the country that was tarnished during the regime of BNP-Jamnat government and Army backed caretaker government.

# Confusion

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Complex where the infants were given initial treatment. Around 2:30am yesterday, Toma breathed her last.

Pranto and Tisha were referred to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital after their condition deteriorated but both died on the way to the hospital, said their mothers.

Upazila Health Officer Shuvangkar Baroi admitted that the three died after taking EPI vaccines.

EPI vaccines for nine wards of Harinathpur, Memana and Guabaria unions were preserved in an icebox at a transit-point pharmacy of Alamgir Sardar, he said.

On Wednesday morning, nine community health assistants, including Taslima, collected one ampoule each to vaccinate ten babies per ampoule, said Mizanur Rahman, an EPI official of Hizla upazila health office.

The officer also said they are yet to know how Taslima collected another ampoule after pushing one ampoule to ten babies and what kind of vaccine was pushed to additional three babies.

Taslima was unavailable for comment.

Anil Chandra Dutta, Barisal district civil surgeon, said they have formed a probe committee and visited Kalikapur to collect evidence and record statements of witnesses.

The six-member committee is comprised of Deputy Civil Surgeon ASM Abdus Sattar, local officials of World Health Organisation Arifur Rahman and Mizanur Rahman, District EPI Supervisor Bazlur Rahman, Barisal SBMCH child specialist Mahmud Hasan Khan and Upazila Health Officer Shuvangkar Baroi.

Md Hsan Habib, upazila nirbahi officer, said that after talking with the victims' families, he asked police and health officials to investigate the incident.

Police lodging three cases of unnatural deaths sent the bodies to Barisal SBMCH morgue for autopsy, said Rafiqul Hossain, officer-in-charge of Hizla Police Station.

# MP's driver

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to snatch it from Ibrahim and accidentally pressed the trigger which eventually killed Ibrahim.

Shaon at the MP Hostel yesterday said he was unaware of the fact that Kala pulled the trigger during a tussle with Ibrahim.

"Since I did not know the fact, I asked Kala to file an unnatural death case after the incident. But the investigators will dig up the truth now," he said.

The lawmaker refused to comment further saying he was not present at the spot when the incident happened.

Ibrahim's wife Rina alleged that the investigation is progressing according to Shaon's plan and she was not allowed to file a murder case to keep everything under control of the lawmaker.

She also alleged that police erased fingerprints from the trigger and hide evidence of the murder.

Ibrahim was killed on instructions of Shaon, claimed the wife of the AL activist, who died of gunshot wounds near the parliament building on August 13.

His younger brother Masum filed a murder case with a Dhaka court against 18 people including Shaon and Kala five days after the incident.

# Biman

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representatives of Biman unions.

But the amicable settlement did not come easy.

The Biman board sat at an emergency meeting around 1:00pm to review its previous decision.

Around 2:00pm, hundreds of employees started to gather in the lobby of Balaka near Shahjalal International Airport in the capital, under the watchful eyes of two platoons of police.

Around 3:00pm the Biman board sat with union negotiators, as agitators were chanting slogans. Soon 50 Rapid Action Battalion personnel were added to the security team, as the situation seemed to get tense.

The negotiation broke off several times, before both parties reached the agreement.

"We walked out after they wanted more time to consider our demands," said Mosikur, also the president of Biman Sramik League.

# Buriganga river

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According to its own estimate, BIWTA envisages to extract 4 lakh cubic metres of "sand, soil, sludge and solid waste" from a stretch of 1,750 metres from Muslimbagh Primary School up to Barishur in Kamrangirchar.

The proposal at times highlights extraction of "sludge and solid wastes" -- a job that requires specialised grab crane dredgers and site for disposal of the waste -- not conventional cutter suction dredgers envisaged by the proposal.

Jahangir Alam, organising secretary of Bangladesh Bulkhead Labour Association, that controls over 5,000 bulkheads in sand trading, said the river bed between Muslimbagh and Barishur contains top quality sand for which every trader would be interested.

"The government does not have to spend anything. We will pay for extraction and the sand at any market rate," Jahangir Alam said.

"The demand for the Buriganga sand is extremely high because buyers are everywhere along its banks. The bulkhead companies do not have to travel long distance with the commodity," Alam added.

"Hundreds of landowners and real estate developers will instantly grab the sand."

The sand extracted could be sold for over Tk 8 crore at Tk 25 per cubic metre [current price at extraction site], the chief engineer admitted when asked over the matter.

A source at the shipping ministry told The Daily Star the project was "cooked up" to steal money.

"The government is very serious about redressing the rivers and a lot of money will be pouring in, but a group of people are just waiting to grab it," said the official source.

"The hush-hush about the sand revenue is a long practice in BIWTA because not many people are aware of this business," the source added.

The chief engineer told The Daily Star it is not in their practice to mention in the project proposal how much revenue could be earned from the commodity. "We do not mention anything about the revenue because it is not certain that we will be able to sell the sand," he said.

He however said since the matter has come to light his office would float an open

# Pakistani landlords 'diverted flood water'

**BBC ONLINE**  
A senior Pakistani diplomat has called for an inquiry into allegations that rich landowners diverted water into unprotected villages during the floods to save their own crops.

UN ambassador Abdullah Hussain Haroon said there was evidence that landowners had allowed embankments to burst.

This led to waters flowing away from their land, he said.

More than 1,600 people have died in the floods, which have affected about 17 million.

"Over the years, one has seen with the lack of floods, those areas normally set aside for floods have come under irrigation of the powerful and rich," Haroon told the BBC's HardTalk programme.

"It is suggested in some areas, those to be protected were allowed, had allowed, levies to be burst on opposite sides to take the water away. If that is happening the government should be enquiring."

At the height of the floods, it is estimated that one-fifth of the country - an area the size of Italy - was underwater.

The flood waters are beginning to drain away to the Arabian Sea but inundations continue in parts of Sindh province.

# Population

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new posts of health workers to make sure home visits and recruit additional workforce for the hard-to-reach areas.

"Moreover, clients will be segmented and be encouraged to take family methods in large numbers," said a member of the council.

Besides, the government is also thinking of launching programmes to increase participation of men in permanent methods of family planning.

The two others recommendations placed in the meeting included giving special facilities to couples having one or two kids and ensuring coordination between field level works of the Health and Family Planning Department.

The newly formed committee of the council consists of Ministers for Finance, Agriculture, Law, LGRD, Industries, Food and Disaster Management, Health and Family Welfare, and Education; the PM's Health Adviser, mayor of the city corporations, cabinet secretary and secretaries of the ministries concerned, Directors General of Family Planning Department, BTV, Shilpakala Academy, Islamic Foundation and NGO Bureau.

The other members included Presidents of Bangladesh Medical Association, FBCCI, Supreme Court Bar Association, four editors nominated by the Editors Council, five NGO representatives and five population experts.

The source said the National Population Council has decided to hold two meetings in a year.

# BCL activist

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The Daily Star that they would send the complaint to Mothar Police Station to record it as a criminal case against Dulal.

Jahid and some other campus journalists said they were returning to their dormitories after dining out together at Station Bazar Wednesday around 11:00pm.

Dulal stopped them near Suhrawardy Hall and hurled abuses at Jahid for writing two reports about BCL men's extortion and attack on a dormitory official. The Daily Star ran those news items on August 18 this year and December 22, 2009.

When protested, Dulal turned violent and started beating Jahid with a bamboo stick. He brandished a pistol when the other journalists stepped in.

Chased by the pistol-wielding cadre, Jahid ran into Madar Bux Hall. However, on-duty policemen rescued him and took him to RU Medical Centre.

Later, Dulal over the phone threatened journalists of dire consequences if any complaint about the attack was filed, said Ismail Hossain, president of RU Sangbadik Samity (journalists' association).

Following the incident, the Sangbadik Samity called on the RU vice chancellor and pressed for a four-point demand including the arrest of Dulal.

RU VC Prof M Abdus Sobhan, however, assured the journalists of justice and security. Rajshahi Metropolitan Press Club and Rajshahi Union of Journalists expressed concern over the assault on their colleague.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge Abul Khair of Mothar Police Station told this correspondent last afternoon that they were yet to get any complaint.

# Milkvita manages

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district started their agitation on Monday and stopped buying milk from the farmers yesterday morning disrupting supply to the unit to press home their three-point demand.

The demands include removal of Milk Vita general manager, fixing of procurement price at Tk 35 per litre and holding election to the governing body of the company.

State Minister for Local Government, Rural Development (LRGD) and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak discussed the overall situation with the local MPs and high officials of Milk Vita, sources said.

Talking to newsmen at his secretariat office yesterday, Nanak requested the farmers and cooperatives to consider the month of Ramadan and the perishable condition of milk.

He asked the retailers not to take advantage of this disruption in supply. "Licences of the retailers will be scrapped if found involved in jacking up price," warned the state minister.

"We are thinking about increasing the purchase price. We are also considering whether the production cost per unit could be reduced," said Nanak adding, "We have already started investigation into the alleged corruption of the general manager."

About 25,000 farmers in the upazila supply nearly 1.5 lakh litres to 518 milk cooperatives for the Milk Vita company, said our Sirajganj correspondent.

Farmers had to sell milk between Tk 15 and Tk 29 per litre in the local markets yesterday morning as a result of supply halt.

"We are incurring huge loss due to the cooperatives' agitation," farmer Ilyas Bepari said.

"We are facing loss by selling per litre milk for Tk 29 while a kg of fodder costs Tk 36," claimed farmer Abdur Rahman.

Milk Vita now pays the farmers Tk 29 per litre. The demonstrators asked the authority to increase it by Tk 6.

Earlier on Monday cooperative leaders put up barricade on Bogra-Nagarbari highway to press home their demands.

General Manager Nasim Ahmed said the cooperative

# Iraqi army needs US help to sustain itself: Commanders

**AFP, Al-kissik Base**  
Iraq cannot yet sustain its army despite having managed to quell a violent insurgency, US and local commanders told AFP, raising the prospect that American troops will stay on beyond 2011.

US military advisers described myriad inefficiencies and problems, from hospitals that lacked medics and dentists to Byzantine processes that must be followed to request spare vehicle parts and other vital equipment.

"Tactically, they do well, but ... warfare is about logistics," said Colonel Steven Aplan, who heads a Stability Transition Team that advises the Iraqi Army's 3rd Division at Al-Kissik Base, west of the northern city of Mosul.

"Their logistics systems are just, at this point, way below what their tactical competence requires," he said, as US forces ramped up an "advise and assist" mission in Iraq, following the formal end of combat operations on Tuesday.

To illustrate his point, Aplan held up his pen, and related the complicated process that Iraqi soldiers must follow to request a new box of such pens.

"I have to fill out this document in triplicate, quadruplicate, and then I have to hand it to some major, and he has to drive down to Baghdad to get it stamped ... and provide a document for you to come back up here, two blocks away, to actually release it (the supplies) to you," he said.

One of Aplan's deputies, Lieutenant Colonel Craig Benson, later walked through a medical centre on the base and pointed out how well-supplied it was.

But the centre's lights were mostly off, because of a power

# Local govt

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government is preparing an action plan and would start the literacy programme next year involving all.

The speakers demanded that the government make public whatever steps it takes to eradicate illiteracy and consult with the people concerned, as a huge amount of money had earlier been wasted in big initiatives like Total Literacy Movement (TLM).

They also demanded more budgetary allocation for education sector.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique, former vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, said the government has to give proper training to the teachers and prepare curriculum in line with the country's culture before launching any programme.

Prof MM Akash of Dhaka University Economics Department termed incorporating life skills-based education in literacy programme ambitious. He said it is better to have full concentration on literacy issue rather than wide-ranging programmes.

There should be one primary school for a radius of two to three kilometres, he said, adding that the government should prioritise the pockets where the people are the most deprived, like ethnic communities.

Farah Kabir, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, said literacy in the country is in dire straits. She demanded stronger guarantee of education in the constitution.

Prof Siddiqur Rahman of Institute of Education and Research of Dhaka University said there should be extensive discussion on the government's plan regarding literacy; otherwise it would be another waste like the TLM.

Questions arise concerning the sustainability of a six- or one-year-long literacy programme, he said, adding, "We have to ensure literacy through primary education, as we cannot run such programmes forever."

Trustee Board Chairman M Hafizuddin Khan of Transparency International Bangladesh said the education system, including formal education, is mismanaged and faulty.

"The literacy programme should be comprehensive and be taken up in consult with all," he said.

Shafiqul Islam of Brac University suggested that a specific target, age group and standard education should be set before going for any new campaign.

Dhaka University teacher Prof Mesbah Kamal said it is the state's responsibility to literate

# Spl committee

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The Daily Star that the committee deferred its meetings because of the ensuing Eid-ul-Fitr.

The new date of the meeting will be declared later, the press release said.

On August 24, the parliamentary special committee at its third meeting decided to hold closed-door talks on September 4 on constitutional amendment.

It also decided to have meetings on September 5 and 6 to review the constitution and recommend necessary changes.

cut on a base that has a generator farm that Benson says can provide sufficient capacity to power the base twice over.

"They have the equipment, they need the staff, and they need their logistics systems," he said.

"(Iraqi) combat lifesaver that we try and train to deal with a little bit of trauma on the battlefield have combat lifesaver kits that have expired stuff," Benson added.

Lieutenant Colonel Salah al-Din, the head of one of the base's vehicle maintenance workshops, said many Iraqi units also did not properly maintain their vehicles, eventually leading to engine and transmission failures.

"We tell them -- before you go on a mission, check the vehicle, and after you come back from a mission, check the vehicle. If there is a small problem, you can fix it. The big problems, they start from the small problems," he said.

"Some units, they learn ... but some of them, they don't come, they forget us. When they have a broken engine, they come to me," Salah al-Din added.

As if to prove the point the colonel explained that he tells soldiers good maintenance can be compared to safe handling of IEDs, the home-made bombs that every day target the Iraqi security forces.

"When you find an IED on the road, it's better to remove it before it explodes, than for it to explode and for you to say, 'Hey, help me, what should I do?'" he said.

Salah al-Din, an 18-year veteran, said he often had difficulty obtaining spare parts from the logistics hub at Taji, north of Baghdad, and also struggled with the wide variety of cars in use.

Prof Muhammad Ibrahim of Dhaka University said the literacy programme must attract people. The illiterate, especially the elderly, must be made aware of the good things literacy brings, he added.

Abul Momen suggested a specially designed set of books for the people completing the programme so that they can continue with their studies.

Rezaul Quader, director general of Bureau of Non-Formal Education, claimed that the TLM programme was not absolutely a losing project as it helped boost enrolment in primary schools.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Motahar Hossain said funding becomes a major issue for implementing such programmes. The government is preparing an action plan and would start the literacy programme next year involving all.

He said, "It is possible to achieve the goal if we work together vigorously."

Zia-us Sabur of Brac University Institute of Educational Development gave a power-point presentation on the issue while M Habibur Rahman, director, education, Save the Children-USA, moderated the roundtable.

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan, CAMPE Chairperson Kazi Rafiqul Alam, CAMPE Deputy Director Tasneem Athar, CAMPE Executive Director Rasheda K Choudhury, Country Director of Hunger Project Bangladesh Badiul Alam Majumder, Director of IER of Dhaka University Prof Salma Akhter, former professor of Eden College Hannana Begum, CAMPE Programme Manager Tapon Kumar Das, and Editor, Defence and Strategic Affairs of The Daily Star Brig Gen Shaheedul Anam Khan and Mohammad Mohsin of Unicef also spoke at the discussion.