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AL, allies urge people to reject hartal

Leaders of the Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday urged people to reject today's hartal of eight Islamist parties like the last hartal of Jamaat.

Speaking at a protest rally, they said Jamaat-e-Islami played a strong role behind the mayhem unleashed by the Islamist parties on Friday across the country to free the war criminals from jail and hamper the operations of the war crimes tribunals.

Ramna thana unit of the alliance organised the rally on Bangabandhu



An elderly woman narrates to the participants of yesterday's Gonojagoron Mancha rally at Rayerbazar how the collaborators of Pakistani occupation army killed her husband at the capital's Darus Salam in 1971.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PRAYER TIMING February 24

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:20	5:55
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:30	4:45
Maghrib	6:03	6:07
Esha	7:30	8:00

Source: Islamic Foundation

PADMA BRIDGE PROJECT
It's \$3.8b proposal

Govt's interest dips seeing KL's high interest rate

The government may not accept the new proposal Malaysia has made to build the Padma bridge at a cost of \$3.8 billion with a high interest rate and a short repayment period.

Word came to this effect yesterday from a meeting at the finance ministry with Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair. The ministry's opinion in this regard will be forwarded to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a few days.

On Wednesday, a visiting team led by Malaysian prime minister's special envoy Dato Seri S Samy Vellu made the proposal.

Several discussions were held on the proposal at the high levels of the government. Yesterday's meeting was attended by Planning Minister AK Khandker and expert Prof Ainun Nishat, among others.

At the meeting, opinions were expressed in favour of constructing the Padma bridge with own resources.

STEPS AGAINST MEDIA PROPAGANDA
Talked strongly, acted weakly

Despite an announcement four days ago, the government could not arrest anyone of those involved in media propaganda that has apparently provoked violence across the country.

On Wednesday, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu spoke of legal action against yellow journalism. He said any media will face legal action if they publish materials, which slander Prophet or criticise any religion in obscene language, quoting blogs or social networking sites like Facebook.

This is also a violation of journalistic ethics, Inu said.

The recent violence, including Friday's terror attacks on police and media people, are thought to have resulted from media propaganda by the Jamaat-e-Islami and student body Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Several national dailies have published reports on alleged blog write-ups by individuals, criticising Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM) and Islam. The reports angered many people and brought some people against the bloggers and activists who initiated the Shahbagh movement on February 5 calling death penalty for all war criminals.

FRIDAY ANARCHY
Mahmudur sued for instigation

He says editors, top newsmen of most media have no shame

Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman, and top leaders of Jamaat-Shibir and like-minded parties have been accused in five cases filed for instigating militancy and fanaticism, and provoking Friday's violence.

At least six other cases were also filed against leaders of the 12-party alliance of Islamist parties, Jamaat-e-Islami and pro-Jamaat student body Islami Chhatra Shibir in connection with their involvement in the nationwide violence on that day.



SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

NEWS ANALYSIS
Securing the state, preserving the faith

On Friday, the Jamaat-e-Islami and its bands of roving vandals, along with groups of other fanatics in the country, made their hatred of the People's Republic of Bangladesh known beyond question once again.

In the manner of medieval barbarians, they tried to pounce on people they are happy to call atheists only because these people know of the blood-drenched past of these elements. They had no shame in burning the national flag, reminding us once again of the shamelessness with which they upheld the flag of Pakistan in 1971 and abducted, killed and raped their fellow Bangalees in a war they were doomed to lose.

It was the state of Bangladesh these peddlers of hate sought to humiliate on Friday. It was the holy essence of

Jamaat demeans Islam
Says law minister

The Jamaat-e-Islami is demeaning Islam through its violent activities, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said yesterday.

Islam is a religion of peace, which does not allow activities like attack, killing and damage, but Jamaat uses Islam in committing such acts, he said. The party has no right to do politics in Bangladesh.

The minister talked to

INSULT TO RELIGION
Remarks, printing those same crime

PM warns against such offences

UNB, Rangamati

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said disparaging remarks against Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (pbuh) and publishing those would not be tolerated.

"Many make disparaging remarks against Hazrat [Prophet Muhammad], I won't tolerate that... and I also won't tolerate if anyone publishes that, as making negative comments against any religion and publishing that is an identical offence," she said.

The prime minister said this while addressing a public meeting organised by district Awami League at Shaheed Shukkur Stadium in Rangamati in the afternoon.

Hasina said Bangladesh would be a secular country where people of all faiths would live together in peace following their own religions without any hindrance.

Turing to the ongoing war crimes trial, she alleged that the main opposition BNP

The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL
Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that the BGMEA building is the tumor of the Hatirjheel project?

Yes (56%)
No (34%)
No Comments (7%)

TOTAL VOTES: 393

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think that the main opposition BNP would be able to mount pressure on the government to restore the caretaker government system by setting up Gonoantra Mancha across the country?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews



'I was Hitler's food taster'

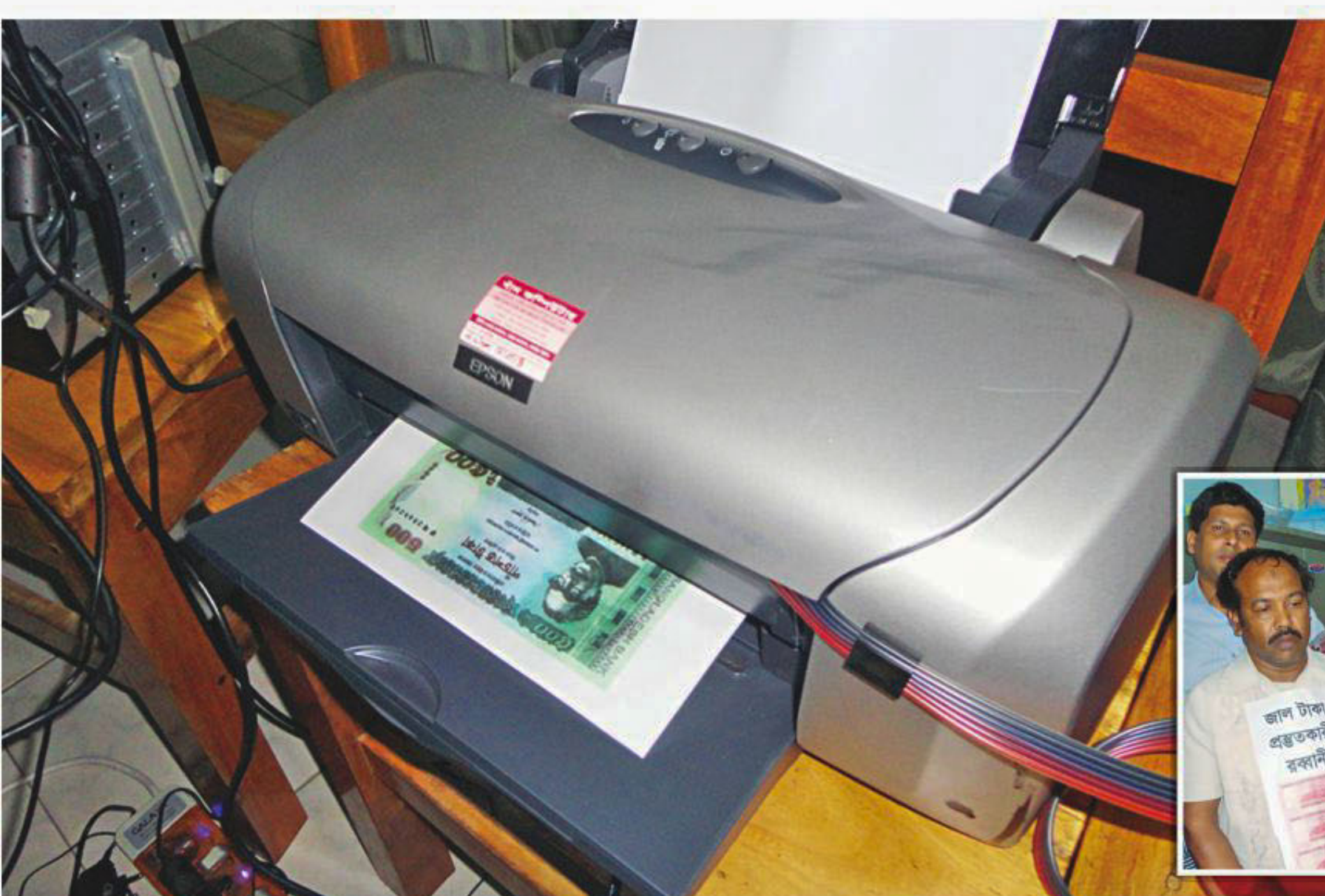
DAILY MAIL ONLINE

This is the woman tasked with tasting Adolf Hitler's meals to ensure the Fuhrer's food was not poisoned.

For more than two years Margot Woelk



Margot Woelk



A forged Tk 500-note being printed at Samrat Filling Station on Habiganj road in Sreemangal, Moulvibazar, yesterday. Inset, Police arrested three from the spot.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH



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