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Syed Badrul Ahsan writes on Pakistan's first military dictator

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Rising bad loans in state banks pull down their surplus capital

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Survey finds Gandhi the third most admired leader to top global business leaders

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Court order quizzical

Fakhrul, 6 others denied bail; Moudud, Bulu, Anee get lucky

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Moudud Ahmed and two other BNP lawmakers in seven vandalism cases, considering their parliament membership.

But in the same cases, it denied bail to seven other senior BNP leaders, including acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, saying "charges brought against them were primarily proved".

The order issued by the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court irked the BNP which took no time to announce a 36-hour countrywide shutdown from tomorrow.

It also announced they would intensify the agitation to get their leaders released.

Earlier, the main opposition party enforced two days' countrywide hartals on April 9 and 10 over the same demand.

The three BNP lawmakers -- Moudud, who is also a member of BNP's national standing committee, Barkatullah Bulu and Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee -- were granted the bails two weeks after they landed in jail.

They were denied the bails on April 7 and sent to jail as they surrendered to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on expiry of their four-week bails granted by the High Court.



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HARTAL Tuesday, Wednesday

Threat on for Thursday; Shibir to enforce 60-hour shutdown in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance yesterday announced that it would enforce a 36-hour countrywide hartal from tomorrow morning protesting a Dhaka court denying seven BNP leaders bails.

The alliance came up with the announcement immediately after the court ordered bails to three BNP lawmakers but denied bails to seven other leaders, including BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

The opposition alliance would also enforce hartal on Thursday if the government obstructed its hartals and kept harassing opposition leaders, Hamadullah Al

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HALL-MARK LOAN SCAM

Modasser tried to inhibit audit team

Says JS body report

M RAHMAN

Prime minister's Health Adviser Syed Modasser Ali had tried to obstruct a Bangladesh Bank team from auditing Sonali Bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch over the Hall-Mark scam, says a report by a House committee.

According to the report and the Anti-Corruption Commission officials investigating the Tk 2,686 crore fraud, Modasser is a relative of AKM Azizur Rahman, former manager of the branch, who is considered to be the brains behind the scam. The adviser also



had good relations with Hall-Mark owner Tanvir Mahmud. So, ACC officials on condition of anonymity say, Modasser might have tried to block the audit to cover up the scam to save the duo, an allegation Modasser has dismissed.

The ACC investigation found that the adviser reached the branch minutes after the BB audit team had gone there around 12:00noon on April 4 last year. He then distributed his visiting cards among the members of the audit team.

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President Hamid

Speaker wins AL nomination, awaits JS formality

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

Speaker Abdul Hamid is going to be elected president unopposed amid high expectation that he would play a vital role in resolving the growing political crisis centring the next parliamentary election.

Hamid filed nomination paper for the April 29 presidential polls yesterday, the last day for filing nomination paper with the Election Commission.

This means he would be declared elected unopposed to the presidency by the Election Commission on April 24 following scrutiny of his nomination paper and when the deadline for withdrawal of candidature expires.

His nomination to the presidency by the Awami League yesterday was also lauded by civil society personalities and political analysts.

When elected, Hamid, now the acting president, would be the



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Know context of Baksal

Hasina asks party leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also chief of the Awami League, yesterday asked her party lawmakers to equip themselves with adequate knowledge about the background and philosophy of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's formation of Baksal to counter the criticism of it as one-party rule.

She gave the instruction at a meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party held

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PADMA BRIDGE Abul denies graft link

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former communications minister Syed Abul Hossain, MP, in a statement yesterday claimed that he was in no way involved in the alleged

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The mother, left, and sister of slain Chhatra League leader AK Fazlul Haque Patwari, bottom, in tears after criminals shot Fazlul dead at Kazipara in the capital yesterday. Chhatra League and Awami League activists vandalise several vehicles in Mirpur in protest at the killing.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN/
RIDWAN ADID RUPON



Mayhem in Mirpur

Around 100 vehicles damaged after BCL man shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals yesterday shot dead a Chhatra League leader at east Kazipara in the capital's Kafrul area allegedly over a land dispute.

The victim, AK Fazlul Haque Patwari Babu, 24, was president of BCL ward no-94 and a second year BA student of Dhaka Model Degree College.

Enraged by the murder, activists of BCL and other organisations associated with the ruling Awami League blocked roads in Mirpur section-10, section-2 and 13 for an hour. They went on the rampage after 1:30pm and vandalised around 100 vehicles reportedly in presence of police.

Around 10:45am, two youths -- one wearing a mask and another helmet -- dragged Babu out of a rickshaw garage, said Mohammad Hasem, who sells tea near the garage. Within a minute he heard four shots.

Then the duo fled. Babu was found lying on the ground with blood oozing from his body, Hasem said.

Some local people rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

The Daily Star correspondent met the victim's family at their Mirpur residence. Babu's mother Momtaz Begum was howling and demanding justice for her son's

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