NATIONAL MOURNING DAY

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

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"I asked them to play with belief and take responsibility for their performance, and that's what they didn't do."

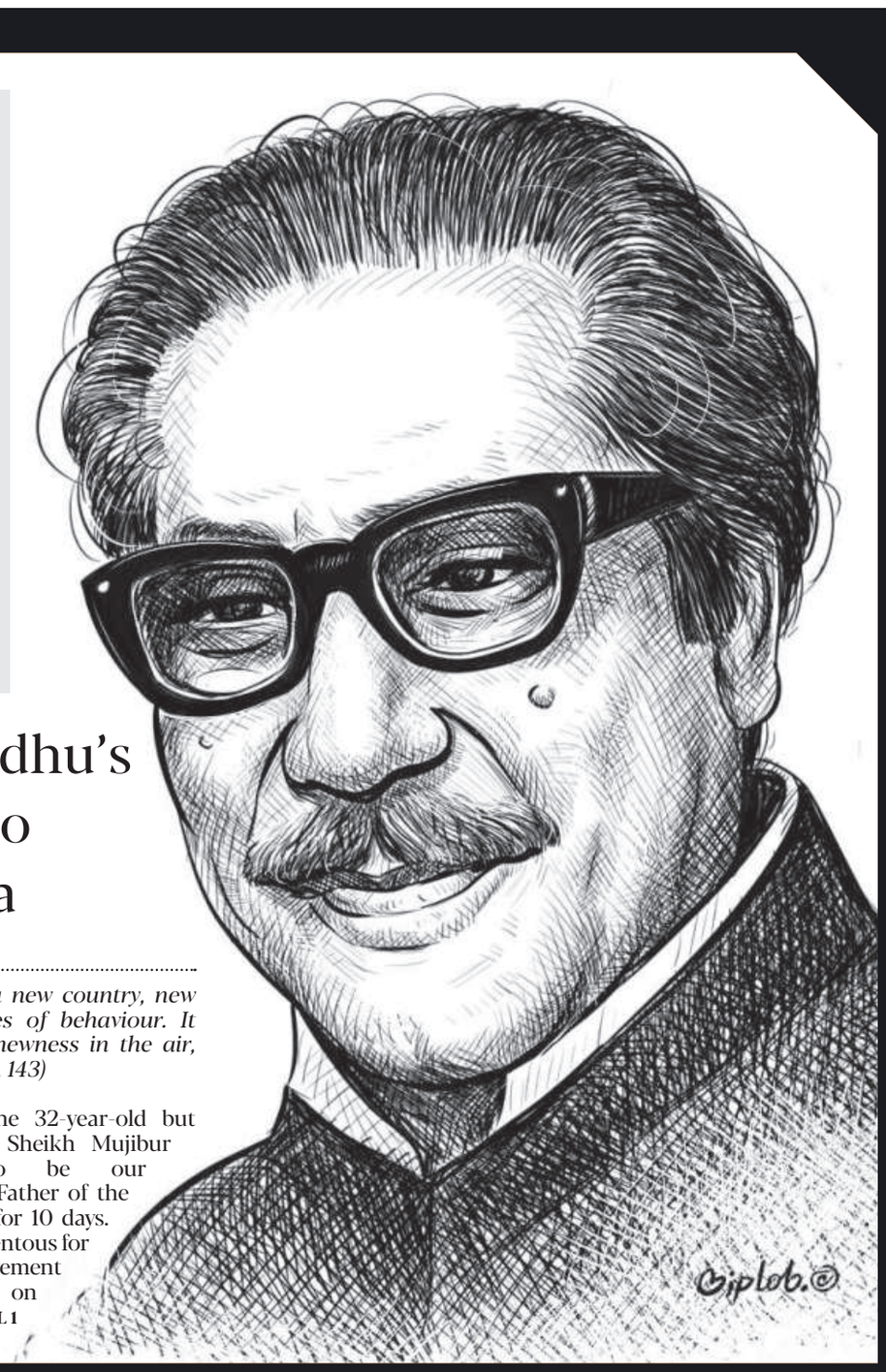
Manchester United manager **Eric ten Hag** after his team's 4-0 Premier League loss to Brentford

Aug 15: The darkest chapter of history

On this day in 1975, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founder of the country, was assassinated along with all his family members, save his two daughters -- Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana who were saved because they were abroad at the time. The killers did not even spare 10-year-old Russell and the newly wedded wives of Sheikh Kamal and Sheikh Jamal.

The brutality of the August 15 killings shocked the world and devastated the nation's psyche. It was the beginning of the darkest period in Bangladesh's history with a military government taking over, the murder of the four national leaders in jail and rehabilitation of the August 15 killers through a special ordinance.

As the nation observes the National Mourning Day today, we recount how Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana, visiting in Germany at that time, came to know the catastrophic news about their father and their back home.



A GRIEF *they can never forget*

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

When Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana returned to the then West German city of Karlsruhe on August 18, 1975, they were still in the dark about the full scale of the tragedy that befell their family in Bangladesh.

They were given little details about the gruesome assassinations of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and their family at Dhanmondi 32, but they could

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Bangabandhu's 1952 trip to New China

FAKRUL ALAM

"The truth is—here is a new country, new people and new modes of behaviour. It appears that there is newness in the air, everywhere" (New China, 143)

I

In October, 1952, the 32-year-old but already quite popular Sheikh Mujibur Rahman—destined to be our Bangabandhu, and the Father of the Nation—went to China for 10 days. The year had been momentous for him; the language movement had peaked tragically on

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MEETINGS WITH 3 MINISTERS

Bachelet raises media freedom, rights issues

The UN rights chief discusses enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings with them

STAR REPORT

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet raised the issues of enforced disappearances, media censorship and shrinking space for the civil society in Bangladesh during talks with three top ministers yesterday.

The ministers, however, claimed that no incident of enforced disappearance and extrajudicial killing has taken place in the country, and that the media and the civil society are vibrant here.

Bachelet arrived in Dhaka at 10:20am on her first official visit at Bangladesh government's invitation. She is scheduled to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, members of the civil society, foreign envoys, UN officials, and also visit the Rohingya camps and attend a seminar on climate change.

Yesterday, she held separate meetings with Foreign Minister Abdul Momen and Law Minister Anisul Huq at the State Guesthouse Padma, and then called on Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan at the home ministry.

Her four-day visit is considered significant following the US sanctions on Rab and seven of its current and former top officials on December 10 last year.

According to the US Treasury Department, NGOs have alleged that Rab and other Bangladeshi law enforcement agencies are responsible for more than 600 disappearances since 2009, nearly 600 extrajudicial killings since 2018, and torture.

Some reports suggest these are targeted at opposition party members, journalists, and human rights activists, it said in a statement on December 10 last year.

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PRICE HIKE OF FUEL

I understand your pain: PM

She says power rationing to fade soon

UNB, *Dhaka*

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she fully understands the sufferings of people for the recent price hike of fuel oil and electricity rationing.

"We can realise the sufferings of the people," she said while speaking at the meeting with organising secretaries of the Awami League from eight divisions at the Gono Bhaban.

Hasina, chief of the governing Awami League, assured that her government will surely cut down the fuel oil price when it will come down in the

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Rice prices go up again

Govt to sell the staple at Tk 15 per kg to 50 lakh poor families from Sept 1

STAR REPORT

People's struggle to cope with the escalating cost of living continues as the price of rice increased yesterday for the second time in just four days.

On August 5, a day before the government hiked fuel prices by record levels, the price of coarse rice was Tk 48 per kilogramme, which shot up to Tk 50 on August 11. Yesterday saw a further Tk 2 rise to Tk 52 per kg, according to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) data.

Meanwhile, price of fine rice rose to Tk 78 per kg on August 11 from Tk 75 per kg on August 5, before surging further to Tk 80 per kg yesterday.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder said his ministry will start selling rice at a cheaper rate for 50 lakh poor families through a food friendly programme (FFP) from September 1.

The ministry has also taken measures to expand its Open Market Sales (OMS) to the upazila level to provide rice at relatively low prices. The OMS programme will also begin from September 1, he said.

"I hope there will be stability in the rice market after the beginning of the programmes," the minister said, adding that they have sufficient stock.

While businessmen are blaming the high price of paddy, transport cost and import taxes for the price hikes, the food minister blamed the manoeuvrings of unscrupulous businessmen.

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Teacher's body recovered from her home

Death by suicide suspected; husband in custody

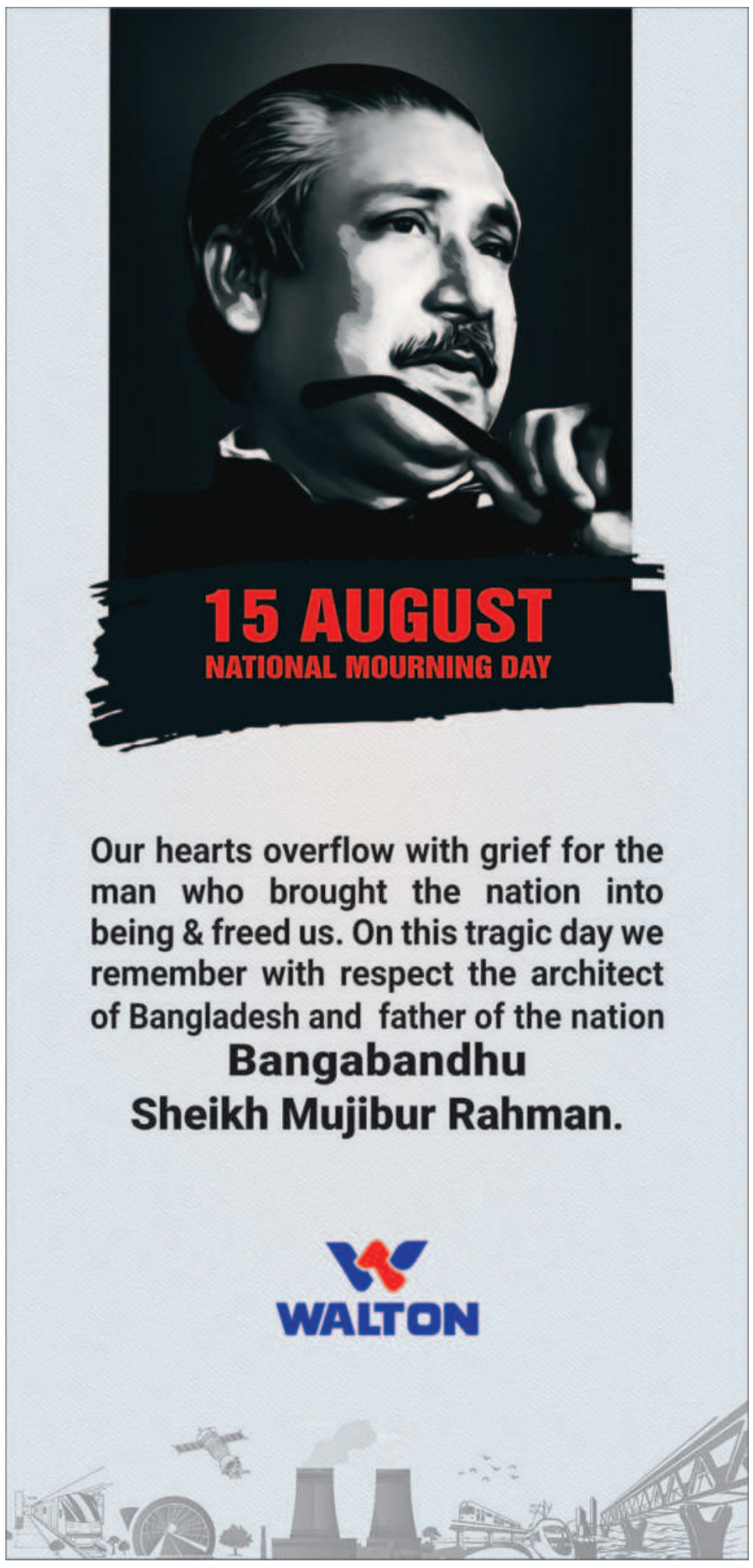
OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Natore*

Police recovered the body of Khairun Nahar, a college teacher, from her home in Balaripara of Natore town yesterday morning.

Police initially suspect that it is a case of death by suicide but they are going to look into all possibilities, said Liton Kumar Saha, superintendent of Natore police.

He said members of the Criminal Investigation Department's crime scene unit have been called in from Rajshahi for the probe.

The body was sent for an autopsy after the crime scene unit had collected evidence from the spot in the afternoon.

After conducting the autopsy yesterday, Samuul Islam Shanto, resident medical officer at Natore Sadar Hospital, said they too primarily

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