

## 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

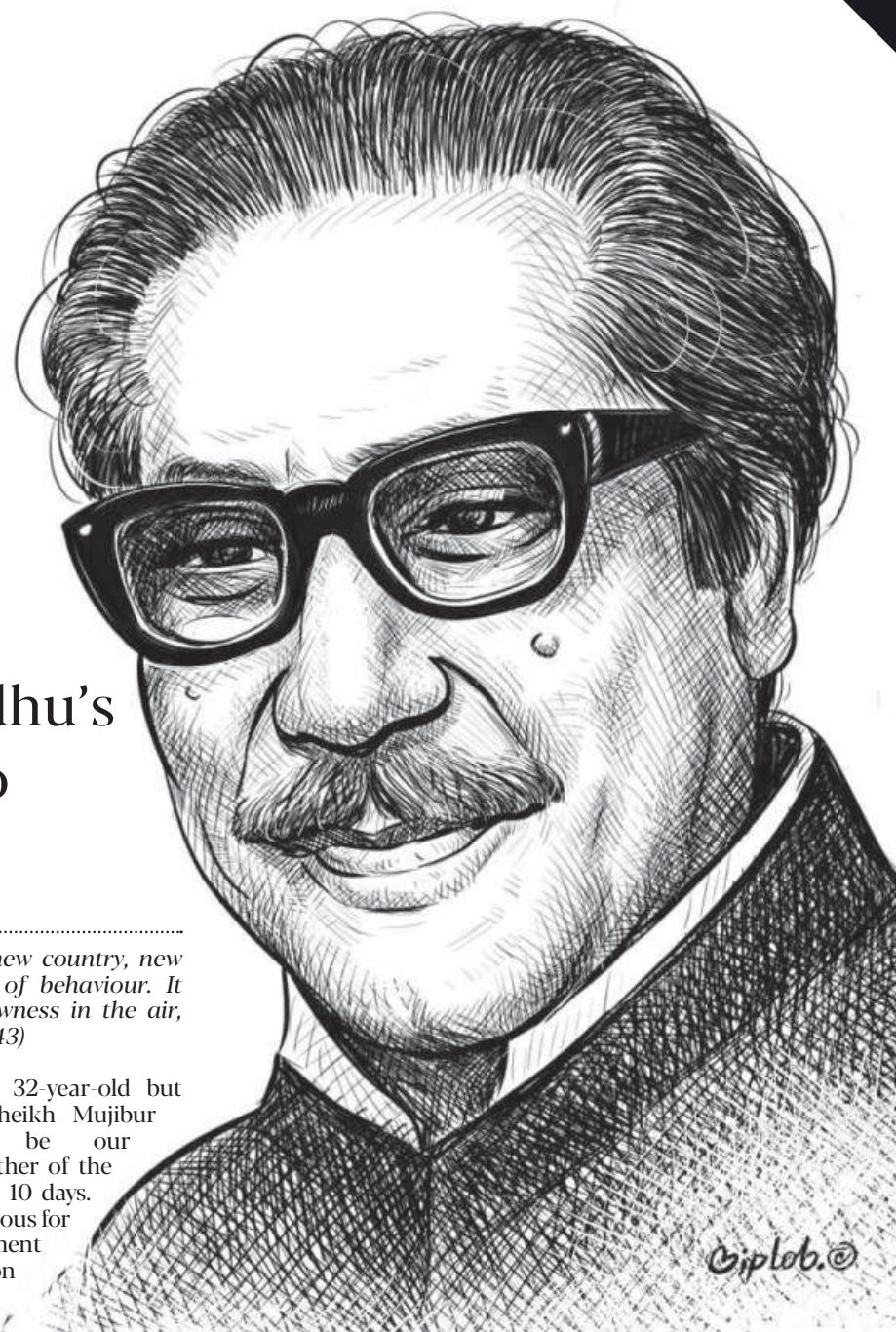
FAKRUL ALAM

"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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## 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 rice 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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তুমি রবে  
মানচিত্র জুড়ে  
সকল মানুষের  
অক্তরে

১৫ আগস্ট  
জাতীয় শোক দিবস

KDS



Teacher's body  
recovered from  
her home  
Death by suicide  
suspected;  
husband in custody  
OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Natore

Police recovered the  
body of Khaireen 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.

Hence 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,  
Samuel Islam Shanto,  
resident medical officer  
at Natore Sadar Hospital,  
said they too primarily

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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 AK Abdul Momen and Law Minister Anisul Huq at the State Guesthouse Padma, and then called on Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan at the home ministry.

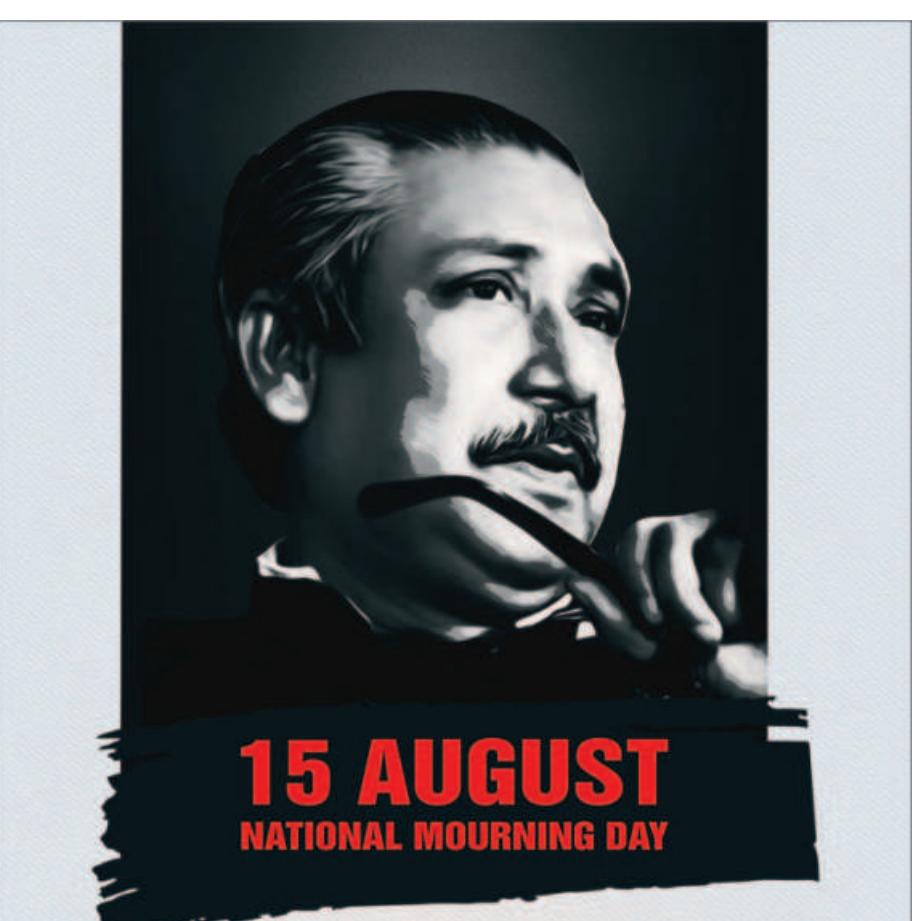
Her four-day visit is considered significant following the US sanctions on Rab and seven of its current and former top officials on December 10 last year.

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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Our hearts overflow with grief for the  
man who brought the nation into  
being & freed us. On this tragic day we  
remember with respect the architect  
of Bangladesh and father of the nation  
**Bangabandhu**  
**Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.**

WALTON