

EDEN COLLEGE CHAOS
Probe body submits report
DU CORRESPONDENT

The probe committee formed to investigate alleged shady business over seats at the Eden College hostels has submitted its report to the acting principal of the college and it will be sent to the education ministry.

Acting principal Jahan-e-Gulshan said she received the probe report on Tuesday and it will be forwarded to the education ministry after approval by of the academic council and staff council of the college.

When contacted yesterday, she said another probe body has been formed to investigate the March 14 attack on students demonstrating in front of the college. Prof Nafisa Khatun of chemistry department heads it.

Meanwhile, Chhatra Sangram Parishad, a combine of opposition-

Home heightens security on more attack fears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry has ordered further strengthening the security system, as the government does not brush aside the possibility of further militant attacks in the country, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar said yesterday.

The government is not complacent even after arresting the top militant leaders and so, they are working round the clock to ensure security of all the citizens from the

militants' attacks. Babar told reporters after a meeting on law and order at the home ministry yesterday.

"We'll continue our operations until they [militants] are rooted out," he said.

MOBILE COURTS RESUME OPERATION

After a recess of about two months, mobile courts today start operation against food adulteration and other crimes in the capital.

The home ministry has formed 15 mobile courts for the purpose but

12 magistrates have joined so far.

"We have ordered awarding highest punishment; I think enough awareness has been created," Babar said, adding that this time the mobile courts will continue operations for an indefinite period.

CAR LIFTING

In the wake of increase in car lifting incidents, the minister formed a

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IMAN ALI KILLING
Court does not accept case against Babar
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday did not accept the case filed against the state minister for home affairs and 52 others in connection with the death of Jubo League leader Masudur Rahman Iman Ali in Rab-claimed "crossfire."

Metropolitan Magistrate AJM Abdullahel Baqui issued the order saying that the victim was murdered at Savar but the case was filed showing the place of occurrence (PO) Kotwali area in Dhaka.

Following the order, lawyers of the complainant told The Daily Star that they would file a revision case with the higher court against the order.

Iman Ali, 40, was killed in a Rab-claimed "encounter" with the

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DHAKA SUBWAY PLAN

Firm increases length, tracks in revised plan

RAFIQ HASAN

A local firm, which had submitted the lowest bid in a tender call by Bangladesh Railway for constructing an underground railway in Dhaka city, submitted a revised proposal to the government, increasing the length of the route and doubling the number of tracks.

Engineer Masud Reza, managing director of the firm, Contech Limited, submitted the fresh proposal to the Ministry of Communications and director general (DG) of Bangladesh Railway recently.

In the revised proposal, Contech

Limited proposed to build a total of 52 kilometres of subway in Dhaka city spending Tk 5,200 crore. "We received the revised proposal and sent it to the Planning Commission for examination," said KMA Rob, the DG of Bangladesh Railway.

The decision in this regard will be taken according to the procedures, he said when asked whether the government will approve the project. The railway DG, however, admitted that the process of establishing a subway in Dhaka has been slowed down.

The revised proposal was submitted following the government's request, as none of the two propos-

als submitted earlier was found suitable, sources said. Bangladesh Railway had called an international tender in February 2003, for establishing an underground railway system in the capital on build operate and transfer (BOT) basis.

Although, 11 companies bought tender documents only two companies finally participated in the bid. Contech limited's bid was the lowest as it quoted Tk 2,000 crore for building 20 kilometres of subway. The other company Messrs Silvi Agency quoted Tk 6,000 crore for the same job.

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Saifur rejects notion about Dhaka aiding insurgents

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladesh yesterday expressed shock at reports that some Bangladeshis were involved in some recent terror attacks in India, including the twin blasts in the temple town of Varanasi and on Indian Institute of Sciences in Bangalore.

"We were shocked when we were told yesterday that some Bangladeshis were involved in some recent incidents, including that in [Varanasi] and some other places," Bangladesh Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman told reporters here in response to a

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NEW MOORING TERMINAL
Akbar moves to convince Ctg mayor on privatisation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain yesterday sent an official letter to the Chittagong city Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Ahmed Chowdhury to convince him about the government's plan to privatise the operation of New Mooring container terminal.

The letter was sent following the mayor's announcement of movement to resist the government's plan to privatise the operation of under-construction New Mooring container terminal that is expected to go for operation in October this year.

"I think he [mayor] would be convinced and not raise any objection after getting the letter," Akbar Hossain told a press conference at

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PHOTO: STAR

Workers removing goods from Base Textile warehouse in Chittagong as it caught fire yesterday. Goods worth Tk 50 crore were gutted in the devastating fire.

Troops to stay in Iraq for years: Bush

AP, Washington

President Bush said Tuesday that American forces will remain in Iraq for years and it will be up to a future president to decide when to bring them all home.

But defying critics and plunging polls, he declared, "I'm optimistic we'll succeed. If not, I'd pull our troops out."

The president rejected calls for the resignation of Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, chief architect of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. "Listen, every war plan looks good on paper until you meet the enemy," Bush said, acknowl-

edging mistakes as the United States was forced to switch tactics and change a reconstruction strategy that offered targets for insurgents.

He also rejected assertions by Iraq's former interim prime minister that the country had fallen into civil war amid sectarian violence that has left more than 1,000 Iraqis dead since the bombing last month of a Shia Muslim shrine.

"This is a moment the Iraqis had a chance to fall apart and they didn't," Bush said, crediting religious and political leaders with restraint.

The president spoke for nearly an hour at a White House news

conference, part of a new offensive to ease Americans' unhappiness with the war and fellow Republicans' anxiety about fall elections. He faced sceptical questions about Iraq during an appearance Monday in Cleveland, and plans another address soon on Iraq.

Public support for the war and for Bush himself has fallen in recent months, jeopardising the political capital he claimed from his 2004 re-election victory. "I'd say I'm spending that capital on the war," Bush said.

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JAMUNA BRIDGE CRACKS
Probe body seeks 3 more weeks to find cause

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The probe committee to find the cause of the cracks in Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge applied for extension of time yesterday as it could not submit the report by March 20, the deadline.

The seven-member committee led by Vice-chancellor of Brac University Jamilur Reza Chowdhury sought another three weeks' time to investigate the matter, according to sources in the communications ministry.

The committee, formed on March 13, held two meetings and visited the bridge for physical survey but could not reach a consensus on the cause of the cracks. For reaching a consensus and submitting the report the committee needs more time, sources said.

Earlier, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda visited the

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BLASTS SINCE AUG 17
22 awarded death penalty so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-two people have been awarded death sentence, seven others life imprisonment, and another person 15 years in jail in the verdicts of five cases filed for militant bomb attacks since August 17 last year.

Sources in the police headquarters said 229 cases have been filed so far for bomb attacks since the nationwide bombing. Of those, 154 were filed for 459 bomb blasts in 63 districts on August 17 and the rest were filed for bomb attacks that took

place later. Law enforcers have so far arrested 631 people and submitted charge sheets of 125 cases.

The investigators pressed charges against Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Abdur Rahman in 52 of the 125 cases, Rahman's closest aide and JMB second-in-command Bangla Bhai in 48 cases and Rahman's brother and JMB's military wing chief Ataur Rahman Sunny in 28 cases.

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Two killed in 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A cadre of an outlawed party and a top criminal were killed in incidents of "crossfire" during shootouts between their accomplices and the law enforcers in Kushtia and Comilla early yesterday.

Our Kushtia Correspondent reported that detectives arrested Abdul Momin of Gono Mukti Foj (GMF) at Nawapara village under Sadar upazila of Meherpur Tuesday morning.

On his confession, DB police along with Momin set out for Lahinipara in Kushtia Sadar upazila at about 3:30am to arrest his accomplices and seize hidden firearms.

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Correction

In the news item headlined "BGMEA spots three highly risky plants" published on page 16 on March 20, it was mentioned that the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) identified the Bari Apparels at Bopal in Savar as highly risky in infrastructures. Actually the factory of Al Bari Fashions (Pvt) Ltd is risky, a BGMEA release said. The Bari Apparels Ltd is located in Mirpur, the BGMEA correction added.

Prayer Timing		
March 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-55	5-30
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-16	6-20
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

