

DARUL IHSAN UNIVERSITY  
Crisis over '2  
VCs' deepens  
UGC meeting not held  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Grants Commission (UGC)-called meeting to resolve the present stalemate at Darul Ihsan University could not be held yesterday, leading academic future of the students into further uncertainty.

We could not hold the meeting as only six out of the 26 members of the university trustee board and a vice-chancellor post claimant came to attend the meeting, said UGC member Prof Monirul Hoque, who has been tasked with looking into the issue.

The present crisis of the university began more than a month ago when both Syed Ali Naki, the former pro-vice-chancellor, and Prof MA Rashid, the present treasurer, claimed themselves as the vice-chancellor of the university.

Ali Naki and Rashid are backed by two groups of the university trustee board members.

The situation led to the closer of the university for over two weeks and suspension of its academic activities for around a month.

The university is now open, but all the classes are not being held, a student yesterday said, adding that the teachers favouring Prof Rashid are now taking classes, but those who support Ali Naki do not come to take their scheduled classes.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

# WB shifts strategy to develop infrastructure

Next year's 40pc lending goes to this sector

INAM AHMED, from Tokyo

In a shift from its earlier stance, the World Bank is reengaging itself in infrastructure development and stressing the need for public sector involvement in projects, the Bank's President Paul Wolfowitz announced Sunday.

He also felt subsidies are "unavoidable and desirable" for pro-poor development.

"The World Bank is rethinking its infrastructure strategy. It is reengaging in infrastructure investment. Next year, \$9-10 billion or 40 per cent of the Bank's lending will be in infrastructure," Wolfowitz said at the inaugural session of the Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) in Tokyo.

"Infrastructure must focus on smart growth which is environmentally and socially acceptable and pro-poor to achieve MDG. It must not only be based on economic growth," he said. "It has to be affordable to the poor. For this subsidies are unavoidable and desirable too."

The Bank will use its technical expertise to strengthen regulatory

structure for infrastructure projects.

Highlighting the urgent need to take up more infrastructure projects, Wolfowitz pointed out that the global supply of infrastructure is not able to meet the need.

Of the current 6.3 billion people, 1.6 billion don't have access to energy, 2.4 billion cook meals with wood and dung, 2.6 billion have no access to water and sanitation. And in the next 25 years the need for access to water, sanitation, airport and telephone will boom.

Populations are becoming more urban and by 2025, 60 per cent of the people will live in cities and in the next 20 years, population of the developed world will double.

"This is why preserving the environment will be important and infrastructure development and environment can go hand in hand," observed the WB chief.

The Bank is particularly worried about the situation in Africa, which he said "poses a special challenge to international community" because of high population, urbanisation and mismatch in infrastructure supply. In

such a situation, the continent is unable to meet the MDGs.

The International Energy Agency estimates a \$220 billion investment in the power sector over the next 20 years, yet the current investment rate is 50 per cent of the need. Large scale energy projects have been undertaken in Africa but they need to serve the poor.

"We cannot forget that 80 per cent of population in Africa relies on biogas. They need special support," Wolfowitz stressed. "Electricity is so important for business in Africa. More access to energy and transportation is needed for livelihood."

He said climate will be affected in the next 20 years because of infrastructure investment and so investment in efficient technologies is needed.

Turning to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), he said infrastructure development is crucial to achieve these. If the people do not get water, the goal in primary health cannot be achieved.

"Africa spends 40 billion hours just to carry water home," he

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Garment workers confine top executives for arrears, pay hike

UNB, Savar

Workers of a garment factory in Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) yesterday confined their top executives inside the factory for hours demanding wage hike and payment of arrears.

Over 1,500 workers of the foreign-owned garment factory, Ownerway, began work abstention in the afternoon and confined the top executives.

A worker of the factory told newsmen that the authorities had

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

HEROIN SMUGGLING

BD Foods boss remanded again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BD Foods Chairman Badruddoza Chowdhury Momen, arrested on charge of smuggling heroin to the UK, was shown arrested in another drug smuggling case and remanded yesterday for further interrogation.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shamsul Alam granted a seven-day remand against a 10-day remand prayer in connection with the 54kg heroin smuggling case filed with Sutrapur Police Station.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Closing down the entire Dhakeswari Road, Dhaka Wasa workers install sewer lines in Lalbagh in the capital yesterday.

PROF TAHER MURDER  
DB seeks RU  
authorities' help  
to arrest Salehi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Detective Branch of Police (DB) yesterday sought cooperation from the Rajshahi University (RU) authorities to arrest RU Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) President Mahbul Alam Salehi, the lone absconding suspected mastermind of the Prof S Taher Ahmed murder case.

A computer hard drive the suspects once used went missing from a RU lab.

The step came after Salehi submitted a prayer to attend the masters' exams and the authority asked the Department of Geology

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BSF kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kurigram

Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) gunned down a Bangladesh youth on Baliahari border under Raumari upazila of the district yesterday.

The victim was identified as Anisur Rahman, 28, son of late Fazal Haque of Algachar village under the upazila.

According to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and local sources the Indian border guards opened fire on Anis while he was working in a field

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

Day labourers head to work amid incessant downpour in Chittagong yesterday as three-fourths of the city went under water.

2 killed in  
'crossfire'  
with Rab

STAR REPORT

Two persons including an outlawed cadre were killed in separate incidents of 'crossfire' with the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Barisal and Kushtia yesterday.

In Barisal, Panirul Islam Talukdar, 29, was killed in Rab 'crossfire' while there are allegations that the victim was tortured to death before the body was brush-fired, reports our Barisal correspondent.

Major Zamil of Rab-8 in Barisal said they arrested Panirul Islam following information from the house of Rafiqul Islam at Rupatali in the city early Sunday.

The house was used as a mini brothel and a shelter of the criminals, the Rab official said, adding that Panirul was an illegal arms dealer and accused in a dacoity

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# Bangladesh turned into arms smuggling route

Experts critical of govt's indifference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Militant and insurgent outfits in South Asian region are now using Bangladesh as a transit route for smuggling weapons, turning the region into a large world market of arms trade but the government still remains indifferent, experts and former army personnel

said at a press conference yesterday.

The country's south and south-east regions, especially Chittagong, Khagrachhari, Bandarban, Sandwip, Haluaghat and emerging char islands are often used for transportation of illegal small arms, and it encourages the use of illegal small arms and violence

across the country, they said.

Referring to a research report of Bangladesh Development Partnership Center (BDPC), former army personnel said at least 400,000 illegal and 25,000 licensed guns are used across the country

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

TATA INVESTMENT PROPOSAL

# Govt cautioned over low gas price

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent energy experts and geologists at a seminar yesterday strongly opposed the investment proposal of Indian industrial giant Tata. They said it would not only force the government to provide high subsidy to the foreign company from taxpayers' money but also would make the country vulnerable in terms of energy security.

The government will need to

provide a subsidy of US\$1.65 per unit of gas if the proposal is accepted, they said adding that Tata made the investment proposal only because it wants gas at a cheaper price, which it would not get from any other place in the world today.

Presently, the commercial price of a unit of gas in the global market is around \$5 if it is supplied now, and it is being sold at a price of \$12

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Compensation for Kansat victims 'misappropriated'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Kansat Palli Bidyut Unnayan Sangram Parishad (PBUSP) leaders, including its convener, allegedly pocketed a large share of the Tk 83 lakh arranged by the Rural Electrification Board as compensation to those injured in police atrocities last April.

Sources said PBUSP convener Golam Rabbani was given Tk 50,000 on Thursday as he was injured after police arrested him on January 22. Rabbani, however, was not listed for the compensation.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Agencies still keeping watch on militants' regrouping

Says Babar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has assigned several agencies to keep watch whether the militants are trying to regroup in the country following the capture and punishment of their top leaders, the state minister for home said yesterday.

"This is not the end of the story. The issue may come to the fore again in the future," Lutfozzaman Babar said after a Jhalakathi court awarded seven

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

# At least 52 killed in Iraq explosion

Two British soldiers die in attack

AFP, Baghdad/London

At least 52 people were killed in a bloody explosion of violence across Iraq yesterday, including a spate of bombings against buses carrying people to work.

The attacks underlined the parlous security situation in Iraq as agreement on the key defence and interior ministries remained elusive despite the formation of a new government on May 20, five months after national elections.

Despite repeated assertions that a

final decision on the security ministers was imminent, the positions remain unfilled because of bickering among the major political parties.

In the deadliest attack Monday, 14 people were killed and 17 wounded when a bomb tore through a bus carrying Iraqis work from Khalis, about 80km north of Baghdad, to Camp Ashraf, the home of an Iranian opposition movement.

"The workers were ordinary Iraqi

citizens who had ordinary jobs since a long time ago in the city of Ashraf," said Shahriar Kia, a spokesman for the movement, which blamed Iran's regime for the attack in Diyala province.

The organisation said the bombing recalled an attack against a bus carrying members of the People's Mojahedeen of Iran to Ashraf in June 1999, which left six dead.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Prayer Timing		
May 30		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-43	6-47
Esha	8-05	8-35

Source: Islamic Foundation