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Announcement

Our readers in Motijheel and Dhanmondi areas will receive, along with today's issue of The Daily Star, our special 48-page four-colour supplement on 25 years of the World Bank's operation in Bangladesh. Due to unavoidable circumstances we could not distribute it yesterday in the two above mentioned areas.

We sincerely regret the inconvenience caused to our valued readers.

Please ask your hawkers today for your free copy of our special supplement.

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A M M Shahabuddin
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Bid to ship bomb-making materials to Khartoum foiled
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Country earns Tk 120 cr from tea export
FAO Commodity Review for '94-95: Declining global stock may put food security in LDCs at risk
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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index 750.00 (-0.34%)
Market capital Tk 46.75 billion
Transactions in volume 140735
Transactions in value Tk 16.50 million

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Absent in the Spring
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NEWS BRIEFS

Body recovered

By Staff Correspondent
Police recovered the body of one Habibur Rahman Ripon, 25, from a ditch in Kunipara at Tejgaon Industrial Area in the city yesterday afternoon. Sources said that Ripon and his accomplices attacked a garments factory and locked some of its officials Sunday morning. Police said that Ripon fell into the ditch, around 400 yards from the garments factory, while they were chased by the local people and garments workers.

One crushed under wheels

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, July 10: One Manjur Ahmed, 15, was crushed under wheels of a speeding minibus at Rayapara on Barisal-Jhalakathi road around 10:30 am. When Manju was crossing the road, the minibus hit him and he died on the spot. The minibus sped away soon after the incident.

12 prisoners die of heatstroke

MOSCOW, July 10: Twelve prisoners died of heatstroke in a western Siberian detention ward over the weekend, a Russian news agency reported today. The governor of the Kuzbass region, Mikhail Kislyuk, blamed the deaths on negligent prison employees.

Suu Kyi freed

YANGON, July 10: Myanmar's military junta has freed political opposition leader and Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi without condition today after nearly six years under house arrest, a military spokesman said today. Colonel Kyaw Win, deputy head of military intelligence, said Aung San Suu Kyi had been released 'unconditionally' but that security had been stepped up at her residence at her request to discourage visitors, report agencies.

She did, however, meet in the early evening with Tin Oo and Kyi Maung, former leaders of the party she co-founded, the National League for Democracy (NLD). The two men were themselves released from prison in March.

News of her release was not immediately announced in Myanmar, but a crowd of well-wishers began gathering outside the gate of her lakeside home before 6:00 pm (11:30 GMT) after hearing the news on foreign radio stations.

She is to give a press conference on Tuesday, officials said.

A number of military intelligence officers in civilian dress were manning the gate, while many young NLD members and the handful of foreign journalists currently in Yangon braved a downpour to stand vigil.

They said the news had spread

like wildfire in Yangon. A relative of Suu Kyi and former NLD election agent described himself as 'cautiously optimistic' but said he was still unsure 'what all this entails.'

In Tokyo, the Japanese Foreign Ministry, citing information from Japanese officials in Yangon, announced that Myanmar had released Aung San Suu Kyi unconditionally.

The 1991 Nobel Peace laureate, 50, has been under house arrest since July 1989.

The daughter of independence hero Aung San, Suu Kyi had antagonised Myanmar's military leaders with a series of fiery campaign speeches beginning in 1988, until she was ordered detained at her lakeside house on Yangon's university avenue.

Amnesty International, in a statement received in Hong Kong, hailed the release, saying 'We are

pleased that after six years of campaigning, Aung San Suu Kyi is finally free.'

'We hope that no restrictions are placed on her freedom and that she is allowed to participate in her country's political process. We also hope that this decision marks the beginning of a new policy to fundamentally improve Myanmar's human rights record.'

Aung San Suu Kyi emerged as the leading figure in Myanmar's pro-democracy movement following the unrest in 1988 which forced general Ne Win to officially relinquish power.

The NLD went on to a landslide victory in the May 1990 general elections, but the two-year-old junta refused to hand over power and instead cracked down hard on the opposition.

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Reaction

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, an indomitable crusader for democracy, rule of law and human rights, is a victory for democratic forces and freedom loving people of Myanmar, say agencies.

In Bangladesh we have learnt with happiness the news of Suu Kyi's release from confinement, Begum Zia said.

'We believe that her release would pave the way for early restoration of democracy in Myanmar,' said the Prime Minister.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her great satisfaction and happiness at the news of the release of Aung San Suu Kyi.

She hoped that her release would be instrumental in reviving democratic politics in Myanmar.

Hasina also hoped that people in Myanmar would now be able to fulfil their long cherished aspirations.

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Aung San Suu Kyi. — AFP file photo

Population Day today

The World Population Day will be observed in Bangladesh today as elsewhere in the world, reports BSS.

This year the theme of the day is 'Development, empowerment and reproductive health.'

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia have given separate messages on the occasion.

Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has also given a message.

Ministry of Health and Family Planning have drawn up programmes to mark the day in collaboration with the UNFPA.

A colourful rally will be brought out from Shishu Academy to National Press Club at 8:00 am. Minister for Health and Family Welfare Chowdhury Kamal Hossain will lead the rally.

In the morning, nine more rallies will be brought out in the city by the NGOs. The day's programme will be formally inaugurated by President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the Osmani Memorial Hall at 10:15 am.

The President will distribute awards and certificates to three best field workers — one of them from NGOs — from each of the five divisions of the country.
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PM reviews flood situation

A high-level meeting held yesterday with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair reviewed the overall flood situation in the country, reports BSS.

The meeting discussed in details the latest flood situation, rescue operation, on going relief activities, extent of damages, stock position of the relief fund and condition of the major rivers in the 22 flood-hit districts.

After reviewing the reports from the concerned district administrations, the Water Development Board, flood control cell, meteorological department the Prime Minister has directed the authorities concerned to provide all necessary assistance to the flood victims.

She has also ordered to take all steps to help mitigate the sufferings of the affected people, launch post-flood rehabilitation programme and take up measures to check the spread of epidemic in the flood-hit areas.

Minister for Irrigation and Water Resources Majidul Haq, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam
See page 12 Col 8

Buriganga, Turag rising Fresh areas in many dists threatened

By Staff Correspondent

The flood situation in the worst affected northern district of Gaibandha further deteriorated yesterday and more people were marooned in several other flood-hit districts — Kurigram, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Bogra, Netrakona, Pabna, Sunamganj and Manikganj.

The Flood Information Centre, in a bulletin, said that the situation in the districts concerned may remain unchanged today as the river Brahmaputra may either fall or remain steady at the upstream points.

But more areas in Manikganj and Nawangan districts may be submerged with the rise of water levels in rivers, the bulletin forecast.

The flood situation in Gaibandha took a serious turn with the swelling of the rivers Ghagot, Korotoa and Teesta. The Gaibandha town, which went under knee to waist-deep water is experiencing the worst flooding of the current monsoon.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports that four persons were killed

in the district yesterday. Ilyas Uddin, 35, an officer of the Phoolchhari branch of Agrani Bank was electrocuted while going to his office boarding a raft. Alisaruddin, 40, died when the swirling water washed away his home at Kumargari in Sadar thana. A five-year child at Railway Colony in the town drowned while and elderly woman died of snake bite at David Company Para in the town.

Ghagot river was flowing six feet and seven inches above the danger mark near Gaibandha town.

A cross dam on Sadullapur Thana Sarak was washed away by flood waters yesterday, submerging a portion of Sadullapur-Gaibandha road.

Over 10 lakh people in the district were marooned.

In the wake of incessant rain and onrush of waters from the upstream parts of Sirajganj town also went under water while fresh areas in three thanas of Bogra district were inundated as the Jamuna continued to
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The peak season of delicious guava is only days away. —Star photo by A K M Mohsin

New coal deposit found

By Chapal Bashar

The Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB) has detected a huge deposit of high-quality coal at a depth of 1076 feet at Dighirpar in Dinajpur district.

An authoritative source in the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources said yesterday that preliminary report of exploratory drilling at

Dighirpar under Hakimpur thana indicated deposit of coal there. 'However, we have to wait for a detailed survey report to determine quantity of the coal reserve and area of the basin.'

Other sources also confirmed discovery of coal deposit at Dighirpar and said 'after a continued drilling

for about three months, geologists of the GSB could hit coal seam just a week ago.'

Experts are now busy conducting survey in Dighirpar to assess the area of the coal basin and probable reserve of the mineral.

The survey is expected to be completed within a month which will be followed by a detailed feasibility study.

This is the fourth coal field so far discovered in Bangladesh. Three other coal deposits discovered earlier by the GSB are located at Barapukuria, Jamalganj and Pirganj — all in the northern region.

According to experts, the coal found at Dighirpar is better in quality than that of Barapukuria for which extraction process has already been initiated.

Experts termed the coal discovery at Dighirpar as another achievement of country's geologists who did the job in minimum possible time. 'Our people could do it without foreign assistance. It was done solely with government's own fund'

The geologists maintain that the newly-discovered Dighirpar coal has characteristic identical to the bituminous Permian Gondwana coal, considered having high quality.
See page 12 Col 8

BDR deployed at Aricha ghat to ease traffic jam

By Staff Correspondent

BDR and additional police force were deployed at Aricha ghat yesterday to bring the tediums-long chaotic traffic situation in order, Shipping Minister M K Anwar told the House yesterday.

A chaotic situation has been prevailing in the ghat for the last few days resulting in miles-long queue of vehicles to cross the Jamuna.

Anwar, replying to Maj (Ret) Akhtaruzzaman, said order for deployment of force was issued by Home Minister Abdul Matin when they visited the ghat yesterday. The situation will improve in a day or two, he said.

The Shipping Minister said traffic jam in the ferry ghat was caused by some unscrupulous truck and bus drivers who ignored traffic rules to overtake others to avail the ferry.

The minister said that on an average some 2,500 vehicles cross the ghat by ferry but due to the traffic congestion the movement had slowed down. Sometimes the number rise to 2,900.

On Sunday some 1,800 vehicles crossed the ghat, he added.

Aricha ferry ghat links the southern, south-western and northern districts of the country by road.

1881 HSC examinees expelled on 3rd day

At least 1,881 examinees were expelled on the third day yesterday of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations under the country's four education boards, reports UNB.

Except some violent incidents in several centres of the Comilla and Dhaka boards, the examination of English first paper was held peacefully all over the country, officials said.

In the Sattakia Government College centre of Chittagong district

100 hurt in clash over expulsion of examinees in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 10: Nearly 100 persons, including five police personnel, were injured during violence in two examination centres at Sattakia and Sitakunda today.

The injured were admitted to clinics and hospitals. According to reports, police fired into the air when some unruly examinees of the Sattakia college centre, assisted by local people, went on the rampage and set fire to the vehicles of the Thana Nirbahi Officer and to the tables and

under the Comilla Board, six police personnel, including the Officer-in-Charge of the local thana, were injured in a clash following the expulsion of 30 examinees.
Police said some 500 people, including some unruly students along with guardians, set fire to the jeep of Sattakia Thana Nirbahi Officer and motor cycle of the OC protesting the expulsion.
They also attacked the house of the TNO as well as the college centre. According to police, the angry mob hurled home-made bombs on the TNO's residence.
Police rushed to the spot and fired at least 15 blank shots to disperse the mob. They arrested one person from the spot.
In the Sitakunda Degree College centre, unruly students assaulted the principal following the expulsion of eight candidates.
The students also blocked the Dhaka-Chittagong highway for an hour from 1:30 pm and damaged several vehicles.
In the Sibpur Sahbed Asad Degree College centre of Narsingdi district, some students led by the VP and GS of the college ransacked the college as the college students union leaders were not allowed to enter into the
See page 12 Col 3

Mohajirs halt strike as goodwill gesture Govt-MQM talks today

KARACHI, July 10: Karachi limped back to work today after the ethnic Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM) scrapped plans to shut the city down for a fourth day, reports Reuters.

The MQM said it had decided to end a strike that crippled the southern Pakistani port for three days as a goodwill gesture before peace talks with the government.

The talks between a team headed by Law and Justice Minister Nabil Dad Khan and a five-member MQM delegation led by newspaper editor Ajmal Dehlavi were supposed to have begun last Thursday, but are now planned to start tomorrow.

Dehlavi told reporters his team would fly to Islamabad on Tuesday morning. The first session would take place at 7 pm (1400 GMT). The MQM has proposed two daily sessions.
He said the MQM had not set an agenda, but talks would focus on the

same issues discussed in previous negotiations.

'We want results as soon as possible to save precious lives in Karachi and Hyderabad,' he said. 'There is no time limit for the talks, but we want the two sides to reach agreement soon.' Banks, businesses and other offices in Karachi reopened with most people showing up for work, witnesses said. Cars, taxis, buses and rickshaws crowded roads in commercial districts.

Police and ambulance men said three people were killed and six wounded in gunfire in Orangi town, Jambharabad and Korangi.

The MQM, already staging strikes every Friday and Saturday, had called for additional shut-downs on Sunday and Monday in protest at the death in police custody of a former MQM city councillor, Aslam Sabzwari, on Friday. Hundreds of people attended

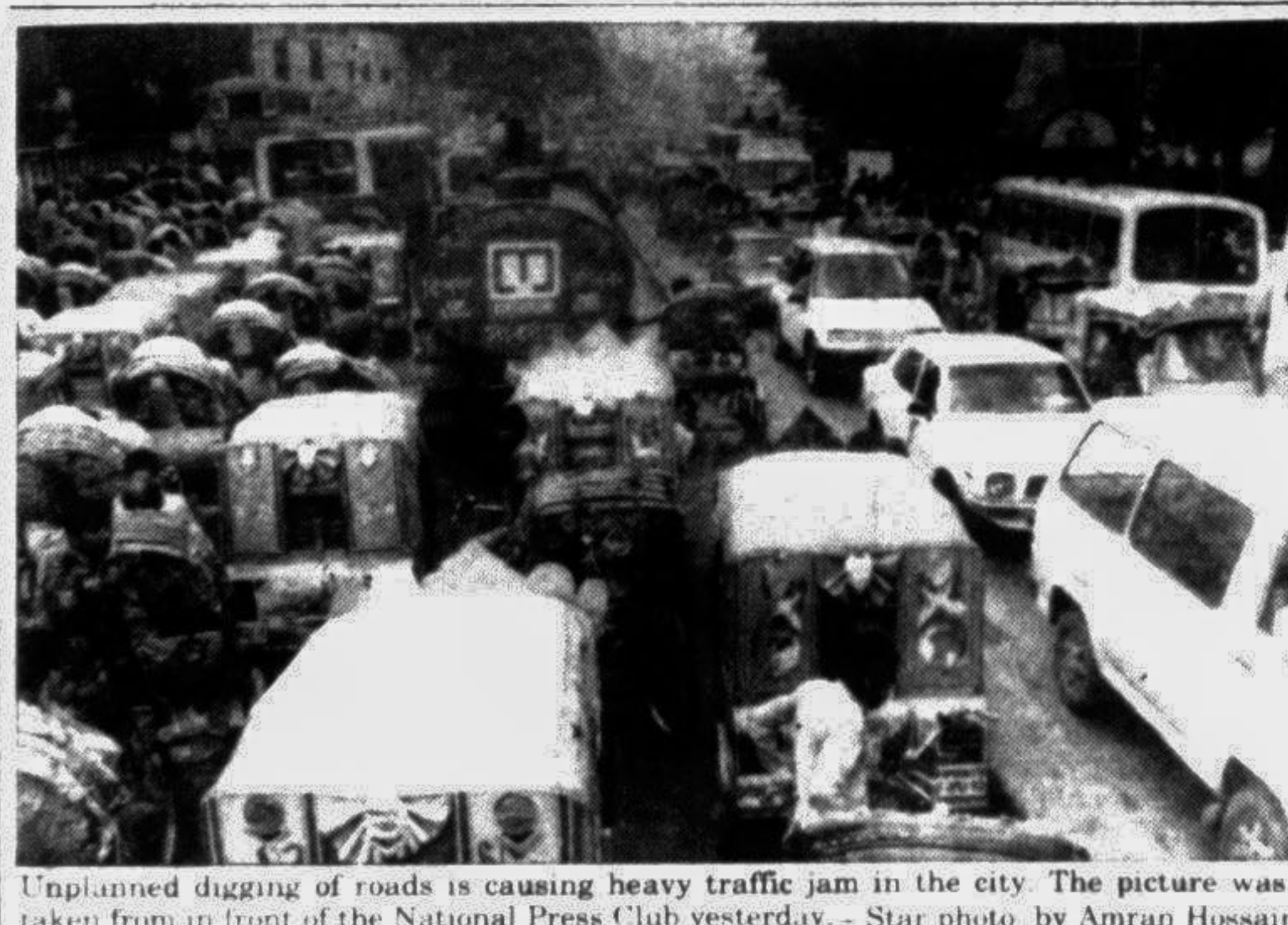
Sabzwari's funeral today. No violence was reported. In Islamabad, speakers in a senate debate on Karachi urged both sides to make the talks successful.

'We are going to talks with open arms,' said the secretary general of the ruling Pakistan People's Party, Sheikh Rafiq Ahmad.

He indirectly criticised the MQM's strike tactics, saying the party should respect the right of people to work, take their sick to hospital and send their children to school.

Main opposition leader Nawaz Sharif said the government should call off its crackdown against the MQM in Karachi.

The government should at least suspend the operation till the talks are over, Sharif told reporters. There is hardly a house in Karachi
See page 12 Col 8



Unplanned digging of roads is causing heavy traffic jam in the city. The picture was taken from in front of the National Press Club yesterday. — Star photo by Amran Hossain

Principal forced to resign as examinee kills himself

From our Correspondent

KHULNA, July 10: The principal of the Shaheed Suhrawardi Degree College resigned today after an HSC examinee committed suicide.

Jalal Sardar of Bagmara under Kotwali thana committed suicide by hanging himself with his 'lungi' from the ceiling fan of his bed room at about 11:30 this morning, half-an-hour after he was expelled for adopting unfair means in the English first paper examination.

Police and eyewitnesses said, violence started when the news of his death reached the college.

Immediately afterwards, they confined principal Mazharul Hanan to his chamber and ransacked the class rooms and all office rooms.

Under pressure from the examinees, the principal later submitted his resignation to the college governing body.

Police assault: RU provost resigns in protest

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 10: Provost of Suhrawardi Hall of Rajshahi University Prof Abdul Aziz Mian resigned today protesting alleged assault by police during their abortive bid to raid the hall without the authorities' permission last night.

He tendered his resignation to Vice-Chancellor Prof M Eusuf Ali.

The Provost's Council of the university began an emergency meeting this evening to discuss the situation. The meeting continued till writing of the report. The Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) may meet tomorrow on the situation.

At about midnight last night, a contingent of police led by Assistant Commissioner Anwar Hossain and Officer-in-Charge of Moulbar Thana Hela Ching Prue gheraudo the Hall and tried to raid to flush out 'outsiders.'

But the hall provost, the proctor and the students' Advisor of the varsity rushed to hall gate immediately and asked police not to enter the hall. The police force, however,
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