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## PM distributes stipends among working school children

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the affluent and voluntary organisations to help out around 70 lakh working children through schooling so they can find way to an enlightened life, reports UNB.

"These children have lots of latent and potential. They need care, affection and education to flourish their talent and rehabilitate themselves in the society."

Hasina issued the appeal while distributing cheques for stipend to the brilliant working school children at Osmani Auditorium. She expressed the resolve that her government would not allow any children to be left out of school.

This year about 500 male and female working students were selected for stipend under a scheme of the Primary and Mass Education Division.

The children who earn their own bread study at 44 Shishu Kalyan Primary Schools run by Shishu Kalyan Trust (former Pathakali Trust).

## Zimbabwe too good for Windies

Sport Reporter

A magnificent unbroken 186 runs partnership between Murray Goodwin and Grant Flower propelled Zimbabwe to a comfortable six-wicket victory over West Indies in the third and last meeting between the teams in the triangular series at Chester-le-Street, Durham yesterday.

Goodwin blasted a fantastic 112 not out as Zimbabwe reached 290 for four in 49.1 overs chasing the seemingly daunting West Indies total of 287 for five.



Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon demonstrating at Amin Bazar in the city yesterday to save Turag river from pollution.

— Star photo

## Strike: No treatment at NICVD

By Staff Correspondent

The doctors' strike at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases is forcing many patients to go back home from the outpatient department.

Many patients who came to see doctors at the hospital yesterday could not do so even after waiting for hours at the out-patient department.

The suspension and subsequent protest by the doctors followed the death of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a Jatiya Party MP from Jhalakhati, at the hospital on May 5 this year. A group of youths reportedly ransacked the hospital recently alleging negligence of duty by the doctors who treated Bhutto.

Azin Mahmud, a retired government officer, waited more than five hours yesterday at the corridor on the ground floor but his turn never came. "I am going back without seeing any doctor. And this has happened for the second day today," he said.

Many other patients sitting outside the consultants' rooms

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## Draft voter list on July 18

The draft voters' list will be published on July 18, an official handout said here yesterday, reports BSS.

Eligible voters dropped out of this draft list have been requested to contact the Election Commission office over Telephones 9129773 and 9129033 or local election offices directly.

## ZIA to have 5 more bird shooters

Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has taken urgent steps to engage five more bird shooters at Zia International Airport (ZIA) to protect the passenger aircraft from flying birds, a CAA press release said yesterday, reports BSS.



**Arkay Textile Mfg. Co. Ltd.**

109 Park Road, D.O.H.S. (New), Mohakhali, Dhaka.

## Rejoinder

This rejoinder is issued to contradict misleading imputations carried in a news item published in a Bengali Daily Newspaper on July 10th against ARKAY TEXTILES MFG. CO. LTD.

To put the record straight the following facts are placed for general information:

1. ARKAY TEXTILES MFG. CO. LTD. is an Export oriented Textile Industry. It was allowed by the Custom, Excise & Vat authorities to pay Excise Duty on its local production under the provisions of Rule 96KK of the Excise and Salt Act, 1944 vide their License No. 4/R/License/Tex/2/93 dated 4.8.93. The authorities issued the License after examining the relevant legal provisions as existed at the time.
2. Since then ARKAY TEXTILES MFG. CO. LTD. has been regularly paying Excise Duty on the basis of the above Rules and has never defaulted in its payment. Copies of receipted challans through which Excise Duty has been paid every month have also been regularly submitted to the authorities. The facilities granted under Rule 96KK is still available as the same has not been cancelled or withdrawn.
3. For sometimes past there has been a change of interpretation of relevant legal provisions by Custom, Excise and Vat authorities as to relevant legal provisions relating to the applicability of the Excise and Salt Act, 1944 vis-a-vis VAT Act relating to towel. While ARKAY TEXTILES MFG. CO. LTD. has been maintaining that 'Towel' produced by it is an excisable item under the Excise and Salt Act, 1944 and hence not liable to payment of VAT, it has been the stand of the authorities that Towel is an item that should come under the VAT Act and liable to Vat and not Excise Duty. Strangely enough, the authorities never cancelled or withdrew the facilities they provided to ARKAY TEXTILES MFG. CO. LTD. under the license granted by them under Rule 96KK of the Excise and Salt Act, 1944. Surely for the same item there can not be payment twice once under Excise Act and another under Vat Act. ARKAY TEXTILES MFG. CO. LTD. strongly maintain that towel was covered by Excise & not Vat. ARKAY TEXTILES MFG. CO. LTD's stand that towel was not covered by the existing legal provisions has been vindicated by the passage of Finance Bill 2000 during last session of the parliament where in due amendments have been brought in the First Schedule of Excise and Salt Act 1944. Thus, before this amendment was brought, Towel continued to be covered by Excise Act and not Vat Act.

There exist a bone of contention between the authorities and ARKAY TEXTILES MFG. CO. LTD. involving contentious points of law which are yet to be adjudicated upon by the higher authorities and courts.

4. In such circumstances, publication of fabricated stories and irresponsible imputations is likely to seriously prejudice the course of justice to which ARKAY TEXTILES MFG. CO. LTD. is legally entitled to and may deprive it from vindicating its stand.

All concerned are therefore requested not to indulge in fabrication of facts and publishing unverified imputations that may affect the valuable rights of the concern to justice and fair play.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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## 10 killed as bomb goes off in crowded Pak train

KARACHI, July 16: A bomb ripped through a crowded passenger train bound for the city of Karachi in Southern Pakistan today, killing 10 people and injuring 30 others, railway officials and doctors said, reports AP.

The train was pulling out of the station in Hyderabad, 160 kilometers north of Karachi, when the bomb went off in a rear railway car, officials said. Troops promptly cordoned off the area. Railway officials said residents reacted quickly, rushing victims to a nearby hospital.

No one claimed responsibility for the explosion, and police said they had no suspects.

"It was an act of terrorism, but it is premature to say who was involved," said Hyderabad police superintendent Moazzam Jah Anzari. "We are investigating."

Four passengers died in the emergency ward of the hospital, railway workers said. Hospital officials said another four people died within an hour. Another two passengers died later of their injuries.

Doctors said the number of injured also increased as passengers arrived at the hospital with minor injuries, many of them with cuts and bruises. There were still several passengers considered to be in serious condition, they said.

The authorities were still trying to identify four of the dead, said the state-run news agency Associated Press of Pakistan.

The hospital also declared an emergency, putting out an appeal for blood donors and calling in additional staff to help treat the victims.

The train was just leaving when there was a huge bang,

smoke everywhere and people screaming," said a passenger, who identified himself only as Azim. He was traveling with his sister and her two children in the passenger car carrying the explosive device.

But the man only suffered cuts and bruises. The rear of the railway car was a tangled mess of twisted steel.

In recent months, there have been several bombings in Pakistan. Most of the explosions have occurred in the eastern province of Punjab, the country's largest and most populous region.

However, Karachi, Pakistan's largest city of 14 million people, also has been a target.

Pakistani authorities have blamed many of the explosions on neighboring India, but the accusations have not been publicly backed by evidence.

## Body to resolve power problem in garment factories soon

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association has urged the government to act to resolve power and gas problems in the garment factories.

A BGMEA delegation led by its president made the appeal yesterday while it called on State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Prof. Rafiqul Islam, said a BGMEA press release.

BGMEA President Anisur Rahman Sinha told the state minister that power crisis has been seriously hampering production in export-oriented readymade garments.

The minister said the government is very sincere about the development of the garment industry and that a joint committee comprising representatives from the ministry, BGMEA, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA), Power Development Board (PDB) and Rural Electrification Board (REB) shall be formed to resolve power problem, the press release said.

The joint committee will submit recommendations before the prime minister on how to deal with the power crisis in garment factories, the state minister said.

The DESA chairman and other senior officials of DESA and PDB were present during the meeting, the press release added.

## Young man chopped to death at Bagerhat

BAGERHAT, July 16: A young man was chopped to death by unidentified assailants at Ranobijoypur in the town today, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Russell Mia, 32, of Kuliadar village in Sadar upazila, reportedly an activist of Jubo League.

Police said the assailants attacked Russel and his friend Badal while they were returning home by motorbike at about 1 pm.

They chopped Russel to death while Badal managed to flee with minor injuries.

Earlier, the attackers fired 20 bullets and exploded bombs to terrorise people.

Later, local people put up barricades at C&D-Crossing blocking traffic on the Bagerhat-Khulna highway for an hour from 5 pm protesting the killing.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Local people also brought out a procession in the town demanding trial of the killers.

## Shibir activist beaten up: 7 DMC rooms ransacked

By DU Correspondent

Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student front of ruling party, allegedly beat up an activist of Islamic Chhatra Shibir at the Fazle Rabbi Hall of the Dhaka Medical College Saturday night.

The victim was said to be Abdullah, a second year student of the college. Sources said BCL activists took Abdullah to Room B-6 of Fazle Rabbi Hall and beat him up.

The BCL activists also ransacked at least seven rooms of Shibir activists at the hall as part of their operation at different halls of the DMC to make those free of Shibir activists.

The BCL men also locked five rooms of Dr Milan Hall of DMC during their drive. The rooms are 113, 131, 133, 301 and B-1.

## Tuition fee hike 48-hr strike at Islamic Varsity from today

From IU Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 16: Chhatra Oikya has called a 48-hour strike beginning on Monday, at the Islamic University demanding withdrawal of enhanced tuition fee.

Five other student bodies — JCD, Shibir, Chhatra Union, Chhatra Moitry and Chhatra Front — have expressed their solidarity with the strike call. Prof Mohammad Kayes Uddin, Vice-Chancellor of the University, formed a committee on Thursday to settle the issue with the student bodies.

The committee sat twice with the student leaders, but failed to resolve the issue. Chhatra Oikya brought out a procession on the campus today in support of two-day strike.



## Col Malek dead

Col (ret'd) M A Malek, a veteran-freedom fighter and Awami League leader, died of heart attack in the city's Suhrawardy Hospital early yesterday morning. He was 68, reports UNB.

Family sources said Col Malek was admitted to the hospital on Friday night as he fell sick during a public meeting in Manikganj.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Manikganj.

Late Malek was Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation and Textile Minister of Ershad government. He joined Awami League and contested the parliamentary by-election from Manikganj last year.

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited the Baridhara residence of late Malek and expressed her deep shock at the sudden demise of the AL leader. She also consoled the bereaved members of his family.

## Two fishermen drowned in Bay

COX'S BAZAR, July 16: Two fishermen drowned in the Bay of Bengal off the Cox's Bazar sea beach while they were fishing this morning, police said, reports BSS.

They were identified as Abul Fazal, 55, and Mofizur Rahman, 22.

Both the victims were the residents of Kalatoli and Baharchara of Cox's Bazar.

Later, the body of Abul Fazal was recovered from the sea.

change is possible through proclamation by him (Mujib). If he doesn't agree, if there is any resistance, none of us will survive," Faruq had said before the putsch.

... So he (Mujib) will have to be executed. Political change will be dealt by Rashid," the principal accused in the murder case confessed in the magistrate court to have said to the officers during the night parade.

About Faruq's role in the most gruesome killings in the country, Col Shahriar in his confessional statement said he (Faruq) by moving in a tank had inactivated the Rakkhi Bahini and gone to Bangabandhu's residence on August 15 morning.

Shahriar said he, Rashid Chowdhury and another officer had gone to Sernabat's home and then radio station already captured by Major Dalim while Major Mohiuddin, Major Noor, Major Bazul Huda and Major Aziz Pasha conducted operation at 32 Dhanmudi street.

According to his statement, Risaldar Moslemuddin had made the foray into Sheikh Moni's residence. Major Mohiuddin along with 2 Field Artillery men fired from cannon on the residence of President Sheikh Mujib from other side of Dhanmudi Lake.

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## Student politics in Sylhet suspended for 2 months

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, July 16: Activities of student organisations in all educational institutions in Sylhet have been declared suspended for two months.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the leaders of Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat and Khelafat Majlis at the pourasava auditorium last night.

Chaired by the Sylhet pourasava chairman Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, the meeting was also addressed by the district Awami League president Syed Abu Nosor, vice president Siraj Uddin Ahmed, general secretary ANM Shaheque, joint secretaries Iftikhar Hossain Shamim and Abdul Khaliq Maymon, district BNP president MA Haque, general secretary Ariful Haque Chowdhury, city Jamaat Ameer Dr Shafiqur Rahman and south district Ameer Moulana Habibur Rahman, and city secretary Hafiz Abdul Hai Harun, district Jatiya Party president Advocate Giasuddin Ahmed and organising secretary Advocate Abdul Hai Quayum and the divisional coordinator of Khelafat Maj