

AL MP's arrest brings new turn in politics

Hasina demands Shawqat Ali's release before JS resumes today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested senior Awami League lawmaker Shawqat Ali in Shariatpur town in connection with a murder case filed against him during the last general election.

Ali, a retired army colonel-turned-MP, was arrested from a court in his constituency in Shariatpur district in the afternoon after a magistrate's court issued the warrant of arrest.

The court earlier rejected the bail prayer by Ali who appeared before it following a directive by the High Court Division. Magistrate Abu Taher Sayeed sent the AL MP to Shariatpur jail. Earlier, the High Court granted

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Shawqat Ali



PHOTO: STAR

The usual riverside story... Despite attempts to clear illegal occupation of the Buriganga river banks during the caretaker government, land grabbers are back again. This picture shows bamboo traders have encroached halfway into the river.

Settlement time

AJM workers to get retirement arrears today

RAZIUR RAHMAN In Dhaka And FAISAL PARAG In Narayanganj

The Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) management will disburse over Tk 24 crore today in arrears among 3,800 former officials, employees and workers who went on retirement during the last three years.

Due to cash crunch, around 2,200 of the 3,800 employees have not received any post-retirement benefits for the last two years, while the rest were given partial payments against their total claims.

Disbursement of benefits of the first phase of the golden handshake will start tomorrow. Around Tk 290 crore would be disbursed among 19,093 officials, employees and workers in gratuity and other benefits.

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Off-limits to rickshaws again

DCC decides to make Mirpur Road free of them soon

BSS, Dhaka

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will soon implement an important phase of a World Bank funded project by stopping the movement of non-mechanised transports (NMT) on the road from Azimpur to Gabtali and improving traffic management on the road as well.

A high level meeting chaired by DCC Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka at the Nagarbhawan yesterday

decided that a date to declare the "Demonstration Corridor" from Eden College point in Azimpur to Technical Crossing in Gabtali (Mirpur) under the Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUPT) will be fixed at another meeting to be attended by people's representatives of the areas concerned.

Meanwhile, to facilitate the on-going construction of Mohakhali fly-over, the meeting also decided to stop vehicular movement through the

main road from Amtali to Jahangir Gate since July 15 until completion of the construction work.

The meeting, however, finalised a traffic diversion plan to ensure easy movement of the vehicles that usually pass through the road. According to the plan, though the main road will be closed, one lane at each side of the road will remain open for public transports like bus, trucks, minibuses and maxis.

Besides, there will be three

diversions. Under the first diversion, light transports from Tongi-Uttara to Motijheel, Gulistan, Rampura and Maghbar-Malibagh will use the Progati Swrani (from Nikunja) and the Rampura road. Under the second diversion, the road from Kemal Ataturk Avenue to Gulshan-2, Gulshan-1 and the Tongi Diversion Road will be used by light transports. The roads from Soinik Club at Kakoli to Jahangir Gate via

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Viqarunnisa in political web

Popular principal's job on line, BNP leader's wife waits in wings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken a move to remove Hamida Ali, principal of the Viqarunnisa Noon School and College, in defiance of a unanimous decision by its governing body and demand of teachers, students and guardians as well.

Sources said a certain quarter in the ruling BNP is out to replace her with Shaheda Obaid, wife of the BNP's Standing Committee member KM Obaidur Rahman and the Principal of the Government Titumir College, as the principal of one of the renowned schools of the country.

Many teachers of the college

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Hamida Ali

Another paper deal in DESA

STAR REPORT

The Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC) has unearthed another case of fund embezzlement to the tune of Tk 33 lakh by nine officials of the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) and a contractor, using fake tender documents.

These officials allegedly awarded a fictitious work order to a company by publishing a phoney tender -- a technique often used by an unscrupulous section of DESA officials.

The BAC has recently sought the prime minister's approval to file a case in this regard.

The Daily Star previously reported two similar cases of siphoning off money.

Documents show that Ataul Maud -- director of the Purchase and Inventory Management Directorate, DESA got orders from the authorities to float a tender to purchase 10 trolley-mounted substations in 1998.

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