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## Bappi case transferred to spl court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The case of abduction and murder of schoolboy Rubayet Ahmed Bappi was transferred to the Third Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka yesterday for trial.

The investigation officer of the case, sub-inspector Sohrab Ali had submitted the chargesheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on Wednesday against five accused.

The chargesheeted accused include victim's maternal cousin Shipon and four others - Ripon, Sanjit, Shankar and Shariful Islam alias Badal. Badal has been absconding since the incident.

Rubayet Ahmed Bappi, 8, a student of class III of Armentitola Government High School, was abducted by Shipon from Bappi's Becharam Deuri residence in the Old City on Aug 5, and held to ransom in a secret place in Demra. Bappi was strangled and dumped into the Shitalakhya River the same evening after his father Alfu Mia failed to pay the ransom.

A case was filed by Alfu Mia with the Kotwali Police Station accusing Shipon and eight unidentified people under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000.

Nine days after his murder, Bappi's decomposed body was found floating at the Kutubpur Gudara Ghat on the bank of Shitalakhya river on August 14.

## Black money smears MPs' image: TIB

UNB, Dhaka

Transparency International (TI) Bangladesh Chapter yesterday said parliament members earned disrespect of the people because of their election by "spending black money".

"Election by means of squandering black money gave rise to a big question about the honesty of MPs and thus transparency of parliament itself," it said.

At a press conference at the National Press Club Prof Mozaffar Ahmed, a member of the TI trustee board, said the MPs hit newspaper headlines for not paying telephone bills, which is "a matter of shame".

Analysing proceedings of last three sessions of present parliament, he said the MPs spent most of their time either praising their leaders or criticising their opponents.

The TI, Bangladesh released a report on the performance of the lawmakers in past three sessions of the present parliament that sat for altogether 80 days.

The report said only a little over

## C'wealth secy gen arrives Sunday

UNB, Dhaka

Commonwealth Secretary General Donald C McKinnon arrives here on Sunday on a two-day visit at the invitation of Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan.

During the visit, McKinnon will have substantive discussion with the foreign minister and other officials on issues of interest to Bangladesh within the framework of Commonwealth.

He is expected to call on the president, prime minister, leader of the opposition and the foreign minister.

McKinnon is also scheduled to be the keynote speaker at a seminar at the BISS on the 'Role of Commonwealth in the 21st Century'.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Aug 23	4-30	6-25 pm
Aug 24	5-37 am	

Prayer Timings		
August 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Juma	12-15	1-20
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-31	6-35
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Unionists of the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) have spread slums around the satellite earth station and microwave centre at Banani in the city, threatening the key telecom installation.

# Key BTTB installation in land-grab threat

Unionists encroach on property worth Tk 1,500 crore at Banani

ABU SAEED KHAN

Some unionists of the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) have illegally occupied land worth more than Tk 1,500 crore.

The land-grab has become a potential threat to the key point installation (KPI) that houses the largest satellite earth station and microwave centre in Banani.

The BTTB unionists and employees have spread a huge slum around the KPI, exposing the vital telecom facility to armed criminals, drug-traffickers and outlaws.

But the BTTB authorities are unable to take action against them due to

the union leaders, said sources.

The unionists have formed a welfare committee with an "exclusive authority to allocate" the BTTB land to its employees. The committee hands the possession of the government property over to the criminals and drug-peddlers in exchange for an undisclosed amount of money.

The union leaders set up hundreds of unauthorised dwellings and shops in the area in the name of accommodating BTTB employees.

But most houses and shops have been leased out to the strangers who have outnumbered the BTTB employees at the satellite and microwave complex.

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# New twist in M-16 tale

STAR REPORT

Senior police officials have come to know that a fellow officer orchestrated the M-16 assault rifle case just to impress the government and deter his transfer, according to a reliable source.

Police recovered the M-16 from Uttara in the city on August 4 and arrested four persons for possession of the assault rifle.

Later, five leaders of the main opposition Awami League was implicated in the case on the basis of 'confessional statements' from two of the detainees.

According to different security agency sources, the Dhaka-based police officer detailed a plan to bring in an M-16 from Chittagong, 'recover' it and arrest a few people.

The idea, the sources said, was that the recovery of a sophisticated

weapon amidst deterioration of law and order would earn the police officer a place in the government's good book. As a reward, he expected his transfer to a southern district from the capital would be cancelled.

He involved in the plan one of his subordinates, who once served the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP). Instruction was given through the ex-CMP man to an arms dealer who subsequently bought the M-16 from Nazmul Alam Chowdhury, vice-president of the National United Party of Arakan, an insurgency outfit of Myanmar.

Razzak, a known criminal of the capital, then brought the assault rifle to the capital in a car owned by Shufal, son of a Chittagong customs official. Lavlu and Russell accompa-

nied them on the trip from the port city.

The four had no idea that they would be arrested as soon as they reached the capital with the M-16.

Later, an officer of the Detective Branch (DB) of Police quoted Razzak and others as saying that they had brought the assault rifle for Raju, a ruling party activist and ward commissioner of the city's Mohammapur area.

However, the next day, DB officials said none of the four had named Raju in their confession.

Meanwhile, when the scheming police officer realised his original plan was not working, he went a step further and decided to implicate five AL leaders in the case in the hope that it would surely win him a pat on

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## Naming of CU hall after Khaleda induces mixed feelings

CU CORRESPONDENT

The decision to name the under-construction female students' hall of the Chittagong University (CU) after Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has sparked mixed feelings among teachers and students.

The decision was taken at a syndicate meeting last week.

Proferring anonymity, several pro-Awami League and leftist teachers of the university said the university authorities named the hall after Khaleda only for political and personal gains.

The teachers expressed dissatisfaction over the fact that opportunists ignored the contribution of many celebrated women and showed more interest in satisfying their party-chief.

Professor Moinul Islam of Economics Department and president of the Bangladesh Economics Association (BEA) termed the decision 'narrow minded' and a 'shameful display of sycophancy'. "Dark politics prevails everywhere, but we cannot tolerate it here," he said.

Khaleda had no contribution to the university to be honoured with such a rare privilege, Professor Moinul said.

"We had a wide array of choices like Taramon Bibi, Bir Pratik Begum Rokeya, Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam or poet Sufia Kamal."

The syndicate stated that Khaleda's name was approved after recognising her contribution to the spread of education, especially of female students and her sincere interest in solving the problems facing the university.

Professor Mahub Ullah, dean of the Social Sciences Faculty, said, "The university has duly recognised the contribution of the present prime minister."

Contacted, Professor AJM Nooruddin Chowdhury said, "This is a gesture of goodwill to the prime minister who is ever so sympathetic to the causes of the university."

## WHEATGATE SCAM

# Putrid grain may sneak into relief operations

Food ministry cautioned

REAZ AHMAD

The disaster management and relief ministry has cautioned the food ministry against distribution of unpalatable foodgrains under post-flood relief and development programmes.

The cautionary move came on Monday in the wake of alleged irregularities in the internal wheat procurement drive from March 15 to July 31, said official sources.

The relief ministry, which is carrying out gratuitous relief (GR) and special test relief (TR) programmes and planning to begin a vulnerable group feeding (VGF) programme soon after the recession of floodwaters, requested the food ministry to segregate the low-quality or insect-infested wheat.

Distribution of substandard

foodgrains under any post-flood relief and development programmes would further dent the government's image, the sources think.

Upon a government order on segregation of putrid foodgrains, food officials of nine districts said that their warehouses did not stockpile any insect-infested wheat.

Such an outright denial by district controllers of food (DCFs) irked the food ministry and food directorate alike, prompting the latter to form an inquiry committee headed by a director, Aminul Haq.

The committee went on a visit to the district warehouses.

Recently, Chairman of the Chilahati Union Council under Deviganj, Panchagarh, complained to the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) about imported low-quality wheat to

be distributed under the VGD programme.

The relief ministry made the plea after publication of reports on the distribution of putrid foodgrains in relief among the rural poor.

The people in all eight unions of Deviganj did not get wheat under the VGD programme, as the foodgrains were not collected from granaries until August 19.

The Gaibandha District Jail authorities refused to collect wheat for prisoners from the local supply depot (LSD), as it was not fit for consumption.

Chairman of Shahapara Union in Gaibandha Sadar Upazila told The Daily Star that half of the five tons wheat he collected from the granary was putrid.

On August 8, the Chittagong

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## DENGUE ALERT

# Clamour for hospital beds on, 3 more die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The health ministry is desperately trying to arrange more beds in government hospitals for dengue patients as the disease continued to spread, claiming three more lives Wednesday night.

Many newly admitted patients were accommodated on the floor of the medicine ward at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday as no bed was available.

During a visit to some private clinics, this correspondent also saw crisis of beds for dengue patients.

The number of infected people hospitalised continued to rise. It rose to 167 in the city hospitals yesterday from Wednesday's 154. The number was 60 on Tuesday, 133 on Monday, 123 on Sunday and 93 on Saturday.

With the three deaths on Wednesday night, the toll from dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) rose to 33 yesterday.

The total number of people hospitalised with dengue infection rose to 2836.

Those died on Wednesday night from DHF are Mamta Begum, 27, Amir Hossain, 35, and Farsha Khatun, 27.

Mamta Begum died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and Amir Hossain at BIRDEM hospital. Both died a day after their admission.

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# Decapitated body recovered in city

Restaurant owner beaten to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two bodies were recovered yesterday and a restaurant owner was beaten to death by his employees on the night before in the city.

Following a telephone call at about 6:50am, Dhanmondi police recovered a beheaded and partially decomposed body wrapped in a synthetic sack from the roadside at Bata Signal at Elephant Road.

Identity of the man aged between 40 and 45 could not be known, police said.

The victim's legs and hands were severed and the body was cut into two pieces. The head could not be found till last night, police said.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Police said that the man might have been killed at least two-day ago in any other area of the city.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (South Zone) Abdul Baten told newsmen that the killing might have been done by any professional killer.

A case had been filed with Dhanmondi police station.

The other body, with its throat slit, was recovered from the roof of an under-construction three-storey

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# Secretarial probe into wheat scam nears end

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The one-man secretarial probe committee formed to investigate the alleged wheat scam yesterday interviewed food secretary Abdul Latif Mandal and six officials of the food directorate including its director general Abus Sattar Mia.

The committee chief civil aviation secretary Shafiqul Islam, who has already visited some food silos in four districts - Mymensingh, Bogra, Pabna and Satkhira - and collected wheat samples for chemical tests, is now close to completing his probe report.

Formed on August 10 following a prime ministerial directive, this highest-level probe committee has

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# 40 injured in JCD-Shibir gunfight in Noakhali

UNB, Noakhali

A gunfight between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islamic Chhatra Shibir at Govt Mujib College in Companganj upazila yesterday left 40 people injured.

Witnesses said the clash between the two rival student organisations took place as a sequel to Wednesday's clash that left 10 people injured.

The two rival student bodies clashed on Wednesday for domination on admission of first year students.

Both the groups exploded crackers and fired gunshots during yesterday's clash that continued for four hours.

Of the injured, Tipu, 20, and Mizanur Rahman, 19, were admitted to Noakhali General Hospital in critical condition while others to the upazila health complex and private clinics.



PHOTO: STAR

Sister of Monju Hossain Shyamol breaks down yesterday upon hearing that her brother was murdered in the city's Shyampur area.

Detective police arrested Awami League (AL) leader and former lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder from his Banani residence in the city in the early hours of yesterday and the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court later placed him on a two-day remand for interrogation.



Kamal Ahmed Majumder

Police also raided the residences of some other AL leaders in the city Wednesday night but did not find them as they stayed away to avoid arrest, sources said.

A team from the Detective Branch (DB) went to Majumder's residence at about 1:00 am and arrested him under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) at about 3:00 am. No specific charge was brought against the former lawmaker from the city's Mirpur area. The team was led by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of the DB Kohinor Mia.

Detectives took him to the CMM's Court at about 3:00 pm yesterday with a prayer for seven-

# Hasina protests police raid on Amu's house, arrest of Kamal Majumder

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday strongly protested police raid on the residence of Awami League presidium member Amir Hossain Amu and the arrest of former MP Kamal Majumder on Wednesday night.

She alleged that police searched and ransacked the residence of Amir Hossain Amu without any search warrant at the instance of the high command of the government.

Condemning the pre-dawn arrest of Kamal Ahmed Majumder, the Awami League president said the government was "harassing" the former AL Member of Parliament through filing "false cases against him one after another".

She observed that Kamal Majumder got bail from the High Court in a "fabricated case" and within three days after his bail, the

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