



PHOTO: STAR

A policeman baton-charges people at Fakirpool in the city during yesterday's half-day hartal called by the Progressive Students' Unity (PSU) against police attacks on hunger-striking BUET students on Sunday.

WHEATGATE SCAM

3 food officials sent into retirement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three food officials were sent into retirement on Monday for their involvement in wheat procurement irregularities.

Additional Director General (ADG) of the Directorate of Food Entajul Haque, Regional Controller of Food of Dhaka KA Rob and Regional Controller of Food of Rajshahi Md. Fakhru Islam faced the action.

A presidential order in this regard was circulated on Monday through the Ministry of Establishment. The official order said with effect from Monday the three officials were sent into retirement in public interest.

The latest government action comes a week after six officials were made officers on special duty (OSDs) on September 2 after they were found involved in gross irregularities in wheat procurement towards the end of the countrywide internal foodgrain collection drive.

The three officials sent into retirement yesterday are among the six made OSD earlier. The other three OSDs

are Private Secretary to Food Minister Mohammad Mohsin, District Controller of Food (DCF) of Mymensingh Kamrul Hasan, and DCF of Bogra Nurul Afsar. Two days later, Director General of the Directorate of Food Abdus Sattar Mia was also made OSD.

Earlier, reports of two government-formed official probe committees were submitted to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on August 20 and 27. In addition to the names of the officials, the probe reports also pointed at some ruling party men for their involvement in the procurement of Indian wheat.

The politicians whose names surfaced in the official probe reports include State Minister for Energy AKM Mosharrar Hossain, BNP lawmakers Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lahu of Bogra, Selim Reza Habib of Pabna, Mujibur Rahman of Kishoreganj, and Khurram Khan Chowdhury and Delwar Hussain Khan Dhu

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Young man slaughtered at Tejgaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified elements slaughtered a young man and left his body on the Tejgaon Science College campus in the city yesterday.

Identity of the victim aged about 20 could not be known immediately. He was in full-sleeve shirt and blue trousers.

In the inquest report, police said the victim was gagged and his hands and legs were tied. He was slaughtered with a blunt weapon, possibly in the morning.

The body was found between the college building and the boundary wall of the campus.

On information, Tejgaon police recovered the body and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue. A case was filed in this regard.

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Diploma engrs besiege WASA MD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Dhaka WASA Diploma Engineers Association yesterday confined WASA Managing Director (MD) in his office for about two and a half hours protesting what they said illegal transfer of an executive engineer.

They alleged that the MD had transferred an electrical engineer on July 28 and asked him to hand over charge to the executive engineer by August 31. But the former did not do so and tried to get the transfer order cancelled.

Later, the authorities reinstated him in his previous position and transferred the executive engineer. The electrical engineer concerned failed to run a civil engineering

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JS session begins tomorrow

NAZMUL ASHRAF

The eighth Jatiya Sangsad goes into its fourth session tomorrow, as the main opposition Awami League plans to come down hard on the ruling party over such issues as police atrocities on students, rising political persecution and wheat scam.

The session is likely to be short-lived yet stormy with the AL planning to take up major events that have taken place since the budget session was prorogued on July 15.

This session was called mainly for presidential election. As the president has already been elected unopposed, the government agenda would be restricted to legislative businesses, sources in the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) said.

As many as eight bills are in the

process of being tabled in the House, parliament secretariat sources said. However, the much-talked-about bill on reserved seats for women is not on the list.

The AL will seek discussions on police atrocities at the Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University at the dead of night on July 24 and again on fasting students of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) on Sunday, party sources said.

Debate on purchase of Indian wheat instead of locally-grown one, attack on opposition leader Sheikh Hasina's motorcade in Satkhira, closure of Ekushey Television, jet fuel scam in Chittagong, spread of dengue fever, closure of educational institutions following student unrest and law and order downslide

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Police gun down JCD leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jatiyatubadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader was shot dead allegedly by policemen at Rayerbazaar in the city Monday night.

Abul Kashem, 25, also a distributor of the International Herald Tribune and son of Habibur Rahman, was shot at the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial, when he went there with Motahar Hossain Titu, a professional photographer, by motorbike.

Rahman, a resident of the East Rayerbazaar, told The Daily Star yesterday that his son went out upon a phone call by an unknown caller.

Kashem's relatives quoted Titu as saying that when Kashem went inside the memorial, Sergeant

Khondoker Abu Hasan of the Rayerbazaar Police Outpost arrived there in plain clothes with another man on a motorbike.

They dragged Kashem out of the memorial. Titu saw another police team heading off to the memorial when he was leaving the place to avoid troubles.

Kashem was admitted to the Pangu Hospital at about 8:45pm with bullet wounds. Police stationed there barred his relatives from entering the hospital.

Later, Kashem was shifted to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases where the on-duty doctors declared him dead at 11:30pm. The doctors said he died from profuse bleeding.

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Stray clashes mark hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Barring a few stray incidents, the half-day hartal enforced by the students of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and other student bodies in the capital city passed off peacefully.

During the half-day hartal, traffic was thin while most shops and businesses remained closed.

Sporadic clashes between the agitating students, police and pro-government activists marked the shutdown. However, there were no reports of major troubles during the shutdown in the capital although police chased and clubbed pickets at different points, including Paltan and Fakirpur.

During the incidents, at least 10 students were injured. Police said they arrested three people during hartal hours.

The BUET Students Unity against Violence, Progressive Students Alliance (PSA) -- a conglomerate of eight left-leaning student organisations -- and Awami League's student front Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) enforced the hartal to protest the police attacks on the BUET students and closure of the university.

Also, they enforced a country-wide shutdown in educational institutions yesterday.

The BUET authorities Sunday closed the university for an indefinite period in the wake of a student

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Dengue 2 more die, 66 hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people died of dengue fever in Khulna and in Jhalakathi while 66 others were hospitalised in the city and elsewhere in the country in last two days.

Shohag, a student of class nine and son of Mahtabuddin, died at Nalchiti in Jhalakathi on Monday evening. Poritosh Biswas, 35, son of Girish Biswas of Tinukathi village in Koyra upazila died at the Khulna Medical College Hospital the same evening.

Of the newly hospitalised patients, 24 were admitted to Suhrawardy Hospital while 11 others to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Mitford Hospital and BIRDEM.

Fifteen patients were taken to Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital and different city clinics while four others to Khulna Medical College Hospital, Barisal Medical College Hospital and Jessore General Hospital.

Table with 3 columns: Date, Sun Rises, Sun Sets. Rows for Sept 11 and Sept 12.

Table with 3 columns: Prayer Timings, Azan, Jamaat. Rows for Fair, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, Esha.

Source: Islamic Foundation

Petrobangla to deal with Titas transfers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has empowered Petrobangla to deal with transfers of officials and employees of the Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited.

According to a Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, circulated on September 6, there will be no transfer without Petrobangla approval.

Meanwhile, the energy ministry has ordered review of all transfer orders effected over the last one year.

The decision follows a series of incidents revolving around transfers of Titas staff over the last few days, sources said.

The energy ministry move has resulted in restoration of calm at the Titas headquarters, the acting managing director of Titas, Abdul B

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New chairman of ETV Ltd

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Board of Directors of Ekushey Television Limited has appointed Nasiruddin Ahmad Chowdhury chairman of the company due to illness and absence of its founder chairman Abu Sayed Mahmud.

Abu Sayed Mahmud is in the UK now for treatment, said a press release issued by ETV last night.

A meeting of the directors was informed that Managing Director Farhad Mahmud, son of Abu Sayed Mahmud, would also not be able to continue his duties as he is attending his ailing father in the UK.

The Board has directed that until further notice, Joint Managing Director Mr Simon Dring will be responsible for overall management of the company.

The press release said the management of Ekushey Television would like to thank its millions of viewers, friends and well-wishers home and abroad who have expressed their full support and cooperation.

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Meeting of Dhaka BNP reps today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling BNP holds a daylong meeting of its field level leaders in Dhaka Division at the Prophan Montri Bhaban today.

The divisional representatives' meeting is a part of the current move to gear up organisational activities and expand party network.

BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will chair the meeting and spend the day with the grassroots level party leaders.

Representatives from the party's district, municipality and thana units and its front organisations in Dhaka Division would attend the

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Bangladesh-UK Friendship Bridge opens PM's call to keep dev agenda above politics

UNB, Ashuganj (Brahmanbaria)

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon all to keep development agenda above politics in the interest of national progress.

"We'll have to take the country towards further development and prosperity through concerted efforts by all irrespective of party and opinion," she told the inaugural ceremony of the Bangladesh-UK Friendship Bridge on the river Meghna on Dhaka-Sylhet highway.

In a message on the occasion of inauguration of the landmark bridge, one of the largest bridges built in Bangladesh in recent times, British Prime Minister Tony Blair called it a "fresh milestone in British-Bangladesh relations". He congratulated all concerned on the occasion.

Khaleda Zia said development is a tough challenge in the 21st century, and in a country like Bangladesh,

stability, democracy and national unity are a key to facing this challenge.

The 929-metre-long and 19.6-metre-wide bridge, constructed at a cost of Tk 681 crore under British financial assistance, established direct road communications between the capital and Sylhet-Brahmanbaria region.

Of the total cost, the government of Bangladesh contributed Tk 397 crore while DFID, the British department of international development, provided Tk 142 crore and Standard Chartered Bank gave a loan of Tk 142 crore.

Terming the bridge a milestone in the country's communications sector, the Prime Minister said development of communications is a vital prerequisite for national development.

She said the bridge was renamed 'Bangladesh-UK

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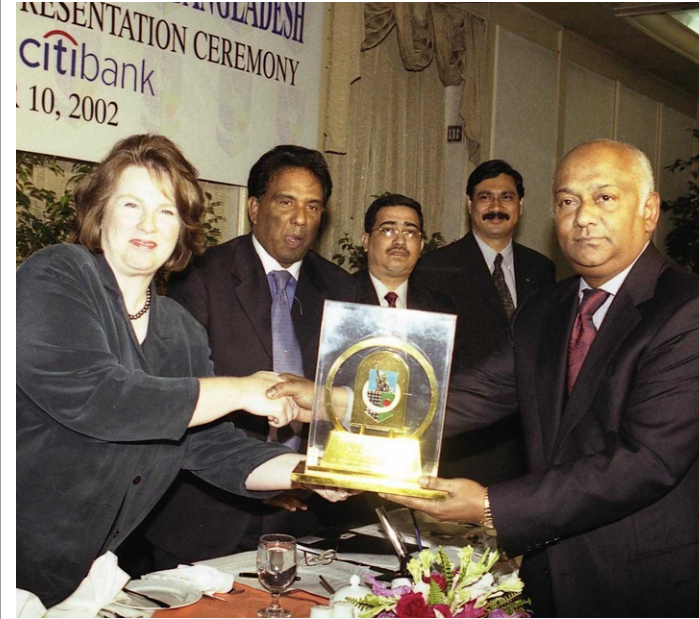


PHOTO: STAR

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Mary Ann Peters confers AmCham Business Executive of the year 2001 award to Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Group, at the annual business award presentation ceremony organised by American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) at Hotel Sheraton.

Presided over by AmCham President Aftabul Islam, the ceremony was also attended by President of the Federation of

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Latifur Rahman adjudged 2001 Business Executive

STAR REPORT

The AmCham awarded Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Group, the Business Executive of 2001 for his outstanding success.

Expeditors Bangladesh Limited received the American Company of the Year in Bangladesh award for 2001.

US Ambassador Mary Ann Peters handed over the award to Latifur Rahman and Syed Ershad Ahmed, managing director of Expeditors Bangladesh Ltd., yesterday at an annual business award presentation ceremony organised by American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) at Hotel Sheraton.

Presided over by AmCham President Aftabul Islam, the ceremony was also attended by President of the Federation of

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One gunned down by BNP rivals in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

One person was shot dead and four others were injured in an attack on a house allegedly by some BNP cadres in Shastapur in Fatullah thana yesterday evening.

The dead was identified as Gul Hossain, 55. Sources said two BNP factions -- one led by Puikka and the other by Rahmat -- have a long drawn rivalry over control of Shastapur area.

At 6pm yesterday, a group of BNP cadres led by Rahmat went to the residence of Puikka. Failing to find Puikka home, they sprayed bullets on Gul Hossain, elder brother of Puikka, killing him on the spot.

The ruling party cadres also beat up four family members of Puikka, leaving them critically injured. They are Nilufar, 38, Nazma, 28, Hosne Ara, 22, and Nazmul, 3. They were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

When contacted, the OC of Fatullah police station admitted the incident. No case was filed with Futallah police station till filing of this report at 7:50pm yesterday.

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