

## 20 hurt as BNP factions clash in Khulna

UNB, Khulna

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two factions of the ruling BNP at Terokhada upazila headquarters yesterday.

Police Super Mosharrif Hossain, who visited the spot, said the clash took place between the supporters of local BNP general secretary Hossain and its organising secretary Alam over internal conflict.

Four of the seriously injured people - Billal, Azim, Monir and Nizam - were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

## Shadat killing Two placed on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two persons arrested in connection with the killing of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) ward commissioner Shadat Hossain Sikder were placed on a three-day remand yesterday.

Detective police produced the two - Mohammad Ashiq, 25 and Mohammad Shahin, 40 -- before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court.

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## Contractor shot dead by extortionists in Bagerhat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A contractor was gunned down by a gang of extortionists in Morrelganj upazila of Bagerhat district on Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Abdul Rob Howlader, 40, of Zianagar upazila of Pirojpur district.

According to police, Rob, a carrying contractor by profession, came to Mongla from Pirojpur by a trawler loaded with building materials on Tuesday. At about 9.30 pm on Wednesday, Rob reached Panguchi river ghat in Morrelganj in a trawler loaded with building materials. Soon after his arrival at the ghat, a gang of three extortionists allegedly belonging to Jubo Dal Bagerhat unit, came to him and demanded illegal toll.

As Rob refused to give in to their demand, the extortionists shot him in the chest and head. He died on the spot.

Abdul Barik, younger brother of the slain contractor, filed a murder case with Morrelganj thana yesterday.

## 8 pirates held with arms in B'baria

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Eight pirates were arrested along with arms and ammunition from Tajpur village in Ashuganj upazila on Wednesday night.

Acting on a tip off, police raided the village on the shore of the Meghna river at night and caught the pirates while they were taking preparation to commit a piracy in a boat. Two policemen were also injured during the scuffle with the pirates.

The arrested were identified as Omar Faruq, 28, Habibullah, 29, Shahjahan, 28, Akter, 30, Abul Kalami, 20, Abul Bshar, 25, Sanaulah, 25, and Kalimuddin, 25.

Police also recovered a pipegun, five bullets and two sharp weapons from their possession.

Two separate cases were filed with police.

## Erratum

In the caption of a photograph on farewell of Simon Dring published in The Daily Star on October 1, it was mistakenly written that Liberation War Museum hosted the farewell. In fact, that was the venue for the function, which the ETV authorities rented.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 4		5-43 pm
Oct 5	5-51 am	

  

Prayer Timings		
Oct 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-10
Juma	12-15	1-20
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-52	5-58
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: STAR

Back to campus days again... Dhaka University students go to classes after academic activities resumed yesterday after 67 days of unscheduled closure following the July 24 police attack on the Shamsunnahar Hall and subsequent student movement.

## DU abuzz with life, again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University campus has become vibrant again with resumption of academic and other activities yesterday after 67 days of unscheduled closure.

Classes were held on the day with students attending those in a pleasant mood and administrative activities also resumed in a peaceful atmosphere on the campus.

The students were also seen exchanging greetings and chatting with friends after a long closure.

Different student organisations brought out separate processions and held rallies welcoming students back to the campus.

A large number of police were deployed at different points on the campus to prevent any untoward incident.

Newly appointed Vice Chancellor Prof. SMA Faiz visited different faculties and libraries yesterday morning. He talked to students and asked about the situation on the campus and at the halls.

The VC said, "I am highly pleased to see that the atmosphere on the campus today is very much congenial. We will try to ensure that such a peaceful atmosphere continues in the interest of students."

He also visited Shamsunnahar Hall and Rokeya Hall in the evening.

While talking to this correspondent, many of the students said they have already lost so much of valuable time and they do not want any more disruption in academic activities due to unscheduled closure.

Meanwhile, the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the ruling BNP's student wing, held a rally and brought out a procession on the campus yesterday.

Addressing the rally, leaders of the JCD blamed the opposition political parties, specially Awami League, for the recent closure of the Dhaka

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## Alamgir graft case Hearing on charge framing October 21

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Special Court for Dhaka Division has fixed October 21 for hearing on charge framing in a graft case against former state minister for planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir.

Judge (in charge) Latif Ahmed Khan passed the order when the case was placed before him yesterday.

Alamgir appeared in the court and sought fresh bail in the case. After hearing both the sides, the judge granted bail upon a bond of Tk 50,000 with two guarantors.

Earlier, he was granted bail in the six other cases against him and released from jail.

In the graft case filed with Tejgaon Police Station, it has been alleged that as state minister Alamgir had misappropriated Tk 56.60 crore from a Japanese grant for rehabilitation of the ammonia plant at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL). The Bureau of

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## Govt in two minds over Uttara plots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is not sure whether or not to cancel plot allotments in the third phase of the Uttara Model Town project.

The file on 2,687 plots allotted during the Awami League rule has been pending with the Ministry of Housing and Public Works.

Reports published yesterday in different newspapers said the housing and public works ministry postponed the cancellation order under pressure from the government and sent the file back to Rajuk.

But top officials of Rajuk told The Daily Star yesterday that they did not have any such information.

The officials, however, admitted that there was an immense pressure on the government not to implement the cancellation order.

On August 6, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas issued an order cancelling allotments of all plots upon recommendations by a three-member probe committee.

The committee formed on a prime ministerial instruction said that there were numerous irregularities, especially political favour, in allotments.

Ready for any legal challenge, some influential people, who have already got plots, are pressing the

ministry to reveal specific 'irregularities' and not to make any sweeping decision, sources in the housing and public works ministry said.

If the cancellation order is enforced, Rajuk has to return a huge amount of money to allottees, which Rajuk is unable to pay right now, Rajuk is quoted as saying to the ministry.

"The ministry is keeping track of the situation and will reach the final decision in consultation with the high officials of the government," said a ministry official preferring anonymity.

In 1997, the Awami League government invited applications for allotments in the third phase of project and allotted plots to applicants in 2001.

Contacted yesterday, Engineer Iqbaluddin Chowdhury, Rajuk chairman, told The Daily Star that Rajuk is yet to get any ministerial directive for postponement of the cancellation order.

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Alamgir Kabir said his ministry did not take any decision about it.

Earlier, Rajuk purchased 693 acres for the third phase of the Uttara Model Town project at Tk 146 crore.

To develop the 693-acre lowland, Rajuk will need about Tk 500 crore more, but Rajuk is plagued with cash crunch, said sources.



PHOTO: STAR

Each brick of the century-old Chittagong Court Building on the Pareer Pahar has a story to tell. Today's crucial meeting will decide whether or not we will preserve the stories for generations to come.

## PM for greater private sector role in Ctg dev

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said the private sector should play a more robust role alongside the government in building the port of city of Chittagong as an ideal business capital of the country and assured all possible help in this regard.

Her suggestion came in a meeting with a delegation of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) at the Prime Minister's Office here yesterday afternoon.

The 21-member business delegation was led by president of the

Board of Directors of CCCI Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury.

The prime minister told the business leaders that her government would do everything possible for infrastructure development of the port city.

For necessary development of the country's second-largest city, the existing Master Plan of Chittagong also came up for discussion.

Khaleda Zia also informed the meeting that the formalities for a third bridge over river Karnaphuli would be "completed fast and construction work would also start soon".

She called for more dynamism and increasing efficiency in management of the Chittagong port that handles most of the trade with the rest of the world.

About communications between the two major cities of the country, the CCCI president suggested construction of a direct railway link between Comilla and Dhaka that will reduce the distance and travel time.

The prime minister in this regard said the government would welcome and extend all possible cooperation if the private sector came forward with new initiatives in road

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## Farhad murder Charges pressed against 14 in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Fourteen people have been chargesheeted in shrimp exporter Farhad Hossain murder case.

DB Inspector Harun submitted the charge sheet to a magistrate's court here yesterday.

Of the chargesheeted accused, two are now in jail, while the rest 12 are still at large.

Farhad's wife Reshida Begum filed a case with Fakirhat thana accusing four persons. Later, the investigation officer included ten more names as accused in the chargesheet.

Farhad Hossain, also an Awami League leader, was shot dead on October 16, 2001 at Kathaltala in Fakirhat upazila.

## Ctg Court Building stands trial today

Meeting to decide fate of century-old heritage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The fate of century-old Chittagong Court Building sitting atop Pareer Pahar is likely to be decided today (Friday) at an important official meeting to be attended by Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas.

Sources said the meeting is expected to decide whether the court building would be dismantled or renovated.

The Forum for Planned Chittagong (FPC), a non-gover-

ment citizens' organisation, and the civil society had long been demanding to preserve the century-old building as a historical site. They appealed to the authorities not to demolish or dismantle the entire building.

But, the Public Works Department (PWD) had moved forward with a project involving around Tk 45 crore to construct a new building on the current site replacing the old one. Following a strong appeal by the civil society, Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury

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## Trader stabbed to death in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A 20-year-old trader was stabbed to death and his companion seriously injured when half a dozen of youths attacked them in the town at about 3:00pm yesterday.

The dead was identified as Johnny, a shop owner at Masumbazar in the heart of the district town.

According to witnesses, the gang chased Johnny and his friend Faruk, who were gossiping in front of the Mujahid Club, to an alley and stabbed them several times. Johnny died on the spot.

A critically injured Faruk is now being treated at a private clinic in the town.

Police later nabbed two persons in connection with the killing.

## CIA faces Senate heat in Iraq strike debate

AP, Washington

The chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee yesterday said the CIA has not provided information sought by the panel on Iraq, impeding Congress' ability to consider the need for military action.

Democrat Bob Graham said lawmakers were dissatisfied with an intelligence report they received Wednesday, which failed to address key questions, including what the effect of a military campaign would be for Iraq's neighbours.

Graham told reporters he would raise the concerns in a meeting with CIA Director George Tenet. The committee is expected to meet with Tenet on Friday.

"This was unacceptable," he said. "We're trying to carry out a very important responsibility and given the nature of this classified information, we are the only

means by which the intelligence community can communicate to the legislative branch of government."

"If they refuse to do so to us, then they are effectively shutting down the people the Constitution says have the responsibility to declare war and support wars," he said.

CIA spokesman Mark Mansfield said, "Director Tenet values the role of oversight and believes our relationship with Congress is extremely important."

"We are looking forward to continuing to cooperate with the committee, and respond to their questions and concerns," he said.

The panel's top Republican, Richard Shelby of Alabama, said CIA cooperation on Iraq "has been pretty good."

"Now is it perfect? Have they been timely about everything? Have they told us everything we want to

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## School teacher stabbed by miscreants in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A school teacher was stabbed by a gang of miscreants in Kanainagar area of Baktabali union under Fatullah Thana yesterday.

Ashrafuzzaman, 45, a teacher of Kanainagar High School, beat up a miscreant named Nurul Islam for teasing a girl student of the same school on Sunday.

According to police, Nurul Islam along with the accomplices swooped on Ashrafuzzaman while he was going to school yesterday

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## Rehabilitation of 2-stroke drivers BRTC distributes 500 CNG-run 3-wheelers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) yesterday distributed 500 CNG-run three-wheelers among the owners and drivers of the now banned two-stroke polluters.

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda handed over the keys of the vehicles to those affected by the ban at a ceremony at the BRTC bus depot at Kalyanpur in the city. Some 12,000 two-stroke three-wheelers were banned on September 1.

The drivers and owners received the three-wheelers on down payment. They have to pay the balance in instalments.

Speaking on the occasion, Huda said the distribution of the CNG-run vehicles is the beginning of the government's rehabilitation programme for the owners and drivers of two-stroke polluters.

"We have no intention to take away the right to livelihood of the taxi drivers," he said. "We want to free the city of traffic jam and pollution."

He asked the drivers not to misbehave with commuters and said they must charge at the government-fixed fare.

"You can play an important role in popularising the environment-friendly CNG-run taxis," he told the taxi drivers and owners, stressing the importance of making

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