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Passengers suffer for Daulatdia road blockade

PCP for second Padma Bridge at Daulatdia-Paturia point sent for approval

STAR DESK

Over 1,000 people yesterday blocked the road from Daulatdia ferry ghat to Goulundo point, stranding hundreds of vehicles with passengers for five hours, as agitation demanding the proposed Padma bridge at Daulatdia-Paturia point continued for the third consecutive day.

The demonstrators, who clogged the road with logs, dredging pipes and burning tyres, also burnt the effigy of the communications minister and demanded his resignation. No trains could leave the station during the blockade.

The government's recent announcement of Mawa-Janjira as the site for construction of the proposed bridge prompted the road blockade programme. The programme began at 10:00am and continued till 3:00pm, bringing traffic to a total stop.

The communications ministry meanwhile has decided to send the project concept paper (PCP) of the second Padma bridge to the

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8-year old takes his life in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An eight-year-old schoolboy yesterday committed suicide at Demra in the capital apparently after his mother rebuked and beat him.

Abdur Rahman Bappi, a class four student of Rose Garden Tutorial, had a quarrel with his two brothers and his mother scolded and beat him for this in the morning, said his father Abdur Razzak, a sub-inspector of Dhanmondi Police Station.

Upset by his mother's behaviour, Bappi locked himself inside a toilet of their 60/38/A North Dhalpur residence at around 2:45pm, sources said.

Breaking the door open later, the mother found him tied to the neck with his belt, they added.

Razzak rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

No case was filed till the writing of this report at 7:15 last night.

Azad shifted to VIP cabin from ICU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors attending writer Humayun Azad at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) yesterday shifted him from the ICU (intensive care unit) to a VIP cabin following his improved health.

Azad, also a Bangla department professor of Dhaka University, yesterday ate soft rice luncheon for the first time since the February 27 machete attack on him near the Bangla Academy premises, which left him badly injured in the head, jaws and shoulder.

"Although he needs assistance to walk or move, his words are now much clearer and he can eat some solid food besides liquid foods," said his wife Latifa Kohinoor.

As the linguist's jaw muscles are still insensitive, he also needs support in eating, she said adding that his jaws would take more time to heal.

"It seemed to us he is having troubles with his eyesight as some of his left eye nerves were hurt in the attack," she said.

The CMH authorities yesterday allowed a few of Azad's relatives to see him.

Severe fuel crisis cripples N-dists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Eighteen diesel depots of Padma, Meghna and Jamuna oil companies in northern region has started to run dry due to scarce supplies, as lack of navigability forces oil tankers carry less fuel.

At the river port of Baghabari, the emergency stock of the three oil companies has already exhausted and 12 lakh litres of fuel still remains

at the 'dead stock' reserve, which, officials of the companies said, is about to be utilised.

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) officials said they need eight-foot navigable waterway to send adequate fuel supply to Baghabari. But at some points the depth is about six feet, and the oil tankers have to load less fuel for that, they added.

They said once the supply

returns to normal, fuel crisis will end within a week but could not say when it would happen.

The BPC officials said Baghabari depot can accommodate about 4.6 crore litres of fuel but yesterday it had only 12 lakh litres against a demand of 35 lakh litres. Moreover, northern districts were provided some 20-lakh-litre diesel yesterday through waterway and railways

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Kohinoor murder a sequel to feud over money

Alleges victim's family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The brutal murder of 25-year-old Fatema Khatun Kohinoor, raped and killed in the city's Pallabi area on Friday, was a sequel to a feud between her family and local resident Habibur Rahman over the money he borrowed from Kohinoor's mother, victim's family sources said.

Kohinoor was abducted Thursday night by six youths allegedly led by Habibur Rahman, gang-raped and then burnt to death at an abandoned poultry farm in Pallabi.

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Duty cut unlikely to lower rod prices soon

TAWFIQUE ALI

The government's latest tax-duty cut on the import of MS (mild steel) rod raw materials and finished products may not be as positive in lowering prices as expected, said rollers, wholesalers and retailers.

Explaining their views, they said the impact of the measure might be minimised by the demand-supply situation in the local markets and

soaring international prices.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) recently slashed import duty on all raw materials of MS items down to 7.5 percent from 23.63 percent. Earlier, the duty was reduced to 23.63 percent from 39.25 percent. The NBR also slashed VAT (Value Added Tax) to Tk 225 from Tk 600 a tonne on imported MS rod.

"We will be compelled to import

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Race on in BNP for nomination in vacant JS seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the ruling BNP policymakers have not yet taken up the issue of by-election to the vacant seats of two lawmakers who quit the party and their parliament seats on Wednesday, over a dozen party leaders have started hectic lobbying with the party high ups for nomination for the by-polls.

Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan and Mahi B Chowdhury, who were elected from Dhaka-10 and Munshiganj-1 constituencies with BNP tickets, have joined former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury's alternative political stream.

BNP insiders said party leaders both in Dhaka and Munshiganj started visiting the residences and secretariat offices of party policymakers and senior ministers soon after the two lawmakers resigned from the party and parliament.

They pointed out that while the party leadership is now busy trying its best to prevent further defection in the wake of the resignation of two legislators, their departure brought joy to party leaders who have long been trying to get nominations for the two seats.

SEE PAGE 11 CO 3

Blast kills two US soldiers in Iraq

AFP, Baghdad

Two US soldiers were killed and four wounded in an explosion in northern Iraq yesterday, while the coalition worried about infiltrators into the Iraqi police after two civilians were gunned down.

Away from the violence, Washington doled out more coveted reconstruction contracts in Iraq to US companies, in a controversial contract-awarding process with lengthy delays and the cancellation of deals.

A roadside bomb exploded in the centre of Tikrit, 180km north of Baghdad, at about 5:00 am (0200 GMT) on Saturday as a US Humvee drove past, killing two soldiers and injuring four, the US army said.

The soldiers killed or injured in

the attack were from the 1st Battalion 18th Infantry Regiment, said Captain Tim Crowe.

The deaths raise to 270 the number of US soldiers killed in action since US President George W. Bush declared major hostilities over on May 1, according to an official Pentagon tally.

Meanwhile, an investigation into the mob-style killing of US government staffers Fern Holland, 33, and Robert Zangas, 44, along with their Iraqi interpreter continued to twist and turn as a US official admitted that four men arrested were in fact police and not imposters.

Men wearing police uniform shot the three dead on Tuesday evening as they drove from a women's centre in Karbala, 110km south of

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Mar 27 declared public holiday

BSS, Dhaka

As March 26, the Independence and National Day falls on Friday, the government has declared March 27 a public holiday, said an official handout yesterday.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visits a stall at the Agriculture Technology Fair after launching it on Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute premises in Gazipur yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

SPAIN TRAIN TERROR

Al-Qaeda claim sends chill down world spine

AFP, Dubai

The purported claim from the al-Qaeda terror network that it carried out the atrocities in Madrid set the world back on edge as stock markets plunged, nations tightened security and fears of worse to come spread.

Spain's government has named

the armed Basque separatist group ETA as prime suspect for the killing of 199 people Thursday when 10 bombs blew up at three Madrid rail stations during morning rush hour, injuring 1,400 more.

US President George W. Bush declared, "We don't know who did this yet," adding "I wouldn't rule

anybody out."

But the unverifiable claim of responsibility from an Islamic group linked to al-Qaeda sent shivers down the spine as Bush offered to put the weight of US intelligence-gathering behind the hunt for the killers.

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Blasts wound 2 children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An abandoned bomb went off and injured a five-year-old boy in Lalbagh yesterday.

Jashim, son of rickshaw-puller Dulu Miah, was playing with several of his mates in the locality at around 3:30pm and found the bomb near Loharpur (iron-bridge).

Taking it as toy, he shook the handmade bomb, which blasted with a loud bang. Jashim, with burns in his hands and legs and splinter-wounds all over the body, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at 4:00pm. He is now undergoing treatment at National Institute of Traumatology & Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR).

Meanwhile, seven-year-old girl Asma Hosna, daughter of rickshaw-puller Golam Sabbir, was injured in another blast at North Begunbari in Tejgaon. She is receiving treatment at the DMCH.

Asma picked up as playing a wrapped bottle that exploded after falling from her hand. Her both legs were wounded.

YASMIN MURDER Convicts' appeal petition dismissed

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday dismissed the petitions for leave to appeal against the High Court verdict that confirmed the death sentence of three cops in sensational Yasmin murder case of Dinajpur nine years ago.

Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Moimul Haq, constable Abdus Sattar and driver Amrita Lal Barmon were awarded death penalty in August 1997 for rape and murder of 16-year-

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Educationist Professor Anisuzzaman addresses a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday expressing solidarity with the demonstrators protesting the attack on prominent writer Humayun Azad. Sammilito Nagarik Samaj staged the rally.

PHOTO: STAR

Civil society rally wants ban on communal politics

DU CORRESPONDENT

Sammilita Nagarik Samaj (SNS), a civil society platform, yesterday castigated the government for 'failure to rein in corruption and the sliding law and order'.

Speaking at a rally organised in

front of the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka to protest the attack on writer Prof Humayun Azad, SNS leaders demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those responsible for the gory assault.

They also asked Home Minister

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Prayer Timings

	March 14	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-45	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	4-30	4-45	
Maghrib	6-14	6-19	
Esha	7-30	8-00	

Source: Islamic Foundation

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Course	Starts	Days	Time
IELTS	20th March	SMW*	11:30 AM-1:30
IELTS	20th March	SMW	5:00 PM-6:30
IELTS (Special)	19th March	FRI	3:00 PM-6:00
IELTS	1st April	STT*	11:30 AM-1:00
IELTS	1st April	STT	5:00 PM-6:30
IELTS	11th April	STT	7:00 PM-8:30
IELTS	24th April	SMW	5:00 PM-6:30
TOEFL	20th March	SMW	5:00 PM-6:30
G. English	13th March	SMW	9:30 AM-11:00
Spoken	20th March	SMW	9:30 AM-11:00
Spoken	20th March	SMW	2:30 PM-4:00
MBA	19th March	FRI	11:00 AM-12:30
Evening MBA	20th March	SMW	7:00PM-8:30

\*SMW=Sat+Mon+Wed  
\*STT=Sun+Tue+Thu

**Siddeswari**

IELTS	15th March	SMW	9:30 AM-11:00
IELTS	21st March	STT	3:00 PM-4:30
IELTS	4th April	SMW	6:30 PM-8:00
Spoken	18th March	STT	9:30 AM-11:00
Spoken	22th March	SMW	4:30 PM-6:00
Spoken	7th April	SMW	6:30 PM-8:00
MBA/MBM	25th March	THU	5:00 PM-6:30

**Banani**

IELTS	11th March	STT	9:30 AM-11:00
IELTS	18th March	STT	5:30 PM-7:00
IELTS	29th March	SMW	7:00 PM-8:30
TOEFL	3rd March	SMW	3:30 PM-5:00
TOEFL	28th March	STT	3:30 PM-5:00
MBA	6th March	SMF	6:30 PM-8:00
Spoken	21st March	STT	7:00 PM-8:30
Spoken	30th March	STT	12:00 PM-1:30
Spoken for Ladies	1st April	STT	9:00 AM-10:30 11:00 AM-12:30

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Saifur Sir এর কয়েকটি BULLET class!!

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