



Kakrail Crossing looks almost barren as traffic thinned out on the streets of the capital during yesterday's dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal.

Six cops, five others killed in Iraq

AGENCIES, Baghdad

Shia militants and US forces battled yesterday in Baghdad's Sadr City slum, and a mortar barrage slammed into a busy eastern Baghdad neighborhood, marking a fresh round of violence in the capital. Five people died and dozens were wounded, officials said.

The violence came as Iraqis in the holy city of Najaf cleaned up broken glass and rubble and returned to their devastated offices and shops after three weeks of devastating combat. Dozens of municipal workers

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

POST-FLOOD STRATEGY

Ministries to practise austerity

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

As part of its cost-cutting measures to offset additional spending on post-flood rehabilitation, the government has slashed entertainment expenditure to Tk 6 per head from Tk 12 for meetings of the ministries, divisions, departments, directorates and autonomous bodies.

The Finance Division last week issued a circular on the austerity measures among the relevant government offices -- from the ministries down to the offices of upazila nirbahi officer.

"In the light of the substantial damage to the infrastructure and crops, different ministries and divisions are sending proposals to the Finance Division for additional fund allocation... this has made cost-cutting and austerity absolutely necessary," the circular said.

It added that no additional allocation would be made in the revised budget unless it is highly needed. The circular asked for a suspension of purchase of vehicles by the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Hearing on Dipu's remand prayer adjourned

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the hearing on remand prayer of Dipu Chowdhury, arrested Friday on charge of robbery, until August 31.

Metropolitan Magistrate Shafiq Anwar adjourned the hearing of a 10-day remand prayer sought by police following a time petition by the defence lawyers.

In the petition, the lawyers said the High Court (HC) had earlier ordered the government not to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
August 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-33	6-36
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Ensure fair distribution of VGF cards

PM asks officials

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday directed the officials concerned to ensure fair and impartial distribution of the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) cards among the poor in the flood-affected areas.

She also asked the senior field-level officials to make the post-flood rehabilitation programme more successful than the first phase of emergency relief

operation.

The prime minister was speaking at a meeting held at the International Conference Centre (ICC) to evaluate the first phase of the flood management and to give guidelines to the field-level senior officials for implementing the post-flood rehabilitation programme.

She asked the ministers, secretaries, divisional commissioners and other officials for regular monitoring of the second phase of the flood.

The prime minister said the post-flood rehabilitation programme would be taken up on the basis of the full-fledged statement on the effects of the flood by the field-level officials.

The meeting was informed that 46 lakh flood-stricken families in 42 affected districts would be brought under the VGF programme in September, October and November.

Besides, the affected poor people

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Police personnel use a metal detector on the staff before letting them in the Secretariat yesterday as part of the mounting security in the wake of the bomb blasts at an opposition rally in Dhaka on August 21.

2 killers of Yasmmeen walk gallows Sept 1

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Two of the three former policemen convicted of raping and killing Yasmmeen would be hanged at Rangpur Central Jail at September 1 midnight.

A life-sentenced prisoner brought from Jessore Central Jail, assisted by two inmates of Rangpur jail, will act as the hangman of former police constable Abdus Sattar and assistant sub-inspector Moinul Hoque, said Senior Jail Superintendent of Rangpur Azizul Hoque.

Death sentence of the third convict, former police constable Omrito Lal, cannot be executed on the day, as the president is yet to respond to the mercy petition his father Laksmikanto has recently sent, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Hoque said he has issued letters to the deputy commissioner of Rangpur and relatives of Sattar and Moinul informing them of the date of the execution.

Jailer of Rangpur Central Jail Mosaddeque Hossain Khandoker said, as customary, the district magistrate,

superintendent of police and civil surgeon would be present during the execution.

THE CRIME

The three former policemen were sentenced to death by hanging for the sensational gang rape and killing of a 13-year-old girl, Yasmmeen, at Dosh Mile Roa in Dinajpur on the night of September 24, 1995. The ill-starred teenager was on her way back home at Golapbag in Dinajpur town from Dhaka.

After the horrendous crime, Dinajpur Kotwali police even tried to protect their fellows by diverting the course of investigation, sparking off instant popular agitation and grievance in the district.

People in masses brought out protest processions, held rallies and besieged the police station on August 26 and 27, 1995. To bring the situation under control, police opened fire on the demonstrators killing seven of them.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Hindu arson victims still without aid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, back from Rangpur

More than 35 men, women and children of the six Hindu families whose houses were burnt to ashes Monday are still living under open sky with scarce food and little hope for rebuilding their houses.

Lost everything in the arson, the victims now hardly have two meals a day at the houses of their neighbours including the Muslims. Some are still living at their neighbours' houses.

"We're helping them with food and clothing as much as we can. But we don't know how long we can carry on," said Abdur Rahman, a neighbour.

The earning members among the victims, all day labourers, are yet to go back to work. "We can't leave our families in the open, as the attackers may return any time like before," said Bholaram Chandra Barman.

The deputy commissioner of Rangpur gave 20kg rice, Tk 1,000 and two saries to each of the six families on the third day of the arson.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia chairs a meeting on post-flood rehabilitation at her office in Dhaka yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students and guardians are sceptical about the fate of the academic calendar, as there is no sign of an end to the indefinite strike in the educational institutions already struggling to make up for the lost time because of the devastating floods.

Educational institutions including universities, colleges and schools have remained closed for over a week due to a student strike enforced by main opposition Awami League's (AL) student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

The indefinite students' strike comes hard on the heels of the devastating floods that forced many institutions to shut for about a month.

A guardian told The Daily Star yesterday the educational institutions have been reeling under the deluge-induced academic and financial losses.

The BCL clamped the indefinite strike on the institutions to press the demand for an international probe into the August 21 grenade attack on an AL rally and resignation of the BNP-led coalition government.

The grenade attack on the AL rally on Bangabandhu Avenue killed 19 people and injured about 200 others. Leader of the Opposition and AL President Sheikh Hasina narrowly escaped the apparent attempt on her life.

Asked how long the strike will last, BCL President Liakat Sidker said they would continue with the strike until their demands are met. He added the BCL did not impose the strike on the students, rather the student community responded spontaneously to its call. "Students would have called the strike had the BCL not called it," he claimed.

Authorities of some elementary

schools in Mohammadpur and Lalmatia in Dhaka have received bomb threats after they tried to reopen them.

The guardians are getting increasingly concerned at the unscheduled closure and the fallout it would have on their wards. "How long will this terrible situation continue? We can't say for sure when our children will be back to school. It's so frustrating," a parent fumed.

A headmaster of a school, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, "We understand the (academic) loss... but we can't run the school during the strike hours as the safety and security of the students is our prime concern."

Officials at the education ministry earlier said the time lost because of the severe flooding would be recovered by holding classes during the month of Ramadan when most educational institutions remain closed.

Netrakona-2 by-polls Oct 9

UNB, Dhaka

By-election to the parliamentary seat for Netrokona-2 constituency, comprising Sadar and Barhatta upazilas, will be held on October 9.

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday announced the schedule in a gazette notification.

According to the election schedule, the last date for submission of nominations to the returning or assistant returning officers is September 14. Scrutiny will take place on September 15, while the last date for withdrawal of nominations is September 22.

The seat fell vacant following the death of Abdul Momin, an elderly leader of the main opposition Awami League.

In another gazette notification yesterday, the EC appointed the deputy commissioner of Netrokona as returning officer. The assistant returning officers are upazila nirbahi officers of Sadar and Barhatta.

BALU MURDER

Charges pressed against 8 accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna police will submit charge sheet before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in journalist Humayun Kabir Balu murder case today.

Meanwhile, charge sheet in the case pertaining to explosive substances was submitted yesterday.

Investigation Officer (IO) Mohiuddin Chowdhury, also inspector of Detective Branch of Khulna Metropolitan Police, yesterday pressed charges against eight out of 10 who were named accused in the first information report (FIR). They are Shoiab, Sumon, Abdur Rashid Malitha alias Tapan, Didar, Khorsh Nazu, Masum, Rimon and Zahid. The other two FIR-named accused, BDR Altaf and Swadhin, have died. Six out of the eight are on

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

More AL leaders to fly abroad for treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of Awami League (AL) and its student wing leaders, who were seriously wounded in August 21 grenade attacks on AL rally, will go to New Delhi for better treatment.

AL Joint Secretary Obaidul Quader and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu will fly to New Delhi tomorrow while former BCL president Enamul Haque Shamim and general secretary Ajoy Kar Khokan will be off by this week.

All of them will go to New Delhi's Apollo Hospital, which is reputed to have better facilities for treating splinter wounds. Necessary arrangements to this end have already been completed.

AL leaders including Obaidul Quader and Abdur Razzak were admitted to Shikder Medical College Hospital after sustaining serious shrapnel wounds on August 21.

AL Presidium Member Abdur Razzak has already gone to the Apollo Hospital for better treatment.

Doctors at Shikder Hospital said Obaidul Quader and the other leaders need better treatment in a foreign hospital as most of them received over 100 splinters in the area below the waist including both legs.

Doctors said Obaidul Quader received 113 shrapnel in the lower portion of his body including both the legs and pelvic region.

They feared it might not be possible to remove all the splinters and he might have to pass the rest of his life with some of those embedded in the body.

Doctors said they did not do surgery as both the legs and the pelvic region of Obaidul Quader were badly damaged by splinters.

"I can't move without wheel chair as my legs were badly injured

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

'DNA analysis' spots e-mail spam

BBC ONLINE

Few would have thought that when Crick and Watson unravelled DNA, it would help in making a tool to fight spam.

But computational biologists at IBM's TJ Watson Research Center have devised an anti-spam filter based on the way scientists analyse genetic sequences.

Called after Feng Shui character Chung-Kwei, the formula automatically learns patterns of spam vocabulary and has proved to be 96.5 percent efficient.

In tests, the filter only misidentified one message in 6,000 as spam. Isidore Rigoutsos and Tien Huynh, at IBM's bioinformatics and pattern discovery research group, started to develop the formula - or algorithm - a little over a year ago.

They named the formula, Chung-Kwei, after a Feng Shui character who is usually shown carrying a bat and also holds a sword behind him.

He is an important figure for those involved in business and who have expensive goods that need protection.

Chung-Kwei grew out of another algorithm called Teiresias which the researchers were using for pattern discovery in computation biology sequencing, specifically, in protein annotation.

The algorithm helped in automatically determining the properties of a protein, such as function and structure, directly from a string.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

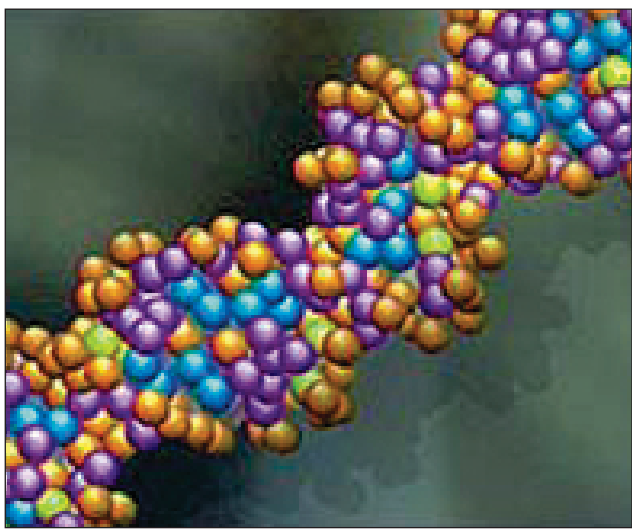


PHOTO: BBC ONLINE

The algorithm spots patterns in strings of e-mails