

# Saifur slams auditor's office for tinkering with 'trivial matters'

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday criticised the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) saying large audit reports on 'insignificant issues' dent the image of the country.

Asking the CAG's office to shun this practice, the minister said it should concentrate more on important issues. Insignificant reports are now highlighted in newspapers which publish those without proper scrutiny, he thought.

"Sitting at its headquarters in

Berlin, the Transparency International (TI) later compiles these newspaper reports to form the basis of TI's list of most corrupt nations," Saifur said.

The minister was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of a high profile regional auditors general conference on 'Harmonising institutional efforts for promoting accountability in the public sector' in Dhaka.

The office of the CAG in association with the World Bank and Canadian International Development Agency (Cida) organised the two-day conference being held at a local hotel.

Thirty delegates including a num-

ber of auditors general from the Saarc and other countries in the region are attending the conference.

Underscoring good governance to ensure transparency and accountability at all levels of administration, Saifur said development work greatly suffers due to lack of good governance.

Bangladesh has one of the most transparent and accountable democratic orders in the world but it is not reflected in newspaper reports, he said.

World Bank Country Director in  
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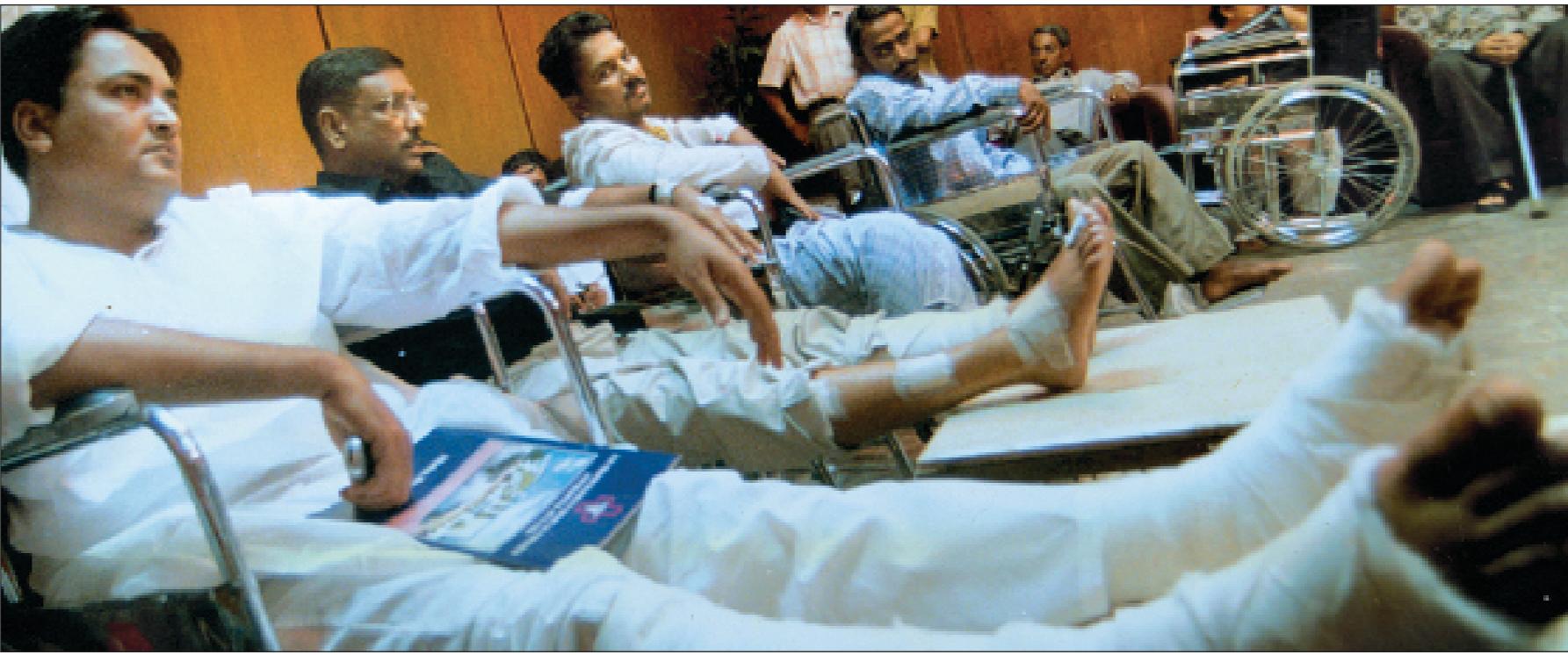


PHOTO: STAR

Leaders of the AL and its front organisations, from left, Ajoy Kar Khokon, Obaidul Kader and Nazrul Islam Babu wait at Zia International Airport yesterday before they flew to India for treatment.



A policewoman arrests Awami League leader Nazma Rahman during yesterday's hartal, called to protest the August 21 grenade attack on an AL rally. She was released later.

PHOTO: STAR

# Two youths first threw grenades from ground

## Injured AL leader Zafarullah says

### SHAMEEM MAHMUD

The August 21 grenade attacks on Awami League (AL) rally started with at least two youths throwing the first two grenades from the pavement between Ramna Bhaban and City Bhaban, a senior AL leader injured in the attacks said yesterday.

"I was standing on the rear left of the

truck and saw a dark, tall youth throw something at the truck from the footpath between Ramna Bhaban and City Bhaban", AL Presidium Member Kazi Zafarullah MP said as he recalled the terrible scene.

Zafarullah received severe wounds in his left hand in the blasts that killed 19 and wounded over 200. The attacks began when Sheikh

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Grenades hurled from City Bhaban  
Judicial probe body told

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A victim and witness to the August 21 carnage on an Awami League (AL) rally told the Judicial Enquiry Commission yesterday that attackers hurled the grenades from City Bhaban, a building opposite the AL headquarters, and police fired back.

"I heard a bang and saw a thing coming down from City Bhaban that also went off, while something hit my right leg. Lying on the road, I saw policemen firing at the building," victim Monir Hossain told the enquiry commission at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Also a freedom fighter, Monir said the attack happened moments

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# Republicans gather to back Bush

### REUTERS, New York

Republicans have opened their national convention to nominate President George W. Bush for a second term with plans for four days of tributes to his wartime leadership and his response to the September 11, 2001, attacks.

The opening session will be highlighted by a tribute to victims of the September 11 attacks and a salute to Bush by two party leaders who appeal to moderates, former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Arizona Senator John McCain.

"He has been tested and has risen to the most important challenge of our

time, and I salute him," McCain said of Bush in prepared excerpts of his speech released by the campaign on Monday.

Republicans start the convention in an upbeat mood after several new polls showed Bush gaining ground and slightly leading his Democratic challenger, Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts.

The gathering is in New York, less than four miles (7 km) from the gaping hole where the World Trade Centre once stood, in part to remind voters of Bush's leadership after the attacks.

Three victims' relatives will

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PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia presides over a meeting with leaders of different business organisations at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

# State minister's bodyguard stabbed

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers stabbed the bodyguard of a state minister and snatched away his gun and ammunition in Ramna in the early hours of yesterday.

Habibur Rahman, 32, bodyguard of State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Ziaul Haque Zia, was returning to police barrack from the minister's house on Minto Road.

The muggers stopped Habibur, constable of Special Branch of Police, at Bally Road and Shantinagar crossing at 12:25am. They stabbed on his left shoulder and took away his revolver, eight bullets and a wireless set.

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Will organisms be able to adapt as conditions change rapidly?

Acid oceans spell doom for coral

gle to function in the coming decades as pH levels fall.

The Danish expert told the EuroScience Open Forum 2004 that human-produced carbon dioxide was radically changing the marine environment.

CO2 levels are now said to be at

their highest level for 55 million years.

Most of it will eventually be absorbed by seawater, where it will react to form carbonic acid.

The normal acidity of the ocean is around pH 8, but experts predict this could drop to pH 7.4.

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# Student strike may end Saturday

## DU CORRESPONDENT

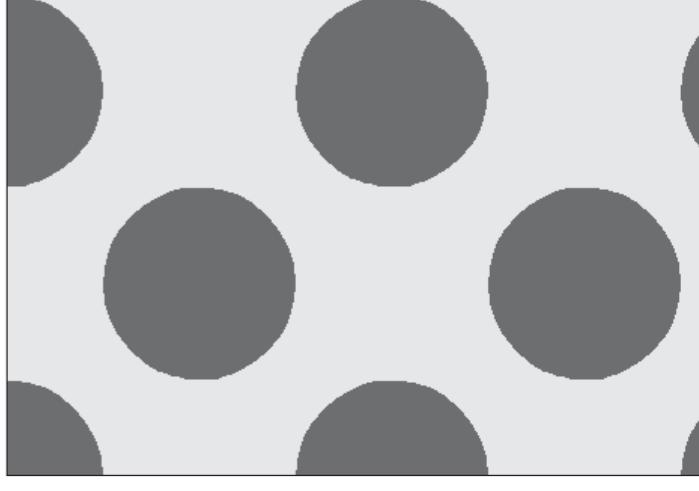
Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of Awami League (AL) might withdraw from Saturday the indefinite countrywide student strike enforced earlier demanding international and impartial probe into the August 21 grenade attack on AL rally.

"We received a letter for discussion from university authorities yesterday about withdrawal of the strike," BCL President of Dhaka University (DU) unit Delwar Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday adding that there is a possibility of withdrawal of strike soon.

"We will sit with the authorities on strike issue today or tomorrow after discussing with our party high-ups-- if the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) tries to do anything forcibly, we will be compelled to go for long strike," Delwar said.

"The general students of the educational institutions were not responsible for the grenade attack on AL rally so why should they suffer?" Sahabuddin Lalatu, JCD

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Prayer Timing		
August 31		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-23	6-26
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation