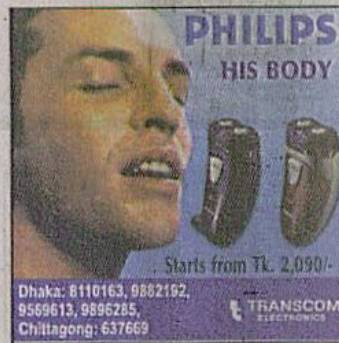




The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XV NO. 133

DHAKA THURSDAY JUNE 2, 2005

COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

JAISTHA 19, 1412 BS

RABUIS SANI 23, 1426 HIJRI

16 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: Tk 10.00

DU campus under JCD capture

Pro-coalition men beat up opposition activists, sergeant suspended for misconduct with teachers; BCL enforces student strike today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists and the police yesterday formed a cordon round the Dhaka University (DU) campus to bar pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) adherents, who they blamed for Tuesday's bomb blast, from entering the campus.

In line with the dictate of the JCD high-ups, leaders of the JCD's different hall units cordoned off and guarded the entrances to the campus from 7:00am to 2:00pm to keep the BCL men at bay.

"We have a directive to beat up the Chhatra League men wherever we see them," a JCD activist said, preferring anonymity. He added the DU unit leaders asked them not to go on campus and carry on the mauling job that they have been assigned to, instead.

A police sergeant, Azhar, misbehaved with and swore at Prof Haripada Bhattacharya, Prof Mizanur Rahman and Mohammad Morshed Hasan Khan of the market-

ing department at the DU entrance at Nilkhet. He also threatened to throw them behind bars. The sergeant was later suspended after the teachers complained to authorities and demanded of them punitive action for his misdemeanour.

Tension was running high on the campus after the JCD declared the BCL unwanted on the campus for an indefinite period. Seven opposition-backed student organisations led by the BCL enforce a strike at educational institutions across the

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Bus fare shoots up after fuel price hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some bus service providers in the capital raised their bus fares by at least 25 percent from yesterday following the recent price hike of fuel.

Truck fares in the port city of Chittagong have also increased by 20 percent due to the same reason, sources said.

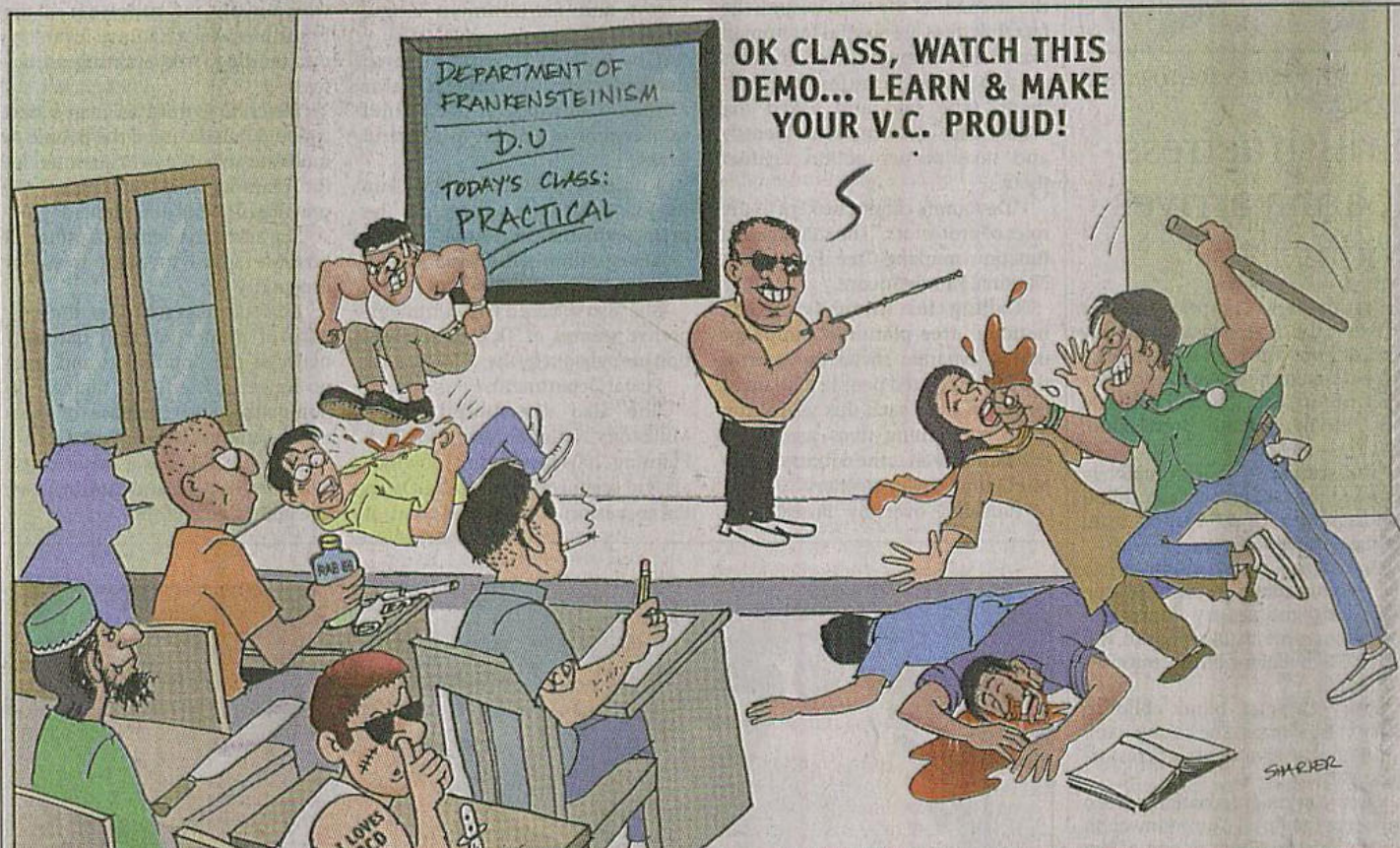
The government on May 24 increased the price of petrol from Tk 33 to 35 while the price of diesel and kerosene was re-fixed at Tk 26, raising Tk 3 per litre, only six months into the last fuel price hike.

Some 1800 buses of 34 companies are plying the city.

Several of the companies already started providing their services with hiked price from yesterday, the Association of Bus Companies (ABC) sources said, adding that others will decide on fair raise in a short time.

Different companies providing services at the same route would like to re-fix the fares at consistent rates,

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Activists of ruling BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal yesterday stop a rickshaw at the TSC turning on Dhaka University campus, as part of their search for workers of Bangladesh Chhatra League, student front of the main opposition Awami League.

2 'robbers' killed in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Two alleged highway robbers were killed in 'crossfire' between their accomplices and police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Rajendrapur in Choudhagram upazila in the early hours yesterday.

Rab sources said they arrested Mainuddin alias Munaya, 32, son of Abdul Majid of Kalashir village, and Mehedi Hasan alias Munna Dakat, 35, son of Abu Tahir Miah, of Balgor Miahbari village, from Choudhagram on Monday.

A joint team of Rab-7 and police were taking them to Kathalia village to seize firearms when they came under fire at about 2:00am, they added.

The law-enforcers returned fire

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DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT CREDIT

WB wants effective ACC, energy reforms first

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank has pinned its development support credit (DSC) on making the Anti-Corruption Commission fully operational and reforming the energy sector.

In two previous DSC tranches in 2003 and 2004, Bangladesh received \$500 million from the bank. It may get another \$200 million in the third tranche if it can meet 14 specific WB conditions.

"Bangladesh has made some progress in some areas, but there are also some outstanding issues. We can't proceed if there is no visible progress in those areas," said Sadiq Ahmed, head of a visiting WB team, after a meeting with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday.

Ahmed, a WB sector director for South Asia, did not specify a timeline for disbursement of the next DSC chunk. However he said

the government would like to have it by July, soon after it receives a \$150 million loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), likely in June.

He said this year Bangladesh probably would get a total of \$500 million credit from the WB and the IMF as budgetary or balance of payment support. Apart from the third DSC tranche and the IMF credit, the remaining \$150 million would come from the WB for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

AL won't join budget session

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) will not join the upcoming budget session of parliament that will be its House boycott for the third time during the tenure of the current parliament.

"We will not join the budget session as we don't want to give legitimacy to the budget," Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid told The Daily Star yesterday.

The AL deputies however are in a dilemma as the party high command is yet to give any directives to them whether to join the 17th session of the House slated to begin on June 7.

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Hasina says govt listing her party men for 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the opposition and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the government of preparing a list of her party's prospective leaders and activists across the country to kill them in the name of 'crossfire' by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

"The BNP-Jamaat-led coalition has filed false cases against many of our leaders and activists in order to kill them in the name of 'crossfire'," Hasina said yesterday at a ceremony where a group of Jatiya Party leaders and workers from Rajshahi, led by former minister Sarder Amjad

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DU VIOLENCE, RAB KILLINGS AL wants judicial inquiry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday in a meeting asked the government for separate judicial investigations into recent violence on Dhaka University campus, all extra judicial killings involving the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and recent launch disasters.

The meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) held at the party's

Dhanmondi office with the party chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina in the chair upheld their previous decision to boycott the Narsingdi-1 by-election to be held on June 22.

"Awami League is not contesting the election in protest against the appointment process of the new Chief Election Commissioner," AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said.

He, however, said the party has

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SUMON MURDER

Rab now blames it on unknown assailants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rab now blames Tuesday's killing of Jubo League leader Abul Kalam Azad Sumon on unknown assailants, as questions creep up over his 'notoriety' and the motive for the murder in an 'encounter' between 'criminals' and the elite crime-busting force.

The Rapid Action Battalion late Tuesday night filed a case against the slain youth on charge of unauthorised possession of a revolver loaded with two bullets, which it claimed to have retrieved

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Bimstec sets December to seal FTA deal talks

UNB, Dhaka

Bimstec senior officials ended their meeting yesterday by setting a target to conclude the negotiations on a free trade area (FTA) deal by December and to execute the umbrella agreement in July next year to create a vast sub-regional trading bloc.

The 9th senior official-level meeting of seven-member economic grouping also agreed to introduce travel cards for businesspeople of the member

countries—Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

It decided to enhance cooperation in six priority areas—trade and investment, technology, tourism, transport and communications, energy and fisheries.

Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin, who assumed the Bimstec chairmanship for next one year, told reporters that the meeting discussed the progresses made by the joint working group in counter-terrorism through intelligence

sharing and combating trafficking in narcotics.

The joint working group will submit its report on the issue at the Bimstec foreign ministers meeting to be held in Dhaka in December.

He said a ministerial meeting on reduction of poverty will be held in Dhaka early 2006 while India will host the Bimstec summit in the later part of 2006.

They decided to hold a series of meetings on trade and economy and trade and commerce in September,

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15 cheated job seekers return from Jordan

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Fifteen Bangladeshi fortune seekers, allegedly cheated by a travel agency, yesterday returned from Jordan empty handed after experiencing intolerable sufferings.

As many as 115 people including the 15 went abroad for jobs and many of them had been sent back. Besides, a number of people could not even set out for Jordan despite paying the travel agency for visa and tickets.

The sole comfort for them was the cancellation of the travel agency's licence. But police could not arrest its managing director since the government cancelled its

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