

# Vendor beaten to death

## Traders set fire to extortionist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vegetable traders beat up an extortionist and then set fire to him while a gang of hoodlums beat a Chatpati seller to death in separate incidents in the city early yesterday.

The extortionist, Mohammad Fazlu, who came under attack at Karwan Bazar near Khandaker Hotel at around 2:00am, is now fighting for life at the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Fazlu, once a worker of the hotel, came to the bazar to meet a trader but several other traders caught hold of him and beat him up. They also tied him up, poured kerosene on him and set him on fire, although many tried to resist the agitated traders.

Witnesses said Fazlu desperately tried to convince the traders that although he once used to extort money, he is no longer involved in such acts and works at a garments factory. He repeatedly prayed for mercy, which fell on deaf ears.

Later, police rescued him in a critical condition. In the other incident, Chatpati seller Shahidullah, 40, were beaten to death at Kagozitola in Sutrapur when he was going home at around 1:30am.

On the way, he was locked into an altercation with a boy, said his brother-in-law Rafiq.

The boy then complained to

some local hoodlums who beat up Shahid and left him unconscious on the street. Later, local people took him to Dhaka Medical College and

Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries in the morning.

When contacted last night, Sutrapur police could not give further details about the incident.

# Private varsities can help stop brain drain

## United International University new campus inaugurated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The new campus of United International University (UIU) was inaugurated in the city yesterday.

Speaking as chief guest at the inaugural function, State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milan said private universities can play significant role in preventing brain drain.

He urged different corporate bodies to invest in education sector to develop country's human resources.

In his speech read out at the function University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Dr Asaduzzaman said lack of infrastructure facilities is one of the main problems of private universities.

The UIU has created an example by shifting to its own campus, he added.

UGC Member Prof Monirul Haque said a team of the commission has

found the facilities of the new campus as excellent.

United Group Chairman Hasan Mahmood Raja said it is our expectation that the UIU will bring a new era in the field of higher education and will provide the nation with highly skilled graduates to meet professional requirements in all fields.

UIU Vice-chancellor Dr M Rezwana Khan said the campus has been built with the purpose of imparting education in a befitting infrastructure and congenial environment.

The new campus of the university, patronised by conglomerate business house United Group, is located at House-80, Raod-8A (New), Dhanmondi.

The campus has state of the art IT and Computer Labs, Language Lab, Engineering Labs and other essential facilities.

# 'September 18 hartal unpatriotic'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahmudur Rahman, advisor to the energy and mineral resources ministry, yesterday criticised the opposition political parties for calling a hartal over fuel price rises without considering the international oil price situation.

Terming the September 18 hartal an 'unpatriotic' stance, he said, "We should keep the economy above politics."

The political parties may demonstrate against the fuel price hike and also criticise the government, but why have they called the hartal even though it will not bring any good to the country, he asked.

Mahmudur Rahman was speaking as the chief guest at a seminar titled 'Safe environment promotion through CNG conversion' organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and the Junior Chamber International

(JCI) at a city hotel.

He said converting the vehicles to CNG is one of the best ways to improve the environment in the country.

"At present, there are 45,000 CNG vehicles in the city and if we convert more vehicles to CNG, we can reduce the import of fuel oil. We are now importing three lakh tons of diesel and kerosene a year," said the advisor.

He also called for raising awareness about and greater use of natural gas as it has no elements harmful to humans as well as to the environment.

Sponsored by the Rahimafroz (CNG), the seminar was aimed at promoting the CNG as an alternative fuel and highlighting the technological advancement.

DCCI President Sayeeful Islam and JCI President Safina Rahman also spoke.

# Judgement in SI Farhad murder case today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Judgement in the Sub-Inspector (SI) Farhad murder case against Jubo Dal leader Rafiqul Islam Kajol and 38 others will be delivered today.

Judge Mohammad Rabiul Hassan of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka will give the verdict at 11:30am, court sources said.

SI Hasanul Haq Farhad, 30, was killed during a gunbattle between the two factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Jagannath University College on March 5 in 1994.

Both the groups, one led by Sagir Ahmed and the other by Kajol, engaged themselves in clash to establish supremacy on the college campus. During the shootout, Farhad caught one of the leaders red handed with a firearm but others fired gunshots to free their leader.

Later, Police Inspector Majibul Haq filed a murder case against Sagir, Kajol and 50 others the same day.

Sagir was shot dead by a group of miscreants in front of his residence in the city's Sutrapur area on June 17 this year.

Kajol, accused in the Sutrapur double murder case, has been absconding since the incident in March last year.

# BDR-BSF talks begin in WB

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) began talks in West Bengal yesterday on cross-border smuggling, illegal trespassing and other security issues.

Brigadier General Rabbani is heading an eight-member BDR team at the three-day conference at Kadamtala headquarters of the BSF near Shiliguri, while Inspector General of BSF, North Bengal Frontier, S R Tiwari is heading the Indian side, says a BDR source.

The two sides also discuss the recent exchange of fire between the two border forces at the conference.

The country's 4095-kilometre border with India is extremely volatile and that the relations between the border forces remained tense for years.

The clashes between the BDR and BSF are fueled by issues such as dropping sand bags into river to protect erosion, border fencing by India and unwanted intervention in the no-man's-land.

The meeting is taking place five days after the two forces held a flag meeting to resolve a dispute over dropping boulders into a river along the Chapainawabganj border, which led to heavy exchange of fire between the two sides for two days.

# Cop assaulted by criminals in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira.

Criminals assaulted an on-duty police officer in the town yesterday.

The incident took place at the town's Pucca Pole, only 200 yards off the sadar police station.

When motorbike mechanic Mahidul and his accomplices were beating up one Lachhu to take revenge on the latter, a team of plainclothes policemen rushed there to save the victim, police and local said.

Mahidul's men then swooped on the policemen, leaving Assistant Sub-Inspector Aminur Rahman injured.

Another police team rushed to the spot and arrested three youths from there.

Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Golam Mohammad confirmed the incident.

The injured police official was admitted to Sadar Hospital.

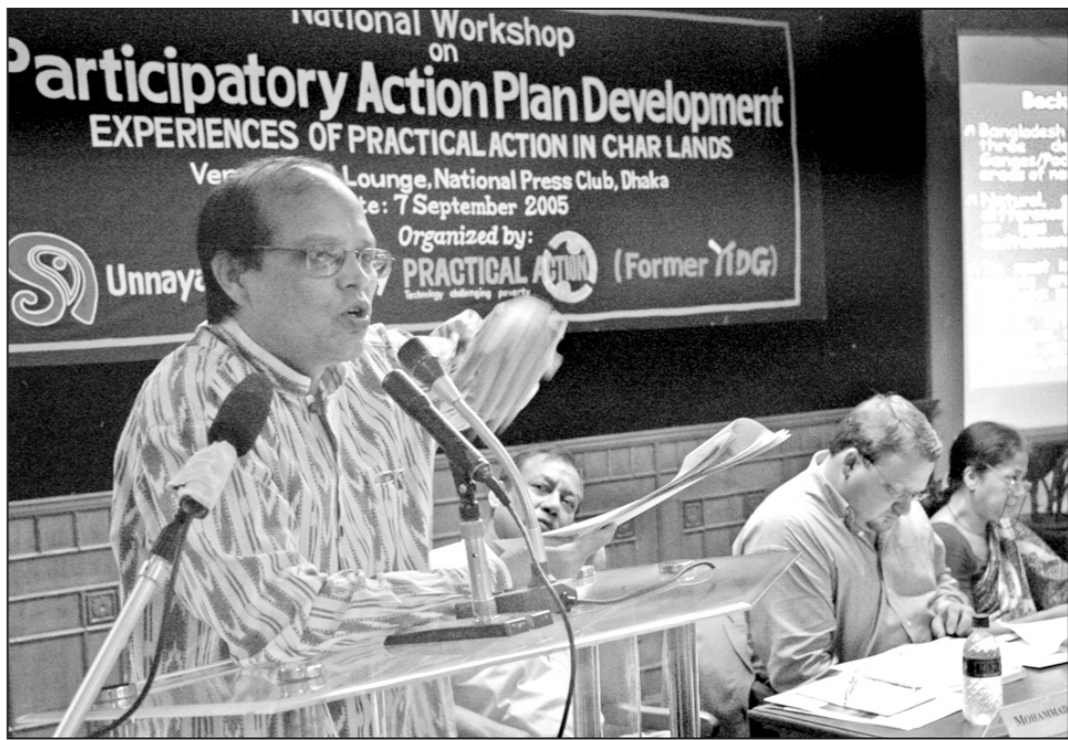
# BCSIR leases process of Sponge Rashogolla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) has leased the process of Sponge Rashogolla, a type of sweetmeat, particularly for diabetic patients, to Ross Bohumukhi Farm Ltd., says a press release.

Habibur Rahman, secretary, BCSIR, and Rabiul Hasnat, managing director, Ross Bahumukhi Farm Ltd., signed an agreement to this effect in the city recently.

The BCSIR scientists say the sweetmeat contains plenty of food value and has no side-effects.



Dr Atiur Rahman, chairman of Unnayan Shamannay, speaks at a national workshop on 'Participatory action plan development: Experiences of practical action in Char lands' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

# PRSP for offshore people stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Non-governmental organisations should come forward alongside the government initiatives to fulfil the basic needs of around fifty lakh people who are living in char areas (offshore lands) in pitiable conditions, said the speakers at a workshop yesterday.

The workshop on 'Participatory Action Plan Development: Experiences of Practical Action in Char lands' was organised by Unnayan Shamannay at the National Press Club in the city.

The speakers said a separate poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) and budget allocation is needed for the development of the people of char lands.

At the same time development of socio-economic structure is essential to marketing the products of char peoples, they added.

The speakers said sustainable development cannot take place in the char lands without an effective participation of the local people.

It needs commitment, ownership, confidence and capacity for effective community participation, said Chairman of Unnayan Shamannay Dr Atiur Rahman in a

written speech.

"If development plans are prepared jointly by the local government and government departments working in the locality, the local people would be more committed to implement the plans. A close working relationship can also develop between the local government and the people during the process," he said.

Dr Stuart Coupe, Veena Khaleque from Practical Action, UK, and Executive Director of CNRS Mokhesur Rahman also spoke.

# ACCOUNTABILITY DAY March towards JS today

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) and Jatiya Oikya Mancha will march towards the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the city to observe the 'Accountability Day' today.

Led by BDB President AQM Badruddoza and Oikya Mancha Convenor Dr Kamal Hossain, the march will start at 3:00pm at the Institute of Engineers.

# CTG ARMS HAUL Two cops make depositions at court

UNB, Chittagong

Two police officials made depositions as prosecution witnesses before the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge here yesterday in the sensational CUFL arms haul case.

The depositions were made by then sub-inspector (SI) of Shah Mirpur police outpost under Karmaphuli Police Station Sunil Kumar and then sergeant of Bandar police outpost Mizanur Rahman. Both of them were attached to the police outposts during the arms recovery.

Cross-examined by the defence counsel, the two police officials told the court that they saw sergeants Helal and Alauddin supervising the seized arms at Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd. (CUFL) when they had gone there at night.

On August 20, the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested sergeants Helal and Alauddin in Dhaka for their alleged involvement in selling some seized arms.

The Court fixed October 5 as the next date of hearing of the case.

Police and coastguards seized 10 truckloads of arms and ammunition at the CUFL jetty on April 1 last year after these were unloaded from a trawler.

# BAN ON JOINING SEMINAR Rights bodies submit memo to PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several human rights organisations jointly submitted a memorandum to the prime minister (PM) yesterday expressing their concern over press reports that read the government may impose ban on joining international seminars by some leaders of indigenous community.

The organisations are Nijera Kori, Karmojibi Nari, Ain O Salish Kendra and Association for Land Reform and Development.

The leaders of indigenous community who may face the bar are Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council Members Mangal Kumar Chakma and Mrinal Kanti Tripura, Chakma Circle Chief Raja Debashish Rai, Ina Hume of London-based Jummo People's Network and Garo leader of Madhupur Albert Mankin.

On September 1, some newspapers published reports that the parliamentary standing committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs has brought allegation against four leaders of indigenous community for tarnishing the image of the country by making objectionable remarks against Bangladesh's independence and sovereignty, its army and unity of Chittagong Hill Tracts at a conference of the UN Council of Aboriginal Affairs at its headquarters in New York from May 16-27.

Quoting Article 39 of the constitution, the leaders of rights organisations said if the government wants to restrict the freedom of speech and movement of the leaders of the marginal community, it will be tantamount to opposing the constitution and undermining the values of democracy.

The signatories to the letter are Khushi Kabir, co-ordinator of Nijera Kori, Shirin Akhter, chairperson of Karmojibi Nari, Shamsul Huda, executive director of Association for Land Reform and Development and Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain O Salish Kendra.

# Wasa realises Tk 3.31 lakh from defaulters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) in a drive against bill defaulters yesterday realised Tk 3.31 lakh from Azimpur, Jigatola and Lalbagh areas of old city.

The court led by Wasa Magistrate Kazi Wasiuddin realised an arrears of Tk 1.30 lakh from a holding at New Paltan in Azimpur. The owner of the house gave a cheque for Tk 75,000.

The court then went to Al-Arafah English Medium Madrasa at Jigatola and realised Tk 90,000. Of the total amount, the authorities concerned paid Tk 40,000 in cash and Tk 50,000 by cheque.

At last, the court went to Lalbagh and realised Tk 1.39 lakh from two holdings. The owner of the houses paid Tk 27,000 in cash and Tk 1.39 lakh by cheque.

Different government, private organisations and household owners owe a total of Tk 200 crore to Wasa.

Of the total amount, Tk 180 crore is due to private business organisations and household owners. The rest Tk 20 crore is due to government organisations.

The Wasa authorities at a meeting recently decided to disconnect the lines of bill defaulters in a bid to realise the arrears, and started the snapping drive on August 23.

The drive will continue particularly on Tuesday and Wednesday of this month and end from the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, Wasa sources said.

# International Literacy Day today

UNB, Dhaka

International Literacy Day will be observed in the country today as elsewhere around the globe.

This year's slogan for the day is "The Role of literacy in Sustainable Development".

There are an estimated 800 million illiterate adults across the world, two-thirds of whom are women. More than 100 million children do not go to school, said a UN handout.

In Bangladesh literacy rate has improved substantially due to government's continued efforts but still huge number of people remained illiterate.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, in a message on the eve of the day, said literacy is the first step of education and main strength of sustainable development.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in his message said literacy is a key lever of change and a practical tool of empowerment on each of the three main pillars of sustainable development: economic development, social development and environmental protection.

Besides, UNESCO Director General Koichiro Matsuura in a separate message called upon governments, international organisations, civil society and private sector to give renewed attention and support to literacy as a vital instrument of achieving sustainable development.

# Former Pak air chief blames Pakistan for '65 war with India

UNB, Dhaka

Former Pakistan Air Force chief Nur Khan has held his country responsible for the 1965 war with India and accused ex-military ruler Ayub Khan of misleading the nation.

Ayub Khan and his generals, "misled the nation with a big lie that India rather than Pakistan had provoked the war and that we were the victims of Indian aggression," Air Marshal (Retd) Khan said giving his account of the war in Pakistan's daily, the Dawn, according to an Indian TV channel.

Khan's allegations coincided with Pakistan's commemoration of the Defence Day on the 40th anniversary of the war. He said the Operation Gibraltar was more for self-glory than national interest, NDTV reported.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami Sechchhasebak League stages a demonstration at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday protesting price hike of fuel oil.

# 'Withdraw price hike of fuel oil'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami Sechchhasebak League yesterday demanded immediate withdrawal of price hike of petroleum products, saying that the government's decision to raise the price will severely affect the common people.

It also threatened to launch a tougher movement if its demand goes unheeded.

This four-party alliance government has increased the price of fuel oil for the eighth time during its tenure, which is rare in other countries, Schchhasebak League President AFM Bahaudin Nasim said at a brief rally at Mukhtangan in the city.

The price of fuel oil is now almost double compared to the period of the Awami League rule, he added.

General Secretary Pankaj Devnath called on the countrymen to take a strong stance against the government's decision to raise the fuel price.

Later, the leaders and activists of the Schchhasebak League took out a protest procession that paraded through different streets.

## WEATHER TODAY

### Moderate to heavy falls likely

UNB, Dhaka

Temporary light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today.

Moderate to heavy falls are also expected at places during the period, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chuadanga and lowest 24.1 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

**The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at 5:42am tomorrow.**

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.7	27.2	74	97
Chittagong	35.2	26.5	63	68
Rajshahi	33.8	25.7	76	97
Khulna	35.5	28.0	70	70
Barisal	33.5	27.6	90	84
Sylhet	30.7	26.5	91	85
Cox's Bazar	34.5	25.9	67	92

# Bangladesh envoy to Nigeria presents credentials

UNB, Dhaka

New Bangladesh ambassador to Nigeria Mohammad-al-Haroon presented his credentials to President Olusegun Obasanjo at a function in Abuja recently.

Haroon, based in Morocco, is concurrently accredited to Nigeria.

President Obasanjo lauded Bangladesh's achievements in various fields, particularly in the garment sector while he was receiving the credentials, according to an official release received in the city yesterday.

He called on Bangladesh to consider providing Nigeria with its investment and other expertise.

The Nigerian leader also appreciated Bangladesh's pioneering role in micro-credit developments.

## DHAKA TODAY

### Roundtable on Tengratilla

Tel-Gas Khanij Sampad O Biddut-Bandar Rokkha Jatiya Committee, an organisation to protect national wealth and mineral resources, organises a roundtable discussion to review the government committee reports following the Tengratilla gas explosion. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

### Roundtable on education

Bangladesh Student Union organises a roundtable discussion on 'Proposed uniform education at secondary level'. Venue: TSC conference room. Time: 4:30pm.

### Seminar

Peshajibi Samannoy Parishad organises a seminar on 'Politicisation of administration-crisis and solution' with Dr Kamal Hossain as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:30pm.

### Human chain

To protest the countrywide serial bomb blasts, Civil Society, including lawyers, journalists, human rights activists and professionals, will form human chains on the premises of all Bar Associations of the country, including that of Supreme Court Bar Association. Time: 10:00am.

### Cultural programme

Bangladesh Sanskritcarkarmi Sanggha organises a cultural