

Govt hospitals turn costlier by 10-400pc

NAIMUL HAQ and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The government yesterday imposed new rates for admission, consultation, diet, diagnostic tests and bed rent at all state-run hospitals except the upazila health complexes, raising the charges from ten percent to as high as 400 percent. Patients admitted in free beds will also have to pay for all diagnostic tests, including the simple blood and urine tests, which were earlier performed free of charges. Revising the Private Clinic and Medical Practitioners Ordinance 1982, the Ministry of Health published a circular of the new rates

effective from yesterday although the circular is yet to reach many district hospital administrations. The new circular also added

some new charges mostly for imaging tests like CT scan, ultrasonography and endoscopy, which were not included at the time of

preparing the 1982 ordinance.

When contacted last night, Dr Md Abdur Rashid, director of Hospitals and Clinics, Directorate of Health Services, told The Daily Star that the ministry and the directorate officials reviewed the rates throughout the last year and proposed for raising the fees which were too old.

"We discussed the issue of revising the 1982 ordinance several times. At a meeting this month we came to the consensus on the proposed rates," said Dr Rashid terming the new rates "more realistic".

The ticket fees of out patient and

COSTLY HOSPITALS

	Previous rate	New Rate
Ticket	Tk. 5.0	Tk. 10
Admin fee	Tk. 5.5	Tk. 20
X-Ray	Tk. 20	Tk. 100
Paying bed in ward	Tk. 78	Tk. 200

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Khulna gas pipeline tender early next year

Mahmud says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Tenders for installation of gas pipeline in Khulna are expected to be invited next January or February, said Energy Advisor and Executive Chairman of Board of Investment Mahmudur Rahman.

When installed, the gas pipeline will add a new dimension to the industrial city, encouraging investment both at national and international level, he said while exchanging views with local journalists at the Khulna Press Club yesterday.

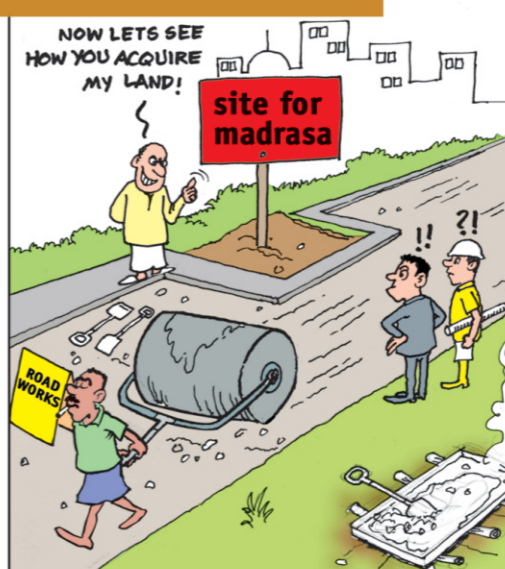
Stressing the urgent need for construction of the Padma Bridge along with gas pipeline, Mahmudur called upon the people irrespective of political affiliation for greater interest of economic development of the country.

Attaching top priority to modernisation of the Mongla port for

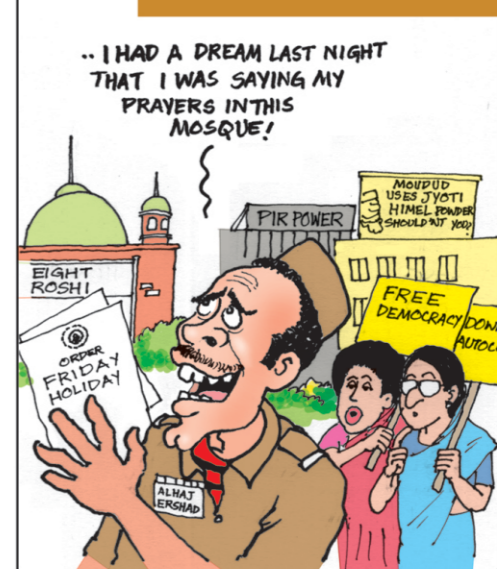
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News: Those who want to brand Bangladesh a 'religiously extremist country' have staged the August 17 blasts: PM

EXCUSE TO GET THAT LAND



EXCUSES TO STAY IN POWER



EXCUSES TO PROTECT BOMBERS



14-party shifts hartal to Sept 21

CPB sticks to Sept 18

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 14-party opposition alliance has shifted their dawn-to-dusk hartal to September 21 as the September 18 shutdown coincides with the Queen's Baton Relay for the Commonwealth Games which will cross Bangladesh on that day.

But the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) will go ahead with the September 18 hartal demanding resignation of the BNP-Jamaat coalition government and protesting the fuel price hike and rise of militant activities.

"We have decided to shift the countrywide hartal to September 21 following a request by the Commonwealth administration,"

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Militants, lawmen play hide and seek in city

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Militants with suspected links to the August 17 blasts have changed their hideouts in the capital to evade capture after a huge cache of arms and explosives was recovered from two terrorist dens in the city Thursday.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Detective Branch (DB) of police raided at least six probable militant hideouts yesterday, but to no effect.

The raids were carried out in Khilkhet, Maddhya Badda, Shantibagh, Rampura, and South Goran following intelligence that

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PHOTO: STAR

Detectives seize religious books and clothes from the Goran house of JMB chief Abdur Rahman's brother in the city yesterday.

Oil price hike Freight transport owners threaten 48hrs strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh freight transport owners and workers council yesterday said they will go on a 48-hour countrywide strike from September 14 if the government does not meet by tomorrow its 18-point demand including the one for reducing oil prices.

The council from a press conference arranged at the National Press Club also threatened that an indefinite strike will follow the two-day strike if the government still remains indifferent to their demands.

The other demands include

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Businessman shot dead in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Armed criminals shot dead a businessman after calling him out of his house at Satkania in the district yesterday.

Nazim Uddin, 45, was reported to have been killed by his own nephew. The police arrested Zahir, the nephew of the victim.

According to police and locals, five armed miscreants went to the house of Nazim at Madhyam Purangarh under Satkania upazila

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Loan defaults down during Dec-June

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The amount of the default loan has come down by 1.84 percentage points over six months from December 2004 to June this year, and stood at 15.79 percent of the outstanding loan.

In June '05 the total default loan was Tk 18,443 crore, down by Tk 283 crore over those six months. The volume of outstanding loans

stood at Tk 1,16,783 crore in June this year.

But the volume of the default loan has actually risen in the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs), private commercial banks (PCBs) and foreign commercial banks (FCBs), while the amount diminished in the Development Financial Institutions (DFIs).

NCBs have seen a rise of the

default loan of Tk 271 crore, PCBs Tk 157 crore and FCBs Tk 16 crore, while the same reduced by Tk 727 crore in the DFIs.

An NCB source said the volume of the default loan has risen mainly due to the interest on the old default loan. Besides, the government's directives not to put pressure in realising agriculture loans have also

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B'BARIA BORDER KILLING BSF yet to return victims' bodies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, B'baria

Border Security Force (BSF) is yet to return the bodies of four Bangladeshi nationals, who were lynched by an Indian mob on Friday.

The border guards of the neighbouring countries yesterday held a flag meeting where Company

Commander Subedar Mafiz Uddin Sarker led Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Company Commander SK Sarma the BSF side.

BDR sources said the BSF has confirmed four deaths, but is showing several reasons for not giving the bodies back immediately.

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FEMALE ANSAR MEMBERS

Returning home with tales of horror

JAHANGIR ALAM from Netrakona and **PORIMOL PALMA** in Dhaka

Five Ansar-Village Defence Party (VDP) women members, who went to Saudi Arabia late July this year to work as housemaids, returned home within a few days of joining the workplaces where they allegedly became victims of sexual harass-

ment by employers.

Upon their return, the victims filed complaints to the Ansar-VDP office in this regard, but they are yet to receive any response.

Some 150 Ansar-VDP women went to Saudi Arabia to work as housemaids after receiving a one-month training at Shafipur Ansar Academy.

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