

Snapped transport system cause for price hike: Mirza Aziz

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Floods have affected country's transport system badly disrupting the supply of essentials, which resulted in price hike of the commodities, Finance and Planning Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam said yesterday.

"The monitoring system has no role here in checking the price hike," Aziz told journalists after the inauguration of a convention organised to mark the 10th founding anniversary of Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Managers of Bangladesh in the capital.

Price of essentials is bound to rise during floods, which disrupt

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Sister claims Sigma Huda seriously ill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sigma Huda, detained wife of former minister Nazmul Huda, is suffering from serious ailments, according to her sister Khushi Kabir, who yesterday differed with a statement made by the jail authorities on her sister's health condition.

On behalf of her family, Khushi Kabir in a news release said the jail authorities' news briefing on August 2 drew her attention and although she has no objection to the conduct of the authorities, she differs with their statement on Sigma's health condition and her treatment.

"Sigma has been suffering from various illnesses including diabetes, and kidney, heart and spinal

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COAL MINING

# Germany shows the way

SHARIER KHAN,  
back from Cologne, Germany

While many fear that open pit coal mining will inflict disasters on a densely populated and agro-based country like Bangladesh, Germany's coalmines demonstrate that intelligent mining can protect all interests while producing coal in such huge quantities that can drastically improve the economy.

Located in Germany's most

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PHOTO STAR

Left, Bucketwheel excavator, weighing 12,840 tonnes, is one of the world's largest machines that can excavate 224,000 cubic metres of coal a day. Right, Bucketwheel in operation.



## Suicide car bomb kills 9 in Pakistan 14 others die in shootout

AP, Peshawar

A suicide attacker detonated a car bomb at a busy bus station in northwestern Pakistan yesterday, killing at least nine people and wounding 35 others, officials said.

Elsewhere in the region, four soldiers and 10 militants were killed in a checkpoint shootout.

The attacker rammed an explosive-

laden car into another vehicle near a bus packed with passengers in Parachinar, a town in the North West Frontier Province, said Mohammed Kamal, a local police official.

"According to our information, it was a suicide attack, and the body parts of the attacker are being collected," Kamal said.

Sahabzada Mohammed Anis, the top

government official in the town, said the dead and injured were rushed to hospitals in Parachinar, about 240km south of the provincial capital of Peshawar.

Mohammed Sultan, a doctor at the Parachinar Hospital, said they received five bodies after the blast, and that four of the injured died later. At least four

other victims

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Rajuk, Rangs differ on extent of demolition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The task for demolishing the top 16 floors of Rangs Bhaban at Bijoy Sarani in the capital went on in full swing on the second day yesterday although Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) is yet to finalise the strategy and method for the mammoth task.

Rajuk workers started drilling the floor of the seventh floor of the building with only two drill hammers after breaking the internal structure.

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Phuket scraps hajj deal with Biman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Private Thai airlines Phuket Air has cancelled its agreement with Biman Bangladesh Airlines for leasing out aircraft to the national flag carrier for carrying hajj pilgrims, Biman sources said yesterday.

"They (Phuket Air) have informed us about their inability to provide aircraft for hajj flights," a Biman official told The Daily Star yesterday requesting not to be named.

"Now, Biman is looking for new airline as well as leasing company to hire aircraft for carrying hajj pilgrims and has already floated fresh tender," said the official.

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Khaleda may sue NBR on tax issue  
Writ petition likely today challenging ACC notice to Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia may sue the National Board of Revenue (NBR) if it ultimately declines to accept the tax on undeclared money.

Meanwhile, a writ petition is likely to be filed with the High Court today challenging the legality of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) notice issued to detained former prime minister Sheikh Hasina for submitting her wealth statement.

On July 31, Khaleda Zia through her representative deposited about Tk

33.87 lakh with Bangladesh Bank as tax on her undisclosed Tk 1.33 crore.

NBR Chairman Badiur Rahman on Wednesday told reporters that they would not legalise Khaleda's undeclared money, as she did not pay the tax as per rules in NBR's prescribed form. He pointed out that Khaleda did not submit the income-tax return in paying the tax.

When asked whether his client would file case if the NBR ultimately does not accept the tax paid

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CPD EXPERT GROUP CONSULTATION ON FLOOD

## Need for improved govt coordination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is an urgent need for enhancing the government's concern about the unfolding flood in the country, according to an expert group consultation organised yesterday by the non-government think tank Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

The expert group also found it necessary to improve coordination among relevant government agencies and between government and non-government actors, and to instil an overall sense of confidence in the economy and society against the backdrop of the flood situation.

The government needs to make it

explicit that it warmly welcomes involvement of NGOs, private sector bodies and other civil society organisations in relief and rehabilitation work, observed the CPD expert consultation.

The discussants said the government, on an urgent basis, needs to clarify its policy and programmatic approach towards facing the emerging flood. To this end, the chief adviser may call a meeting with the relevant and important actors in this field.

In line with the Standing Order on Disaster Management (2000), the disaster management committees at national, district and thana

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They were not loan defaulters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two farmers, released on orders of Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed last Monday following media reports that they were held on charges of defaulting on Tk 319 loan, were in fact arrested for assaulting a female NGO worker,

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Prayer Timing		
August 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-47	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		