

## Ex-president of Rajshahi chamber sued for Tk 1.5cr extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A businessman in Rajshahi city filed two cases yesterday against Lutfar Rahman, detained former president of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industries, in connection with extorting around Tk 1.50 crore.

Nurunnabi of Shalgharia in Durgapur upazila, former business partner of Lutfar, lodged the cases with Boalia Police Station in the city. Joint forces arrested Lutfar at Dhaka several days ago.

The complainant in one of the cases said Lutfar, former city BNP vice-president and a close aide to detained Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, extorted Tk 1 crore from him using names of

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## Bangladeshi to die for killing Malaysian

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi expatriate worker in Malaysia was sentenced to death on Monday for killing his Malaysian girlfriend.

The worker, Shamim Reza Abdul Samad, 33, was accused of killing Zuriyati Othman, 20, as she intended to break up her relationship with the accused.

Judge Datuk Zaharah Ibrahim handed down the verdict saying that the prosecution had proven its case beyond reasonable doubt, reported New Straits Times -- a Malaysian daily.

"You (Shamim Reza) were in the room with a knife where the victim was found with 20 stab wounds. Yours as well as her blood was found on the knife [Shamim Reza also had multiple stab wounds],"

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# Schools now shelter flood-hit people

## Academic activities disrupted in over 7,000 edn institutions

SURANJITH DEABNATH

Academic activities in over 7,000 educational institutions in 39 districts have been seriously disrupted due to floods.

Second term school examinations had to be postponed as a large number of these institutions have been submerged while others are being used as shelters for flood-affected people.

Floods in the north and north-eastern regions of the country have forced the National University to delay and reschedule 1st year honours examinations. The exams will now start on August 23.

Of the 1,412 flood shelters opened by the government, most are being operated in educational institutions, according to the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management.

According to the flood control

centre, flooding this year has damaged 317 educational institutions completely and 4,628 partially.

More educational institutions are being flooded each day causing the postponement of 2nd term examinations in schools and colleges, said sources at education ministry, primary and mass education ministry and Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE).

"Classes and 2nd term examinations in primary schools in flood-affected areas have been suspended until the flood situation improves," said M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, secretary in charge of Ministry of Primary and Mass Education.

Around 5,000 primary-level educational institutions have been affected by floods and a large number of them have been badly damaged, he added.

DSHE and the education minis-

try are monitoring the situation through Central Monitoring Centre.

"We have opened monitoring cells at all flood-affected districts. We are collecting information about government educational institutions through regional DSHE offices and information about non-government educational institutions [is being collected] through seven secondary and higher secondary education boards," said Babul Kumar Saha, deputy secretary of education ministry.

Most areas in north and north-eastern districts, especially in Sirajganj, Munshiganj, Rajbari, Faridpur, Comilla, Bogra, Pabna, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Shariatpur, Rangpur, Manikganj, Dohar, Sunamganj, and Madaripur

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PHOTO: STAR

Onlookers crowd the Supreme Court yesterday as it resumed hearing petitions for leave to appeal against the High Court verdict that sentenced 12 former army personnel in the Bangabandhu murder case.

## Gang leader confesses to killing NSI man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gang leader of 'malam party' Faruq confessed to a magistrate of a Dhaka court on Monday that he along with four other gang members were behind the killing of Sheikh Atiar Rahman, an official of the National Security Intelligence (NSI).

Kafrul police arrested Faruq from his village home at Shibchar in Madaripur on July 30.

During interrogation, Faruq admitted to the police that he and four other gang members-- Eskan, Selim, Ibrahim and Badal-- were waiting on July 19 at Technical

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## Hearings of Hasina's appeals in three graft cases today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hearings of two separate appeals by detained former prime minister and AL chief Sheikh Hasina for quashing two graft cases against her in connection with purchases of a frigate and Mig-29 fighter aircraft will be held today as the High Court yesterday adjourned the hearings for a day following a prayer from Hasina's counsel.

Hearing of Hasina's another appeal for quashing a graft case

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## Survey starts to identify high-rises risky for aviation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) has started surveying high-rise structures in the capital to identify if they pose any risk to avialational movement.

The survey is supposed to be completed this month and Rajuk would take action against the building authorities that violated height restrictions set by the civil aviation authorities, said sources.

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## MEGHNAGHAT 2 POWER PROJECT

# Malaysian firm steps in as BON deal cancelled

SHARIER KHAN

As the Power Development Board (PDB) serves Obaidul Karim's company BON Consortium with a notice cancelling the Meghnaghat 2 power project deal, the second lowest bidder Malakoff of Malaysia proposed the government that it is ready to pursue the scheme.

In a letter to the PDB on August 1, Malakoff said it was ranked as the second lowest bidder in the April 21, 2004 bid. "In view of the acute power shortage in the country, we propose

to expedite our negotiation process and explore ways to bring early electricity to the grid," the letter said.

A top official of the energy ministry, however, noted that Malakoff's power tariff offer was very high--close to 4 cents--whereas the BON offered a price of 2.78 cents. The PDB is yet to act on Malakoff's letter.

Malakoff in its letter said the lowest bidder BON Consortium has failed to meet obligations under the Request For Proposal (RFP) and project agreement and failed to provide the required performance

guarantee to the PDB. According to the RFP, "If the project company cannot achieve Financial Close as agreed upon, then the BPDB may invite the Second Ranked Bidder to participate as project Sponsor."

"Although a significant amount of time has passed, we are prepared to reinstate our Bid Bond immediately and commence Clarification and Finalisation of project

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## BNP dissidents for council after flood

### Get ready for relief work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The dissident faction of much beleaguered BNP, led by its Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, yesterday decided to hold the coveted party council for getting their reform proposal adopted, only after the flood emergency is over.

Responding to a call of the government, they also decided to launch their own relief operations among the flood victims at district and upazila levels without using the party banner.

The dissident leaders, who claim to be working to bring reforms to the party as well as to the political culture of the country, in an emergency meeting held in Bhuiyan's

Gulshan residence in the capital, took the decision yesterday.

According to the decision, central leaders and former lawmakers of the party will coordinate the relief operation in their respective constituencies. The central leaders will also visit the flood affected areas to distribute relief materials among the victims.

Many dissident BNP leaders and its former lawmakers also expressed their resentments at party Chairperson Khaleda Zia's recent comment accusing the secretary general of hatching conspiracies to split the party,

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## Mafia don Dawood caught in Pakistan

AFP, New Delhi

Pakistan has detained India's most wanted fugitive Dawood Ibrahim, the alleged mastermind of deadly bomb blasts in Mumbai, a report said yesterday.

Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency took the elusive mafia chief and two trusted

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### Prayer Timing

August 8

	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

## Obaidul Quader, wife sued for tax evasion

### Barisal mayor on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against detained Awami League (AL) Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader and his wife Isratunnesa after National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed two tax evasion cases.

Barisal City Corporation Mayor Majibor Rahman Sarwar was granted a one-day remand in connection with extorting Tk 19 lakh from a construction firm owner.

Hearing on a graft case against detained former BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Ahmed, his wife and three sons will be held today.

QUADER CASE

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after Nigar

Sultana, assistant tax commissioner of the NBR, filed the cases seeking arrest warrants against them.

In his order, the judge said the charges brought against the couple were found to be true.

In her complaints, Nigar mentioned that Quader had evaded income tax upon his income of Tk 1,07,31,284 for the fiscal years from 1997-1998 to 2006-2007.

The plaintiff said Quader did not mention in his wealth statement submitted to the NBR's tax department about his plot allotted from Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha, savings instruments, FDR, luxurious car, firearms and bank loans, even though he was served with notice to do so.

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## 9 US troops killed in Iraq attacks

AP, AFP, Baghdad

Roadside bombs killed four US soldiers in the Baghdad area, including three in a single strike while five more soldiers died in Iraq, four of whom were killed on Monday in the flashpoint city of Baquba, the military said yesterday.

Three Task Force Marine soldiers were killed Saturday when a roadside bomb struck their convoy south of Baghdad, according to a brief statement that provided no more details.

One Multi-National Division Baghdad soldier was killed and another wounded Monday when their vehicle was targeted by an armour-piercing explosively formed penetrator, or EFP, in a western section of the capital, the military said separately.

The US military has accused Iran of supplying Shia extremists with EFPs to step up attacks against American forces. Tehran denies the allegations.

The deaths raised to at least 3,678 members of the US military have died since the Iraq war started in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Five American soldiers have died in Iraq, four of whom were killed on Monday in the flashpoint city of Baquba in the troubled province of Diyala, the US military announced.

"Four US soldiers were killed today in Baquba. There were also 12 soldiers injured," a military spokesman told AFP in an email following a query about a single

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