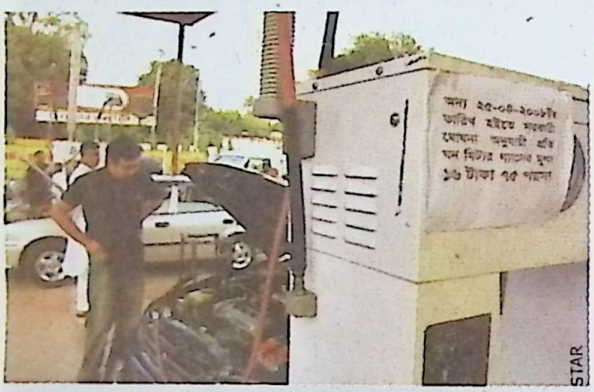
Friendship train

Pahela Baishakh sees the Maitree (Friendship) Express finally restoring the direct passenger train service between Dhaka and Kolkata after 43 years. The first train from Dhaka leaves Cantonment Station on the morning of April 14 to reach the West Bengal capital late evening, while its Indian counterpart makes the opposite journey from Kolkata. It's an emotional trip for the maiden voyage passengers on both trains, many of who recall the days before the disruption of the rail link in 1965 during the Indo-Pakistan war.



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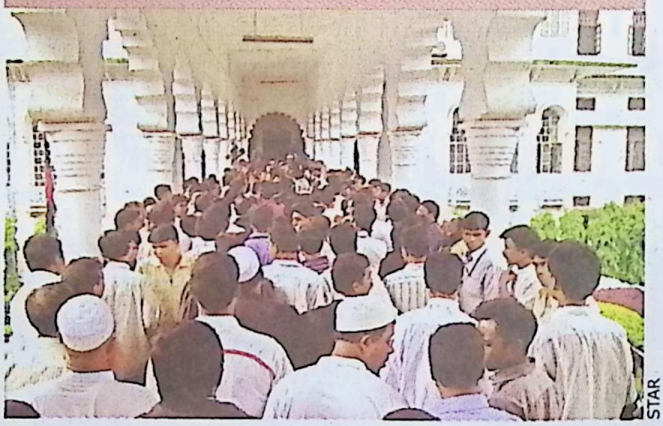
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No bail for you!

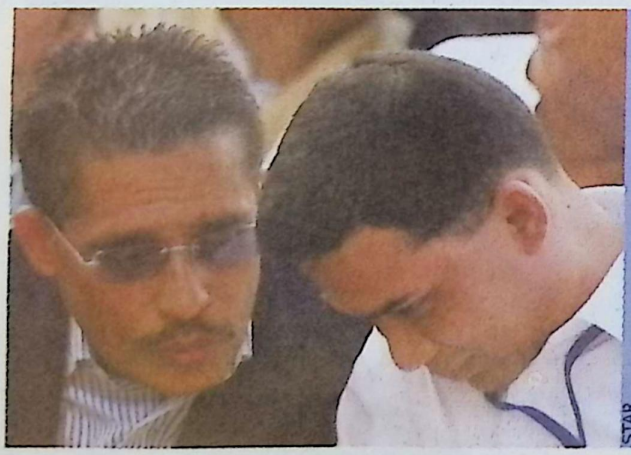
The Supreme Court rules that bail may not be sought in any court, including the High Court, in cases filed under emergency powers rules. The Appellate Division on a government appeal overturns an earlier ruling by the High Court that asserted its jurisdiction to hear bail petitions in EPR cases. The verdict raises concerns among the legal profession about the rights of detainees.

CNG price hike

A massive fuel price hike adds to cost of living worries as the government doubles the price of Compressed Natural Gas from Tk 8.50 to Tk 16.75 per cubic metre. Revised fares for CNG-run auto-rickshaws and taxis are announced the following day. The government says CNG-run buses will not be allowed to raise fares, but bus operators nevertheless begin charging extra. The sudden price hike, after a four year hiatus, is meant to reduce losses to state-run Petrobangla amid the rising cost of liquid fuels on the global market.



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Murder bribe

Tarique Rahman and Lutfozzaman Babar are charged with taking Tk 21 crore in bribes during the previous BNP-led government over the murder of a Basundhara Group director. The son of former prime minister Khaleda Zia and the former state minister for home are accused of taking the bribe to prevent the Basundhara Group chairman's son Sanvir from being charged with the murder of director Humayun Kabir Sabbir on July 5,