



Gono Forum President Dr. Kamal Hossain speaks at a press briefing at his residence at Bailey Road in the city yesterday. On his left is presidium member Pankaj Bhattacharya. (Story on Page 1)

## Tk 5,000 minimum wage for workers demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Jatiya Samik Federation yesterday proposed to the caretaker government that it should fix Tk 5,000 as minimum wage of a worker and reconstitute a wage board for different industries.

They also demanded steps to provide 50 percent dearness allowance (DA) for the workers due to the price hike of essentials.

At a press conference, the federation leaders placed their nine-point demands to the government for stopping repression on workers in the factories.

The demands include withdrawal of state of emergency and banning trade union activities, providing 50 percent DA, forming pay commission for government workers, fixing Tk 5,000 as minimum wage, introducing rationing system, cancelling the anti-worker clauses from Labour Act-2006, allowing the right of forming trade union in all industries, reopening all the closed jute mills and stopping the privatisation process.

Finance adviser, announced only 20 percent DA in his budgetary speech. It is difficult to bear a family getting only 20 percent DA with the salary. We want the government to grant us 50 percent DA," said President of the federation Abul Bashir while reading out a keynote paper at the press conference at its Tophkhana Road office in the city.

General Secretary of the federation Shafiuddin, Organising Secretary Kamrul Ahsan and Office Secretary Tapas Kumar Roy spoke at the conference.

## Tk 50.60cr Buet budget okayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Without raising any student fee, a Tk 50.60 crore original budget of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) for 2008-09 fiscal was approved at the Syndicate meeting yesterday.

Besides, a Tk 48 crore revised budget for the fiscal 2007-08 was also passed in the meeting chaired by Buet Vice Chancellor and Syndicate President Prof Dr AMM Safiullah.

Of the total amount in the new budget, an estimated Tk 46.20 crore will be available from the University Grants Commission (UGC) as government grants while Tk 4.40 crore is expected to come from the income of the university.

In the budget, Tk 29.10 crore has been allocated for salary and other allowances of teachers, officers and employees, Tk 6 crore for pension, Tk 7.30 lakh for general activities, Tk 6 crore for education, Tk 60 lakh for resource procurement and Tk 1.60 crore for maintenance.

In the revised budget, Tk 43.48 crore was received from the UGC

while Tk 4.65 crore was available from the university's internal income sources.

Of the total amount, Tk 27.80 crore was utilised for salary and allowances of teachers, officers and employees, Tk 5 crore for pension, Tk 7.15 crore for general activities, Tk 5.85 crore for educational activities, Tk 1.63 crore for repairing and rehabilitation and Tk 57 lakh for resource procurement.

There was no deficit in the original budget of 2008-09 fiscal as well as in the revised budget of 2007-08 fiscal, says a press release.

## SHER-E-BANGLA VARSITY 'Appoint VC from among teachers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers, officials and employees of Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University yesterday brought out a silent procession on the campus to press home their demand of appointing new vice-chancellor among the professors of the university.

They also staged a sit-in programme after the procession in front of the administrative building of the university.

Prof Dr Md Nurul Islam, president of the teachers association of the university, Prof Md Shamsul Haque, Prof Dr Md Rafiqul Islam, president of officers association, Md Kamrul Anam among others spoke on the programme.

Prof Nurul Islam said he would resign from all administrative posts, if the vice chancellor is not recruited among the professors of the university.

## 2 murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a youth from an abandoned house at Lalbagh while a decomposed body of a young woman from a wetland at Madinabagh in the city yesterday.

The dead identified as Ramzan Ali, 21, son of Badiuzzaman of Water Works Road at Lalbagh, was an employee of a shoe shop in Islampur.

Police said they found the body slaughtered at an abandoned house at RND Road of Water Works Road area at about 8:00am and sent it to Mitford morgue for autopsy.

Victim's father Badiuzzaman told The Daily Star that his son went out of his house at about 10:00pm on Saturday. He could not say anything about the murder.

He said he has learnt that some people have beat up his son on Saturday evening in Shahidnagar area.

Meanwhile, Sabujbagh police recovered the body of an unidentified woman aged about 30 from an empty plot at Madinabagh.

Morgue sources said she was strangled some three to four days ago.

## Trader robbed of Tk 3 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The armed muggers snatched Tk 3 lakh from a shoe trader when he was returning home after drawing the money from a bank in the city yesterday.

Identified as Illias Mallik, 48, owner of Mallik Sandal Factory and a resident of Polashnagar in Pallabi, the victim was admitted to Pangu Hospital at Sher-e-Banglanagar.

Talking to reporters, Illias said when he was on his way home in a rickshaw after drawing the money from the local branch of Brac Bank at around 12:00 noon, two armed muggers riding on a motorcycle intercepted him.

"One of them shot at my right leg while the other hit my head with a pistol," he said.

The muggers then snatched the bag containing the money and left the scene, he added.

Belal Alam, a nephew of the victim, said the bullet has caused a fracture in the leg bone of Illias.

Abdul Momin, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station, said the muggers were following the trader since he drew the money from the bank.



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## Haj orientation from June 26

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) will arrange a three-day orientation camp for interested persons who wish to perform haj, says a press release.

The orientation will be started on June 26 at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Bhaban auditorium.

Interested persons are requested to contact with Md Ismail Mia (01552-410049; 01711-825057) and Ahsanul Karim (01720-336095) for registration.



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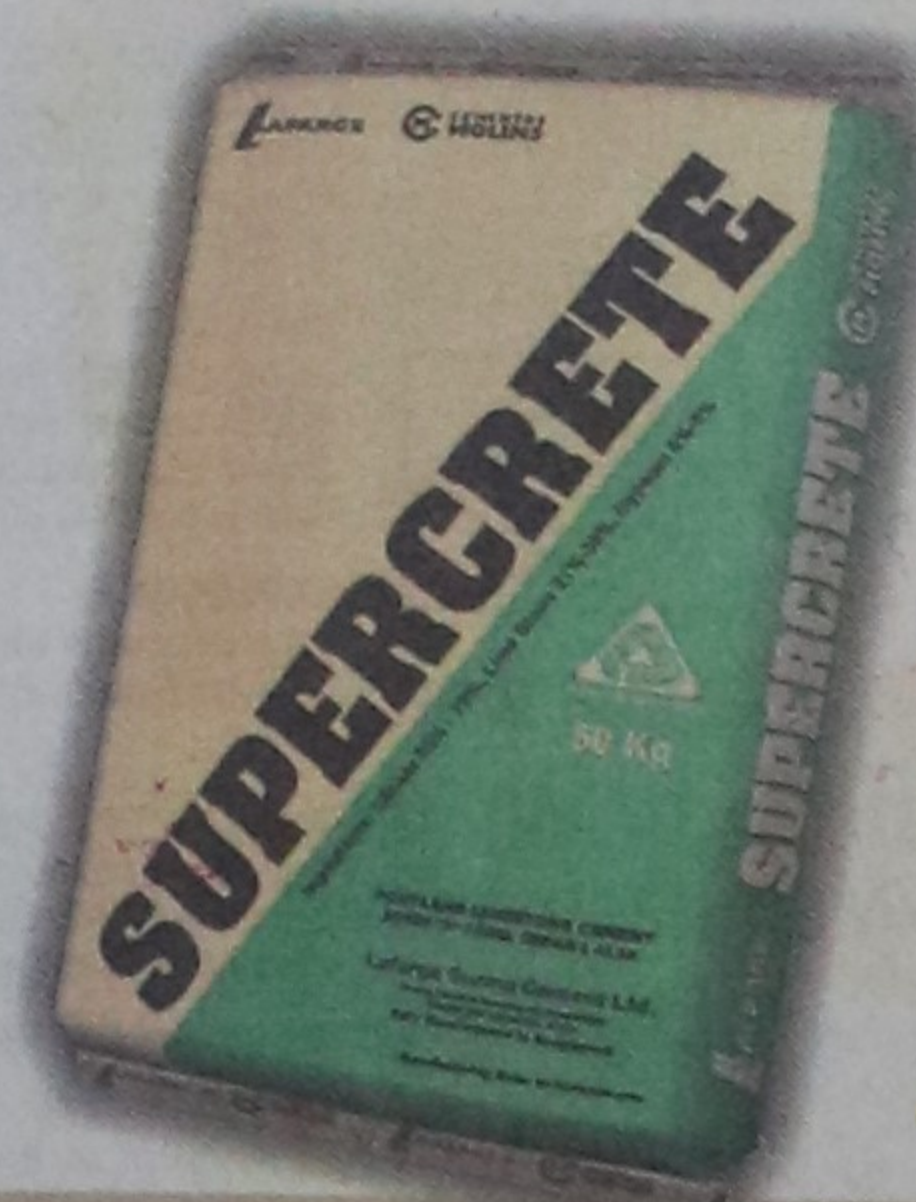
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