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Govt to execute action plan to ease gridlock

UNB, Dhaka

The government will soon implement some action plans to ease traffic congestion in the capital by removing illegal possessions from footpaths and roads, constructing safe bus stops and introducing staggered school timings.

The action plans were explained at a high-level meeting on "Traffic Congestion in Dhaka City and its Solution" at the Chief Adviser's Office yesterday.

This was a follow up meeting to the July 29 meeting on traffic jam initiated by the chief adviser when he asked for identifying reasons, SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

New RPO put into effect

Polls hope over for govt officials retired 3yrs back

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Government officials who resigned or retired after November 2005 will not be able to contest the parliamentary election planned for December, according to new electoral laws.

"A person shall be disqualified for election as or for being a member of [parliament], if he has resigned or retired from the service

of the republic or of any statutory public authority or of the defence service, unless a period of three years has elapsed since the date of his resignation or retirement," reads Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 2008.

The same will apply to an ex-chief executive of a non-government organisation. Promulgated by the president Tuesday, the ordinance brings into

force with immediate effect a number of amendments to the Representation of the People Order (RPO), 1972.

If the Election Commission (EC) sticks to its plans to hold the general election in December and announce the schedule towards the end of October or early November, the ordinance will mean an end to political ambition SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

RU VIOLENCE Students among 1,450 sued, probe starts

RU CORRESPONDENT

Three cases were filed yesterday against 1,450 people including Rajshahi University (RU) students and locals in connection with the Tuesday night's violence that led to closure of the university.

Meanwhile, the eight-member probe committee formed by the RU syndicate started investigating the incidents yesterday.

Mahabubul Alam Konok, an employee of bus service provider 'Hanif Enterprise' at a ticket counter at Binodpur Bazar, filed a case with Motihar Police Station against SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Property confiscation poses new problem



PHOTO: STAR

Royal Filling Station owned by Mashfiqul Huq, son of former BNP state minister Ziaul Huq, remains closed after the Dhaka DC office confiscated it.

ANTI-GRAFT
DRIVE-3

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The government departments concerned face difficulties in confiscating wealth of high-profile individuals convicted of graft in accordance with the court orders as there is no specific guideline on management of confiscated immovable property.

Despite a large number of confiscation orders handed down by the special courts dealing with graft SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Major reshuffle at DC, UNO levels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a major reshuffle in the administration, the caretaker government yesterday appointed 34 new deputy commissioners (DCs).

In a late night notification, the establishment ministry also transferred four DCs and 141 upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) as part of the government's move to rearrange the administration ahead of the upazila and parliamentary

elections.

It has been the first significant reshuffle in the civil administration since the Fakhrudin Ahmed-led government assumed power in January last year.

The withdrawn DCs have been attached with different ministries and departments as deputy secretaries. The newly appointed DCs, who were serving as deputy secretaries, have been picked from a 'fit

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

4 ex-BNP MPs get bail SC upholds HC bail to 10 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted ad interim bails to former law minister barrister Moudud Ahmed, former health minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain and former BNP lawmaker Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anne in separate criminal cases.

Upon separate petitions, an HC bench comprising Justice Sharif

Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad also issued rules upon the government, asking it to explain why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail in the cases.

Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon, counsel for Moudud, Khandaker Mosharraf and Anne, yesterday told The Daily Star that his clients would now get released from jails as they were not arrested in any other cases.

"The High Court earlier bailed SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

HAMID MIR
From Pakistan

Musharraf gone, but uncertainty still there

Pakistani people celebrated the ouster of dictator Musharraf as a victory of democracy. There was a positive impact on the stock market index and Pakistani rupee became stronger against the dollar within 24 hours of Musharraf's ouster. But this good impact was SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Pak ruling coalition close to collapse

Sharif threatens to quit over judges; Zardari moves to take presidency; 57 killed in suicide blasts

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's coalition government was close to collapse yesterday after former premier Nawaz Sharif threatened to quit if judges sacked by ousted president Pervez Musharraf are not restored.

With a double suicide bombing outside Pakistan's main military arms factory highlighting the government's need to start tackling the country's problems, Sharif's warning plunged the alliance into further chaos.

It came a day before the leaders of the coalition that won elections in February, headed by the party of slain ex-prime minister Benazir Bhutto, were to hold last-ditch talks on the issue.

But in a sign that Bhutto's party is seeking to move forward on its own, MPs backed her widow, Asif Ali Zardari, to replace Musharraf as president of the nuclear-armed Islamic republic.

"If the judges are not restored we will perhaps be forced to sit in

the opposition," Sharif said in an interview published in the Wall Street Journal on Thursday.

"We will not try to bring the government down. But of course then we have no choice but to sit in the opposition."

Musharraf stepped down on Monday in the face of coalition threats to impeach him over constitutional violations, including his ousting of dozens of senior judges in order to push through his re-election in November.

Western countries who count on Pakistan as a frontline ally in the US-led "war on terror" have called for stability in the wake of his departure.

But the country's continuing volatility was apparent again on Thursday when 57 people were killed when two bombers blew themselves up at the gates of a major defence industry complex in Wah, near Islamabad.

The issue of the judiciary has hamstrung the coalition since it

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



Abdullah Al Mamun passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned playwright, actor and filmmaker Abdullah Al Mamun died at Birdem Hospital in the city yesterday. He was 65.

He left behind three daughters, a son and a host of relatives, admirers and well-wishers to mourn his death.

"The country has lost a celebrated cultural personality," President Iajuddin Ahmed said in a condolence message, adding that the departed had played an important role in flourishing a healthy culture in the country.

Mamun was admitted to the SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Aug 21 mourned, in tears

AL pledges to try real culprits if voted to power

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday observed the fourth anniversary of August 21 grenade attack on its rally in the capital pledging that if voted to power in the next polls, it would bring to book the masterminds and others involved in the carnage.

The party also demanded immediate arrest of those intelligence officials who had plotted the 'Jo J Miah drama' to cover up the dreadful incident and formation of a special inquiry commission for a fresh probe into it.

At least a dozen grenades were hurled on the rally apparently in an attempt to kill AL President Sheikh Hasina, former prime minister and eldest daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Hasina

narrowly escaped the attack that left 24 people including party leader Ivy Rahman killed and around 500 others injured.

Many of the injured are maimed and are living a painful life with so many splinters in their bodies.

Yesterday's programme began with placing of wreaths at a temporary memorial in front of AL central office on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital at 5:10pm. Acting party president Zillur Rahman first placed wreaths.

At 5:12pm, several thousand people stood up and observed one minute's silence in memory of the party leaders and activists killed in the grenade blasts.

Family members of those killed in the blasts placed wreaths with lighted candles in their hands to the grenade blasts. SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



August 21 grenade attack victim Rashida Akhter Ruma lights a candle yesterday with many others on Bangabandhu Avenue where the carnage took the lives of 24 persons and left many like her crippled in 2004.

Criminalisation of cop, politics showcased

Victim Jo J Miah still in jail, mother sells house for a living

A CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Jo J Miah, a perfect example of victimisation by the police, has already served more than three years in prison. He may be released someday but the damage done to him and his family can never be mended.

Jo J's mother Jobeda Khatun, who was heavily dependant on her son's earning, recently sold out the house she lived in for years. In the absence of her son, she had to struggle hard to manage her five-member family. But she finally had to give up in the face of poverty.

"I have to leave the house before Eid-ul-Fitr," said a broken-hearted Jobeda. "Soon we will become rootless."

Nearly a year after the heinous grenade attack on an Awami SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Archives of neglect

HISTORIC LOSS-1

EMRAN HOSSAIN

The way Bangladesh Film Archive (BFA) is preserving Promothesh Barua's *Devdas* might make one think that this

is one of the most available film in the country. The film is cleaned by unskilled and untrained workers using bare hands and velvet cloth or torn pieces of T-shirts.

This is the only copy of the film which was made in undivided Bengal in 1934. A number of films based on the story of

Devdas were later made in India and Bangladesh.

The only print of the 1934 film is being preserved in a room of a rented house of BFA at Mohammadpur in the capital at 26 degrees Celsius when the international standard is 12 deg Celsius or less.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

A BFA employee checks films with bare hands as the employees lack training and proper equipment to preserve films. This has caused loss of many classic and historically important films of Bangladesh.

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শিশুদের বিনামূল্যে
জন্ম নিবন্ধনের সুযোগ নিন

৩ জুলাই ২০০৮ থেকে ৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৮ পর্যন্ত ১৮ বছরের নিচে শিশু-কিশোরদের জন্ম নিবন্ধন সনদের জন্য কোন ফি দিতে হবে না। ১৮ বছরের উর্ধ্বের সকল ব্যক্তির জন্ম নিবন্ধন সনদের জন্য সরকার ৫০ টাকা হারে ফি ধার্য করেছে।

জন্ম ও মৃত্যু নিবন্ধন ফি-এর হার:

বিষয়	১ জানুয়ারী ২০০৯ হতে কার্যকর ফি-এর হার	৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৮ পর্যন্ত ফি-এর হার
জন্ম বা মৃত্যুর তারিখ হতে ২ বছরের মধ্যে জন্ম বা মৃত্যু নিবন্ধনের ক্ষেত্রে	বিনা মূল্যে	বিনা মূল্যে
জন্ম বা মৃত্যুর তারিখ হতে ২ বছর পর জন্ম বা মৃত্যু নিবন্ধনের ক্ষেত্রে	প্রতি বছরের জন্য ৫ টাকা	প্রতি বছরের জন্য ১০ টাকা
জন্ম বা মৃত্যু সনদের ইরেজী কপির জন্য	৫০ টাকা	১০০ টাকা
জন্ম বা মৃত্যু সনদের বাংলা কপির জন্য	২০ টাকা	৪০ টাকা
তথ্য সংশোধনের জন্য	১০ টাকা	২০ টাকা

অধিকতর ফি প্রদান এড়াতে
৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৮ এর মধ্যে জন্ম নিবন্ধন করুন।

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