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Activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal vandalise a taxi in front of Rokeya Hall on the Dhaka University campus yesterday after BNP leader Tarique Rahman was injured, tripping in the toilet of his prison cell in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital. The same vehicle is set ablaze later. Businessman Jahangir Alam is taken to hospital after sustaining injuries in the explosion of the CNG cylinder of a vehicle (photo on page 1) which was set fire to by Chhatra Dal activists in front of Dhaka College. Wife and relatives of Jahangir break down in tears at DMCH.

List of 18 more graft suspects sent to Tac

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) sent a list of 18 more corruption suspects including a businessman and a teacher to the Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac).

Meantime, the ACC revealed more information regarding graft in purchase of medical equipment in the urology department of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

The majority of the 18 whose names were sent to Tac are sub-registrars and employees of the roads and highways department, said ACC Director General (Admin) Col Hanif Iqbal in a press briefing yesterday.

Others include retired and serving government officials and their wives, he added.

He also said ACC is preparing to file cases against some of the suspects while investigation is on.

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Pay bribe, get pension

Each govt staff coughs up Tk 7,660 on average

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government officials and employees have to pay on average Tk 7,660 bribe and spend additional Tk 3,720 for transport and meals each to process their pension documents, reveals a study by Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

At least 71 percent of the pension recipients have to face such corrupt practices and undergo various forms of sufferings due to lack of transparency, delays, bribes and irregularities in the entire procedures, says the study titled "Pains of Pension: An Exploration into Corruption in Delivery of Public Pension."

TIB Research Fellow KNM Hossainul Haque presented the study at a news conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

He conducted the study on the basis of interviews with retired

public employees, incumbent officials concerning pension, sample surveys, case studies and open-ended interviews in Dhaka, Chittagong, Narayanganj, Manikganj and Khulna in 2006.

"The study found massive corruption in the pension system," he said, adding pension seekers have to process eight to 16 types of documents and spend 159 days to get pension.

They have to pay bigger amounts in processing the leave admissibility certificate in short time, Hossainul said.

"In this case, the first and second class officials have to pay 50 percent bribe and third class employees 45 percent to secure the certificate in one to seven days."

Factors that influence bribe rates and days for processing pension application are the number of processing institutions, pension delivery functionaries, their loca-

tions, administrative positions of the retiring employees and social network between pensioners and pension delivery functionaries, the study reveals.

"The number of processing institutions and procedural complexities grow with every grade upward. Gazetted employees and superior non-gazetted employees had more responsibilities than their subordinates while in service. So they have greater risks of facing audit objections than their junior counterparts," it notes.

The systematic causes of corruption are numerous paperwork, multiplicity of processing offices, procedural complexity, shortfalls regarding pension laws, rules and regulations, poor record management and poor salary, the study observes.

Rent seeking and lack of cooperative attitude at the pension

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

DEATH OF YOUTH Sher-e-Bangla Medical College closed sine die

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College (SBMC) was yesterday declared closed for an indefinite period in the wake of a tense situation prevailing on the campus and its adjoining areas following the death of a local youth on Sunday.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the academic council of the college yesterday morning and the students were asked to vacate their dormitories by the evening.

The youth, Murad Hossain, 24, son of Ashraf Ali of Refugee Colony near the SBMC campus, was a plumber and tiles fitter.

He worked in rooms 205 and 206 of Jamilur Rahman Pappu Hostel for Tk 800 on Saturday and was paid Tk 500.

On Saturday, Murad went to the hostel to collect the remaining

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Work unitedly to face climate change fallout

President urges world community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reminding the aftermath of natural disasters and the role of scientists to fight that, President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon the world community to work unitedly to face the challenges of climate change and make the planet a better place to live in. He described scientists as the most important representatives of humankind and asked them to give suggestions to the world community to protect the planet.

The president was addressing at the inaugural session of the six-day International symposium on "Climate Change and Food Security in South Asia" at a city hotel.

The University of Dhaka and Ohio State University, USA jointly

organised the symposium with collaboration of World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (Escap).

The session was addressed, among others, by Chief Adviser's Special Assistant for Environment and Forest Raja Devashish Roy, Prof Dr Rattan Lal of soil science, Ohio State University, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Secretary General Michel Jarrud, FAO Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Asia and Pacific Changchui He, and Prof Mustafizur Rahman of Dhaka University.

Inaugurating the symposium,

President Iajuddin expressed his strong belief that it would offer some positive suggestions and guidelines in resolving the issues on climate change.

Referring to the IPCC forecasts, Iajuddin, who is also a soil scientist, said due to global warming, salinity intrusion would increase and "severely hamper our land, livelihood, food production, safe water and ecological balance".

He said the entire South Asian coastal belt would be severely affected and thus this region would face intense natural disasters in the form of floods, cyclones, storm surges and drought.

As the World Bank warns that rice production could decline up to 30 percent due to climate change,

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Ex-MP Lotus Kamal sued for tax evasion

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday filed a case against detained former Awami League lawmaker Mostafa Kamal (Lotus Kamal) for dodging Tk 1 crore in income tax from 1991 to 2006.

NBR Deputy Tax Commissioner Zakir Hossain Akand filed the case with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka.

After hearing the case, Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque recorded the statement of the complainant, took it into cognizance, and directed the jail authorities to produce Lotus Kamal before the court on August 28.

The judge said he passed the order as the charges brought against him under the Income Tax Ordinance 1984 were found to be true.

In his statement, the complainant said Lotus Kamal had

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PHOTO: STAR

Rapid Action Battalion during a raid yesterday seizes stale blood stored in three diagnostic centres on Mirpur Road and in Mohammadpur in the capital.

11 kids rescued from suspected trafficker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Residents of the capital's Pallabi area caught a man and handed over to law enforcers as he was transporting 11 kids aged between eight months and 10 years in a CNG run auto-rickshaw from a local slum last evening.

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Two robbed of Tk 21 lakh

One victim shot and injured
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed muggers looted about Tk 20.8 lakh from two people in separate incidents in the city yesterday after shooting and injuring one of the victims.

The muggers shot and injured Azad Hossain, an owner of an ice

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Bangladeshis held in Kuwait for illegal visa trade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kuwaiti authorities recently arrested some Bangladeshis accused of illegally trading in Kuwaiti visas after the Bangladeshi embassy provided information to local authorities about their activities, The Arab Times Online reported on Sunday.

The number of Bangladeshis arrested however could not be ascertained.

Meanwhile the Kuwaiti Society for the Development of Democracy (KSDD) has claimed that some Kuwaiti officials facilitate this

illegal trade worth about three billion dollars annually, another report from Arab Times Online said.

The KSDD has also called for abolishing the "sponsorship system" saying that it was one of the main causes that led to the unjust treatment of foreign workers in the country.

The visa trade is buying of visas from employers and selling those to foreign workers at higher prices, illegally, which increases the cost of getting an overseas job for a worker.

A Bangladesh embassy official

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No foreign troops in Iraq after 2011

US strikes deal with Iraq
AFP, Baghdad

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki yesterday said Washington and Baghdad have agreed that there will be no foreign forces in the war-torn country after 2011.

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Prayer Timing		
August 26		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-33	6-36
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Pakistan bans Taliban after suicide bombings

AP, Peshawar

Pakistan banned the Taliban yesterday after the militants claimed responsibility for one of the country's worst-ever attacks and a string of other suicide bombings a move likely to please the US one week after close ally Pervez Musharraf was ousted from power.

Interior Ministry chief Rehman Malik announced the decision 24 hours after rejecting a Taliban ceasefire offer in Bajaur, a tribal region along the Afghan border where recent fighting has reportedly killed hundreds and prompted more than 200,000 to flee their homes.

He said the militants were "creating mayhem" in the nuclear-armed nation.

The announcement comes as the United States carefully watches whether the ruling coalition will collapse due to internal squabbling between the two main parties since they forced Musharraf to resign. Washington views stability in Muslim nation as key to winning the war on terror.

Malik said the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, an umbrella militant group, had not been banned before because the provincial government was trying to negotiate with the group.

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