

## AUG 21 ATTACK CASES Charge-framing hearing now on October 7

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed October 7 for hearing on charge framing against the accused in two cases filed in connection with the grenade attacks on an Awami League (AL) rally in the city on August 21, 2004.

Responding to two separate time petitions filed by the lawyers for the defence and the prosecution, Judge Masdar Hossain of the Dhaka Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 fixed the date.

### Symbolic rail line programme to ensure healthcare for poor children

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Save the Children UK, Eminence and The Editor jointly staged a symbolic sit-in in front of the IDB Bhaban in the city and submitted memoranda to health adviser, director general of health directorate and UN country representative, says a press release.

A symbolic rail line programme was also observed in front of the IDB Bhaban at 11:30am. The symbolic rail line was constructed with eight bogies during the programme.

The railway track indicated 'right way' and its eight bogies were the symbols of eight millennium development goals (MDGs).

Keeping ahead the UN General Assembly, 15 countries of the world are observing 'Get on Track to Save Children's Lives' programme with an aim to ensure healthcare facilities for poor and underprivileged children through achieving the MDGs.

People from all walks of life took part in the symbolic rail line programme.

The rail line programme started in front of IDB Bhaban and ended in front of the National Press Club.

### Help save life of Saiful

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Students and teachers of mass communication and journalism department of Dhaka University have urged all to

extend financial assistance for the treatment of Saiful Samin, a fourth year student who lost both of his legs in a tragic train accident in June.

The accident took place in Tejgaon area in the city on June 20 when Saiful, who also works with the Prothom Alo, went there to collect information for his report.

He is now undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation. A huge amount of money is needed for the treatment of the meritorious students.

Chairman of the journalism department Prof Sheikh Abdus Salam has appealed to all to extend a helping hand.

The academic committee of the department has opened a bank account for the purpose. Contributions can be sent to Account No. 12100404968, Sonali Bank, Dhaka University Branch.

### CA to address Bangladeshis in US today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed, who is now in the US to join the UN General Assembly (UNGA), will address the Bangladeshi community in New York this morning, reports News World, a US-based news agency.

Bangladesh Ambassador to US M Humayun Kabir has initiated the meeting of the community with the CA. He will also answer to various questions there.

Meanwhile, chief adviser joined the UNGA on Tuesday to listen to the address of US President George W. Bush.

Foreign Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh at the UN Ismat Zahan and Ambassador Humayun Kabir also took part.

### Asian Credit Union Forum's confce begins in city today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The two-day conference of Asian Credit Union Forum will begin in the city today in a bid to make the cooperative credit system more effective and popular to facilitate social development in the country.

Representatives from 160 local and 200 foreign cooperative credit unions from 24 countries will take part in the conference to be held at Sheraton Hotel.

This was stated by Emdad Hossain Malek, secretary of the Cooperative Credit Union League, at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium yesterday.

He said the Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions, a continental organisation, will organise the conference in cooperation with the Cooperative Credit Union League of Bangladesh Limited.

The conference is held every year with the representatives from the countries enrolled with the Unions.

This is the first time that Cooperative Credit Union League of Bangladesh got the opportunity to hold the conference as a host organisation in the capital.

LGRD Adviser Mohammad Anwarul Iqbal will formally inaugurate the conference at 8.30am.

It will also be addressed by ATM Fazul Karim, secretary to the ministry, and Omen Koyan, president of the Association of Asian Confederation.

Credit union experts at the conference will discuss the activities of credit unions across the globe and try to find out the ways to make the credit system more popular and effective to facilitate the development process.

Ratan F Costa, general manager of the Cooperative Credit Union League of Bangladesh (CCULB), John F Rodrigues, chairman of CCULB, and Ranjith Hettiarachchi, chief executive officer of the Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions, were present at the press conference.

### Rabiul Husain chairman of IAPB in South East Asia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Renowned eye specialist Rabiul Husain, the founding managing trustee of Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Centre, has been elected the chairman of International Agency for Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) in South East Asian region.

He was elected chairman for the next four years for the second consecutive term at the world convention of the organisation held in Argentina on August 23, 2008.

IAPB is continuing blindness prevention and protection activities across the globe under seven zones.

Alongside fighting blindness, IAPB also continued activities against hunger, poverty, unemployment, ignorance, superstitions and other diseases for betterment of around one fourth of the world's population in its southeast zone that comprises eleven countries, said a press release.

### Muggers stab one to death in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Muggers stabbed a worker to death in the district in the early hours yesterday.

The dead was identified as Abdur Razzak, worker of Milton Engineering Workshop in BSIC Industrial Area.

Locals said that Razzak was going to his workplace after having his Shohri (midnight meal for fasting) riding on his bicycle when a gang of muggers intercepted him in Gokul area of the upazila.

As Razzak resisted the muggers when they tried to snatch his bicycle, they stabbed him indiscriminately, leaving him dead on the spot.

Locals caught Shafi alias Shafiqur and Khokon alias Raihan suspecting their involvement in the incident and handed them over to police.

On Tuesday night muggers stabbed another pedestrian at the same spot.

### DU Eid, Puja vacation from today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The vacation at Dhaka University (DU) on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr and Durga Puja will start today.

All the departments and administrative offices of the university will also remain closed between September 27 and October 5.

The university will open on October 18.



Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation stages a sit-in at Topkhana Road in the city yesterday demanding payment of arrears and Eid bonus.

### EXTORTION

## Law enforcers receive 80 complaints a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcement agencies receive around 80 complaints a day from city residents about extortion demands from criminals over the phone.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and Rapid Action Battalion

### 2 slain in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people, including a woman, were killed in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

The identity of the woman, 26, could not be known immediately while the another victim was identified as Mosharraf Hossain, 22, a construction labourer.

On information, police recovered the body of slain woman from the bank of a wetland near civil aviation office yesterday morning and sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Airport Police Station Ruhul Amin said, "We are looking into the matter. We are hoping to get some clues when relatives of the victim will come to us."

In another incident, Mosharraf Hossain sustained serious injuries when his colleague Sharif Suja stabbed him in the chest and abdomen at Wari at yesterday.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the on-duty doctors declared him dead.

The victim's colleague Zahirul Islam told reporters that hearing a scream, they rushed to a makeshift room where Mosharraf and Suja were sleeping and found Mosharraf in a pool of blood.

He said Suja fled a scene before they had reached the room erected on the site of an under-construction building at Wari.

Police could not arrest Suja till yesterday evening.

### DHAKA TODAY

#### Workshop

Access to Information Programme under Chief Adviser's Office will organise a workshop for newsmen on the use of information and communication technology in health sector. Venue: ICC Bhaban, Chief Adviser's Office. Time: 10.30am.

#### Seminar

Right to Information Forum organises a seminar marking the International Day for Right to Information. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 10.30am.

#### Discussion

Manabadihakar O Panibesh Sangbadik Society organises a discussion on fasting, self-purification and human rights. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.30pm.

## American empire nearing collapse

### Iranian president tells UN assembly

AP, BBC Online

Iran's president has told the UN that Iran will resist "bullying powers" trying to thwart its peaceful nuclear ambitions.

Addressing the General Assembly in New York on Tuesday, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Iran supported dialogue but would not accept "illegal demands".

Iran's declared that "the American empire" is nearing collapse and should end its military involvement in other countries.

Western nations suspect Iran aims to create a nuclear weapons

(Rab) have set up special cells to deal with such complaints and take necessary steps against the culprits.

DMP sources said they received 70 such complaints after the special cell was opened on September 22. A top Rab official said they also receive around 50 complaints a day.

The DMP has so far received over 1,000 complaints and the connections of at least 600 mobile phones have been cut off following requests from the DMP, sources said.

Masudur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner of the Detective Branch (DB) of police, told The Daily Star they received 70

complaints in the last two days. "Organised criminals called from 150 mobile phone numbers demanding extortion from many city residents," he added.

Rab sources said they found in investigations that frauds and petty criminals made the calls using the names of high-profile criminals.

Organised criminals are demanding extortion from well-off people including businessmen over phone, said a press release signed by DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed yesterday.

The DMP and Rab have requested the city residents to provide them with phone numbers of the callers demanding extortion.

## Newly-wed woman falls from roof, dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A newly married woman died after falling from the roof of a 13-storey building at Dhanmondi in the city on Tuesday.

The police found the body of Ummu Kulsum Sharanika, 19, near the building at Dhanmondi Road 13 in the afternoon after her in-laws informed them. An autopsy was performed on her body at Dhaka Medical College morgue yesterday.

Relatives and family members of the girl yesterday said that dowry was the reason behind her death. Continuous pressure on her from her husband and in-laws to bring dowry from her parents forced her to commit suicide or she was pushed from the roof, they alleged.

Kulsum's in-laws told the police that she might have fallen from the roof accidentally.

Talking to The Daily Star, Engineer Mahiuddin, husband of Kulsum's elder sister, said that Kulsum's in-laws had been demanding Tk 15 lakh and around 20 tola of gold ornaments from her family since her marriage on August 13. Kulsum's husband Mia Shaheen left for Belgium two days later.

Ilias Mahmud Shipon, brother of Kulsum, filed a general diary with Dhanmondi police station yesterday.

The police said they are investigating the incident. No-one was arrested as of yesterday evening.

## Foil any plot against JS election: Sircar

UNB, Dhaka

Speaker Muhammad Jamir Uddin Sircar yesterday said all should remain cautious about any conspiracy against the next general election.

Welcoming the announcement of the election date by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, he said despite the announcement that election would be held on December 18 all would have to be watchful so that conspirators could not succeed in any way to foil the much-awaited election.

"There must be an election on December 18. Nationalist forces will come to power if the election is free and fair," Sircar told a discussion organised by Swadhinata Forum at the National Press Club.

He said the nationalist force would not accept any deviation from the planned election.

"We hear uproar from a certain quarter. But people are not that

easygoing, they'll foil any move that can hamper the nation's independence," he said, adding that Ayub Khan and HM Ershad all failed in this land.

"If you think, you will hand-pick some identified people (in the name of election), you must be living in a fool's paradise," he said.

Bangladesh Jatiya Party (Matin) chairman Prof MA Matin, Jatiya Ganatantrik Party Chairman Shafiqul Alam Prodhan, National People's Party President Sheikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu, Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Abdul Kader Mollah, Prof Maniruzzaman Mian, Prof Mahbubullah and Jubo Dal President Barkatullah Bulu also spoke on the occasion.

Swadhinata Forum president Abu Naser Mohammad Rahmat Ullah presided over the discussion.

### US BNP postpones tomorrow's agitation

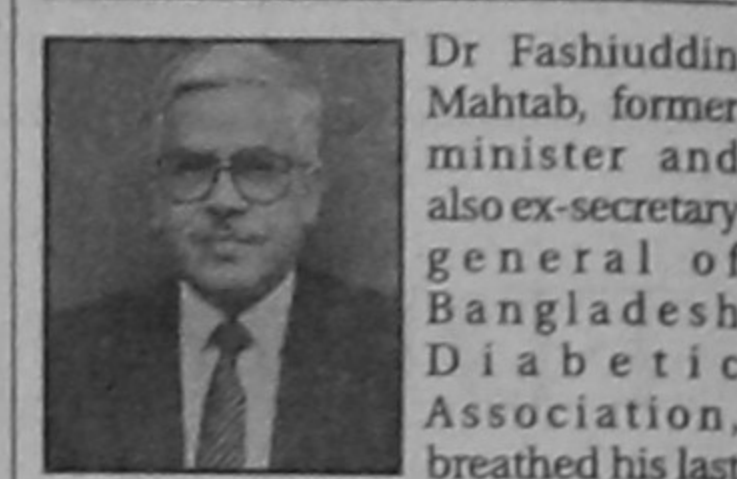
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US unit of BNP and Tarique Mukti Andolan Committee postponed their agitation programme in front of the United Nations Headquarters tomorrow, US-based news agency ANA reported.

Due to the changed circumstances they took the decision to submit a memorandum to the chief adviser demanding withdrawal of state of emergency, deferment of upazila polls, withdrawal of all cases against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, her son Tarique Rahman, US BNP President Abdul Latif Samrat told the news agency.

### Fashiuddin Mahtab passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Dr Fashiuddin Mahtab, former minister and also ex-secretary general of Bangladesh Diabetic Association, breathed his last at Leeds Hospital in London on September 22, says a press release.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held at Gulshan Azad Mosque in the city on September 27 and will be buried at Banani graveyard upon arrival of his body from London on the same day.

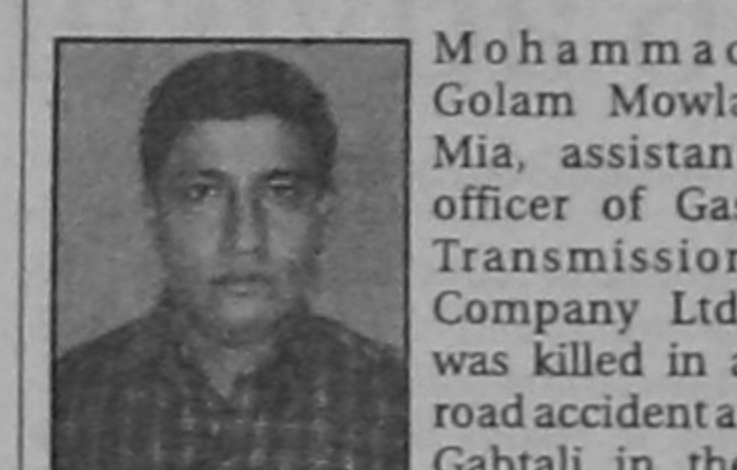
Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar, Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain in separate messages yesterday expressed their profound shock at his death.

They deeply recalled the contribution of Fashiuddin Mahtab while he was serving as the minister for agriculture, finance and planning.

They prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed profound sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

### Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

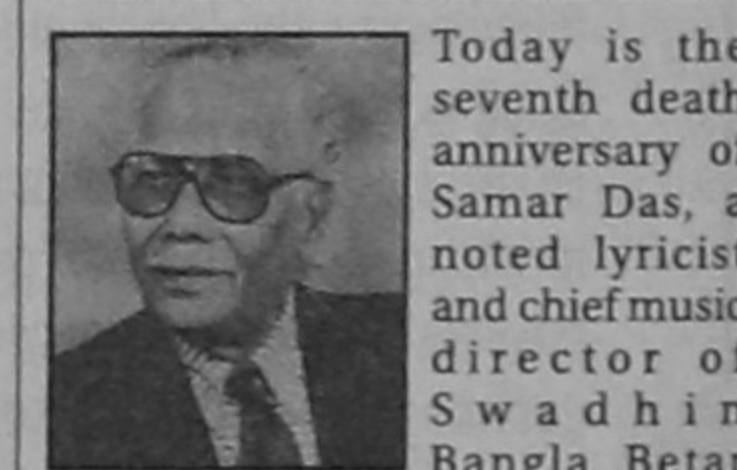


Mohammad Golam Mowla Mia, assistant officer of Gas Transmission Company Ltd, was killed in a road accident at Gatabai in the city yesterday morning at the age of 38, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, a son and a daughter to mourn his death.

### 7th anniversary of death of Samar Das today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Kendra, says a press release.

Today is the seventh death anniversary of Samar Das, a noted lyricist and chief music director of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra.

On the occasion, wreaths will be placed at Wari Graveyard in the city and a prayer service will be held at his residence in the evening praying for eternal peace of his departed soul.

He was awarded Shadhinata Padak in recognition of his outstanding contribution to music. After independence he played an important role in composing the introductory music of Bangladesh Betar, the opening and the concluding songs of second SAFF games and orchestration of the national anthem, which became the second best in orchestration of national anthems during the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

### Flight Sergeant Mafiz Ullah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 14th death anniversary of Flight Sergeant Mafiz Ullah, a freedom fighter and leader of Jatiya Krishak League, says a press release.

He was born in 1921 at Muradpur village in Begumganj upazila under Noakhali.

He was appointed deputy director of Bangladesh Road and Transport Corporation (BRTC) during Bangabandhu's government.

All have been requested to pray for salvation of his departed soul.



### No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6.00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 34.7 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 23.3 degrees Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:51pm today and rises at 5:49am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.5	25.8	77	73
Chittagong	31.8	24.8	76	82
Rajshahi	33.0	24.8	92	85
Khulna	31.9	25.5	80	86
Bairisal	31.5	25.6	85	82
Sylhet	34.7	25.5	77	75
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.6	71	76