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Polytechnic students keep on agitating

Over 280 hurt in clashes across country

STAR REPORT

Over 280 people, mostly students, were injured yesterday in a series of clashes between police and students of polytechnic institutes in different districts who were demonstrating against new examination rules.

Agitating students of Rajshahi, Comilla, Rangpur, Patuakhali, Dinajpur and Gopalganj polytechnic institutes went on the rampage vandalising offices, classrooms, laboratories, furniture, vehicles and roadside shops to press their demand for cancellation of the new rules.

The students claim that the new rules, introduced by the Technical Education Board, say no student of polytechnic institutes is entitled to appear at 'referred examinations' more than once.

The students also put up barricades on different highways disrupting vehicular movement for hours.

At Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute (RPI), around 100 people, including students, cops and journalists were hurt in clashes, reports our staff correspondent.

Board clarifies new rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Technical Education Board (BTEB) in a statement yesterday clarified its new provision of the referred examination system saying that discontent

dent in Rajshahi.

Trouble started as police swung into action on demonstrating students. They clashed with police on the campus and on the airport road beside the institute located at Shalbagan in the city.

Vehicular movement on the road remained suspended for about two hours since 9:30am.

The students kept their principal confined at the administrative building for some time and damaged his office. They also vandalised the offices of the controller of examinations, treasurer, caretaker and security officer, doors of two teachers' rooms and of physics and chemistry laboratories, and torched some furniture at the main gate of the campus.



Student protesters at Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute torch furniture on the street during their clash with police yesterday. Polytechnic students across the country demonstrated yesterday to protest a change in their examination rules.



BTRC chief resigns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) chief Manzurul Alam resigned yesterday to make way for a new chief to be appointed by this government.

"I have resigned. I would like to thank you all for your cooperation," Alam, who was appointed by the caretaker government, told officials at

Govt to unfreeze 270 accounts conditionally

Accounts of 39 graft accused to stay shut; NBR seeks legal opinion for decision

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has decided to conditionally reopen 270 bank accounts that were frozen during the immediate past emergency regime, as democracy has been restored.

NBR sources said they started working towards that end yesterday. The account holders concerned have been contacting NBR, and the revenue collecting authority also has been sending notices to them.

During the immediate past caretaker regime, NBR froze 335 accounts on charges of tax evasion; 26 of which were later reopened at different times.

Cases were filed against 39 account holders, verdicts in many of which were also delivered. The frozen account holders, against whom

the cases were filed, include former ministers Mirza Abbas, Shajahan Siraj and members of his family, former chief whip also Awami League leader Abul Hasnat Abdullah, former state minister Ziaul Haque Zia and his family members, and former BNP lawmakers Ali Asgar Lobi, Mosaddek Ali Falu, and Salauddin Ahmed (Dour Salahuddin) and his family members.

Cases were also filed against former prime minister Khaleda Zia's nephew Shahrin Islam Tuhin, former minister Sajeda Chowdhury's son Sadat Akbar Chowdhury, and former Awami League lawmaker Shamim Osman.

NBR sources said it is seeking opinion of the law ministry about what to do regarding the 39 accounts.

From the remaining 270 accounts, tax evading ones will be reopened after taxes for the

Qaeda warns India of more Mumbai-style attacks

PTI, London

A top al-Qaeda commander, who was reported killed in a US drone strike last year, has appeared in a video warning India of more Mumbai-style terror attacks if it tried to attack Pakistan.

"India should know that it will have to pay a heavy price if it attacks Pakistan," Mustafa Abu al-Yazid, believed to be al-Qaeda's military commander in Afghanistan and ranked behind No 2 Ayman al-Zawahiri, said in a 20-minute video in Arabic received by BBC.

Yazid, who the Pakistani military said may have been killed in fighting last August in

India blames Pakistan for delaying probe

Islamabad claims elements in India assisted Mumbai attacks; US official holds talks with Pak leaders

AFP, PTI, New Delhi/Islamabad

India yesterday accused Islamabad of delaying its investigation into the Mumbai attacks, which have been widely blamed on militant groups based inside Pakistan.

The charge came a day after Islamabad said its investigators needed more information from India to complete its probe into the November 26-29 siege in which 165 people were killed by 10 gunmen.

India's junior foreign minister, Anand Sharma, said New Delhi had sent its own detailed report on the attacks to Pakistan, and that it expected a swift response.

"The identity of the individuals and the perpetrators of those who masterminded these dastardly attacks is fairly well known to Pakistan, to India and to the entire international community," Sharma told reporters.

"The organisations too stand identified and named at the United Nations Security Council itself," he said, without naming the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant group at which fingers have been pointed.

The LeT has denied involvement but Sharma demanded action from Pakistan, which has fought three wars with India since independence in 1947.

"What is required of Pakistan is that it should not delay, deflect or confuse but act," Sharma told reporters in New Delhi.

Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee separately said Pakistan had not sought additional information from India.

"We would expect an official communication from the Pakistani authorities whether they want anything extra from us and if they need anything additional otherwise it is



This boy is an employee of a bookstall at Amar Ekushey Boi Mela. At an age when he should be reading books, he carries books to the stall for a living.

Fair draws huge crowd

RAKIB AHAMMED

The crowds have been growing steadily at the Ekushey Boi mela each day with yesterday no different despite it being a working day.

Many young people from all sectors of life, especially students, have been thronging the fair premises in groups to seek out what's new and what's not in the world of books.

Stalls selling IT related software and books have also been enjoying good crowds at the fair this year.

In addition to bookstalls, several stalls have been selling IT related material as well as CDs and VCDs at the fair this year.

Among the different ones, Bangladesh Computer Samity's stall has been attracting huge crowds of young people each day for its displays on computer screens.

BB pushes brake on fringe lending frenzy

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bank loans to unproductive sector increased remarkably in one year until September last, prompting the central bank to ask commercial banks to cut loans to this sector.

Loan for medical purposes jumped by a staggering 2,303 percent or 23 times while marriage loan, car loan, consumers' credit for buying television and fridge and credit card loan registered rise ranging from 31 to 146 percent.

According to Bangladesh Bank (BB) statistics, miscellaneous loans amounted to Tk 20,733 crore in September last year compared to Tk 15,071 crore in September 2007.

The BB expressed surprise at such an increase in loans at a meeting of Bankers Committee yesterday with central bank Governor Salehuddin in the chair. Chief executives of all commercial banks were present at the meeting.

In one year, loans to miscellaneous sector increased by Tk 5,662 crore, the BB estimated.

Loan for medical treatment expenses increased by Tk 1842.67 crore and stood at Tk 1922.68 crore in September last year as against only Tk 80 crore in September 2007.

None in the Bankers Committee meeting could give a plausible reply when asked about the cause of such increase in loans.

The BB said it would investigate the matter. Similarly, loan for land purchase increased by 136 per cent to Tk 292 crore and that for marriage expenses rose by 36 per cent to Tk 101 crore.

Credit card loan increased by 146 per cent to Tk 808 crore. Loan for purchase of consumer goods including motor car, motor cycle, TV, fridge and computer rose by 36 per cent and

Staggering bank service charge

Pvt, foreign banks charge 19 times higher than SoBs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank has expressed its disappointment over charging 1,900 percent or 19 times higher service charge by some local and foreign private commercial banks than the state-owned banks (SoBs) for operating savings account.

Sources said Bangladesh Bank governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed yesterday expressed his frustration during a meeting of bankers committee and told them that the number of accounts of the private and foreign banks will be reduced gradually as account holders will leave them for this reason.

The central bank governor asked the banks to lower service charge and make it a

Man kills wife, infant daughter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man killed his wife and 11-month-old daughter at Adabor in the capital yesterday out of suspicion that the wife was having extra-marital affair.

The man also injured five neighbours including four women, who provoked outrage in him by saying his wife was keeping relations with other men.

Zillur Rahman, 32, an electrician, admitted that he killed his wife Golapi, 25, with a knife at their house in Shajahan's Shanty at Nabodai Housing in Adabor.

"When I thought I will be put to death for the killing and there will be no one to bring up our infant daughter, I also killed her," Zillur said.

"Soon after the killings I realised that my neighbours in fact provoked me and I have never seen anything wrong with my wife."

He attacked the neighbours to take revenge, wounded them and then surrendered with the weapon at the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) camp at Shia Mosque in Mohammadpur.

The electrician said he was not having good days as his income sharply fell. Besides, he feared that his wife might leave him as his mother-in-law suggested divorce four months ago for



Zillur Rahman

Market 18 lakh textbooks by tomorrow

Taskforce asks publishers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The taskforce on textbooks yesterday asked the publishers to market 18 lakh books

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Prayer Timing		
February 11		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

2 former VCs in plagiarism debate

Book on Liberation War edited by Emajuddin and Jasim Uddin a copy

PINAKI ROY

Two former vice-chancellors of Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University, and a journalist allegedly plagiarised a research work about the contribution of women in the country's liberation war, and published a book titled 'Women in the Liberation War'.

Original researchers Rokeya Kabir, executive director of women's rights organisation Nari Pragati Sangha, and Muzib Mehdi, a poet and a researcher,



Tk 12CR SCAM Jubok director sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Jubo Karmasangsthan Society (Jubok) Director Syed Rashedul Huda Chowdhury was sent to jail after being produced before a Dhaka court in connection with a Tk 12 crore embezzlement case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abdur Rahim ordered sending him to jail after Kotwali police produced him before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court with a seven-day remand prayer for interrogation.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

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