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GRAFT ALLEGATIONS  
Sircar files writ against JS body formation

Former speaker Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) challenging the formation of a parliamentary sub-committee to investigate graft allegations against him.

The BNP leader in his petition also prayed to the court to stay the proceedings and recommendations made by the parliamentary subcommittee against him.

The recommendations include cancellation of the House membership of Jamiruddin and legal actions against him on graft charges.

Sircar in his petition stated that the committee was not formed following the due process of the law, as no member of

# Job-based training mulled for youths

**ALPHA ARZU**

The government is to introduce several new training courses for youths to turn them into skilled workers for job markets both home and abroad.

These new proposed training include courses on AutoCad, dairy product processing and marketing, meat processing and slaughter house management, salesmanship, housekeeping, plumbing, rod binding and tiles fixing.

The Department of Youth Development (DYD) under the Ministry of Youth and Sports is to organise these training courses for youths between the ages of 18 and 35. Around 1,200 youths are expected to benefit from the diploma courses of three months to one-year duration.

The allocation of revenue budget is Tk 28.94 crore and development budget Tk 24.88 crore for the department in the fiscal year 2008-2009, a ministry official said.

Meanwhile, the government is to discontinue its six-month long stenotyping courses as typing posts have been cut down in both public and private sectors.

Gulam Mahbub, Assistant Director of Dhaka district office of DYD, told The Daily Star "We plan to provide training on modern office management and computer applications instead."

The DYD also holds vocational and skill development training courses for the 4.50 crore youths of the country. The courses are designed to equip young people with skills to work efficiently both at home and abroad.

Courses include training on livestock, poultry, fishery and agriculture, aquaculture (fresh and coastal water), basic computer skills, graphics and video editing, electronics, electrical wiring, refrigeration and air-conditioning, secretarial science, block, batik and screen printing and dress-making.

The department at present is also providing new courses for potential migrant workers. These include house-keeping and laundry operations, food and beverage service, pattern making, modern office management and computer application, poultry rearing, bird-flu control, bio-diversity management, mushroom production, hair dressing, sweater knitting, linking and sewing machine operating, English, Korean and Arabic languages etc.

The DYD has one national youth centre, 70 technical training centres, 55 livestock, poultry and pisciculture training

## Violating Official Order Govt to take action against ex-envoy Khairuzzaman

**REZAUL KARIM**

The government has decided to take punitive action against former high commissioner to Malaysia M Khairuzzaman for violating official orders to come back to Dhaka.

Khairuzzaman, who was implicated in the jail killing case of 1975 but later acquitted by the court, has been absconding since handing over his diplomatic charge following an official order to come back to Dhaka and join the foreign ministry.

The government will first issue a public notification against the former army officer-turned-diplomat, asking him why punitive action will not be taken against him, foreign ministry sources said.

Immediately after assuming office in January, the Awami League government asked Khairuzzaman to come back and join the foreign ministry, but he has been absconding since he handed over his charge on February 28.

The foreign ministry gave final orders asking Khairuzzaman to join the headquarters by March 7, but he did not comply with the government orders, which is a serious violation of service rule.

## Rab official accused of 'crossfire threat'

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

An elderly woman yesterday alleged that the commanding officer of Rapid Action Battalion-1 sent her a threat to kill her son by putting him in so-called crossfire, in a sequel to a previous enmity.

Mahmuda Begum, 72, a resident of Darussalam area in the capital, made the allegation against Rab-1 Commanding Officer Maj Sumon Ahmed in a media briefing held at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, seeking government interference to save her son.

She said a few days ago a team of six to seven people identifying themselves as Rab-1 members went to her residence, searched it, and before leaving the house wanted to

## Mysterious blast at ex-minister Zahir's house 3 injured

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A mysterious explosion yesterday morning damaged the Gulshan residence of late BNP minister AM Zahiruddin Khan and injured three persons including the son of former industry minister.

The injured were identified as Kalim A Khan, 32, the son, his wife Nusrat Khanam, 25, and Ramzan Ali, 35, a rickshaw-puller.

Kalim was admitted to Apollo Hospital with severe burn injuries while his wife to United Hospital and Ramzan to a local clinic.

Apollo Hospital officials said the condition of Kalim was critical as he sustained at least 65 percent burn injuries.



Police inspect the damage after the mysterious explosion at the residence of late BNP leader AM Zahiruddin Khan at Gulshan in the capital yesterday.

## Democracy not practised within AL, BNP Shujan roundtable told

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Two major political parties--Awami League (AL) and BNP--are not fostering intra-party democracy, which is an imperative to strengthen country's democracy, speakers at a round-table in the capital said yesterday.

They accused ruling AL-led government of turning the Election Commission (EC) into a 'paper tiger'.

Sushasonee Jonno Nagorik (Sujan) organised the event titled "Reforms in the political party: Where we are" at the Jatiya Press Club.

On the much-talked-about political reforms, speakers said the issue drew huge public response during the tenure of the last caretaker government but they lost interest as soon as the then government adopted the 'minus two formula'.

They also apprehend that militancy will rise in the country if democracy does not prevail.

Presided over by Sujan president, the meeting was addressed, among others, by former adviser to the caretaker government and Sujan Vice-President ASM Shajahan, AL lawmaker Shahiduzzaman Sarker, BNP lawmaker Amzad Hossein, ASM

## Extortion causes price hike

**Says food minister; law enforcers to help keep market stable**

**UNB, Dhaka**

Reckless extortion through the supply chain makes vegetables and other essentials dearer as two senior ministers of the government yesterday recognised the criminalisation of the market system.

Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzak was bold enough to criticise his own government when 70 percent of the transportation costs apparently go to the pockets of extortionists.

He was addressing function organised by Rahimafrooz Superstore Agora to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Hridoye Mati O' Manush Krishak Samabay Samity

## 41 die in Kuwait wedding inferno

**AFP, Kuwait City**

Forty-one women and children were killed and dozens more injured when a fire ripped through a packed wedding party in Kuwait, triggering a panicked stampede, officials said yesterday.

Dozens of firefighters battled to douse the flames, which engulfed a large tent reserved for women during the wedding celebrations late on Saturday, in the worst civilian disaster in the modern history of the Gulf state.

"The total number of deaths reached 41. There were six children among them," Kuwaiti fire chief General Jassem al-Mansuri told AFP.

## Rid Pharma case hearing today

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria**

The hearing of a case against Rid Pharmaceutical Limited's bosses on charge of manufacturing drugs lacking specified standards will be held at District and Sessions Judge AS N Mustaf's Court today.

Abdul Khayer Chowdhury, assistant director of Bangladesh Drug Administration's (BDA)

## Culprits must be punished

**Rights bodies demand, protest gang rape in Faridpur**

**STAR REPORT**

The rape of a schoolgirl at Charvodrason in Faridpur sparked protests in the district town yesterday as different human rights, social and women rights organisations came forward in aid of the victim.

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### OnlinePoll

Do you agree with Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda that free and fair elections is possible under the rule of political government too if security is ensured.

☐ Yes (41.4%)  
☐ No (56.2%)  
☐ No Comments (2.4%)

**Total votes: 967**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think the government should hold talks with the US government to bring back Brig Gen Chowdhury Fazlul Bari who has been declared deserter?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

Prayer Timing August 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-45	6-00
Maghrib	7-38	7-41
Esha	9-00	9-30

Source: Islamic Foundation