

Office hours revised for Ramadan
 Cabinet okays
 9:00am to 3:30pm
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Office hours during Ramadan will be from 9:00am to 3:30pm for government, semi-government, autonomous and semi-autonomous organisations.
 The cabinet at its regular weekly meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday fixed the new office timing with Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina in the chair.
 Briefing newsmen after the meeting PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said, banks, insurances and financial institutes, post offices, railway, hospitals, government-owned industries, and other emergency service-providing organisations will fix their own time schedule according to their own regulations, taking the public requirements into consideration.
 He told that the Supreme

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A flock of Openbill Storks by Bogra-Naogaon highway yesterday. Thousands of them have taken refuge in villages of Kahalu, Bogra over the last two weeks. As the locals turned out to be friendly, the places became havens for these large-billed birds.

PHOTO: HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU

WAR TRIBUNAL
Four Jamaat leaders asked to appear Aug 2
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal yesterday directed the prison authorities to produce the four detained top Jamaat-e-Islami leaders before it on August 2.
 The Jamaat leaders are Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid and two senior assistant secretaries general Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Molla.
 This is the first ever step made by a tribunal in the history of Bangladesh in connection with war crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.
 The tribunal on July 26 issued arrest warrants against them following a petition filed by the prosecution for their alleged involvement in genocide and crimes against humanity and peace during the Liberation War.
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GRAFT CASE
HC acquits Nasim
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday scrapped the 13-year imprisonment sentence against former home minister and Awami League leader Mohammad Nasim in a graft case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), deeming the conviction against him as illegal.
 Earlier, On October 8, 2007, a special court in Dhaka had sentenced Nasim on being convicted of amassing wealth illegally and concealing facts in the wealth statement.
 The bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice AKM Zahirul

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Garment wage spikes

Tk 3,000 minimum pay; highest raise 87pc; effective from Nov 1; mixed reaction among workers, owners, businesses

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA
 The government yesterday formally announced the new minimum salary structure for readymade garment sector hoping to put an end to the longstanding labour unrest over wages.
 Labour and Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain announced the new pay structure for around 3.5 million RMG workers in the country.
 The minimum salary at the entry level has been fixed at Tk 3,000; Tk 2,000 in basic pay, Tk 800 in house rent and Tk 200 in medical allowance. The apprentice level wage is fixed at Tk 2,500, up from Tk 1,200 now.
 The new wage structure will come to

	NEW AMOUNT	RISE IN %
Grade-I	Tk 9,300	81
Grade-II	Tk 7,200	87
Grade-III	Tk 4,120	68
Grade-IV	Tk 3,763	67
Grade-V	Tk 3,455	69
Grade-VI	Tk 3,210	77
Grade-VII	Tk 3,000	80
Apprentice	Tk 2,500	108

effect from November 1, 2010, said the minister.
 With the declaration of the new mini-

mum wage, workers of different grades would have increases in their salaries at different rates.
 Garment worker leaders, however, expressed disappointment over the new pay scale as they have been bargaining for Tk 5,000 for years.
 Mushrefa Mishu, president of Garments Sramik Oikya Forum, said they would not accept the new pay structure, as it is too little to maintain a family these days.
 "We will hold a meeting this evening [Thursday] to announce an agitation programme against the decision. We may call for a strike," she said, adding that it is inhuman that the implementation of the new pay structure would take effect after four months.
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USURPATION OF STATE POWER

JS body mulls tough clause

SHAKHAWAT LITON
 The parliamentary special committee for constitutional amendment might recommend inclusion of a stringent clause in the constitution blocking the way for extra-constitutional usurpation of state power.
 A few members of the committee, including one who is an international law expert, are examining constitutions of other countries that had experienced martial laws and later returned to democratic rule.
 A committee member said on condition of anonymity that they found stringent clauses preventing grabbing of state power by imposition of martial law in the constitutions of Argentina and Mexico.
 He said such usurpation of state power is considered treason in those constitutions allowing death sentence for the perpetrators.
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BDR MUTINY

Key accused Rahim dies of 'heart attack'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Deputy Assistant Director Abdur Rahim of Bangladesh Rifles, a key accused of criminal offences during BDR mutiny, died last night at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was 54.
 Tawhidul Islam, senior superintendent of Dhaka Central Jail, told The Daily Star that Abdur Rahim died of heart attack around 9:30pm.
 Abdur Rahim was first admitted to jail hospital and around 8:40pm he was shifted to DMCH, said the jail super.
 Rahim was arrested on March 2, 2009 at a residential
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Shibir men clash with cops in city
 15 hurt, 5 held
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 people including five law enforcers were injured in a clash between police and Islami Chhatra Shibir activists in the capital's Motijheel yesterday.
 The clash erupted around 2:30pm when police tried to block a Shibir procession brought out demanding release of the top Jamaat

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FINANCIAL REPORT DEADLINE TOMORROW

No move from major parties to inform EC

SHAKHAWAT LITON
 As many as 31 of 38 political parties including Awami League, BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami are yet to turn in reports on annual financial transactions to the Election Commission with the seven-month deadline for submission expiring tomorrow.
 Only seven parties -- Jatiya Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Khelafat Majlish, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, Islami Andolon Bangladesh, Bangladesh National

Awami Party and Zaker Party -- submitted reports on last year's financial transactions, EC officials said yesterday.
 The indifference of most parties to the legal provision prompted the EC to send them letters on Monday reminding them about the deadline and the stipulation, a senior EC official said.
 According to the Political Parties Registration Rules 2008, a party has to get audited its financial transactions in the last calendar year by a chartered accounting firm

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Remove recreation centre from river

HC asks BIWTA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The High Court has directed Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) to demolish and remove within 30 days its recreation centre in the Buriganga river in Kamrangirchar area of the capital.
 In a judgment yesterday, the court declared construction of the recreation centre in the river illegal.
 An HC bench comprised of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice

Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain came up with the verdict after hearing a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.
 According to the verdict, the BIWTA chairman and its director (port) have to take steps to demolish and remove the recreation centre.
 The rights body filed the writ petition as a public interest litigation in May this year on the basis of a report of the daily Prothom Alo that the BIWTA had been constructing a recreation centre in the Buriganga.
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Govt to import 3 lakh tonnes rice from India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 India has agreed to export three lakh tonnes of rice to Bangladesh.
 The government decided to import the rice to meet internal demand and ensure that the prices of rice are within the reach of common people.
 "Earlier, India agreed to give one lakh tonnes of rice, but now it has agreed that it will give two lakh tonnes more rice to the government of
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