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CHANGE TO CHARTER Delwar asks govt to think carefully

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday urged the government to think carefully before incorporating a provision in the country's constitution to declare Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as Father of the Nation.

The government can do anything with their absolute majority in the House, no matter which way they came to power. But they should think about the credibility of their work, Delwar told reporters at BNP's Nayapalton office after a joint meeting with the

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BCL UNREST AT RU

Students extorted to buy machetes, axes

AM JAHID, RU

A faction of Rajshahi University unit Chhatra League has bought sharp weapons with a portion of the money allegedly extorted from resident students of a dormitory and plunged into infighting over the rest of the amount, sources close to the group said.

Around Tk 2,00,000 -- part of the sum extorted from students of Ziaur Rahman Hall of the university over the last six months -- was spent in buying machetes and Chinese axes to fight rivals, the sources said.

Sharing of the rest of the money triggered clashes even within the faction. Some BCL members led by Ilias Hossain,



Fardin Ahmed and Mamunur Rashid played key roles in the extortion, students and administration sources said.

A BCL activist, unhappy at "not getting his stake", told The Daily Star the hall unit Chhatra League members were recently locked in heated altercation with Ilias Hossain and Mamunur Rashid over sharing of the extortion money.

Ilias and Mamun were chased out of the dormitory by their fellow activists two weeks back when the two failed to come up with a record of the money. The dispute was settled after RU unit BCL General Secretary Mazedul Islam Apu mediated, he added.

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Long queues at CNG stations

Sufferings mount for 6-hr closure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four hours had gone by and Rahman Bepari was still waiting for his turn to refill his CNG-run auto-rickshaw.

Rahman, a three-wheeler driver, had been waiting at Jamuna CNG filling station at Moghbazar since 4:30pm for the resumption of operation of the station.

"My total day is ruined. I won't have left anything in my pocket when I should have earned a reasonable amount of money before Eid," said hapless Rahman.

Assuming that he would have to refill gas twice before the partial closure of the filling stations in the afternoon, he started his day two hours earlier than usual at 5:00 am yesterday.

One hour into the afternoon, Rahman's three-wheeler ran out of gas when he was in airport area. After waiting for an hour, Rahman had his turn but could refill gas worth only Tk 40 against required range of Tk 110 as the gas pressure ran low at the station.

Dejected Rahman took another passenger and reaching Moghbazar his auto-rickshaw again ran out of gas around

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MPs at odds at law and order meet

A CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A meeting of Narayanganj district law and order committee yesterday witnessed hot exchange of words between two local lawmakers.

The debate ensued when lawmaker from Narayanganj-5 Nasim Osman protested the presence of a personal staff of lawmaker from Narayanganj-4 Sarah Begum Kabari at the meeting.

On the other hand, Kabari alleged that a section of local newspapers resorted to propaganda against her. She accused another local lawmaker's family of instigating the propaganda.

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Mystery still shrouds Ibrahim's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mystery over the death of Awami League activist Ibrahim Ahmed has deepened with cliche Station in the capital said yesterday it is onflicting police statements on investigation, their refusal to record a murder case and alleged threats from unidentified people to his wife not to proceed in this regard.

An official at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Ponot possible for them to go on with investigating the matter as they are under pressure from some influential quarters not to do so. He however sought anonymity.

Contacted, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque said

police are not under any pressure regarding the case. And for prompt and proper investigation, he has shifted the case to the Detective Branch from the police station.

Ibrahim's wife Rina Islam had earlier said she went to Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police on Monday to file a murder case accusing Kamal Hossain Kala, driver, and Delwar, bodyguard, of Awami League lawmaker from Bhola Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon. But police refused to record the case as Kala filed an unnatural death (UD) case in this connection on Friday.

Meanwhile, Kala and Mithu (another driver), who took injured Ibrahim to Dhaka

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Ruling party man pilfers railway fuel

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A leader of ruling Awami League was arrested in Ishwardi upazila of Pabna yesterday for pilfering diesel from rail engines.

Jamal Uddin, 35, an Awami Swachchhashebak League man, was captured from his home in a drive along with 400 litres of pilfered diesel, said Additional District Magistrate (ADM) of Pabna Md Emam Uddin Kabir, who led the drive.

The team comprised Rab

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Jamal Uddin, left, an Awami Swachchhashebak League leader and also a racket chief who was arrested in Ishwardi, Pabna yesterday with a huge quantity of pilfered locomotive diesel. Right, recovered sacks containing polythene bags full of stolen fuel.

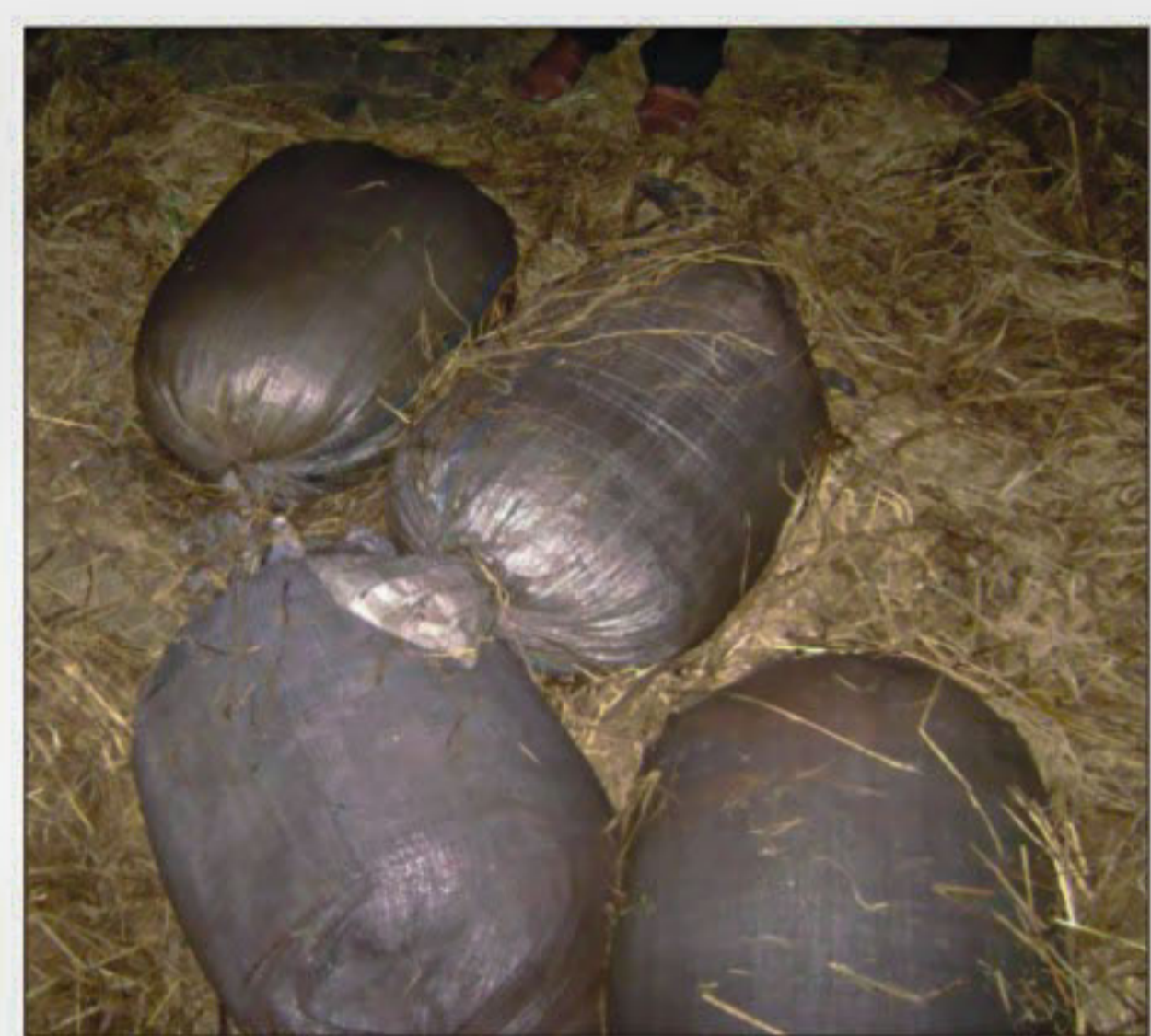


PHOTO: STAR

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SUICIDE ATTEMPT Afrin dies of burns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Afrin Sultana, who attempted to commit suicide by setting herself ablaze on August 13 and suffered serious burn injuries, died at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital last night.

"Afrin suffered 90 percent burn. We tried our best," said Dr Samanta Lal Sen, project director of burn unit, "she died around 11:00pm at our intensive care unit."

Family members of the 24-year old, who appeared in the SSC exams from Open University this year, claim torture by in-laws led to her

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59 killed in Iraq suicide attack

Bomber targets army recruitment centre

AFP, Baghdad

A suicide bomber blew himself up at a crowded army recruitment centre in Baghdad killing 59 people yesterday, officials said, as violence coinciding with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan raged across Iraq.

The attack, the deadliest this year, wounded at least another 100 people and came a day after Iraq's two main political parties suspended talks over the formation of a new government and as the US withdraws thousands of its soldiers from the country.

"We have received 59 corpses this morning," an official at Baghdad morgue said, speaking on condition of anonymity. A doctor at Medical City hospital, close to the scene of the attack, said they had so far received 125 wounded.

The bomber blew himself up around 7:30 am (0430 GMT) at the centre, a former ministry of defence building that now houses a local security command, in the Baab al-Muatham neighbourhood of central Baghdad.

An interior ministry official said the majority of the victims were prospective soldiers seeking to enlist on the penultimate day of a week-long recruitment drive but that some troops who were protecting the compound were also among the casualties.

"After the explosion, everyone ran away, and the soldiers fired into the air," said 19-year-old

Ahmed Kadhim, one of the recruits at the centre who escaped unharmed from the attack.

"I saw dozens of people lying on the ground, some of them were on fire. Others were running with blood pouring out."

Kadhim said the recruits, who had to pass two searches to enter the recruitment centre compound, had been divided into groups based on their educational qualifications, with the suicide bomber targeting the selection of high school graduates.

A doctor at Medical City hospital, speaking on condition of anonymity, said several of the wounded remained in critical condition and added that most of the victims were "very young -- less than 20 years old."

Iraqi security forces cordoned off the area following the attack, and security was stepped up across the capital, leading to traffic gridlock during the morning rush hour.

A shop owner in the area, who did not want to be named, blamed negligence on the part of army officers for the attack.

"This is the fault of the officers responsible for securing the area -- they let these recruits gather outside the centre without any protection," he said.

Also on Tuesday, two separate bomb attacks against judges in Baghdad and the central city of Baquba left four of them wounded, security

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OnlinePoll

Do you think the government will be able to bring the six remaining assassins of Bangabandhu back from abroad?

- Yes (25.0%)
- No (67.6%)
- No Comments (7.4%)

Total votes: 324

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think inclusion of a provision in the constitution declaring Bangabandhu Shikh Mujibur Rahman as Father of the Nation is necessary?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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Iftar & Sehri timing for Dhaka & neighbouring areas

Today's Iftar 6:33 pm

Ending time for tomorrow's sehri 4:12 am

Prayer Timing August 18

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-12	4-22
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-33	6-43
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

OBITUARY

Mr. Atif Rahman (Bipu), son of Mr. Rezaur Rahman, Managing Director of Bengal Airlift Group and former President of Dhaka Club Ltd and Mrs. Koukab Reza, Senior Teacher of Wills Little Flower School and College, passed away on the morning of August 16, 2010 at Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore (Inna.....Rajeun). He was forty years old. He had his higher education in USA and held an MBA degree from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He left behind his wife, a son & a daughter, father, mother and only younger brother Mr. Arif Rahman and numerous relatives to mourn his death.

Late Atif Rahman was Deputy Managing Director of the Bengal Airlift Group. Besides, he was CEO of Air Alliance Ltd, the Service Provider of UPS in Bangladesh, Sponsor Directors of Bengal Knittex Ltd, Bengal NFK Textiles Ltd, Bengal Travel & Tours Ltd, Bengal Airlift Aviation Ltd and Premier Leasing & Finance Limited.

He was Managing Director of Ace Bangladesh Ltd & Ace Aviation Services Ltd.

Mr. Atif Rahman's mortal remains has arrived from Singapore by Bangladesh Biman at 12.20pm on August 17, 2010. His Namaj-e-Janaza will be held on Wednesday, August 18, 2010 after Zohr prayers at Gulshan Azad Mosque as announced earlier.

All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to kindly attend the Janaza and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

His colleagues, all officers and employees of the entire group are grieved at the sad and untimely demise of Mr. Atif Rahman.

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