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# Ferry services go haywire

Passengers suffer, commodities rot on trucks as ferries get stuck, freed throughout the day at Paturia-Daulatdia, Mawa-Kawrakandi

STAR REPORT

Ferry services on Paturia-Daulatdia and Mawa-Kawrakandi routes resumed yesterday following salvage of all the vessels stuck in the hidden shoals of the river Padma.

The operations between Paturia and Daulatdia became normal at about 4:00pm and on Mawa-Kawrakandi route around 5:00pm.

Caught in tailbacks on both sides of the river following the disruption of ferry operations since Friday, passengers from 21 south and southwestern districts underwent untold sufferings.

More than 600 trucks and 500 buses lined up in a six-kilometre long tailback on the road to Daulatdia terminal yesterday, while the queue of 350 trucks and 250 buses stretched three km on the Paturia side, reports our Manikganj correspondent.

Drivers and staff of goods-laden trucks waiting at both terminals were left in the lurch as they ran short of money to buy food.

The operation of ten vessels scheduled to carry at least

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Ferries run aground between Daulatdia and Paturia in the middle of the Padma causing suspension of ferry service and creating a six kilometre long queue, inset, of vehicles from Paturia ferry terminal yesterday. The ferry service resumed yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: STAR

# CNG vehicle lifters stab driver to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Hijackers stabbed a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver to death in an attempt to seize the vehicle in the district Friday night.

The deceased was identified as Mithun, 28.

Ashraful Islam, Bogra assistant superintendent of police (circle-B), quoted witnesses as saying that two hijackers in the guise of passengers got on Mithun's auto-rickshaw at Namuza in sadar upazila around 10:45pm.

A few minutes later, they picked up two accomplices on way to Kahalu upazila.

The criminals tried to take control of the three-wheeler when it reached Tindighi in Kahalu.

While grappling with the hijackers, Mithun lost control over the steering

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# RECRUITED THRU' FAKE AD Nat'l university to sack 821 staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The syndicate of National University (NU) has decided to sack 821 officials and employees who were recruited through a fake advertisement during the tenure of the BNP-led alliance government.

It has also decided to serve them removal letters from today, said NU sources.

The syndicate, however, did not take any decision over 400 staffs, who were also appointed during that period, because of a High Court (HC) directive, they added.

The decision of sacking the employees came at an emergency meeting of NU syndicate at the university's Dhanmondi office in the capital yesterday evening.

A meeting source said the syndicate has taken the decision in line with a HC verdict and asked the university authorities to take necessary action immediately.

Earlier on August 23 this year, the HC announced the recruitment of around 1,222 teachers, officials and employees illegal.

They were recruited through a fake advertisement in two newspapers during the term of former NU Vice Chancellor Prof Aftab Ahmed.

As the news of illegal recruitment came into the media

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# Supercomputer may predict upheavals

BBC ONLINE

Feeding a supercomputer with news stories could help predict major world events, according to US research.

A study, based on millions of articles, charted deteriorating national sentiment ahead of the recent revolutions in Libya and Egypt.

While the analysis was carried out retrospectively, scientists say the same processes could be used to anticipate upcoming conflict.

The system also picked up early clues about Osama bin Laden's location.

Kalev Leetaru, from the University of Illinois' Institute for Computing in the Humanities, Arts and

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# TAX, LAND SERVICES

# ADB to fund digitisation

BSS, Dhaka

Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide a \$25 million loan to a project of the government to help deliver public services in a more efficient and transparent way.

The project would use ICT based state-of-the art technology to introduce online filing of tax returns, digitised land records management in selected districts, and establish 40 specialised tax and land information and service centres for easy access to information, an official of ADB's resident mission told BSS.

An agreement to this effect would be signed today. ADB Country Director Thevakumar Kandiah and Economic Relations Division Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan will sign the agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

"The project will improve transparency and accountability in tax and land record administration, resulting in an enhanced public trust in government for service delivery," said Hiranya Mukhopadhyay, an economist (Fiscal Management) in ADB's South Asia Department.

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WikiLeaks

# AFTER BDR MUTINY

# Commotion in army got Hasina nervy

The PM desperately wanted to meet Obama, get US backing

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina strongly desired a meeting with US President Barack Obama to show a sign of US support to her government weeks after the 2009 BDR mutiny, said several cables from US Embassy in Dhaka.

"The late February mutiny of border guards against their army leadership that left more than 50 officers dead was a huge blow to her government. Hasina's decision not to immediately use the army to quell the mutiny angered many mid-level military officers, and the state of civil-

military relations is tenuous," reads one cable.

A meeting with Obama would signal the US government's continued strong support for democracy in Bangladesh, it added. WikiLeaks published the cable on August 30.

Two weeks into the BDR mutiny, Hasina was worried about the fate of her government, according to another US embassy dispatch.

The then US ambassador James F Moriarty wrote in a cable to Washington that Hasina on April 27, 2009 requested a

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The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think following the judicial probe body's report the police, who didn't act to save the six innocent students from mob beating in Aminbazar, will face action?

Yes (22.0%)  
No (77.7%)  
No Comments (0.3%)  
TOTAL VOTES: 327

TODAY'S POLL  
How will the WikiLeaks revelation of Tarique Zia's corruption and violent politics have an effect on BNP's popularity?  
PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT  
www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING September 11		
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4:35	5:10
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:30	4:45
Maghrib	6:14	6:17
Esha	7:45	8:15



Families United Against Road Accidents organises a human chain to raise awareness about road accidents with photos of road mishap casualties at Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Inset, Samia Halim, sister of lawmaker Tarana Halim, breaks down in tears during the human chain. She lost her son Saif in an accident.

PHOTO: STAR

# Licence only after test

Human chain asks govt for safe drivers, roads

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmaker and noted artiste Tarana Halim yesterday demanded the government make non-bailable the offence of causing road accidents by drivers and increase the maximum punishment to 10 years imprisonment.

She was addressing a human chain programme seeking necessary steps to reduce road accidents and ensure safe movement, said a release.

Saif Foundation and Families United Against Road Accidents (Fuara) jointly formed the human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Around 1.9 lakh drivers got professional licences without taking any test during the last 18 years and recommendation has been made to issue another 28,000, she said quoting newspaper reports.

Tarana expressed concern that these irregularities will raise the toll in road crashes and urged the authorities not to issue driving licences without conducting proper tests. Earlier on August 20, the legislator announced that she would go on a hunger strike unto death if the government issues licences without arranging any test.

Denying that the movement for road safety has political affiliation as hinted by some quarters, she insisted it is a social movement for public welfare.

The Awami League lawmaker also demanded amendment to Motor Vehicle Ordinance, 1983 and arrangement of proper training for those who got licences earlier with

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