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BRING BLAIR-BUSH TO BOOK

Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu demands their trial in The Hague for Iraq war role

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SONALI LOAN SCAM

Modasser may be quizzed

Anti-graft body interrogates Hall-Mark bosses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission will quiz Syed Modasser Ali, health adviser to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, as part of its ongoing investigation into the Hall-Mark loan scam.

ACC Commissioner Md Badiuzzaman, acting chairman of the anti-graft body, yesterday officially informed journalists that the adviser's name had come up during their probe into the Tk 3,547 crore scandal.

He said the commission had to question the adviser to examine the information it had.

Citing sources, The Daily Star on Thursday reported the ACC had information that Modasser had influenced Sonali Bank into illegally granting a huge amount of loan to Hall-Mark Group.

"As his [Modasser's] name has surfaced, of course we have to quiz him," the ACC commissioner said, adding that any other bigwig would be interrogated if necessary.

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A Bangladesh Chhatra League activist at Buet hurls abuse at a teacher who resists his attempt to snatch the microphone set used by anti-VC agitators yesterday. More photos on page 2.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Sonali moves to suspend 2 top managers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sonali Bank has recommended that the government take "proper action" against two of the bank's deputy managing directors over the Hall-Mark loan scam.

The bank's letter to the finance ministry yesterday did not mention any name but referred to a

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SONALI'S SHADY AFFAIRS

Lending to 5 cos under question

Reveals audit report

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Sonali Bank's branch at the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel lent over Tk 30 crore to five companies, including the fictitious Anwara Spinning Mills of Hall-Mark Group, by way of bill purchase without clients' applications, an audit report revealed.

The branch released the funds solely against vouchers, insubstantial for any loan. This led to embezzlement of funds from the bank, according to the report.

The irregularities were detected by a functional audit by Syful Shamsul Alam & Co on the branch, recently.

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COUNCILLOR'S ARREST

50 hurt as locals clash with cops in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

At least 50 people including five policemen were injured in clashes between cops and locals last night over the arrest of a city corporation councillor for allegedly assaulting

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BUET SIT-IN CONTINUES

BCL elements swing into action for VC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Buet erupted into protests yesterday as the vice-chancellor and his deputy did not step down within the deadline set by students.

Students burnt effigies of the VC and pro-VC, staged a sit-in at the administrative building and issued a new ultimatum to the duo to resign by 11:00am today. On Saturday, they had imposed a deadline of 10:00am yesterday.

The crisis at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology has increasingly been taking a turn for the worse owing to the rigid stance adopted both by students and top administrative figures of the university.

Also, the presence of the pro-ruling party student wing, Bangladesh Chhatra League, added another dimension to the crisis.

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Quader sorry for slapping railway staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said "sorry" for slapping a train attendant while visiting Ishwardi Railway Station on Saturday.

Also in charge of the railways ministry, Quader slapped Boloram Das across the face for charging extra money for a ticket from a passenger.

"Although public support is in my favour for

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Carjacking too easy for gangs

Police capture 6 criminals, recover 12 cars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajib Molla had been prowling the Mirpur area on an August evening, looking for his prey. He had been on the search for hours. But fortune would not favour him that night readily, not yet. However, Rajib would rather give another try than give up.

Around 5:00am as he looked around, now more intensely, he found his prey -- a pickup, parked on the road. There was nobody around, a perfect setting for a carjacker.

The 25-year-old opened the car door with his master key and drove away. That was his fourth catch from Mirpur in four months, he told reporters at the Dhaka Metropolitan Police office yesterday.

Police also produced five other members of the gang after arresting them from Dhaka, Chittagong and Feni between Friday and Sunday. Detectives also seized 12 stolen cars and a motorbike from their possession.

"I have a key. I can open old cars with the key very easily," said Rajib, who gets between Tk 5,000 and 10,000 for every car he steals.

The other detainees are Sabuj, 26, Nurunnabi, 30, Moinuddin Moin, 30, Mahub, 27, and Jahir, 35.

The gang operated mostly in the capital's Mirpur and Pallabi areas, said Molla Nazrul Islam, deputy commissioner of DB (north).

The way the gang operated seems highly organised.

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