



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurates the Teesta Road Bridge on Rangpur-Kurigram highway at Kaunia upazila of Rangpur district yesterday. Former president and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, second from left, was also present.

PHOTO: STAR

DESTINY SCAM CASE
Hearing on bail cancellation deferred to Sept 27

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred to September 27 the hearing on petitions seeking cancellation of bail of 22 Destiny Group officials, including its managing director, in two money laundering cases.

Judge Mohammad Zahirul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after the officials' lawyer submitted petitions seeking the hearing adjournment.

Attorney General Mahbubul Alam yesterday made his submissions supporting the bail cancellation of the officials.

Three separate metropolitan magistrates of Dhaka had granted the bails on different dates although they have no jurisdiction to deal with money laundering cases.

Granting time, the judge asked the defence lawyers to place their arguments against the cancellation of bail.

The judge court on September 13 stayed the order of his sub-ordinate court that, on September 12, cancelled bail of five of the officials, including Destiny Group Managing Director Md Rafiqul Amin and Director Lt Gen (retired) M Harunur Rashid.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), on August 13 and September 12, filed four separate petitions challenging the legality of the lower courts' orders which, violating the provisions of the Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2009, granted the bails.

On July 31, ACC sued the 22 officials for laundering Tk 3,285.26 crore by cheating investors.

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PM inaugurates Teesta bridge

Says Rangpur will get Special Economic Zone

UNB, Rangpur

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated the much-awaited Teesta Road Bridge in Rangpur and said a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) would be set up in the division to spur economic activities in the country.

Demands of people in greater Rangpur have been fulfilled as it has been upgraded to a division, she said at the inauguration of the bridge on Rangpur-Kurigram highway at Kaunia point.

"Steps have already been taken so Rangpur could be turned into a nice city where necessary offices will be set up," she said.

Listing various development activities of the present government, Hasina said now there is no monga and problem of food in the country as her government has ensured food security alongside boosting power generation.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, among others, was present.

Later, the prime minister inaugurated the bridge at Lalmonirhat point.

Speaking on the occasion, the premier said she herself had laid the foundation of the bridge on July 1, 2001 to reduce sufferings of people of Kurigram and Lalmonirhat.

The BNP-Jamaat alliance, after assuming power, stopped the work on the bridge, she alleged adding that the present Awami League government resumed the work in 2009 after returning to power.

With construction of the bridge, Hasina hopes the country's trade and commerce would get a boost and more industries would be set up.

The Roads and Highways Department (RHD) implemented the construction work on the 750m long and 12.11m wide bridge over the Teesta river.

With the bridge opening, people will now have easy access to the capital and other parts of the country. Till now, they had to use Teesta Railway Bridge, which is now in a bad shape.

Tax official arrested for bribery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) officials yesterday arrested an assistant tax commissioner while taking bribe from a businessman at the Segunbagicha office of Tax Zone-5 in the capital.

Maj Emranul Haque Shah, ACC director of Dhaka Zone, told The Daily Star that they held Kazi Ashiqur Rahman, 35, following a complaint made by businessman Sheikh Mizanur Rahman of the capital's Siddheswari.

"We caught the tax official red-handed while he was taking Tk 50,000 from the businessman. Tk 29,500 was also seized from a drawer of his desk and he could not show any credible source of the money," said Maj Emranul.

Quoting Mizanur, the ACC director said Ashiqur had demanded Tk 1 lakh to move his tax return file but later agreed on Tk 75,000.

Ashiqur, a resident of 121/1 Muradpur High School Road of Jurain, was later handed over to police. A case was filed against him in this connection.

Row over bus fare Students vandalise 5 buses in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Sharkari Bigyan College (Government Science College) yesterday went on a rampage and vandalised buses for the second consecutive day in the capital's Farmgate area following Wednesday's row with a bus staff over fare.

Vehicular movement on roads in the area were suspended for around 20 minutes due to yesterday's incident.

Police said around two hundred students came from their college and blockaded Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue around 12:30pm. At one stage, they vandalised five buses.

"We reached the spot within a short time and chased the students. They fled that time but again a small group of them gathered under Tejuti Bazar foot-over bridge and tried to block the road. We also chased them," said Omar Faruque, officer-in-charge at Tejgaon Police Station.

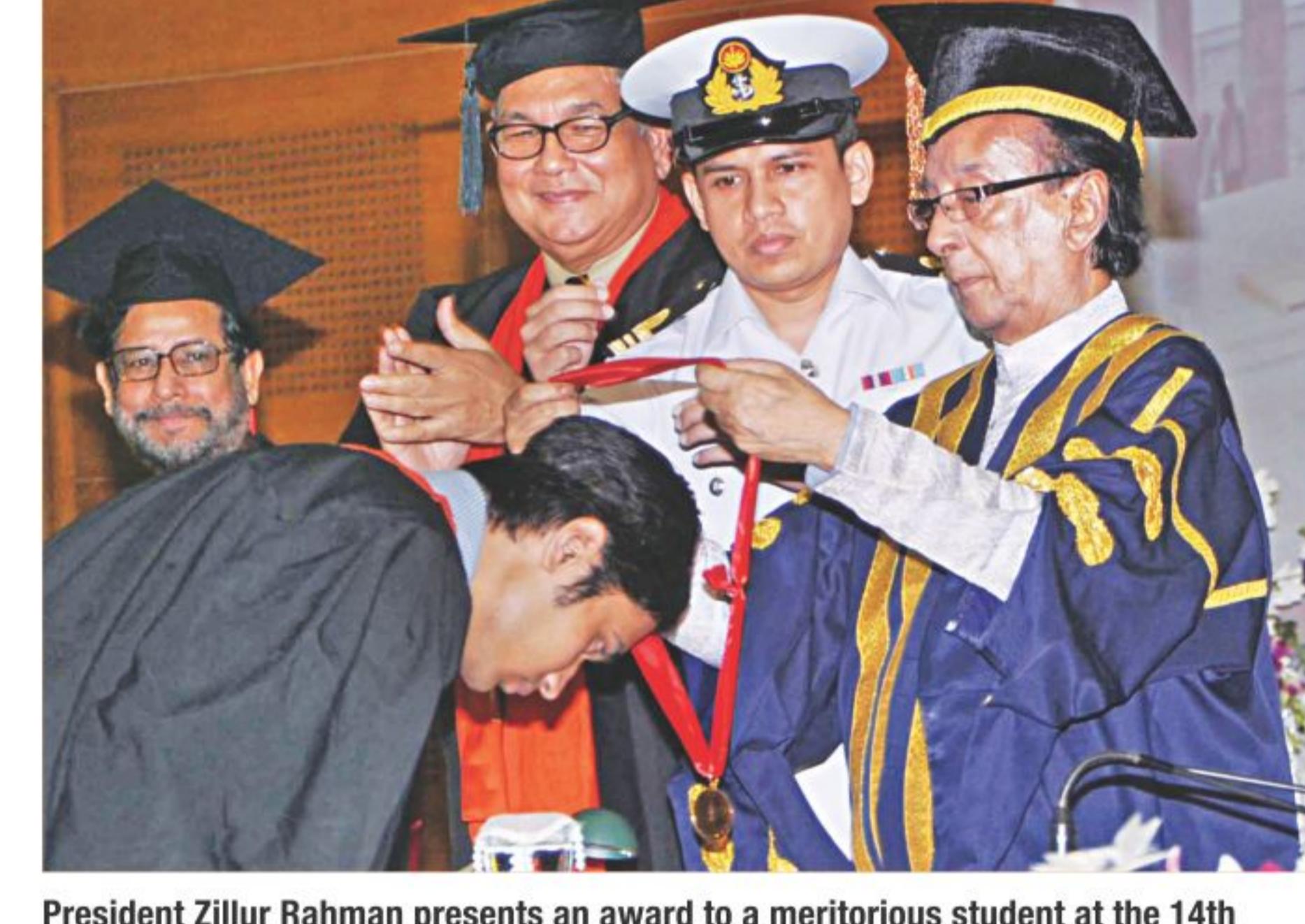
Police detained six students from the spot and later handed them over to their teachers.

Locals said some passengers of the buses sustained minor injuries in the incident and took treatment in local hospitals.

On Wednesday, a student of the college suffered minor injuries during a scuffle with a local bus staff inside the bus over fare.

"The matter was settled that day. I do not know why they acted in the same way today," OC Faruque said.

No case was filed in this connection.



President Zillur Rahman presents an award to a meritorious student at the 14th convocation of Independent University, Bangladesh in Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Don't make education only certificate based
President tells IUB convocation
BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday asked the authorities of all universities to make sure that higher education is not only certificate-based.

"It is must to put highest priority in ensuring quality education and expansion of research in higher education level," he said while presiding over the 14th convocation of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC) in the capital.

During the convocation, 934 students were conferred graduate and undergraduate degrees from different disciplines. Four students - Raisa Rasheeka, Rafid Haider, M Saiful Islam and SM Saiful Islam received gold medals for their outstanding academic results.

Noted cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor MP addressed the event as the convocation speaker while Raisa Rasheeka as valedictorian. IUB Trustee Board Chairman Towhid Samad and Vice Chancellor Prof M Omar Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

Police impersonator held at Bangladesh Secretariat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed Police Battalion (APBn) arrested a man who went inside Bangladesh Secretariat impersonating a policeman with a walkie-talkie and motorbike yesterday.

Monir Hossain Badal, 35, collected a pass of the housing and public works ministry and entered the secretariat introducing himself as a cop to the guards at the gate, said Officer-in-Charge at Shahbagh Police Station Sirajul Islam.

Because of his suspicious movement, APBn members asked Badal to show his identity card. But he could not show it.

Later, the law enforcers took him to the police camp inside the secretariat and interrogated him. During the interrogation, he admitted that he was not a cop, OC Sirajul said.

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NON-GOVT HIGH SCHOOLS, COLLEGES Nationalisation demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and employees of non-government high schools and colleges yesterday held a rally before Central Shaheed Minar in the capital to press home their 21-point demand including nationalisation of the education system.

amount of yearly increment, medical allowance and house rent.

The rally was held under the banner of Bangladesh Shikkhak Samity.

Speakers at the rally urged the government to take steps to implement the education policy-2010 soon.

They criticised the government for giving them only Tk 150 as house rent and only Tk 100 as medical allowance.

They demanded the prime minister's intervention to end discrimination in the education system.

They also threatened to go for a tougher agitation programme if the demands were not met within September 30.

Their other demands include implementation of time-scale, increasing the