

# BOMB ATTACK ON INU'S HOUSE It's a cooked up incident: BNP

UNB, Dhaka

The main opposition BNP yesterday termed the recent bomb attack on Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu's house a cooked up incident, and alleged that the police extracted "false confessional statements" in this regard from two Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists through torture.

"Police have extracted false confessional statements from Chhatra Dal activists Mahbubul Alam and Akil Mahmud by torturing them. We strongly condemn and protest it," said BNP Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

He was addressing a press briefing at the party's Nayapalton central office.

Rizvi said the law enforcers' claim that the two JCD men carried out the attack at the behest of JCD president Quader Bhuiyan Jewel is false.

He also alleged that the statements the two JCD activists gave before the court under section 164 confessing to their involvement in the bomb attack on the information minister's house was taken forcefully.

In their confessional statements, central JCD committee member Akil Mahmud and its Titumir College unit activist Mahbubul Alam told the court that they carried out the bomb attack following an order from Jewel.

On June 9, unidentified miscreants hurled four to five crude bombs at the Mirpur residence of the information minister.



**A heritage building during demolition on the capital's Shankhari Lane last month. The government listed 142 holdings along the lane for preservation as heritage sites. Owners of such properties blame the government for not providing the mandated necessary maintenance and restoration support. They have formed a committee demanding freedom to dispose of their structures however they want. Inset, the facade of the building draped in a jute sheet for demolition.**  
PHOTO: STAR



## GRAFT CASE Charge framed against Hafiz Ibrahim

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Barisal

A Barisal court on Sunday framed charges against Hafiz Ibrahim, BNP central committee member; SM Gaznavi, principal of Hafiz Ibrahim College; and Mosharrif Hossain Shahjahan, former BNP lawmaker; in a case filed over misappropriating relief items.

The court, however, acquitted Mosharrif as he died before the charge framing date.

Judge Muhammad Sharfuddin Azad of Divisional Special Judge Court passed the order in presence of the two accused and extended their bail granted by the High Court.

On June 13, 2007, a team from Borhanuddin Police Station in Bhola district recovered a huge amount of corrugated tin from the Hafiz Ibrahim College sanctioned to be distributed as relief items, court sources said.

Zaki Uddin, upazila project implementation officer, lodged the case with the police accusing Gaznavi. The case was later transferred to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

## Road crashes kill two, injure 30

CITY DESK

Two people were killed and 30 others were injured in separate road accidents across the country on Sunday and yesterday.

Our Pabna correspondent reports, a child was killed and 10 other people were injured when a bus collided head-on with a truck near Mulbari rail crossing in Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was Mahin, 7, of Bogra. Six of the injured were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

Our Dinajpur correspondent adds, Rashidul Islam, 40, died after a bus rammed his motorbike at Tatakpur Bazar in Birampur upazila of Dinajpur yesterday.

A Bhola correspondent reports, 20 people were injured when a bus of Miraj Paribahan veered out of control and fell into a roadside pond in Zinnagarh Union Complex area of Charfashion upazila on Sunday.

Seven of the injured were admitted to Charfashion Upazila Health Complex.

## Ctg nursing students start fast-unto-death over 6-point demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Around 450 students of Chittagong Nursing College yesterday went on a fast-unto-death on the campus in the port city to realise their six-point demand, including introduction of a six-month to one-year internship on course completion.

Their other demands include increase in monthly stipend to Tk 3,000 from Tk 800, introducing special BCS examination for nursing students, and masters course for them.

Brig Gen Khondakar Shahidul Ghani, director of Chittagong Medical College Hospital; and Dr Mujibul Haque Khan, president of Bangladesh Medical Association, Chittagong chapter, visited the campus around 2:00pm and assured the students of talking to the health ministry on their demands.

Bangladesh Basic Graduate Student Nurses' Association President Rajib Kumar Biswas said their discussion on the issue with the ministry's additional secretary had come to naught.

The ministry secretary MM Niaz Uddin said the students' demands would be met but it would take time.

## DU celebrates 92nd founding anniversary

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students, teachers and staff of Dhaka University yesterday celebrated the university's 92nd founding anniversary with a vow to imbue the young generation with the spirit of the Liberation War and liberal thoughts.

To observe the day, the university organised processions, discussions, cultural events, and debate competitions among other events. The key buildings of the university were decorated with colourful lights.

Teachers, students and staff carrying banners, festoons and balloons gathered at the mall where they cut a large cake. Flags were also hoisted atop different buildings of the university.

A colourful procession led by DU Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique marched the campus. The procession came to an end at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC).

Addressing a gathering at the mall, Education Minister Nurul

Islam Nahid said, "The aim of the Liberation War is yet to be achieved. The histories of the country and Dhaka University are intertwined; and so the students try to reach their potential through quality education and build a modern country."

The University Grants Commission Chairman AK Azad Chowdhury said since its inception, the university always came forward during important movements in the interest of the nation.

Prof Arefin Siddique emphasised upholding the tradition of the university and urged the students to play a greater role in promoting the spirit of the Liberation War and free thinking.

Cultural activities including rendition of songs by the students took place on the campus. Teachers and students played several football matches on the central playground in the afternoon.

## 142 HERITAGE SITES IN SHANKHARI BAZAR Property owners resist preservation move

ZYMA ISLAM

Aiming to resist government attempts to preserve buildings on 142 holdings along the capital's Shankhari Lane considering them as heritage, the holding owners formed a "Heritage Protection Committee" (heritage prevention committee) last year.

The body demanded freedom of the building owners to dispose of their structures however they want.

As per a 2009 official gazette, the 142 holdings, alongside 93 other sites within Dhaka city, were listed by Rajuk for preservation considering those as "heritage sites".

In the gazette, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) also banned demolition or modification of the structures unless recommended by Rajuk's Urban Development Committee.

"Although all the buildings have been listed as heritage sites, not all of them are old enough to be counted as heritage," the committee President Ajay Nandy Madan told The Daily Star recently.

"I constructed a building on holding number one in 1994, and yet it is enlisted as a heritage. Hence I had faced difficulty when I wanted to extend the construction," he said.

The committee Secretary Udhay Kumar Nag, a shankhari (craftsman who makes conch shell bangles) by profession said he would like to reconstruct his old building as he could not afford its maintenance.

As per Antiquities Act 1968 and Building Construction Act 1952, the government is responsible for providing heritage sites with the necessary maintenance and restoration support.

Rajuk Chairperson Nurul Huda claimed that the Department of Archaeology, not Rajuk, was responsible for the maintenance. Department of Archaeology Assistant

Director Rakhi Roy denied responsibility, saying that the sites did not meet the criteria of being an "archaeological monument".

"We never received maintenance support from the government," said Udhay.

The demolition of a building, on holding number 42, began at the start of last month.

Rajuk filed a case against one of the building's owners, Ganga Hari Sur, and the demolition was initially stopped, said Kotwali Police Station Sub-inspector Uday Kumar Mondol.

However, the demolition resumed again due to negligence of police, said Rajuk's Authority Officer Aminur Rahman. At present, most of the building has been demolished.

"Most of Shankhari Bazar's inhabitants are against the police action against Ganga Hari Sur," said Ajay.

The building's co-owner and heir, Sanjay Dutta, complained that the structure was dilapidated, putting inhabitants under threat of a collapse.

Taimur Islam, architect and heritage conservationist of Urban Study Group, a collective working on preserving Shankhari Bazar's heritage, dispelled fears of a collapse.

"The building, being an antiquity, was built using lime masonry instead of cement and concrete, which makes it more durable in nature," he said.

"The timber beams and plasterwork of the ceiling has worn down, which could have been repaired. The building could have been made safe enough for public use by retrofitting instead of pulling it down," he added.

Sanjay claims to have never received support from the government for maintenance.

"The owners would have received the necessary support had they requested it," said Rajuk Planning Member SA Mannan, stating that they would continue to protect the holdings to prevent loss of culture and heritage.



Students of Chittagong Nursing College go on a fast-unto-death on the campus in the port city yesterday morning to realise their six-point demand.  
PHOTO: STAR

## Waterbus service resumes Thursday

FROM PAGE 16

are still missing at some vital places like Bosila and Sealmashi.

Since June 11, the BIWTC has been running the six waterbuses, each having capacity for 81 passengers, as an experiment, which has not been going well.

Passenger response was still poor.

To run the hourly waterbus service, the BIWTC has to face a loss of around Tk 4,000 on every trip but the loss would increase if there were too few passengers, BIWTC sources said.

BIWTC is now charging Tk 35 to take a passenger to Gabtoli from Badamtali

Ghat, which is Tk 5 more than the fare of a regular bus.

"We are ready to give subsidy as we are considering it as a service sector and want to make the service popular," Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan said.

Once it becomes popular, the private sector would also come forward, the minister hoped, adding that they have plans to add four more waterbuses in a year.

Around 100 buses operate between Sadarghat and Gabtoli daily, carrying thousands of people. The journey by bus takes up to three hours during the

morning and evening rush but the waterbuses can cover the same route in about one hour, commuters said.

If a fraction of the road passengers is diverted to the waterbus, the service could flourish overnight, said insiders.

SM Salehuddin, managing director of Urban Habitat Consultant, said the waterbus on circular waterway could reduce traffic congestion. But the boats have to have a shallow hull and must be fast so that they could run in the dry season.

Saleh said the fare of the motorised boats would also have to be cheap and people would like to get a

boat sailing in every 10 minutes, he added.

Project director of waterbus of Dhaka circular waterway, Khondokar A Mannan, said the new waterbuses that could run at 20kmph were built with a cost of Tk 75 lakh each.

He said initially the waterbuses will have stoppage at Sawarighat, Kholamora, Aminbazar and Gabtoli, and would run from morning until evening.

Jasim, a passenger who boarded from Sawarighat to go to Kholamora on Thursday, said the waterbus was very comfortable for journey but its fare should be reduced.

## Shibir calls hartal for tomorrow

FROM PAGE 1

Sunday, but it later backed off from its plan citing inclement weather.

In a press release yesterday evening, Shibir secretary general Abdul Jabbar alleged that the government had been torturing their president and other senior

leaders keeping them in detention.

"We want their immediate release," he added.

Shibir alleged the government had been using the law enforcement agencies to abduct its party leaders.

It claimed that police

had abducted its Rajshahi University unit Shibir leaders Azizur Rahman and Tajammul Ali on June 24, adding that another RU unit leader Abdus Salam and Dhaka city unit leader Nurul Amin were also picked up from different parts of the country on June

26.

Police were yet to produce those Shibir men before the court, the party alleged, saying that it was a violation of human rights.

Jamaat is a key partner in the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance.

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