



PHOTO: STAR

A representative of the Japanese embassy and a Japanese doctor leaving Rangpur Medical College morgue yesterday after an autopsy of their fellow citizen Hoshi Kunio, shot to death by unidentified gunmen on Saturday.

## Offenders

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division, claimed that law enforcers did not have any connection with the youths.

"Perhaps the extra Tk 8.5 being charged is needed to pay remuneration to those employed in the room," he said.

DMP Commissioner Asaduzzaman Miah expressed his surprise after learning about the matter from this correspondent. "The transaction charge can never exceed Tk 11.5," he said, assuring to look into the matter.

Another aspect of the DMP fine payment system is that the papers are sent to the home address of the traffic violators and cannot be collected in person from the division. For this, Sundarban Courier Service charges Tk 20.

But the trouble starts when offenders fail to trace the papers long after the fine has been paid.

Take the case of Mohammad Badal, who was fined mid-August for not using a seatbelt. He paid the fine on August 24, six days ahead of the deadline, and since then visited the division four times in vain to get back his car's tax token.

The last time, on September 15, he spent three hours there since 9:30am. All he was shown was a number of the courier service pasted on a wall and suggested contacting it.

Like him, Jebunnesa Siddika, in her 50s, has been running between offices of the courier service and the division. She was fined for not having renewed her car's fitness certificate.

"It has been a week and still they could not confirm when I would get my papers back," said Jebunnesa.

Reasons for such delays include wrong or incomplete home addresses and cellphone numbers, said the courier service's assistant general manager, Anisur Rahman.

"Often, the papers are handed over to us a couple of days after the fine has been paid," he added.

## Question

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processions on October 5 and 6 as part of their ongoing movement, he added.

Yesterday, the protesters started their sit-in at Shahbagh around 12:00pm after police barred them from marching towards the Prime Minister's Office.

Later, seven candidates and parents submitted the memorandum to the office.

Due to hours of blockade at the busy traffic hub, travellers of all roads connected to Shahbagh remained stuck in their vehicles for several hours.

Sharmin Akhter, a banker, who was driving her car to Karwan Bazar from Motijheel in the afternoon, said she spent an hour to reach Shahbagh from Matsya Bhaban.

Many were seen leaving their vehicles to start walking towards their destinations.

To avoid severe congestion, police later diverted the oncoming traffic towards Shahbagh.

The marchers started for the PMO from the Central Shaheed Minar around 12:33pm but faced police barricades in front of the National Museum.

They tried to break through but police forced them to give up.

However, they were adamant about leaving the intersection.

At one stage, Shibli Noman, assistant commissioner (Ramna Zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, using a loudspeaker, called upon the agitators to stay calm.

## Teachers continue

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they have long been enjoying and demanded that government fulfil its electoral pledges of constituting a separate pay scale for them.

They have also threatened to go for a non-stop movement and refrain from admission tests and public examinations, but the government seems to be "indifferent to diffusing their dissatisfaction".

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid sat with the university teachers and assured them that the government was working to solve their problems. His assurance, however, did not pacify their grievances.

He will sit with them tomorrow again.

Amid such realities, the day will be observed with the slogan "Empowering teachers, building sustainable societies".

Teachers of all 37 public universities under the banner of Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association (FBUTA) have been voicing protests since May and abstaining from work to press home their four-point demands including a separate pay scale.

Terming the new pay scale to be effective from July "discriminatory", they said the post of selection grade professors [senior teachers] has been abolished, although bureaucrats have got a special grade for themselves.

At loggerheads with the government, the agitating teachers warned that if their demands were not met soon, the university admission tests starting from October 9 might be hampered.

"We hope that we won't have to go for a tougher movement as he [the minister] has assured us of meeting our demands. Let's see what happens in the meeting," said Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, secretary general of FBUTA.

"We'll announce our next programme on that day [October 6]," he told The Daily Star.

The other demands include keeping senior professors and senior secretaries on the same level of pay structure and ensuring benefits enjoyed by the same grade of government officials.

There are more than 13,000 teachers at 37 public universities in the country, around 15,000 teachers at public colleges and around 4 lakh teachers at around 63,000 government

primary schools.

Teachers of government colleges are also waging a movement protesting against cancellation of selection grade and time scale. They also observed work abstention three times last month.

BCS General Education Association, a platform of teachers and officials belonging to the education cadre, organised the demonstration to press home their four-point demand, including reinstating the selection grade and time scale and upgrading salary of different posts under this cadre.

IK Selim Ullah Khondaker, secretary general of BCS General Education Association, said they would form human chains at all government colleges on October 7 and refrain from taking classes on October 14-15.

The teachers are going to stage a sit-in before the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education on October 18.

As per their pre-announcement, assistant teachers of the government primary schools yesterday observed work stoppage for four hours to press home their demands including upgrading their salary up to 11th grade and reinstating the selection grade.

The teachers, under the banner of Primary Assistant Teachers Federation, a platform of four organisations of assistant teachers, said they would observe a daylong work abstention on October 10 at all state-run schools.

"The head teachers do mostly managerial jobs. It is us who mainly teach the children, but we are deprived," said Shahinur Al-Amin, president of the federation.

The trained assistant teachers are now enjoying 13th grade and the non-trained teachers the 14th grade in pay structure.

"We will assemble 50,000 teachers from across the country and observe a token hunger strike on October 15 in front of Jatiya Press Club," he said.

The teachers are set to boycott the primary terminal examinations if their demands are not met.

The head teachers of government primary schools have also been staging protests under different banners to press home a seven-point demand including upgrading their status.

In a unique protest, the head teachers cover their office chairs with a piece of black cloth and keep standing during office hours every day.

## At least a dozen killed in fresh Burundi protests

AFP, Nairobi

At least a dozen civilians have been killed in weekend clashes between police and anti-government protesters in the Burundi capital Bujumbura, sources told AFP yesterday.

The deadly clashes are the latest in months of unrest triggered by President Pierre Nkurunziza's successful bid to win a third term in office, a move opponents said was against the law and the terms of a peace deal that ended a 13-year civil war in 2006.

"The clashes started at noon on Saturday," said deputy police spokesman Pierre Nkurikiye, who blamed "armed criminals" for attacking his officers in Mutakura, a northern suburb.

"Two of the assailants were killed and two policemen injured," said Nkurikiye.

But witnesses told AFP that Saturday's clashes were more widespread, and more deadly.

In Cibitoke, a protest hotspot since April that borders Mutakura, six corpses were found on the streets with bullet wounds early yesterday, according to three witnesses and a local official.

A witness in Mutakura said four more bodies were found yesterday morning while others said the number was five.

Some of the dead had been shot in the head.

Sources said the trouble began late Saturday morning when police arrested some young people in Mutakura, sparking clashes with angry residents who attacked police with arms and explosives. The unrest then spread to nearby districts.

"It was a nightmare. All day we heard explosions from grenades and the crackle of automatic weapons and machine guns," said Gerard, a Bujumbura resident. "Many people spent the day and night holed up in their homes," he added.

## Mosque raided after Australia 'terrorism-linked' shooting

AFP, Sydney

An Australian mosque reportedly visited by a 15-year-old boy before he shot dead a civilian police employee in an "act of terrorism" has been raided, police said yesterday.

New South Wales state police said the mosque in the western Sydney suburb of Parramatta -- close to the scene of the double shooting on Friday afternoon -- was raided with the consent of religious leaders.

"NSW Police yesterday executed a warrant at a mosque in Parramatta," police said in a statement yesterday.

"The warrant was undertaken by arrangement with leadership at the mosque who provided full assistance to police at all times."

The 15-year-old gunman, who killed finance worker Curtis Cheng at close range outside the police force's headquarters before he was shot dead by officers, visited the mosque before the shooting, according to the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

## Bangladesh

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Peru, Guatemala and Malawi showed better commitment as they secured the first three slots while Angola, Sudan and Guinea-Bissau fared worst.

Referring to Bangladesh, the IDS report mentioned about some "strong performance" shown by the country, which include promotion of complementary feeding practices and administering vitamin A supplements among 94 percent of children aged 6-59 months.

The report also mentioned about certain areas where Bangladesh should do some improvements. The areas include ensuring women's rights on farmland and helping poor with better institutional, legal and market frameworks for accessing land and gain secure land tenure.

## Cricketer

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But Shahadat is still on the run. After filing of the case, the couple had gone into hiding.

Acting on a tip-off, police caught Nrittya Shahadat from one of her relatives' house on charge of torturing the 11-year-old house help, Mahfuza Akhter Happy, Syed Kaiyumuzzaman Khan, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Mirpur division) told The Daily Star.

"We are trying to arrest Shahadat," the police official said.

A Dhaka court yesterday allowed the police to interrogate Nrittya at jail gate for three days within five working days, rejecting both bail and five-day remand prayer for her.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Yunus Khan passed the order.

On September 6, the domestic help, Happy, brought the allegation of torture by Shahadat and his wife. Later, a case was filed against the couple with Mirpur Police Station in this connection.

The girl was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Earlier on the day, Shahadat had lodged a general diary with the same police station, mentioning that his house help went missing.

On September 13, pacer Shahadat was temporarily suspended by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

# Thaksin's son gives Thai police reward for blast probe

AFP, Bangkok

The son of ousted Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra has handed police a reward of nearly \$200,000 for their investigation into the deadly Bangkok blast, after authorities declared the first suspect arrested was the bomber.

The unprecedented August attack at a shrine in a bustling shopping district killed 20 people, mostly ethnic Chinese tourists, landing a fresh blow to the nation's image as a holiday paradise after last year's military coup and months of street protests which preceded it.

The reward from Panthongtae Shinawatra -- the first born son of populist leader Thaksin -- follows Thai police rewarding their own officers some \$84,000 for arresting the bombing suspect two weeks after the blast.

"My team has handed seven million baht (\$192,000) to the national police headquarters to boost the spirits of officials," Panthongtae declared in a Facebook post on Saturday.

Thailand's national police chief Jakkhup Chaikinda confirmed the money had been received, telling reporters yesterday that the sum was marked for police officers involved in the investigation and those who provided tip-offs.

It was not immediately clear if any members of the public would receive a cut for tip-offs. The earlier reward from police was earmarked only for officers as officials at the time said they had not received any public tip-offs after their call for information.

After weeks of an often confusing and contradictory probe, police last month announced that the foreign man they had arrested in possession of bomb-making equipment in August was the main yellow-shirted suspect seen on CCTV leaving a rucksack at a shrine moments before the blast.

They said the man -- named by police both as Bilal Mohammed and Adem Karadag -- had confessed to planting the bomb. The suspect's lawyer later confirmed his client had admitted doing so.

But mystery still shrouds the motive for the unclaimed attack.

Jakkhup said yesterday police had not ruled out any motive for the crime with warrants out for more than dozen other suspects believed to be involved.

There is only one other man in custody over the attack, a foreigner named as Yusuf Mieraili who is a Chinese passport-holder of Uighur ethnicity. Authorities have not confirmed the nationality of either of the two held.

Strong speculation has centred on a link to militants or supporters of the Uighurs, an ethnic group who say they face severe persecution in China.

But Thai authorities have avoided using the word Uighur largely, analysts say, for fear of angering China -- one of the ruling junta's few international friends.

In July the kingdom forcibly deported a group of 109 Uighurs back to China, sparking widespread condemnation.

Police have previously said they believe the bombing was a revenge attack by a people-smuggling gang angered at a recent crackdown on their illicit business.

And in a new twist last week they said domestic political grievances could also have been a factor in a country bitterly divided by rival factions, revealing one local suspect was linked to previous bombings in the kingdom.

Thailand's long-running political schism roughly pits the rural and urban poor loyal to Thaksin, toppled in a 2006 coup, against royalist elites backed by large portions of the military.

## BNP mustn't

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heavily on the premier for bracketing Jamaat with BNP.

"There is no reason behind bracketing Jamaat with BNP as we are totally two different political parties. The BNP had never encouraged such killings... Rather we had tried [when in power] every single incident," he claimed.

Asked about BNP standing committee member Moyeen Khan's remark on September 29, a day after the assassination of an Italian citizen at city's Gulshan, Fakhru said, "It was his personal opinion. Our party is yet to hold any meeting on it [killings of foreigners]. I am yet to take my charge fully in the party as I am on leave due to my illness. He [Moyeen Khan] would be able to explain on what perspective he had made those remarks. It would be difficult for me to explain his comments."

At a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club, Moyeen said the ruling Awami League government cried wolf.

The Awami League government used the militant issue for its own interest and to get benefit from the western world. Now it has become the victim of that. It has fallen into the canal which it dug by raising the issue of militancy before the west, Moyeen had said.

Fakhru expressed concern that irresponsible remarks from the government's top level over the murders of the two foreigners would not only create obstacles to the probes but also make it difficult to identify the perpetrators.

"Such incidents are taking place more and more as the law and order situation in the country is very fragile," he added.

Fakhru demanded the government ensure exemplary punishment for the

killers of the foreigners after identifying them through a proper probe.

"We strongly condemn the killing of the two foreign citizens. Such murders demonstrate that the country's law and order situation is now very bad," he said.

Earlier at a press conference at the party's Naya Paltan central office, BNP spokesperson Asaduzzaman Ripon said the premier's remark that BNP-Jamaat clique might be involved in the killing of the two foreign nationals was unfortunate and improper.

Hasina is saying that the incidents were under investigation but on the other hand, she is linking the BNP and other opposition parties to the incidents. It's regrettable, he said.

Hasina during a press conference at her Gono Bhaban residence said, "The style of the killings of the two foreign nationals was the same. These were planned murders. If you assemble the remark of a BNP leader and the reaction after the killing of the Italian national in Gulshan area, the matter will be clear."

## 2 army men

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hit a roadside tree around 7:45pm, Sub-Inspector Anwar Hossain, in-charge of Dulahazra Malumghat Highway Police, told our Cox's Bazar correspondent.

Two other soldiers, whose name could not be known immediately, were injured in the accident. The soldiers were on their way to the newly-built cantonment in Ramu and the accident happened in the Khotakhali Selim Future Park area, the SI added.

Police took the victims to Dulahazra Malumghat Christian Memorial Hospital.

## Buses ripping off

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to suffer as those are insufficient compared to the number of buses.

Commuters are supposed to pay Tk 1.70 for travelling per kilometre on public buses and Tk 1.60 per kilometre on minibuses, according to the new chart.

Zubayer Rahman, a college student, yesterday commuted from Mirpur 10 to Farmgate on a bus named Mirpur Link and he had to pay Tk 15.

As per the BRTA chart, the distance of this route is 6.7 kilometres and hence, the fare should be around Tk 11.50.

"Not only Mirpur Link, most of the buses plying this route are charging additional fares," he said.

Ehasanul Karim, a government employee, commutes from Mirpur 10 to Motijheel and is being charged Tk 25.

Mahbubur Rahman, a banker, who commutes between the same route,

said, "Today (Sunday), I took a bus of ETC Transports. They charged Tk 20 even a few days back but today, they charged me Tk 25."

The distance between Mirpur 10 and Motijheel is around 12.7 kilometres and the fare should be around Tk 21.50.

Staffs of many minibuses, too, are charging higher fares.

Balaka Paribahan, a minibus service plying the Sayedabad to Gazipur route, is charging passengers Tk 14 for a distance of around 8 kilometres, almost same as the fare fixed for buses.

Meanwhile, BRTA yesterday conducted mobile court drives at three points in the capital -- Manik Miah Avenue, Mirpur Road and Agargaon -- to check overcharging.

The mobile courts filed cases against 88 vehicles for overcharging and fined them over Tk 1.12 lakh, said BRTA officials.