



A group of medical college admission candidates start a fast unto death at the Central Shaheed Minar of the capital yesterday demanding a fresh test. The aspirants, vehemently speaking out against the question leak, said they would not give up. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

# MEDICAL COLLEGE ENTRANCE TEST RETAKE DEMAND Agitators start fast unto death

Get support from DU, Buet students, politicians

**DU CORRESPONDENT**

Candidates protesting the leak of the medical college admission test question started a fast unto death at the capital's Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, after their earlier programmes like marches, rallies, and exhibitions failed to change the government's position.

Around 60 admission aspirants and guardians started the strike around 11:00am, and it was going on till the report was filed around 2:00am.

Some protesters fell sick due to fasting. The candidates have been demanding a fresh admission test as, they claimed, the test questions were leaked a day before the exam was held on September 18.

The demonstrators are determined to continue their hunger strike until the health ministry accepts their demand for re-running the test.

Politicians, leaders and activists of student organisations, students of Dhaka University and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), and different professionals joined the protesters and expressed solidarity with their demand.

President of Bangladesh Chhatra Union Lucky Akhter said the government tried to foil the demonstration in various ways to cover up the question leak.

"The health ministry is trying to legitimise the question leak by letting the admission process continue in medical colleges. Though question leaks are an 'abnormal incident, they have become common in the perspective of Bangladesh as question papers of the primary certificate examination to job examinations are getting leaked readily," she said.

Students and guardians demanded the prime minister's intervention to solve the problem.

They said ministers and lawmakers were not bothered about the demonstration as they were dependent on foreign hospitals

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## EX-PDB CHAIRMAN MURDER CASE

# Two suspects including 'JMB man' arrested

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Detectives yesterday arrested two suspects from Dhaka and Tangail in a case filed for killing former chairman of Power Development Board (PDB) Khijir Khan.

The arrestees are Tariqul Islam Tarer alias Mithu, an alleged organiser of banned Islamist militant outfit Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and Alek Bebari, said an official of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's media section.

Two laptops and two cameras, which were stolen from Khijir Khan's house, were recovered from Tariqul's possession, he said.

Further details could not be known immediately.

Detective Branch of police called a press conference at the DMP media centre around 11:30am today to share information, the DB official said.

A group of unidentified assailants murdered Khijir, also a freedom fighter, by slitting his throat after tying up his family members in his Maddhya Badda house in the capital on October 5.

The following day, the murder case was filed accusing six to seven unnamed people.

Meanwhile, at a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday, Engineers Institution Bangladesh demanded that the killers be arrested and punished. The speakers said if the killers were not brought under trial, such murders over "differences of religious views" would keep on taking place.

## 40pc buses charging extra

Says Obaidul Quader  
UNB, Dhaka

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said some 40 percent public buses are charging more than the already hiked up fares.

The government increased the fares of bus and minibuses by 10 paise per kilometre in Dhaka and Chittagong cities and other areas under Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority (DTCA) -- Gazipur, Munshiganj, Narayanganj, Manikganj and Narsingdi districts. The minimum fare is Tk 7 for buses while Tk 5 for minibuses, he mentioned.

"My assumption is that some 40 percent buses and minibuses are charging additional fares," he said, while addressing a signing event of annual performance agreements at the Bangladesh Secretariat.

The minister said during his field visits in the last few days he found many buses charging additional fares beyond the revised fare chart.

"After receiving complaints from passengers, I've found that some state-run

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## TRANSNATIONAL CRIME GANGS

# Dev makes Bangladesh attractive target

US envoy Marcia Bernicat tells conference in Dhaka

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

US Ambassador in Dhaka Marcia Bernicat has said Bangladesh, in some ways, becomes an especially attractive target for transnational criminal organisations of all types because of its remarkable track record in development, economic growth and secular governance.

Addressing a conference on "Transnational Organized Crime as a Global Challenge", she highlighted the need for close regional and international cooperation to address a criminal threat that transcends borders.

Together the US and Bangladesh can dismantle criminal and insurgent groups that were once considered to be impenetrable and untouchable, the envoy said. "You are by no means alone in this fight, but make no mistake; you are in this fight, not immune from it."

The conference started at Police Staff College in the capital on Monday, according to a US embassy press release.

Bernicat said joining efforts also meant boosting other relationships, particularly at the government-to-government level.

"Our intelligence services, for example, must serve as models of collaboration between themselves and with law enforcement agencies. Information freely collected, analysed and shared is a powerful antidote against transnational crime. When information is withheld, lives are lost," she added.

Bernicat said the United States and Bangladesh shared an impressive partnership in addressing transnational organised crime. "It is in the spirit of our collaborative partnership that we come together for this

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## HIMU MURDER CASE

# Victim described how he was tortured

Ctg court hears his recorded statement

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

A Chittagong court yesterday heard voice statement in a case filed for the murder of Himu three years ago.

The statement was recorded by his friends while Himu was undergoing treatment in a city hospital.

Himu described how he was taken to a building by the accused -- Md Shahadat Hossain Saju, Jahedul Islam Shawon, Mahboob Ali Khan Dany and Junaid Ahmed Riad -- and was unleashed upon by dogs and, later, pushed off from the building, said additional public prosecutor Anupam Chakraborty Anupam. The statement

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## CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTER MIGRANTS

# Dhaka calls on all states to share responsibility

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

Dhaka has demanded that all states share responsibility in protecting people displaced by climate change and natural disasters, and mitigating their misery.

Foreign Minister AH Mahmud Ali made the demand while speaking at the "Nansen Initiative Global Consultation" held in Geneva on Monday, according to a foreign ministry press release yesterday.

The minister described the challenges Bangladesh faces due to climate change and natural disasters, and its diverse effects that would occur in the future.

Citing the fifth IPCC report, Ali said Bangladesh lost six percent GDP during the period between 1998 and 2009 due to climate change.

He added that as a result the country is likely to experience 15 percent increase in poverty by 2030.

He mentioned that one metre rise in sea level would inundate one-sixth of Bangladesh, which would displace 31.5 million people.

In the afternoon session, the foreign minister launched a book titled "A Tale from Climate Ground Zero: Climate Change, Land and People of Bangladesh".

On the sidelines of the programme, the minister held bilateral meetings with his Switzerland and Costa Rica counterparts. Around 350 delegates from 132 countries attended the meeting.

# STAR WEEKEND

in other news...

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