

# Govt to create 10 police stations, another upazila

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to upgrade Shayestaganj thana under Habiganj district to an upazila while establish another new pourashava at Tarash upazila headquarters in Sirajganj district.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the National Implementation Committee on Administrative Reforms (Nicar) held at the Prime Minister's Office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday.

Briefing reporters after the meeting at the Cabinet Division at Bangladesh Secretariat, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiul Alam said Nicar considered 12 proposals.

He also said the total number of upazilas will stand at 492 with the upgradation of Shayestaganj thana.

Shafiul Alam said the Nicar meeting decided to include Chandpur Union under Faridpur Sadar upazila. The union is currently under Boalmari upazila of Faridpur district.

It also decided to widen the peripheries of Faridpur Pourashava, Panchbibi Pourashava under Joypurhat district, and that of Bonpara Pourashava under Natore district.

Shafiul Alam said Nicar also approved proposals for setting up some eight new police stations in Rajshahi metropolitan area and a new police station at Hatirjheel under Dhaka metropolitan area as well as a new police station at Dularhat splitting from Charfashion Police Station in Bhola.

Nicar also asked the authorities concerned to resubmit the proposals for setting up Muradpur Pourashava under

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What looks like an indoor parking is actually a secondary transfer station of the Dhaka South City Corporation. It is apparently being used for everything else other than what it was meant for -- effective waste disposal. The place, under the Hanif flyover in the capital's Fulbaria area near Banga Bazar, has also become a resting place for humans and elephants alike. Meanwhile, garbage containers like this one, *inset*, occupies the road space and spread malodour. Many of the locals alleged that influential people use the space as their parking lot right under the nose of the authorities concerned. The photos were taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



# A chilling murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There were around 40 beds in a row on a rolled-out mat. Zidan, 12, and Bakar, 16, who were once good friends, used to sleep one bed apart. Recently, their relationship deteriorated due to unknown reasons. But nobody thought this animosity could lead to murder.

The two were students of Madinatul Uloom Madrasa in the capital's Gulistan. Around 100 students of the institution, where they are taught to memorise the whole Quran, lived in two adjacent halls in barrack-like arrangements. Most of them are below 12.

It was around 1:00am yesterday.

With a knife, Bakar quietly crawled to the bed of Zidan. He first gagged the boy with a piece of cloth and slit his throat, all in a skilful sweep. The 12-year-old was dead right away.

The boy who slept on a bed between Bakar and Zidan's witnessed the killing, but he pretended to be asleep. He was fearful about his own life.

"Bakar committed the murder when everyone was in sleep," said a resident of the room, quoting the boy who witnessed the incident.

After finishing the killing, "he dragged the body around 30 feet and dropped it into a septic tank," he said.

It left a trail of blood all the way.

Since the madrasa gate was locked at night, Bakar fled by breaking through a wooden structure in the tin-roof dormitory. As soon as he vanished, the witness woke all others up and spotted the body in the tank next to the hall toilets.

The students and teachers took Abdur Rahman Zidan to Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 4:00am but doctors said he was brought dead.

According to students, Abu Bakar was the most senior student of the madrasa. He killed Zidan after they grew enmity over a "senior-junior issue" after Eid-ul-Adha this year.

The students and teachers, however, could not say exactly why the two turned into foes from friends, and what possibly could be the overwhelming reason behind such a gruesome act.

Police picked up several students and teachers for interrogation.

Another student said Bakar and Zidan were friends, but they were not on good terms for the last few months.

Bakar used to dominate all other students as he was a senior and often quarrelled with Zidan over trivial matters. Madrasa teachers tried to end the antagonism several times, last time on Thursday.

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# AL leader slain over land dispute

A CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A ward-level Awami League leader was killed allegedly over a land dispute in Satkhira on Sunday night.

Solaiman Gazi, 45, son of Moksed Gazi of Jhayamari village in Kaliganj upazila, was general secretary of ward 9.

His decapitated body was found on Koikhali embankment near Ashashuni upazila, said Akhter Hossain, inspector (investigation) of Ashashuni Police Station.

Haider Ali, a former member of ward 9 in Ashashuni upazila, said Solaiman went out after he received a phone call while playing carrom at Koikhali Sanyasir Chawk Bazar.

Victim's brother Samiullah Gazi said there had been a longstanding dispute between his family and that of Wahab Ali Peyada of the same village over 107 bighas of land. Wahab had threatened Solaiman several times in the past, he alleged.

Abdur Rashed Gazi, cousin of the victim, said Wahab's brothers Narim Ali Peyada and Selim Ali Peyada informed him of the body over cell phone.

Wahab told this correspondent that Narim and Selim worked at a fish enclosure near the spot where the body was found. They called Rashed after finding the body there, he added.

An autopsy was performed at Satkhira General Hospital and no case was filed till yesterday evening, said Ashashuni police.

# Why not declare March 7 as 'Historic National Day'

HC asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to declare March 7 as "Historic National Day".

The Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, had delivered the historic speech on March 7, 1971 at Racecourse Maidan (present-day Suhrawardy Udyan) inspiring the people of Bangladesh to go for the Liberation War for the independence of the country.

In the rule, the court asked the authorities concerned to show causes why they should not be ordered to construct a stage and a

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# Age limit for govt jobs to stay at 30

Public admin state minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Public Administration Ismat Ara Sadique yesterday told parliament that the government has no plan to raise the age limit for entering government jobs to 35 years.

Currently the age limit for entering the public service is 30 years.

Responding to lawmakers' queries, the state minister, present in the parliament on behalf of Public Administration Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, also said, a total of over 3.59 lakh posts at different ministries have been lying vacant.

In response to a scripted question from treasury bench member Morshed Alam (Noakhali-2), the state minister said necessary steps have been taken to fill up the vacant posts.

Replying to another question from Golam Dastagir Gazi (Narayanganj -1), Ismat Ara said of the total number of vacant posts, 48,246 are class one (grade 1-9) officers; 54,294 are class two (grade 10-12); 1,82,737 are class three (grade 13-17); and 73,984 are class four (grade 18-20).

Meanwhile, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Muhammed Sayedul Hoque yesterday told parliament that the government has set up 24 quarantine stations at

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PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Transport workers in Chittagong yesterday block the Berek Building intersection in the port city's Agrabad commercial area by placing vehicles haphazardly on the road. They put up barricades at many points including Oxygen Intersection and Nimtola Road for around an hour protesting an alleged attack on one of their leaders by some university students on Sunday. The barricades caused serious traffic congestion and public suffering.

# ACC arrests stock brokerage firm chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday arrested the chairman of Alliance Securities and Management Ltd in connection with a case filed for allegedly amassing wealth amounting to Tk 8.5 crore beyond the known sources of income.

A team of the corruption watchdog arrested Pankaj Roy from his Dhanmondi residence yesterday morning, ACC Deputy Assistant Director Sylvia Ferdous told The Daily Star.

The case was filed with Ramna Police Station on Sunday. After the case was filed, the ACC team went to his house to arrest him, but he did not open the door. The team arrested him when he opened the door finally in the morning, she said.



State Minister for Posts and Telecommunications Tarana Halim hands over the "ASOCIO-2017 Digital Government Award" to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday. The postal department received the award of Asian-Oceanian Computing Industry Organization (ASOCIO) in Malaysia on September 18 for taking multidimensional digital services to rural people. The premier also received the "Silver Award" of Asia-Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (AFACT) and "WITSA Merit Award" of the World Information Technology Services Alliance (WITSA) from Tarana. The postal department got the "Silver Award" on September 12 in Taiwan for its eCommerce-related service "Postal Cash Card: Banking for Unbanked People". On the same day in Taiwan, the WITSA awarded the postal department for transforming 8,500 post offices of the country into e-centres.

# Rajshahi-Kolkata train on cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A process is underway for introducing a passenger train service between Rajshahi and Kolkata in India.

Authorities of both the countries began official correspondence last week after India agreed on Bangladesh's proposal in this regard, Rajshahi lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha told The Daily Star yesterday.

The new route for passenger trains would use the rail link between Rohonpur in Chapainawabganj and Malda in India to reach Howrah station in Kolkata. Freight trains are already using this route, he said.

The trains under the Dhaka-Kolkata and the recently introduced Khulna-Kolkata services have been using the rail link between Bangladesh's Darshana and India's Gede frontier stations.

Fazle Hossain, a member of parliament from Rajshahi-2 constituency with Workers Party ticket, said he had sent the proposal in early July to the Indian government through the office of Assistant High Commissioner of India in Rajshahi.

"The rail link will attract Indian tourists to visit Rajshahi," Fazle Hossain hoped, saying that many Indians would be interested to visit Rajshahi's Taherpur where Durga puja, the largest festival of Hindus in undivided Bengal, began.

Once the service is commenced, it would make communication with Nepal and Bhutan much easier, he also said.

Khairul Alam, general manager of Bangladesh Railway West zone, said they received letters from both governments with directives to make necessary preparations for passenger trains on this new route. The required infrastructure is already in place on the route as freight trains have been using it, he added.

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