

Series of blasts in Dinajpur: 3 hurt, arms recovered

ANWAR ALI, Dinajpur

At least seven powerful bombs went off one after another inside a tinshed house in Chhoto Gurgola area in the town on Thursday morning, leaving three persons injured. Police said they later recovered from the house three shutter guns, one revolver, 13 cartridges, three bombs, some bullets of 303 rifle. Of the injured, Badal, 18, was rescued by neighbours and admitted to Dinajpur Sadar Hospital with critical burn injuries on his face and lower part of body, police and hospital sources said. Some sources said he was a rickshaw-puller and some others said he was a madrassah student. The neighbours said, hearing the explosions, they came out and saw two young men with their clothes blood-stained ran out of the house, got into a waiting white microbus and sped away. They could not be identified. The house caught fire after the explosions that panicked residents in the area. The fire service put out the fire. Some seven madrassah teachers and students had been living in the two-room house for the last several months on rent, the neighbours claimed. Police cordoned off the house and did not allow newsmen to

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Most wanted criminal Abbas held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The detectives arrested one of the 23 most wanted criminals from the city's Banani area yesterday afternoon.

A team of the Detective Branch (DB) went to the Helvetia snacks at Banani and caught Abbas alias Killer Abbas at 4:30pm. DB officials said Abbas arrived in the city a day before Eid. Tipped off, a team of the DB was watching him since his arrival. Abbas went to the food shop at about 4:15pm and ordered for a sandwich and a Coca-Cola. A team of the DB was watching him through a binocular from the nearby Iqbal tower, while another team was waiting near the spot. As soon as Abbas entered the first food shop, the team led by Additional Deputy Commissioner Kohinor Miah, Assistant Commissioner SM Akther and Inspector Shahnoor silently followed him into the shop. Sensing the presence of police, Abbas put his hand in his waist to pull out his revolver but one of the team members jumped on and arrested him. The DB team recovered the

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'No Bangladeshi killed in Mina stampede'

BSS, Dhaka

There is no Bangladeshi national among the pilgrims died and injured in stampede in Mina on Tuesday, Bangladesh ambassador to Saudi Arabia told the foreign ministry officials here over telephone on Wednesday. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia expressed deep shock and sorrow and condoled the deaths of devotees. Fourteen pilgrims were crushed to death and several others injured during a stampede at the "stoning the devil" ritual in Mina, according to AFP. "Fourteen pilgrims died and others were lightly injured following a huge crowd rush in Mina," said General Abdul Aziz bin Mohammed bin Said, commander of security forces in Makkah. "Three women were among the pilgrims killed," the general said.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Feb 15		5-54 pm
Feb 16	6-31 am	

Prayer Timings		
Feb 15		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-45	6-15
Zohr	12-15	1-20
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	6-00	6-06
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

No illegal Bangladeshi in India, FM says in Delhi

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan does not think India has any illegal migrant from Bangladesh coming to India to live," Khan told reporters after an interactive session with the business community organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry yesterday. "I don't think there is any illegal migrant from Bangladesh coming to India to live," Khan told reporters after an interactive session with the business community organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry yesterday. Khan now on a visit to India is due to call on Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani today.

About India's concern over illegal immigration from Bangladesh, he said both countries should deal with the issue according to internationally established rules and standards. "No side can be illogical or unreasonable." Khan hoped the irritants in the way of improving bilateral ties would be sorted out during his talks with his Indian counterpart Yashwant Sinha. He was scheduled to meet Yashwant Sinha last night. "I regard him (Sinha) as a brother and friend," Khan said. He assured the business community that they have "nothing to worry" about security. Bangladesh gears up to fight

terrorism, he said. Pointing to the potential for trade and economic cooperation between India and Bangladesh, Khan said, "If we have interests in each other and things are left to the business sector, a solid foundation will be built." "We are destined to work together," he said. "This is not a one-day match. It is a series of tests. So, we have to remain engaged." Khan emphasised that relationship should be based on mutual respect. In an obvious reference to tension between India and Pakistan, he said, "The danger that prevails in the region should be resolved only

bilaterally. There should be no third party involvement." India can tap into economic reforms in Bangladesh and encourage investments, said Khan. He has singled out information technology and infrastructure as areas where cooperation can be strengthened. "Let us remain engaged in an effective dialogue and keep our door open," he said. "We don't have any fundamental conflict." Indian Commerce Minister Arun Jaitley has been invited to Bangladesh and Bangladesh Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman to India, he said.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia called on President Iajuddin Ahmed at the Bangabhaban Wednesday evening to offer Eid greetings.

Eid-ul-Azha celebrated

AGENCIES, Dhaka

Muslims across the country on Wednesday celebrated the holy Eid-ul-Azha with due religious fervour and spirit of sacrifice. Millions of Muslims joined Eid prayers at Eidgahs and mosques seeking divine blessings for peace and prosperity of the nation and unity of the Muslim ummah. After prayers, well-off-Muslims sacrificed animals remembering the great sacrifice of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS). They distributed meat among relatives, friends and the poor. In the city, the main Eid congregation was held at the National Eidgah at 8 am. President Iajuddin Ahmed offered his Eid prayers there. Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury, ministers, judges, political leaders and people from all walks of life also offered their Eid prayers at the National Eidgah. SEE PAGE 3 COL 8

10 murdered during Eid holiday, 4 in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 people were murdered in the country, four of them in the city, in the last four days since Tuesday last. The victims include a policeman, killed in Shaikupa in Jhenidah. In the city, Mohammad Ali, 40, accused in at least six criminal cases, was chopped and shot by a gang of 15 in front of Sahidnagar Macca Hotel in Lalbagh at about 2:30 pm on Tuesday. He died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital at about 4:30 pm. Police said the victim was a gang leader of criminals and released on bail nine days ago. He might have been by his rivals, they said. The victim's sister Rasheda Begum filed a case with Lalbagh

police accusing seven persons -- Firoz, Bhuna, Chuna, Mahbub, Razzak, Arman and Suman. "Firoz and his men killed my brother to avenge previous enmity," she said in the FIR. Police arrested Firoz, Arman and Suman. Khilgaon police recovered the body of an unidentified young man, wrapped in a sack, from a lane behind a clinic yesterday afternoon. The youth was attired in a lungi. Uttara police recovered the body of an unidentified girl, aged about 15, from a paddy field in Maynartek on Wednesday. Body of a young man Jamalwas recovered from the city's Shyampur Kadamtala industrial area at 11.15am yesterday. In Naogaon, freedom fighter Gias Uddin, 50, was killed at

Mandanga village under Atrai upazila in Kalikapur union Tuesday night. Quoting police, our Noagaon correspondent reported that Gias was killed allegedly by an armed gang belonging to outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) when he was returning home from Minapur bazar. The incident took place near Madandanga ferry ghat at about 8:15pm. The freedom fighter was buried yesterday afternoon with state honour after namaj-e-janaja at the upazila headquarters. A murder case has been filed with Atrai police. Mustafizur Rahman, Superintendent of Police of Noagaon, told The Daily Star that Gias might have been killed by hired

Attack on police station : 4 Juba Dal men held in Chuadanga

UNB, Chuadanga

Police have arrested four Juba Dal leaders for ransacking Darshana police station on the night of February 11. Police said Juba Dal leader Moijul and his associates demanded toll from Hafiz garments of Darshana the same night. On information, police rushed to the spot and arrested him. At about 11 pm, a group of 35 armed youths attacked the police station and ransacked it. They also damaged the residence of Officer-in-charge Golam Rasul. Three police personnel were injured during the attack. The arrested Juba Dal leaders are Farook, Shahin, Fitu and Mukta.

River cruise turns into tragedy 8 drown in Meghna, three still missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A river cruise turned into a tragedy when eight people drowned and three went missing as their small launch, caught in a storm, sank in the Meghna river near Char Amirabad in Matlab Thursday evening. Twenty-nine wealthy people, believed to be relatives, left Pagla Ghat in the city on board MV Amit and went up to Ichali Ghat in Chandpur. As they started their return journey in the evening, the nature took its toll in the river at a

spot about 20 kilometres off Chandpur, police there said. Of the victims, bodies of ASM Siddiq, 58, Managing Director of Siddiq Textiles, six-month-old girl Saira, Sabekun Nahar, Saida Siddiq, Tanveer Mohammad Siddiq, Dr Morsheda Anam, Rownak Rahman Sumi and Hiru Siddiq were recovered yesterday. The victims include a doctor of ICDDR. Seven bodies were recovered from the river yesterday and one on the night before. The three missing are Abul

Haq Mohammad Siddiq, Rasidha Siddiq and advocate Safiqur Rahman Chowdhury, police said. Rescuers from Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) recovered the bodies. BIWTA salvage vessel Rustom salvaged the launch at about 3:00pm yesterday. A BIWTA press release quoting its chairman said the rescue vessel left Narayanganj for Chandpur immediately after getting the news of the accident but its journey was delayed as it had to anchor on way due to dense

Poll violence in 4 dists kills 7, injures 200

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least seven people, including a minor girl, were killed and more than 200 injured in Union Parishad poll-related violence in Madaripur, Fairpur, Munshiganj and Bogra districts during the Eid holidays. In a pre-election incident of violence on Wednesday, two people were killed and over 100 injured during clashes between two groups of supporters of rival chairman candidates in Khalia union of Rajoir Upazila in Madaripur. The voting is scheduled for today (Saturday). Our correspondent from Madaripur reports: During the

day-long clashes, the attackers traded hundreds of gunfire, swooped on villages, ransacked and looted households and set vehicles on fire. Police arrested seven people in connection with the violence. Syed Ali Mollah (35) died on the spot during the gunfight, while Bellal Sheikh, 25, succumbed to his injuries at a local hospital. The injured were admitted to Madaripur Sadar Hospital. According to locals, supporters of Shamsul Haq Hawlader, a chairman candidate and president of ruling BNP Rajoir Unit, opened fire on supporters of an Awami League-backed candidate Sirajul Haq Mollah at about 11.00am, immediately after the

Eid prayer. Later, the supporters of Sirajul Haq Mollah launched a counter attack. The clashes lasted until the evening. In post-election violence in Fairpur, two people were killed yesterday during armed clashes between the supporters of a defeated UP election candidate and the members of law enforcing agencies in Dangi Union of Nagarkanda upazila. The dead are 30-year old Idris Mollah and Rumana Akther, a three-year old child. The three-hour-long clashes left 25 people, including five police and BDR personal, injured. The election was held on Monday. Demanding cancellation of the election results, the angry SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



FLYING LANKA-MAN: Sri Lanka paceman Chaminda Vaas is over the moon after accomplishing his hat-trick against Bangladesh at Pietermaritzburg yesterday.

Vaas grabs historic hat-trick Lanka lash Bangladesh

AL-AMIN, from Pietermaritzburg

Bangladesh may have wished they never visited Pietermaritzburg on Thursday because it was there that Chaminda Vaas snapped up the third hat-trick in the history of World Cup. What was extraordinary about the Sri Lankan fast bowler's feat was that it came with the first three balls of the 50-over contest. Vaas' opening burst left his team only to chase 125 for victory, which they did with more than half the overs to spare. The experienced left-arm pacer finished the first over carnage grabbing his fourth scalp with the fifth ball. He joined Pakistan off-spinner Saqlain Mushtaq (1999) and India's paceman Chetan Sharma (1987) in the elite group. Vaas, who hold the world record of best bowling figures in one-day internationals (8-19 against

Zimbabwe), eventually helped himself to 6-25 as Bangladesh, sent into bat, were bowled out for 124 in 31.1 overs. Sanath Jayasuriya (69) and Marvan Atapattu (55) then rattled up required runs in 21.1 overs with both making four centuries. Coming into the match with their

confidence at an all-time low following their shock 60-run loss to minnows Canada on Tuesday, the Tigers got off to the worst possible start when opener Hannan Sarkar went for an expansive drive and the ball sneaked through the big gap between bat and pad before crash SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Faruque Ahmed Siddiqui Mohammad Solaiman

Two Hathazari AL leaders murdered

UNB, Chittagong

Two local Awami League (AL) leaders were murdered at Hathazari in Chittagong Wednesday night. Faruque Ahmed Siddiqui, 39, office secretary of district AL (north) and Mohammad Solaiman, 55, secretary of the Burishchar Union AL, came under armed attacks when they were talking to hide traders in the Zia Ulum Alya Madrassah. Solaiman was also the madrassah secretary. Police said a gang of seven entered the madrassah at 11.00pm to loot hide and fired on the two upon resistance, said police. Supporters of the slain leaders put up barricades on the Kaptai Road, disrupting communication for several hours. Local AL leaders condemned the killing and demanded arrest of the killers. SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Offices to reopen today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government and private offices resume today, after three days of Eid-ul-Azha vacation and the weekly holiday. The holidays began on February 11 and a large chunk of the city dwellers went to their village homes to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with their near and dear ones. However, the newspaper offices resumed functioning yesterday. The capital yesterday looked deserted as most shops and business centres kept their shutters down. The city traffic was much less chaotic in the last few days. There were fewer pedestrians, rickshaws, auto-rickshaws, minibuses and other modes of vehicles yesterday. The usually crowded buses had seats for passengers. With thinner traffic since Saturday, life in the capital was less noisy. People were happy with the quieter look of the capital, as they could move freely and breathe less polluted air. Though movement of rickshaws, auto-rickshaws and minibuses increased yesterday, they were seen plying with fewer passengers. SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Judge falls from rooftop, dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Additional District and Sessions Judge of Dhaka died after falling from the rooftop of his residence in Dhanmondi Tuesday night. Khandoker Hasib Uddin Ahmed, 46, went to the rooftop to adjust a dish antenna to watch the World Cup cricket match between Bangladesh and Canada. The judge slipped down from the fifth floor at about 9:00pm. He was rushed to the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital, where the on-duty doctors declared him dead. An unnatural death case was filed with the Dhanmondi Police Station in this connection. Hasib passed his LLB and LLM from Dhaka University and joined SEE PAGE 11 COL 8