

Kapali, Rafique

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with four wickets. When bad light stopped play, Bangladesh were struggling on 52 for four.

Rafique, playing in his fifth Test, gave the first break through when he had Taufeeq Umar caught behind for 75 after Pakistan had resumed the day on 134 for two.

He then bowled Inzamam-ul-Haque for 43 with a cleverly disguised arm-ball as Pakistan went to lunch on 222 for four.

Rafique was in his elements straightaway after lunch when the dangerous looking Rashid Latif (40) was stumped by wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud. Shoaib Malik, clearly in no condition to play due to a groin injury, came out to bat with a runner but didn't trouble the scoreboard as Rafique removed him with a leg before decision.

Mahmud, under pressure for some indifferent performance, led from the front as he took two wickets while bowling long economical spells and didn't put a foot wrong throughout the day. Yousef Youhana fought a lone battle for Pakistan and was unbeaten on 64 when the last wicket tumbled.

But the commendable works of Rafique and Kapali failed to inspire

the visitors who lost four quick wickets in the remaining 20 overs of the day and lost the initiative once again.

Paceman Shoaib Akhtar grabbed the wickets of openers Javed Omar (0) and Hannan Sarkar (7) while Danish Kaneria then had Mohammad Ashraful caught at slips also for seven.

But the biggest blow came for Bangladesh when inform right hander Habibul Bashar was trapped and sank into the sea caught in a strong current.

Nine fishermen were rescued by another trawler. The missing fishermen are Sidu, 15, Alamgir, 35 and Firoj, 20.

Hasina

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She alleged that the coalition government put the percentage of votes cast in Netrakona by-elections at more than 60, while the turnout was only 20 to 30 per cent.

The AL handed over power, Hasina claimed, leaving 2.70 crore tonnes of grains in surplus. But the coalition government ruined all achievements in the agricultural sector in 22 months since October 2001, she alleged.

Hasina also accused Motiur Rahman Nizami, the first agriculture minister in the coalition government, of destroying the agriculture sector and branded him as one from the anti-liberation forces.

Awami League leaders Abdul Jalil, Tofail Ahmed and Rahmat Ali, Professor Shamsul Huda Harun and agriculturist Abdul Mannan, among others, addressed the meeting chaired by Krishak League President Mirza Abdul Jalil.

Mild tremor shakes Ctg

UNB, Dhaka

A mild tremor, measuring 3.14 on the Richter Scale, shook Chittagong city and its adjoining areas in the early hours of yesterday.

The epicentre of the tremor that lasted for about 10 seconds from 3.55.28 am was 79 km off the Chittagong Seismic Observatory Centre, said a press release of the Meteorological Department.

Young man murdered at Lalbagh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Assailants killed a young man and left his body on the rooftop of a five-story building at KB Rudhra Road in Lalbagh yesterday.

The identity of the man of mid-twenties could not be known.

Police suspect that the man might have been killed the previous night.

On information, police recovered the body at 10:00am yesterday. The head of the deceased was smashed with a blunt weapon. There were also marks of injuries in different parts of the body.

Police sent the body to Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with Lalbagh Police Station.

20 hurt as armed outlaws attack villagers in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

At least 20 villagers were injured as armed outlaws attacked Kachipara village in Sadar Upazila yesterday morning.

Police said about 25 outlaws led by their leader Jhonu Maker attacked the village at about 11 am as they believed some villagers had disclosed their names in connection with the murder of local BNP leader Nurul Biswas on July 31.

Angry villagers later torched six houses owned by the identified outlaws in neighbouring Nutan Goailbari village.

Aftab and Abdul Khaleq two critically injured villagers were sent to Dhaka for treatment.

Police have been deployed in both the villages.

US soldier killed

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The death brings to 65 the number of US soldiers killed in attacks since Washington declared major combat operations over on May 1 following the war which ousted Saddam.

A report from Sofia, Bulgaria adds: Anti-tank grenades were fired at the Bulgarian military base in the central Iraqi city of Kerbala yesterday morning, but caused no injuries or damage, the Bulgarian defense ministry said.

"We have launched a search for the attackers," the ministry said in a statement, adding that Polish and US forces and local police were helping in the investigation.

The attack comes three days after US forces handed military command of Kerbala over to Bulgarian troops who form part of a 9,200-strong international force under Polish command.

Three fishermen missing as trawler capsizes in Bay

UNB, Bhoala

Three fishermen went missing when a trawler capsized in the Bay of Bengal on Thursday.

Local people and survivors said the trawler of Hajipur Fisheries Association in Doulatkhan upazila went fishing in the Bay Thursday morning. The trawler overturned and sank into the sea caught in a strong current.

Nine fishermen were rescued by another trawler. The missing fishermen are Sidu, 15, Alamgir, 35 and Firoj, 20.

Two top CID officials will visit Joypurhat tomorrow

UNB, Joypurhat

Two top CID officials are to visit Joypurhat tomorrow to have first-hand knowledge about the activities of Jama'atul Mujahidin and the clash between its militants and police.

They are DIG Abdul Mannan and Police Superintendent Akhtaruz-zaman.

Police Superintendent Abdul Jalil Mondal said the purpose of their visit is to make an overall review of the clash that took place between police and Jama'atul Mujahidin militants at Moheshpur village in Khetlal upazila of Joypurhat on the night of August 14.

Even after 15 days of the incident, police failed to recover the arms of the Mujahidin militants had snatched away from them during the clash.

Police launched a vigorous drive to nab militant leader Montejar Rahman and his son, Momin.

Dr Kamal

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government has become a 'hostages to corruption'.

The parliamentarians do not seem to be concerned about public issues, rather they are eager to increase their own benefits, Menon said.

President of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) Jyotindra Bodipriya Lama alias Shantu Lama said an 'anti-people role' in policymaking and policy implementation was played under all the successive governments.

The meeting was also addressed by, among others, President of the Communist Party of Bangladesh Mujahidul Islam Selim, President of Krishak Sramik Janata League Bangobir Kader Siddique and Jatya Samajtantrik Dal leader Shirin Akther.

Campbell quits

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Bernstein concluded: "The victim here was not David Kelly but Britain, Blair and the rightness of the Allied cause."

Just 22 per cent of those responding to a poll by the Daily Telegraph newspaper felt that the government had, on balance, been honest and trustworthy.

Blair, who swept to power on a promise to ban sleaze from government, received disastrous ratings. A poll back in 1998 showed 74 per cent of voters trusted him. That has now shrunk to just 27 per cent.

While no smoking gun has emerged to support the claim by a BBC reporter that the government "sexed up" a dossier to justify the case for a war most Britons opposed, the inquiry has exposed the workings of Blair's inner circle in unprecedented fashion.

And with no banned weapons found in Iraq, Blair's cause for war and handling of its aftermath remain under intense scrutiny.

Bernstein, who with Bob Woodward broke the Watergate scandal that toppled Richard Nixon, wrote in the Daily Mirror "No American president would dare initiate such an inquiry."

"The inquiry in which the prime minister now finds himself a witness of questionable credibility, is not about Dr Kelly any longer. It is about what information was used to sell a war to the people and the legislatures of the US and UK," he said.

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Najaf blast

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Abdul Mahdi said the bomb detonated as worshippers were streaming out of the mosque. A US military spokesman confirmed there had been a bomb blast but had no details.

"There was an explosion at Najaf near a mosque," he said. "No coalition forces were in the area or on the ground because it is considered to be sacred ground."

On Sunday, top Shiite cleric Ayatollah Mohammed Saeed al-Hakim was slightly wounded in a bomb attack at his office in Najaf which killed three security guards. Hakim is the uncle of SCIRI leader Ayatollah Mohammed Baqer al-Hakim.

Some SCIRI supporters blamed the previous attack, which was close to the mosque, on followers of rival Shiite leader Moqtada al-Sadr. His group denied the accusation.

Power struggles in Najaf are a key influence on the political future of majority Shiite Iraq.



Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, right, and President of Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League Bangobir Kader Siddiqui, left, attend the 10th founding anniversary of Gono Forum in Dhaka yesterday.

Imam killers

FROM PAGE 1
Monir and Abdullah, nicknamed Sumon and Shabbir, are leaders of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) and brothers of its top leader Gazi Kamrul.

Monir entered Bangladesh from India on August 28. His passport showed that he was a resident of Brahmanbaria, but he told police that he was a resident of Khulna.

UNB adds: Senior police officials of Khulna rushed to Sathkira last night to bring the PBCP leaders to the city.

Police believe that the interrogation of Monir might give them important leads to the killing.

Police said they would take him to a court today and would seek his remand.

"Although Sumon (Monir) was not in the killing mission, he might know the motive for the killing," said Investigation Officer Sub-inspector Zahid.

Khulna Metropolitan Police are interrogating the arrestees for further information.

Khulna district and city AL jointly called the hartal in Khulna as part of the party's 20-day programme in protest against the killing.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Puja Ujjapan Parishad extended its support to the hartal and announced a four-day separate programme to protest the killing of its adviser Bijon Bihari Mondol.

Bijon, who was travelling with Monzurul on the same rickshaw, was critically injured when armed assailants shot and bombed the AL leader on Monday and died on his way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital the next day. Rickshaw-puller Shaheed also died in the incident.

The Parishad brought out a protest procession in Khulna yesterday.

Leaders of the Parishad at a press conference on Thursday demanded immediate arrest of the killers of Bijon and condemned the killing of Monzurul and Shaheed.

Meanwhile, the failure of police to record the statement of Bijon raised questions in the political circles about the sincerity of police in handling the killing case.

The AL, Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Jamaat-Islami felt the statement of Bijon could give important clues to the killing leading to the arrest of the killers.

Armed Maoists raid bank in Nepal, flee with 2.5m rupees

AFP, Kathmandu

An armed group masked of Maoists raided a bank at Chitau district, 90 kilometres south of Kathmandu yesterday, police said.

The group of about 10 Maoists stormed into the local Nepal Bank Public Limited mid-morning, police said.

"The Maoists seized a gun and about 300 rounds of ammunition before they fled in a hired local bus" carrying 2.5 million rupees (33,300 dollars), a spokesman said.

The rebels shot and lightly wounded the local bank manager on their way out, he added.

Rebels raided a branch of state-run Rastriya Baniya Bank Tulsipur in southwestern Dang district Thursday, grabbing 7.1 million rupees (94,540 dollars) and some gold ornaments on their way, another spokesman said.

The Maoists on Wednesday declared they were ending a seven-month truce and were reverting to armed actions in their quest to impose a communist republic in Nepal.

AL-BNP gap

FROM PAGE 1
"The situation is getting more complicated because of the government's unchanging attitude towards the opposition," said Saber Hossain Chowdhury, organising secretary of the AL and political secretary to the party chief.

BNP Vice-Chairman MK Anwar told The Daily Star yesterday that if the current political trend continued, tension would persist. Anwar, also the agriculture minister, is of the view that the opposition has scope to air its grievances on the floor of the House.

"I would not say that the current political situation is very good, but still a sense of peace and tranquility is prevailing," Anwar remarked.

Tariquul Islam, another vice-chairman of the BNP, said the party would face its opponents politically. "We're a big party, we did not come

to power through anyone's mercy." Tariquul, also the information minister, asserted that the government was committed to bringing the killers of Monzurul to justice.

But after the killing of Monzurul Imam, sources said, the AL stands on joining the upcoming parliament session slated for September 11 and nominating its deputies to parliamentary standing committees may be tough.

Most AL lawmakers said the party would work out its strategy at the party high command and the AL Parliamentary Party (ALPP) levels.

Zillur Rahman, AL presidium member and a lawmaker, said: "We will hold a meeting within a couple of days and chart out our strategy reviewing all the issues."

On the next parliament session, he said, "It's far away, the ALPP will take a decision whether the party will join the session or boycott it."

The ALPP will meet on September 10 or 11, he said.

Opposition Deputy Leader in Parliament Abdul Hamid said: "The situation is getting worse day by day. As the ruling BNP does not want a peaceful atmosphere in Bangladesh as well as in parliament, we are waiting for the ALPP meeting to discuss the issue."

"We are waiting for a directive from our leader Sheikh Hasina," Atiqur Rahman Atique, an AL legislator, told The Daily Star.

Road accidents

FROM PAGE 12
Jahangir Alam.

No case was filed till 8:30pm yesterday.

An unidentified man of about 50 died in a road accident near Farmgate in the early hours yesterday.

On information, police recovered the body at 8:00am and sent it to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Tejgaon Police Station.

In Narayanganj, six people, including two women, were killed and 30 others injured in a road accident at Arahaz point on the Dhaka-Sylhet Highway yesterday, according to BSS.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at about 1.30pm when a Narsingdi-bound bus from Dhaka skidded off the road and fell into a ditch as its driver lost control on the steering. Six passengers died on the spot and 30 others were injured.

The dead are Chand Mia, 65, Mokhes, 22, Amzad Hossain, 35, Bashir Ahmed, 46, Taslima Begum, 40, and Nasima Aktar, 16.

Of the injured, 15 were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while others given first aid at a local hospital.

One shot dead

FROM PAGE 1
Biplobi Communist Party (BCP). Ruhul Shaikh has been missing since the incident, while Haroon Dhali is undergoing treatment in police custody at the Khulna Medical College Hospital.

Police said the PBCP cadres opened fire targeting Ruhul and Haroon. But the bullets hit the matchmaker who was negotiating marriage of Ruhul at that time.

Officer-in charge (OC) of the Rupsha Police Station said search for the missing BCP cadre Ruhul Dhali is going on. Both Ruhul and Haroon are accused in three murder cases, he said.

Mortuary

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The World Health Organisation (WHO) donated the eight-drawer refrigerator, valued at about Tk 28 lakh, to the DMCH in 1992. The refrigerator was kept in the open, as the mortuary was not spacious enough to house it.

In February 2000, the authorities built a two-room building for the refrigerator.

"It acted up, decomposing the bodies after working well for about one year," said Sekander.

The authorities informed the health ministry about it and the National Electro-Medical Equipment Maintenance Workshop and Training Centre (NEMEMWTC) took a month to respond to a health ministry directive and another four months to repair.

The refrigerator went out of order four times since its installation, with the latest on September 4 last year when it totally collapsed. All its parts have been removed for repair and only the empty case now remains in the mortuary.

The NEMEMWTC chief technician estimated the repair cost at about Tk 18 lakh and the authorities sent a letter to the health ministry on August 7 last year for funds.

Meantime, the NEMEMWTC recommended setting-up of a new cooling unit as a stopgap service on April 3 this year. The DMCH authorities sent the director general (DG) of the health directorate a letter on July 27 for a new cooling unit.

But the DG is yet to respond to the letter, said Dhaka Medical College Principal's Secretary Amir Hossain.

Contacted, DMC Principal Dr Fazlul Hoque said, "We are working to repair the refrigerator at the earliest."



Employees of the shut-down Ekushey Television (ETV) sing the national anthem during a demonstration in Dhaka yesterday, marking the first anniversary of its closure last year by a court order. More than 200 employees of the private television channel, which won a small victory on August 20 when the High Court directed authorities to consider its application for a fresh broadcasting licence, took part in the demonstration.

Real estate industry

FROM PAGE 12
cant portion of the city's population, or does the real estate business target only people with high incomes.

Some knowledgeable quarters feel that the present emphasis on high-rise buildings touches only a fringe of the vast housing problem facing city-dwellers. It is a common feeling that only through shifting the current emphasis on posh apartment buildings on the choicest portions of land to comparatively low-cost housing on low-cost lands available outside the city periphery could the increasing pressure of a rising population on the city be eased.

This sentiment has, however, been somewhat reflected in some of the recent real estate undertakings. Developers have started offering attractive prices on apartments in city suburbs such as Savar, Joydevpur, Ashulia, Nabinaagar, etc. This could well be the beginning of the expected shift from cosmopolitan high-rise buildings within city areas to suburban housing schemes, but it will take time for such a trend to unfold its full potentials. The progress of development of the city, it is felt, is bound to be slow for several reasons, particularly on account of inadequate transport and communication

facilities and uncertainty about prospects of return on investments.

As in the case of apartment buildings, a high-pitched publicity is afoot in the media inviting advance bookings for allotment of shops in shopping malls either under construction or at the planning stage. Judging from the prominence given to such advertisements, it seems that shopping malls have become a craze in metropolitan life.

Some of these advertisements for such malls include exotic features such as theme park, fitness centres, food court, multi-screen cinema, capsule lift, etc. Most of these projects are meant to cater to professionals like doctors, engineers, architects, dentists, business executives, etc.

Many of the existing shopping areas in the city do not have parking space and as such shoppers are forced to park their vehicles haphazardly on the roadside. This deteriorates the horrendous traffic jams that have besieged commuters for a long time. When the large number of under-construction shopping malls start functioning on completion, it will have serious implications on the city's traffic scenario unless adequately parking space is provided for shoppers.

ATPs, F-28s

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Regional (ATR) has a capacity of 70 passengers. A brand-new ATR72-500 has an international value of \$17 million, Biman officials said.

The 78-seat Dash 8-Q400 is made by Canadian company Bombardier, each priced at \$20 million. The Dash 8-Q400 model hit the market in 2000.

Dash aircraft is more familiar in Bangladesh. Local private airlines GMG has been operating two Dash 8-100s and one Dash 8-300 for five and a half years and a GMG official called their service impressive.

Sources said good service of Dash aircraft of GMG has inspired Biman to think of purchasing the plane.

Biman now operates three F-28s, two ATPs and two Boeing 737s on seven domestic routes but floated tender for the resale of two ATPs.

The 80-seat F-28s, bought from the Netherlands in 1981, are one of the oldest aircraft in Biman fleet and the 70-seat ATPs, purchased in 1990, have records of mechanical defects.

The Biman plan to procure ATR and Dash models came as those are considered viable and widely used on short-distance routes, sources said.

The operation of the 130-seat Boeing 737s on domestic routes has proved loss making, as many seats remain vacant.

It is profitable to operate small planes with 70 to 80 seats on domestic routes, the sources said.

Literacy rate

FROM PAGE 12
health minister and parliamentary representative for the primary and mass education ministry, said the literacy rate is 65 per cent. He gave the statistics at the budget session of parliament.

But sources at Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), quoting their latest countrywide survey in 2001, said literacy rate is almost 45 per cent.

"The BBS did not disclose the figure in its publications as it clashes with the versions of other governmental agencies," one source said. Bangladesh, which officially claims an adult literacy rate of 62 per cent, is among 78 other countries trying to halve adult illiteracy by 2015, according to a UNESCO report.

However, the EW report said the overall literacy rate is 41.4 per cent.

Defending the EW statistics, its convener Dr Manzoor Ahmed told a press briefing on Saturday, "Now they (government) say the literacy rate is 62 per cent but earlier they had said it was 65 per cent."

The overall literacy rate was much lower than 50 per cent as per the BBS census, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar

University Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed said at the press briefing.

Sources said the government wants to show high literacy rate to have funds from donors to implement a 'post-literacy programme'.

The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are likely to provide \$170 million assistance for the programme, they added.

Jahanara said the EW report could not be accepted since it seems to have mixed up the rate of educated people, rate of literacy, standard of education and skill.

She noted Bangladesh has accepted "all 18 core indicators to assess the Education for All (EFA)" adopted at Joemtien and Dakar conferences. But the EW did not adopt a single indicator for its report.

Besides, the survey was based only on 3,840 households and did not have proper 'sample frame' in a country of more than 13 crore. So it cannot be considered national sample survey, Jahanara said.

Such statistics might create an adverse impact on the education for all programme, she observed.