15 Bangladeshi peacekeepers to be honoured posthumously

STAR REPORT

The United Nations for the first time will honour 124 peacekeepers including 15 Bangladeshis posthumously with the Dag Hammarskjold Medal this year.

Coming from 46 countries including Bangladesh, they sacrificed their lives during 2005 in serving UN peacekeeping operations around

The 15 Bangladeshi peacekeepers died last year serving in the

They will be awarded with the medals by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations Mr Jean-Marie Guehenno, at a function to be addressed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, says a press

The event will be organised in UN Headquarters in New York on May 31 in observance of the International Day for the UN peace-

Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN Dr SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Judgement in Jhalakathi judges' killing case today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The judgment in the sensational Jhalakathi judges' murder case will be delivered here today amid tight security in and around the court

Additional District and Sessions Judge of Jhalakathi Reza Tarik Ahmed will deliver the judgment.

The date was fixed on May 18 after completing the examinations of 45 witnesses and hearing arguments from both sides

The prosecution has demanded capital punishment for all of the eight accused, that include the militant kingpins -- JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh) chief Abdur Rahman and JMJB (Jagrata SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Biman to run NY flight for 2 more months

Pilots' body expresses concern

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Airline Pilots Association (Bapa) yesterday expressed concern over the Biman Board of Directors decision to continue the Dhaka-New York flight for at least another two months.

In a letter to the State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mirza Fakrul Islam Alamgir, Bapa asked him to take firm decisions and to save the national flag carrier from

huge losses. "Apart from suspending the New York flights we may have to contemplate closure of other non-profitable routes if needed and concentrate

our efforts towards SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

BSF kills 1

UNB, Thakurgaon

Another Bangladesh died in Indian Boarder Security Force (BSF) firing near the Ratnai border of Baliadangi upazila yesterday raising the total to three deaths in 24 hours. Locals said BSF of Natuatuli

outpost fired seven to eight shots across the border killing farmer Tarazul Islam. 25, when he went out to bring his cattle home in the morning. BSF dragged his body inside Indian territory afterwards.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) strongly protested the killing and **SEE PAGE 15 COL 5**

Prayer Timing		
May 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-43	6-47
Esha	8-05	8-35
Source: Islamic Foundation		

NEW MOORING TERMINAL

No change of heart against privatisation

Ctg Mayor Mohiuddin tells The Paily Star

RAFIQ HASAN, back from Ctg

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury said he did not retreat from the demand for cancelling the process of privatisation of the newly built New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) adjacent to the port.

"I shall resist the privatisation move as I resisted the initiative for a private port by a foreign company earlier," he said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star at his Chashma Hill residence last week.

"The people of Chittagong are united in favour of me and I am the last person to retreat from my commitment." he said when asked whether he was retreating from the movement against the privatisation initiative of the government as he



ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury

had suddenly withdrew his work stoppage programme at the Chittagong port on May 18. Politics in the port city had

become tense following the announcement of mayor's work stoppage programme as the ruling and opposition parties had started threatening each other over the

The mayor suspended the programme just two days ahead of schedule following phone conversations with Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain who assured the mayor of cancellation of the move to privatise

Meanwhile, the crisis has yet to be resolved since following the withdrawal of the agitation programme the shipping minister asked the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) to prepare a new **SEE PAGE 4 COL 3**

10 garment workers hurt in clash over arrears

At least 10 workers were injured in a clash over salary arrears at a knitting factory in Dhaka Export Processing Zone (EPZ) yesterday morning, in a fresh flare-up of trouble in the apparel sector.

People panicked over the latest incident as recent troubles had sent a shockwave of violence through the apparel hubs in and around the capital leaving many factories and vehicles either burnt or vandalised.

Police and witnesses said the owners of Experience Sweaters, a Pakistani company-owned knitting factory in the old zone of the EPZ. had been paying the wages and overtime bills irregularly for a long

The workers of the factory staged a strike around 10:00am yesterday to press for their arrears. "Officials of the factory tried to force the employees back to work when chase and counter-chase erupted." says a witness of the incident

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Garment owners

minimum wage

A board meeting of Bangladesh

Garment Manufacturers and

Exporters Association (BGMEA)

Sunday unanimously decided to

settle the minimum wage for the

workers as early as possible to keep

the apparel sector free from labour

decided that two representatives

from BGMEA, one from BKMEA and

one each from three labour

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Sources said the meeting

decide to fix

for workers

UNB, Dhaka

Police patrol the streets of Gazipur in an armoured vehicle yesterday after garment workers demanding better wages and benefits staged violent demonstrations in and around the capital last week.

KARNAPHULI BRIDGE PROJECT

Financier yet to approve project for faulty design

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 900-metre-long Karnaphuli bridge project is facing further delay as its financier, the Kuwait Fund, is holding back the approval for the award of the contract to a Chinese company due to the faulty project design proposed by the Chinese bidder, sources said

However as the ruling party has put its political weight behind this project and lobbied hard with the Kuwait government, the Kuwait Fund has sent two experts to review the bid documents. The Kuwait Fund is reputed to be very strict with its rules and regulations about approving a project.

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda earlier this year had claimed that the government is determined to award the project to a contractor by March so that the primary constructions can begin by

The ruling party views the Karnaphuli bridge project as a crucial political move to gain popularity in Chittagong. Consequently, the communication ministry hurriedly floated the tender for the bridge, giving the bidders far less time to study the Karnaphuli site and frame their proposal. Due to this hurried move, all the proposed designs turned out faulty. Instead of cancelling the bid, the government

Sources said, the prime minister

herself has requested the Kuwait Emir to approve the bridge project The bid for this project was

floated in January in unusual hurry and under unusual terms, making four short-listed bidders for the project quit without participating. Only three bidders participated offering faulty and bad designs which are not fit for construction.

Being aware of their shortcomings, the bidders then requested the authorities to extend the time frame for letting them come up **SEE PAGE 15 COL 6**

DB examining info found in victim's computer

TRIPLE MURDER

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch (DB) inquiring into Thursday's triple murder at Uttara are scrutinising information about several businessmen as stored in the computer of Sanjay Sinha, one of the three victims.

The DB also conducted several raids in the city and its outskirts to nab Sumon, one of the prime suspects in the killings.

Meanwhile, identities of the two other victims, slaughtered with HSC examinee Sanjay Sinha, are

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Rejoinder, our reply

(RIHS) in a rejoinder protested a report headlined "2 RIHS staff ejected from country" which was published in The Daily Star on May 20, saying RIHS has no relations with outlaws and anti-Islam groups.

The rejoinder claimed that the government did not ask any RIHS foreign staff to leave Bangladesh and that no one of RIHS foreign staff were ousted from their country and all of them can go back to their countries. It also denied any of the RIHS staff's relations with Ikhwanul

RIHS filed a case with Gulshan SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

CASE OF ABBAS

Prothom Alo

editor, publisher granted bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted daily Prothom Alo in a defamation case filed by Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas. Metropolitan Magistrate

Mohammad Shamsul Alam passed the order upon a bond of Tk 2,000 with two guarantors when the daily's editor Matiur Rahman and the publisher Mahfuz Anam appeared before the court at about SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

ATTACK ON DR AZAD JMB arrestee

discloses vital information

Says investigation officer **COURT CORRESPONDENT**

The investigation officer (IO) of the case filed for attempting to murder late Dr Humayun Azad told a Dhaka court yesterday that he gathered important information from an arrested Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) member about the incident.

has been shown arrested in the case for his alleged involvement with the attack on February 27, In the forwarding report submit-

Meantime, another JMB member

ted before the court, the IO Inspector Kazi Abdul Malek of the Criminal Investigation Department

(CID) of police, said **SEE PAGE 15 COL 8**

VOTER LIST

Time ticking away as EC sits idle STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With time running out fast for pre-

paring the voter list, the Election Commission (EC) is still sitting idle without initiating any step to revise the existing electoral rolls according to the Supreme Court (SC) verdict. Chief Election Commissioner

(CEC) MAAziz told reporters yesterday that the commission is yet to receive a certified copy of the SC judgement delivered last Tuesday without which it cannot decide the next course of action Meanwhile, despite the urgency

that only five months are left for preparing the voter list for the next general elections, the EC Secretariat cannot initiate the task for revising the existing electoral

rolls in the absence of an EC deci-

The EC Secretariat officials stressed the need for starting the task of revising the existing electoral rolls immediately. The CEC, who decided to prepare a fresh voter list ignoring the

January 4 High Court (HC) directives and published a draft list on May 3, said the EC Secretariat is trying to collect the judgement's copy, but it is not yet signed. Officials at the EC Secretariat

said it may take another week to obtain the copy. "We will have to face difficulties

in completing the massive task of preparing the voter list in five SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

3 killed in 'crossfire' with cops STAR REPORT on them and police retaliated.

Three criminals including two leaders of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) were killed in separate incidents of 'crossfire' with police in Kushtia, Jhenidah and Narayanganj early yesterday, while criminals slaughtered a police source in

Jhenidah on Saturday night. Kushtia police arrested Abdul Kuddus 32, a regional leader of BCP, from his home at village Durbachara in Kushtia sadar upazila on Saturday night, reports our Kushtia correspondent.

Under interrogation in Kushtia Sadar Police Station, Kuddus gave information about his accomplices and hidden firearms, police said.

A police team took Kuddus to Durbachara village to nab his accomplices and seize firearms. When the police team reached the area at about 4:30am, the

accomplices of Kuddus opened fire

in crossfire, police said, adding that they retrieved a shutter gun and 12 bullets from the scene Kaliganj police arrested BCP

leader Goutam Kumar Das, 37, from

Teachers of non-government primary schools yesterday lie on the street near Matsya Bhaban in the capital with

empty earthen plates in their hands to press home their 11-point demand including nationalisation of their jobs.

Kholashpur village in the upazila on Saturday evening During interrogation, Goutam admitted his involvement with the outfit and having firearms hidden in different areas of Kaliganj upazila in

Jhenidah district When a police team accompanying him went to recover the firearms, BCP operatives ambushed them at Raghunathpur at about

As the law enforcers fired back, an hour-long gun battle ensued. Trying to escape from the police

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Pry teachers go on hunger strike Protest against

poor wages STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of non-government primary schools yesterday began a 48hour hunger strike following a demonstration in the capital demanding nationalisation of their

Police obstructed a 'hunger'

procession of hundreds of primary

school teachers near Matshya Bhaban at about 2:30pm when it was proceeding towards the Prime Minister's Office after a rally at Muktangon. The agitating teachers, carrying household utensils as symbol of protest against poor wages,

Later a delegation of the nongovernment primary teachers **SEE PAGE 15 COL 8**

chanted slogans and asked the

government to nationalise their jobs

in the coming budget for fiscal year



gate as students agitating for deferment of examinations during the World Cup football 2006 locked the gates. The authorities later suspended all classes and exams from today to July 14.