METROPOLITAN/NEWS

REPORTS ON BSF Indian HC expresses concern

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka has expressed concern about the reports concerning the BSF that appeared in the local media, says a press release.

Terming the reports 'inaccurate and sensational', the high commission in a statement yesterday said the latest example of such reports was published in some papers on June 11 blaming the BSF for tension along Chuadanga border.

The high commission said the Indian authorities has investigated this incident and conveyed the following facts:

"At about 7:00pm on June 9, 2006, a BSF patrol party from border outpost Gede (across from Chaudanga in Bangladesh) detected some miscreants in Indian territory trying to illegally cross through the border fence near border pillar 75/2-S. On being challenged, these miscreants, instead of identifying themselves, attacked the BSF patrol party by flinging a sharp edged

weapon."
"The BSF patrol party opened fire in self-defence, resulting in the killing of one of the miscreants. Subsequently, the BSF immediately came under heavy unpro-voked fire from the BDR that continued intermittently until after midnight, Surprisingly, the BDR fired five high explosive bombs and nearly 6,000 rounds from a universal machine gun. After observing restraint for a long time, the BSF was forced to return fire," the statement said.

It also said the BSF later recovered the body of the dead miscreant and found that he was carrying 51 bottles of phensidyl and three kilograms of ganja (cannabis). The dead was identified as Md Yusuf, son of Md Isha Haque of village Akandberia in Chaudanga.

On June 11, a Commandant-level Flag Meeting was held where the Commandant, 35 Rifles Battalion of BDR, expressed his regret for the BDR firing, pleading that it had been due to a misunderstanding, the statement

Obituary



Faizunnessa (Kachi), daughter of late Khan Shaheb Sayeduddin Ahmed of Bharukati Miahbari,

Hospitals in the city yesterday at the age of 68, says a press release. She had been suffering from

renal failure and other old-age complications for a long time.

A former librarian and assistant superintendent of Dhaka Eden College, Begum Faizunnessa was widely known as 'Kachi Apa' to students, teachers and guardians

of the college. Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after Zohr prayers tomorrow (Thursday) and she will be buried at Azimpur new graveyard the same day.

Manjila Khatun

Manjila Khatun, a teacher of Shere-Bangla High School, passed away at her Malibagh residence on Monday at the age of 62 due to a cardiac arrest, says a press release.

She left behind one daughter, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

She was buried at Azimpur

Bashonti Mahalanobish



Bashonti Mahalanobish, wife of late Arun Chandra Mahalanobish, passed away due to cardiac arrest at the Central

Hospital in the capital on Monday night at the age of 72, says a press

She was the mother of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra singer Bulbul Mahalanobish and journalist Shilpi Mahalanobish and motherin-law of Managing Director of Concord Group of Companies Sarith Kumar Lala and banker Utpal Chowdhury.

She was cremated at Postagola crematory yesterday.

Death anniversary



seventh death anniversary of Q M Zaman, founder presi-Bangladesh Cameraman Association,

says a press release. To mark this occasion, food will be distributed among the destitute in the morning, and a milad mahfil will be held at Shaheb Bari in Hajiganj after Asr prayers.



Police baton-charge the opposition activists near Sobhanbagh mosque in the city as they were marching in a procession during hartal hours yesterday.

Cop commits suicide in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A traffic police constable allegedly committed suicide in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

Police said Omar Faruk, 35, jumped from the roof of a six storied building inside the traffic colony just behind Paltan Police Station at 12:15am.

He had been mentally ill for last three years. An unnatural death case has been filed with Paltan Police

Certificate course on multilateral system begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) and North South University (NSU) organised the inaugural ceremony of a two-month certificate course on 'The Multilateral System and Its Impact on Bangladesh' at the NSU auditorium

in the city on Monday.

Reaz Rahman, advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, inaugurated the course as chief guest and made a keynote presentation on 'Future of the Multilateral System in a Changing World: Focus on UN System and its Reforms, OIC and Commonwealth'

BEI President Farooq Sobhan chaired the event while Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi, vice chancellor of NSU, delivered a welcome speech.

Former secretaries, ambassadors, diplomats, scholars and professors will speak on the impact and relevance of multilateral system on Bangladesh.

ne cours intended to equip the participants intellectually so as to advance in their career and to meet the challenges of the external world.

2 die in road mishaps

STAR REPORT

At least two people were killed in separate road accidents in Chandpur and Bagerhat yester-

Our Correspondent from Chandpur reports: A minor boy was crushed under a sand-laden tractor at his school yesterday at Kachua Sadar upazila.

The dead was identified as Md Rashed, 9, a student of Class-II of Koa Govt Primary School near to Kachua Upazila Parishad.

Police said the accident occurred when the sand-laden tractor was entering the school premises for development work of the school.

The boy succumbed to his injuries on the way to the local health complex. The boy hails

Two JMB men arrested in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahit

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and the police separately arrested two IMB men from Bagmara in Rajshahi yesterday. The arrestees -- Lutfar Rahman

and Sentu -- are accomplices of militant kingpin Bangla Bhai, sources said. A Rab team from Atrai camp nabbed Lutfar from Dangapara

area while the police caught Sentu from Shikdari Bazar. Lutfar was a cadre of Bangla

Bhai during his 'anti-outlaw' operation in Bagmara. He was also involved in the murder of Monwar Hosssain Babu.

Sentu is a brother-in-law of JMB leader Abdus Sattar.

from Koa village. His father Abul Bashar works abroad.

UNB from Bagerhat reports: A van driver was killed and three others were injured as a bus hit a van near Shibpur Union Parishd office on Bagerhat-Chitolmari road yesterday.

Sources said a bus hit a van at noon killing its driver Anis Sheikh,28 on the spot. The injured-Khair Sheikh, 24, Milon, 18 and Faquq,20-were admitted to Chitolmari hospital.

Agitated local people damaged the bus soon after the accident and put up barricade on the road disrupting traffic for about three

On information police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Police arrested the bus driver and his helper.

AL, BNP clash in Bagerhat: 10 hurt, 35 held

UNB, Bagerhat

At least 10 people were injured and some party offices, shops and houses ransacked in series of clashes between Awami League and BNP activists in the town on Monday night.

The clash flared up following rivals attacked and badly wounded Sramik Dal leader Sheikh Rafiqul Islam Mithu, He was admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

Police arrested 35 people, including district Sramik League

Paramilitary BDR were deployed as tension prevailed in



Reaz Rahman, advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, speaks at the inaugural ceremony of a course on 'The Multilateral System and its impact on Bangladesh' organised Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) and North South University (NSU) at the NSU auditorium in the city on Monday.

BNP to stage countrywide demonstration tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling BNP will stage demonstration across the country tomor row to protest "derogatory remarks" made by Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina against Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in parliament on Monday.

The demonstration is also aimed to protest against what it said opposition-sponsored vio-lence, anarchy, attack on High Court premises and other destructive activities across the country.

As part of the demonstration programme, BNP will hold rally and bring out procession in all upazila and district headquarters in the afternoon.
In Dhaka, the BNP will organise

a rally at Muktangon at 4:00pm. BNP Secretary General and

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, in a statement yesterday, asked leaders, activists and supporters of BNP and its front organisations to make the programme a complete success.

Garment workers for tripartite agreement

Leaders of '16-Garment Workers' Associations' demanded a tripar-tite agreement between the government, owners and workers in 72 hours otherwise they would launch a tougher movement, including strike, says a press release.

They also demanded forming a committee to monitor implementation of the agreement and provide 30 per cent interim allowance of present basic wage before fixing

They also termed the news regarding a tripartite agreement, published in the media yesterday, as baseless saying no garment workduring the so-called agreement signing, the press release added.

Japan sees no imminent missile test by N Korea AP, Tokyo

Japan does not believe North Korea is preparing to test a long-range missile any time soon, the top gov-ernment spokesman said yesterday. "At this point, we don't see the

launch of a missile as imminent," said Chief Cabinet Secretary Shinzo Abe when asked about media reports such a test was likely. He refused to comment on what kind of information that was based on, saying the intelligence is classified.

The possibility of a test has been the cause of concern for about two weeks, with Japanese media, including national broadcaster NHK and Kyodo News agency, reporting that North Korea had moved a missile close to a launch site.

DHAKA TODAY

Meeting

The meeting of the convening of Sammilita Peshajibi Parishad will be held. Venue: Swadhinata Chikitshak Parishad, Time: 4:00pm.

Discussion

Workers Party of Bangladesh will hold a discussion on 'crisis in the existing system of government'. Venue: Monisinha-Farhad Smriti Trust Bhaban, Time: 4:30pm

Zarqawi death may strengthen rival rebel groups

REUTERS, Baghdad

The death of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, head of al Qaeda in Iraq, may boost other groups drawing support from the once-dominant Sunni Arab minority, including Saddam Hussein loyalists with more nationalistic aims.

While equally opposed to the US occupation and Iraq's Shi'ite-led government, their tactics are believed to be different from those of Zarqawi, who was notorious for beheading captives and killing hundreds of people in suicide bombings.

"The other insurgent groups . may become more powerful and benefit from the weakness of al Qaeda," said Professor Hazim al-Nuaimy of Mustansiriya University

Al Qaeda's leader in Iraq, who had a 25 million dollar (13 million pound) US bounty on his head, was killed in an American air strike on Wednesday night in a village north of Baghdad.

Sunni Arab militants loyal to Zarqawi were blamed for major bombings against Shi'ite targets in Iraq which sought to draw the majority Shi'ite community into a sectarian civil war.

"Zarqawi's death may change the methods of the insurgents," Nuaimy added, predicting less attacks against civilians. "It may not be as brutal ... these other groups focus more on targeting US forces."

US and Iraqi officials hope that

relatively moderate elements in the insurgency may eventually be lured into the US-backed political process, pointing to Sunni participation in a unity government formed last month.

Development' in the city yesterday.

UCEP Bangladesh and Shishu

Kallyan Trust (SKT) signed a

Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) on the 'Extended SKT

Programme for Skill Development'

in the city yesterday, says a press

UCEP Executive Director Brig.

Gen. (Retd.) Aftab Uddin Ahmad

and SKT Director Nazma Hamid

signed the MoU. Director General

of the Directorate of Primary

Education Khandker

Asaduzzaman and Project Director

of Reaching Out of School Children

(ROSC) Project AK Nazmuzzaman

will implement a skill training

programme on a pilot basis at a

Under the agreement, the UCEP

cost of US\$ 200,000 funded by the vantaged children of SKT.

were also present.

Trust sign MoU

Maliki said after he took office last month at the helm of a grand coalition of Shi'ites, Sunnis and Kurds that his government would offer dialogue to insurgents who lay down weapons.

But the no-nonsense Shi'ite Islamist has rejected any role for militants with "Iraqi blood on their hands", including followers of Zarqawi, who had declared war on majority Shi'ites.

Maliki may soften his position, however, if leaders of other guerrilla groups show flexibility. CONSTITUTION

The most powerful insurgents are former officers in Saddam's army and intelligence network, people with years of military experience who had formed alliances of convenience with al Qaeda but were alienated by Zarqawi's brutal

Al Qaeda militants from across the Arab world make up only about five percent of the insurgency, US officials say, but their spectacular suicide bombings kill the most

"If they (the US military) succeed in eradicating al Qaeda in Iraq it would strengthen the main strand of the insurgency, which is nationalist in orientation," said Joost Hiltermann, of the International

Crisis Group think tank. But, he cautioned, if that strat-

egy failed, Zarqawi's followers could re-emerge as a strong threat. A recent ICG report described al Qaeda as one among a handful of "particularly powerful groups" in the uprising that erupted after US forces invaded to overthrow

ILL DEVELOPMEN

UCEP Executive Director Brig. Gen. (Retd.) Aftab Uddin Ahmad and Shishu

Kallyan Trust Director Nazma Hamid exchange documents after signing a

Memorandum of Understanding on the 'Extended SKT Programme for Skill

UCEP, Shishu Kallyan

World Bank under the auspices of

ROSC Project of the Ministry of

Primary Schools, who have com-

pleted class five, will be enrolled in

this programme starting in January

Asaduzzaman said that the UCEP, a

leading NGO in the area of human

resource development, is widely

appreciated for its educational and

project, designed by UCEP-

Bangladesh, would be an 'inte-

grated model' for general educa-

tion, skill development and subse-

quent job placement for the disad-

He also hoped that the new

vocational programme.

Speaking on the occasion,

Students of Shishu Kallyan

Primary and Mass Education.

It is fuelled in part by perceived grievances among Sunnis, who make up roughly 20 percent of fraq's 26 million population, that they are being marginalised in post-Saddam raq. Key to defusing the violence

would be to revise a new constitution, which Sunnis fear will deprive them of oil revenue from Shi'ite and Kurd-dominated areas, Hiltermann said.

The community's integration into Iraq's armed forces was another crucial factor. "These are very difficult requirements to meet," he said. BAGHDAD BOMBS

Iraqi and US officials hailed Zarqawi's death but cautioned that it did not spell an end to the militant and sectarian killings that have pushed Iraq towards civil war. As a reminder of this, a series of

bombs killed at least 31 people and wounded nearly 70 others across Baghdad on Thursday, the day Maliki announced the news on live

"The Iraqi insurgency is a very loose organisation and I don't see how the decapitation of it will have such a great impact," said Nadim Shehadi, associate fellow of Chatham House's Middle East Programme in London.

But will the main insurgent groups perhaps embark on a different path now that the man behind the most gruesome and savage attacks has been removed from the picture?

"The strategy of the resistance will be the same but the tactics will change with an expected reduction of violence against civilians," said

Appeal for help



from chronic The 32-year-old has been on dialysis since his both the kidneys

Hossain Pigu, a

of Bangladesh

Agricultural

University, has

been suffering

According to doctors, Pigu needs kidney transplant immediately, which can give him a new

But such transplant involves a lot of money, which his father, a retired school-teacher, cannot afford.

He has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save his life Contributions can be sent to MA

Satter, Savings Account No.-8144, Sonali Bank, Boira Branch, Khulna. Phone: 01711061460.

Md Khairul Bashar Kiron



liver cancer, says a press Kiron had been undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical Hospital, but he had to

Sashar Kiron, a

field officer of

NSI, has been

suffering from

Doctors said he needs proper treatment, which involves about Tk 5 lakh, but his family could not afford such expensive treat-

discontinue the treatment and

return home about three months

ago because of financial con-

His family has appealed to generous people to extend a helpng hand to save Kiron.

Contributions can be sent to the following account: Shirin Akter, Savings A/C No. - 8461, Janata Bank, Begum Rokeya Sarani branch, West Kafrul, Taltola, Dhaka. Phone: 0152-447086,0152-335210.

Memories still fresh for witness of Hitler's last days

REUTERS, Berlin

There is nothing left of the underground bunker where Hitler committed suicide.

But for former SS officer Rochus

Misch, the memories are still fresh,

more than 60 years after the end of WorldWarTwo. "There was a little working room, a living room, bedroom, toilet and shower and there was no more," said the last surviving witness to the final two weeks of Adolf

leader's underground quarters. Gazing at the car park, which now covers the bunker, Misch recalled his time as a member of the Fuehrer's close entourage in the days leading up to April 30,

Hitler's life, referring to the Nazi

The 88-year-old, who still lives in Berlin, served Hitler throughout World War Two as a bodyguard and

But as the Third Reich came to an end, Hitler withdrew to the underground shelter beneath his chancellery and dismissed most of his staff, retaining only those whose services were considered

essential -- including Misch. "We were expecting it. Hitler let

us go on April 22. I was here in Berlin ... and we stuck it out until April 30, "he said. Misch's account of Hitler's last

his feelings -- particularly about the subsequent portrayal of the events of that spring -- are clear. "Hitler was not, as the press writes, from February on down here vegetating," he says. "He always came out and went up to his

days is worn smooth from years of

retelling. His answers to questions

sometimes run off at a tangent but

apartment in the flat and I went to "He came down when there was an air raid warning and so I came down too.

Hitler's bride, Eva Braun, whom he married two days before their deaths, also moved into the bunker, Misch says. "(In the last few weeks) Eva

came and then they stayed down there for the last 12 days." WITNESSTOTHEEND Dressed in an anorak, cardigan and black jeans, Misch faced a barrage

of reporters at the bunker site when

a local history society unveiled the first sign indicating the location of

"Herr Misch is the last one still living who spent the last 15 days in the bunker and experienced the end," said historian Dietmar Arnold, head of the Berlin Underworlds organisation which was responsible for the sign.

The bunker was filled with gravel and covered by a car park in the 1980s by the East German government. There is no trace of it left, nor of Albert Speer's monumental New Reichs Chancellery that oncestood nearby. Misch welcomed the sign --

respite from the hundreds of journalists, historians and archivists who want to tap his memories of the man behind the Holocaust. "Groups come here every day, they want to know; then they come

to me, then they want me to come

hoping it would help bring him

"They want explanations. It can't go on," he said, his voice trailing off before he launched into another reminiscence.

"There were two witnesses. We

were the observers who heard and saw everything that went on down there," he said.

Misch and mechanic Johannes Hentschel were two of the last people remaining in the bunker as Soviet troops advanced on Berlin. Misch was later captured by the Russians and interned. He was released in 1954 and returned to Germany

"THEWARISLOST" His story became wellknown in the wake of the 2004 film "Der Untergang" or "Downfall" which

tells of Hitler's last days. However, he remains a controversial figure in Germany for his dogged faithfulness to the memory of a man who was responsible for the deaths and persecution of millions

Misch, who witnessed so much,

know all about (it). Frau (Magda)

Goebbels could not prepare them

where they were sleeping, there

is still haunted by images from the past: like the deaths of Nazi propa-His German shepherd Blondi ganda minister Joseph Goebbels' was sacrificed in order to test six children. whether cyanide capsules Hitler "The Goebbels children were planned to use were genuine. made ready to die in my room. I

were still staff there So she came down to the bunker -- nobody came there -- and she prepared the children for their deaths in peace. That happened in my room.

Misch faced fierce criticism in calling for a plaque to commemorate the children -- Helga, Hilde, Helmut, Hedda, Holde and Heide -and still seems upset by the mem ory of the days leading up to the children's deaths by poisoning. "It was such a drama, there were

tears, you can't imagine," he said. While the details of Hitler's suicide are wellknown, Misch's account is still chilling. By April 22, 1945, an intercepted message from the Western allies convinced Hitler than the end was near.

He sought advice on how best to commit suicide, fearful of falling into the Russians' hands as they descended on Berlin.

"On April 22, he definitively declared an end: 'The war is lost, You can all rely on me, I will never leave Berlin'," Misch recalled



Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at many places over Sylhet division and at one or two places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna, Dhaka and

It said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the

Highest temperature 36.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

The sun sets in the capital at 6:47pm today and rises at 5:11am Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

City/Town Temperature Humidityin in Celsius percentage Morning Evening Dhaka 33.1 29.0 Chittagong 31.5 Rajshahi 36.5 28.9 Khulna 34.4 29.4 28.8 21.2 Barisal 32.5 25.0 Sylhet Cox's Bazar



Light to moderate rain likely

Rajshahi divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over Sylhet division, said Met Office in a forecast.

at Rajshahi and lowest 21.2 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

major cities and towns yesterday were: