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Feople's Right to Know

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again in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) again exchanged fire on Satkhira border early yesterday.

BDR sources said the Indian border guards suddenly opened fire on the BDR men of a local camp patrolling the Haroddah frontier under Sadar upazila at 2:30am, forcing them to retaliate.

BDR fired 27 bullets in response to 12 fired by its Indian counterpart, the sources added. However, there was no report of casualty.

On Monday night, a shootout between the BDR and the BSF in the Ichhamoti rive left a BSF member dead. After the incident, a tense situation is prevailing in the bor-

The Indian border guards have reinforced its strength in the border outposts and increased patrols, SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

LOAD-SHEDDING

Angry football fans attack power supply offices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Angry football enthusiasts attacked Paikgachha and Batiaghata Palli Bidyut Samity offices in Khulna on Tuesday night, as they could not watch World Cup matches due to power outage.

They hurled stones at both the offices and damaged the windowpanes at about 10:45pm protesting the load-shedding. Security forces deployed at the centres, however, foiled their attempt to break in.

Assistant general manager of Paikgachha Palli Bidyut Samity Zillur Rahman and other staff did not go to the office yesterday day fearing people's rage as the power

Meanwhile, college and school students of the upazila brought out a procession yesterday morning demanding uninterrupted power

Minister Khurshid

Women and Children Affairs

Minister Khurshid Zahan Haque

died at the Combined Military

Hospital (CMH) in the city at

Receiving the death news of her

elder sister, Prime Minister

Khaleda Zia rushed to the CMH at

about 12:30pm. Acting President

Jamiruddin Sircar also went to the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

10:50am yesterday. She was 67.

Zahan Haque

passes away

UNB, Dhaka

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

BDR-BSF firing | KARNAPHULI RIVER DREDGING

Chinese firm getting job at 345pc inflated cost

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has dramatically inflated the cost of a Karnaphuli river dredging project by a staggering 345 percent to Tk 255 crore, and is set to award contract for the project to Chinese company China Harbour, highly placed sources said.

Aimed at facilitating the Karnaphuli bridge project, the dredging project was approved with an estimated cost of Tk 74 crore in May last year. But the CPA now seeks government approval for sharply inflating the cost on the pretext of increased prices of steel and fuel, devaluation of dollar, etc.

In addition to dredging, the project includes riverbank protection and construction of a marine

Sources alleged that a section of officials of the shipping ministry and the CPA planned to award the contract to China Harbour by manipulating tender for the project and that these unscrupulous officials and some influential politicians will share a large amount of the project cost.

The CPA, which is self-financing the project, however gives a host of arguments in favour of the cost escalation. A proposal in the revised budget for the current fiscal year is likely to be placed before the

National Economic Council (Ecnec) later this month.

The CPA floated tender for the dredging project in March. By that time, it had already inflated the project cost to Tk 125 crore without prior approval of the Ecnec on the plea of additional construction

A week before the bid was opened, the CPA abruptly amended technical specification for the project, forcing four of the six pre-selected bidders out of the bid. Only two participants remained -- China Harbour and MJ Hojgaard of Denmark.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

14-party declares fresh agitation

EC siege June 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL)-led 14party opposition combine yesterday announced fresh agitation programmes, including siege to the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat and road-rail-waterway blockades, to compel the government to accept its reform

AL President Hasina also threatened to declare more vigorous programmes to press home their demands for reforms in the caretaker government and the electoral

The announcement for the fresh anti-government programmes was made at an emergency meeting of the opposition combine at the AL Dhanmondi office with Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina in the

The declaration came after four

Two outlaws killed as their bombs go off

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Two activists of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) were killed and another was critically wounded as bombs possessed by them exploded at Laxmipur Beel Jhikra under Abhoynagar upazila in Jessore on Tuesday night.

The dead were identified as Belal, 27, son of Shahidul Islam of Taltala village under Abhoynagar upazila and Sumon, 28, son of Tipu Master of Moshurhati village under the same upazila. The injured is Aminur, 26, son of Afjal Hossain of Moshurhati village

As the bombs handled by the outlaws blasted with a big bang, local people went to the spot and found injured Belal, Sumon and Aminurlying in a pool of blood. Informed, Abhoynagar police

Al Jaber, who has played for the Saudis in three previous World rushed to the spot at about 10:30pm and sent the three to Cups, tucked the ball home just two



Nuremberg

FRUSTRATION AND RELIEF: German striker Lukas Podolski (L) and Polish goalkeeper Artur Boruc look on as the ball eludes them during their World Cup clash at Dortmund's Westfalenstadion last night.

Hosts clinch last minute win

BBC ONLINE

Oliver Neuville put Germany within reach of the last 16 with a last-gasp goal to beat Poland in Dortmund on Wednesday night.

A dramatic

REUTERS, Munich

onWednesday.

all-Arab clash.

all-Arab draw

A stoppage time header from Radhi

Jaidi earned Tunisia a 2-2 draw with

Saudi Arabia after a thrilling finish

to their World Cup Group Hopener

Saudi substitute Sami Al Jaber

scored in the 84th minute to put his

team 2-1 ahead and seemingly on

their way to a comeback win in the

despairing dive of Poland goalkeeper Artur Boruc. The victory, Germany's second after their 4-2 success against Costa Rica, almost took to the knockout phase with a match in hand against Ecuador. The defeat on the other hand sent their neighbours pack SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

The forward latched on to a low

cross from fellow substitute David

Odonkor to slide the ball past the

Equador v Costa Rica England v Trinidad & Tobago 9:50 pm



Cops go marauding | EC now says it won't | 3 bombs hurled at | EC's move may

3 opposition lawmakers assaulted; 150 hurt in clashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 150 people including 20 policemen were injured in violent clashes between police and hartal supporters in the capital yesterday as the 36-hour shutdown enforced by the Awami League (AL)-led 14party opposition combine ended at

The law enforcers also assaulted at least three AL lawmakers on Manik Mia Avenue as a procession of over 20 opposition MPs were heading towards Farmgate. The victims are Ekabbar Hossain, Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj and Mohammad Ali.

The legislators have demanded stern action against the police personnel responsible for the

Police arrested at least 80 activists of the AL and its allies in the

capital on charge of violent picketing during the shutdown.

Pro-hartal pickets set fire to more than 10 vehicles and damaged at least 15 more in the city since Tuesday midnight. The opposition combine called

the hartal to press home its demands for electoral reforms, resignation of the chief election commissioner (CEC) and two 'politically appointed' election commissioners, and to protest police atrocities' on opposition leaders and workers during the Dhaka siege on Sunday.

The countrywide shutdown disrupted normal life, affecting communications and economic and other activities.

Educational institutions, business establishments, markets, shops and many private offices SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

as 36-hr hartal ends use information of CEC's house fresh voter list

But sticks to no door-to-door visit

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday cancelled its decision to use information of the controversial fresh voter list for updating the existing electoral rolls but stuck to the other decision not to visit door to door for the task.

The acting secretary of EC Secretariat told reporters after an EC meeting with the chief election commissioner that no information collected during the preparation of the fresh voter list will be used for the present task "to avoid controversy and confusion".

An EC Secretariat press release said the decision to use the information collected during the preparation of a fresh voter list is not applicable. "The Election Commission has taken steps

regarding activities of the voter list in accordance with the directives of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. There is no scope to create confusion in this regard," the release said.

The EC last Monday took the controversial decision that the information of the draft voter list-later declared illegal by the Supreme Court--can be used for correction, amendment and inclusion of names in the existing voter

Sources, however, said it took the decision in a bid to justify the amount of Tk 43 crore spent for the task of preparing the controversial fresh voter list.

This decision drew huge criticism from legal experts as well as former election commissioners.

Workers demonstrate at DEPZ for security, factory GM's removal

Production remains stopped in 4 units

IU CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of workers of Redpoint Jackets Ltd (RJL) in Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) yesterday demonstrated in front of the factory demanding removal of its general manger (GM) and security of the workers.

The factory was closed on Tuesday following workers unrest. The production at Paddocks Jeans Ltd, Hoplun (BD) and Youngone could not be resumed yesterday while Dada (BD) Ltd, Teesta High Fashions Ltd and Rankon Sweaters Ltd remained off due to hartal.

Demonstrating workers of RJL alleged that Peterson, GM of the factory, with the help of Mukhlesur Rahman, owner of P & M Fashion and also tiffin supplier of the fac

tory, had hired a group of thugs to beat the workers who were involved in earlier agitation.

After resumption of production at the factory, Peterson hired goons to prevent repetition of any 'untoward' incident, alleged Abdul Mazid, Quality controller of RJL. In support of their allegation,

the workers referred to the confession made by the eight hoodlums arrested by the police. 'We do not want Peterson any-

more. We also want immediate action against Mukhlesur Rahman who sent the thugs from his factory giving them Tk 200 and assuring of reward after having 'the work' done," said factory worker Ruby. Hearing of the workers' demon-

stration, BEPZA Chairman Ashraf SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants yesterday hurled three cocktails at Chief Election Commissioner MA Aziz's house in Ramna in the capital where he used to live five months

No-one, however, was injured in the blasts as the bombs did not have splinters. The attackers threw the bombs

targeting the second floor of the four-storey building at 3:45pm,

brother-in-law, who stays on the first floor. The security guard was inside the house -- Dina Bhaban, 19/1, East Nayatola -- during the attack, he added. "As the cocktails exploded with

big bang, the entire area was rocked

and we dared not come out immedi-

ately," guard Abdus Salam told The

said Hasan Fayaz Siddiquy, CEC's

Daily Star. He said the gate was closed and he did not see the attackers when he eventually came out.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

make next polls uncertain

M M Munsef Ali

STAR REPORT Former election commis-sioner M M Munsef Ali has said the procedure adopted

by the Election Commission (EC) to revise the voter list is impracticable and impossible to implement. He suggested that the commission

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DHAKA SHERATON HOTEL

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, JUNE 15 & 16 INTERVIEWS DAILY FROM 9 AM TO 5 PM ONLY

Opposition activists throw back teargas shells lobbed by police during hartal hours yesterday. The photo was taken



at Kamrangirchar in the capital.