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Teenagers slit throats of 3 classmates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three teenage boys cut throats of their three classmates and looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables from a Mirpur house in the capital yesterday afternoon.

The incident took place at the house of one MA Hamid and Gulnur Begum at East Mirpur after they dropped their only son Kazi Naimul Islam Badhon at school.

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CEC Aziz says 'no comment' on blasts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz yesterday declined to comment on Wednesday's bomb blasts on his residence but the acting secretary to the EC Secretariat claimed the attack strengthened the position of the commission.

"They (election commissioners) are not at all worried. Rather, it cheered them up," Acting Secretary Mohammad Zakoria told reporters, emerging out the CEC's room.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Forest minister acquitted of Runner editor murder case

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

Additional District and Sessions Judge of Jessore Md Shafiqul Islam acquitted Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam in the Dainik Runner Editor RM Saiful Alam Mukul murder case yesterday.

Another accused Rupam was also acquitted as the court framed charges against 22 people. The court fixed July 27 for the hearing.

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Owners seek security of RMG factories

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment factory owners yesterday demanded that the government ensure security at their factories for a three-month period from June 12 during which minimum wages for the workers would be finalised.

They will implement all demands of the workers as per the recent tripartite agreement among owners, workers and government only if they are assured of a congenial atmosphere at the RMG units, they said.

A delegation of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) led by its President Tipu Biswas made the demand when they met State Minister for Manpower and Employment Amanullah Aman as part of the process of fixing minimum wages for the workers.

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Chief whip's son stays out of justice despite criminal charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief whip's son Akhtar Hamid Paban is not only an accused in at least a dozen criminal cases but also blamed for other offences, including arms and drug dealing, land grabbing and extortion.

Paban is now in jail as police caught him red-handed last week for carjacking. The bail hearing of the case did not take place yesterday as the officials could not submit the case-file before the court.

Paban, the youngest son of Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain, is suspected to be an underworld leader of a large part of Old Dhaka and his home district Manikganj.

His accomplices, who carry out illegal activities for him, are known as "Batash Bahini" (wind gang) in Manikganj. Hundreds fell victim to

Mismanagement mars ICDDR,B's reputation

Anomalies in recruitment, failings in research publications

MORSHED ALI KHAN

The only international centre of its kind in developing countries, the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) is fast losing its reputation due to alleged anomalies in management, recruitment and researches.

Within the last decade over 100 major research protocols were funded by ICDDR,B but not a single report on these researches was published or made public. Neither was the management able to show any breakthrough in combating diarrhoeal diseases.

Although ICDDR,B's two hospitals and its diagnostic facilities in Dhaka and at Matlab in Chandpur district are well reputed in the country, annually treating over 130,000 patients suffering from diarrhoeal diseases, its contribution towards researches and studies remains unknown, at least to Bangladesh.

With 'discriminative and anomalous' decisions made at the top level, ICDDR,B is now alleged to have become a one-man show with its executive director deciding over controversial recruitment and alleged unethical researches.

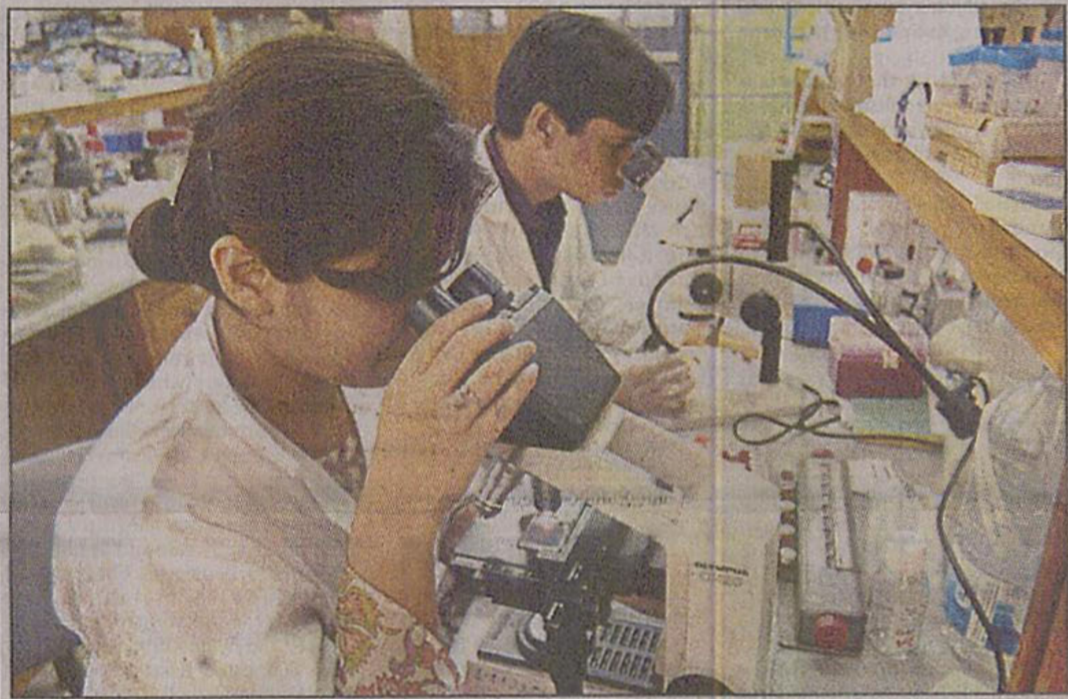
Resentment among ICDDR,B's

Bangladeshi scientists, experts and employees run high with allegations of discrepancies in salaries and recruitment, and discrimination in fund allocations for research works of Bangladeshi scientists.

Although ICDDR,B is owned and largely funded by the Bangladesh government, since its inception no Bangladeshi has ever been considered for the post of its director. Currently 20 foreigners with top grade international salaries and facilities work for the centre.

The management of ICDDR,B

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MUCH EFFORT WHAT OUTCOME?... Researchers are seen at work in the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) at Mohakhali in the capital.

PHOTO: STAR

UNREST AT DEPZ Bepza warns owners against poor wages

MONJUR MAHMUD with EMRAN HOSSAIN EMON

Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) yesterday warned owners of factories in Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) of stern actions against those who are not following its instructions regarding workers' wages.

Bepza voiced the warning after it came to know that many workers in DEPZ are still deprived of proper wages according to Bepza rules. Dissatisfaction over wages is the main reason behind the persisting workers' unrest in DEPZ even after factories reopened there on June 8.

According to sources, investors

did not raise the wages in the last 17 years. A member of Bangladesh EPZ Investors Association (Bepzia) became furious yesterday when a journalist asked the Bepza executive chairman, during a meeting at the Bepza office, whether the wages in export processing zones (EPZs) were raised in the last 17 years.

The issue of increasing the wages in EPZs has been raised after the government, garment factory owners and workers' leaders signed a 10-point memorandum of understanding (MoU) endorsing the wage commission formed on May 31 that will announce minimum wages for workers of garment factories situated outside EPZs

within three months of its formation.

According to sources, wages and salaries in EPZs were fixed 17 years ago with US \$20 per month as the minimum salary for a garment worker. The investors kept adjusting the wages with devaluations of taka but did not take any step to increase them.

The Bepza executive chairman yesterday sat with Bepzia leaders to review the situation as workers' demonstrations are still going on in DEPZ. According to sources, most of the units in DEPZ were able to carry out production yesterday.

"We will look after the security issue but the investors have to

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

BORDER CLASH Govt trashes Indian claims

UNB, Dhaka

A foreign ministry spokesman yesterday dismissed as "baseless" the allegation made by the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh that the BDR personnel provided protection to cattle smugglers a complaint made following a recent

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DHAKA SIEGE Hearing on writ again HC ban June 19

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court, which had imposed a ban on the opposition's Dhaka siege programme on June 11, yesterday adjourned until June 19 the hearing of the public interest

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3 criminals killed in 'crossfire' with Rab

STAR REPORT

Three alleged criminals were killed in 'crossfire' between their cohorts and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel in the capital and Barisal early yesterday.

Police said Sujon Kumar Das (Mohammad Raihan) was accused in five murder cases and a close associate of infamous criminals--Shahadat, Khorshed, Rajib and Mintu--in the Mirpur area.

The 25-year-old hailed from Rangar in Khagrachhari and he was residing at a house on the

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AL stages walkout after BNP MP's comment on Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) lawmakers yesterday once again staged a brief walkout from parliament protesting 'indecent' remarks by a BNP backbencher against Leader of the Opposition and AL chief Sheikh Hasina.

AL lawmakers left the House at about 8:00pm as acting Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui denied them floor after BNP lawmaker Rasheda Begum Hera's statement against Hasina.

Standing to talk on the proposed budget for FY07, the BNP lawmaker spent most of her

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Moudud rebukes AL for talking voter list, EC issues in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday criticised the Awami League (AL) lawmakers for discussing in parliament the issues of voter list preparation and removal of the chief election commissioner and two commissioners.

"The High Court's judges are there...they can issue a suo moto rule had the Election Commission violated the court's verdict in preparing the voter list. You can also raise the issue before the court seeking remedy. Why are you

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Bulu implicated in another case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Boishakhi television channel "director" MNH Bulu could not come out of jail even after securing bail in all the three cases filed against him as he was implicated in another case yesterday.

Bulu, who obtained bail earlier in two cases, secured bail yesterday in a case of attempted murder filed with Motijheel Police Station by one Nur Hossain on June 2. Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah granted him the bail upon a bond of Tk 50,000 with two guarantors.

But an arrest warrant against Bulu was sent to Dhaka Central Jail,

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Jubok, Mosaddek Ali make inroads into IFIC control

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Control of IFIC Bank went further to Jubo Karmasangsthan Society (Jubok), ruling BNP lawmaker Mosaddek Ali and a DSE member with their recent purchase of the bank's 1.5 lakh sponsor shares, the amount now exceeding 12 per cent of the bank's total shares.

Jubok, Mosaddek and Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) member Lutfar Rahman Badal had earlier bought 3.4 lakh shares of the first generation bank.

Sources said although the existing market price of the IFIC Bank shares is around Tk 7.5 crore, the shares changed hands at a higher price.

Meanwhile, some sponsor directors of the bank are still offering to sell their holding shares.

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PHOTO: AFP

An 83rd minute header from English forward Peter Crouch (white shirt) gets past an outstretched Trinidad and Tobago keeper Shaka Hislop to give England a 1-0 lead in their World Cup clash at Nuremberg yesterday.

England crawl into R 16

AFP, Nuremberg

England stuttered into the round of 16 of the World Cup here Thursday after late goals from Peter Crouch and Steven Gerrard handed them a

flattering 2-0 victory over Trinidad and Tobago.

Crouch, who had missed a series of chances throughout the match, finally made amends seven minutes from time when he

outjumped defender Brent Sancho to nod home a pinpoint cross from David Beckham.

Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard rifled in a thunderous shot

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Sweden send Paraguay packing

AFP, Berlin

Arsenal's Freddie Ljungberg fired Sweden to the brink of the second phase of the World Cup yesterday, his late header sending Paraguay home in a 1-0 win.

Sweden now face compatriot Sven-Goran Eriksson's England on Tuesday as they bid to win Group B with either hosts Germany or Ecuador waiting in the next round.

England are certain of their

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

TODAY'S MATCHES	TEAM	TIME	VENUE
	Argentina v Serbia	6:50 pm	Gelsenkirchen
	Netherlands v Ivory Coast	9:50 pm	Stuttgart
	Mexico v Angola	12:50 am (Saturday)	Hanover

banglalink goal win exciting prizes!! see inside for details

DEATH REFERENCE HC approves militant cases' priority hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted government application seeking preparation of the 'paper book' on a priority basis for hearing of the death reference in the verdict on Jhalakathi judges killing case.

A Jhalakathi court awarded

death penalty to seven militant leaders including Abdur Rahman and Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai.

A division bench of the HC granted the application as the Attorney General's (AG) office moved it since the government

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HC judge quits bench differing with junior

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A senior judge on a two-member division bench of the High Court (HC) yesterday left the Bench due to difference of opinion with a junior judge on the bench over giving an order on a writ petition.

Following the unprecedented incident, a group of senior lawyers

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