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PHILIPS

## Nicholas Burns lauds govt for actions against terrorism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Under Secretary of State Nicholas Burns appreciated the Bangladesh government for 'decisive and impressive action' in combating terrorism.

"No other country has achieved such success in the field of counter-terrorism within such a short time," a Bangladesh home ministry press release quoted the US official, adding his assurance that US cooperation towards Bangladesh in fighting terrorism would continue with a view to building capacity of the law enforcers.

The appreciation came during a meeting with the Bangladesh government officials in Dhaka yesterday.

## Employer beats house help's kid to death

4 bodies recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An employer beat the three-year-old child of his house help to death at Monipurpara while police recovered four bodies from Shyampur, Uttara and Kamalapur in the capital yesterday.

Police arrested the employer Anthony Ashim Gomes, also a Master's student of Tejgaon College, at his Monipurpara house yesterday after the victim's mother Anwara Begum filed a murder case with Tejgaon Police Station.

Anwara said that on Tuesday while she was cooking at Ashim's house, she found the child dead.

## Banks, NGO get threat mails from 'JMB'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Sonali, Agrani and Grameen banks, and Swanirbhar Bangladesh, a non-government organisation in Sadullapur upazila of Gaibandha received threat letters yesterday from the outlawed Islamist outfit Jama'at ul Mujahideen of Bangladesh (JMB).

In the hand-written mails signed by one Ruhul Amin, claiming to be the commander of JMB Sadullapur unit, the sender accused the organisations of collaborating with the government.

## Pension for urban senior citizens on cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following the 'success' of the senior citizens' pension scheme at the rural level, the government is now considering a similar programme at urban level, especially in the metropolitan areas of the country.

At a meeting of the cabinet committee on the pension scheme yesterday, finance minister M Saifur Rahman directed the social services ministry to implement the scheme in urban areas.

## EXPLOSION CASE Khoka, BNP leader surrender after 9 yrs, relieved of charges

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday relieved Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and another BNP leader of an explosion case filed against them over nine years ago after the two surrendered to the court.

Earlier, the government had recommended the authorities concerned to withdraw the case against the two considering it "politically motivated".

The court also acquitted the two of charges of abetting the explosion.

| Prayer Timing |       |        |
|---------------|-------|--------|
| June 22       |       |        |
|               | Azan  | Jamaat |
| Fajr          | 4-05  | 4-40   |
| Zohr          | 12-45 | 1-15   |
| Asr           | 5-00  | 5-15   |
| Maghrib       | 6-52  | 6-55   |
| Esha          | 8-17  | 8-45   |

Source: Islamic Foundation

# Saddam lawyer killed after kidnapping

AFP, Baghdad

A lawyer for ousted Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was found dead on Wednesday after being kidnapped from his Baghdad home, the third member of the defense team to be slain.

Khamis al-Obeidi was snatched from his home in the predominantly Sunni Arab district of Adhamiyha at about 7:00 am (0300 GMT) by men dressed in Iraqi security force uniforms and his body was found a few hours later dumped at a nearby roundabout.

The killing underscored the continuing lawlessness engulfing Baghdad despite a massive security clampdown in the capital launched a week ago involving nearly 60,000 Iraqi and US troops.

"The police found the corpse of Obeidi tossed in a roundabout in the Ur neighborhood," an interior ministry official said, referring to a district of the capital between predominantly Sunni Adhamiyah and the Shiite area of Sadr City.

"I heard from his (Obeidi's) family that a group of men dressed in the uniform of interior ministry security forces took him away at 7:00 am today," Saddam's lead Iraqi lawyer Khalil al-Dulaimi told AFP by telephone from Amman.

Obeidi, a 54-year-old Sunni Arab hailing from the powerful Obeidi tribe, is the third defense lawyer for Saddam, his half brother Barzan al-Tikriti and former vice president Taha Yassin Ramadan for their alleged role in killing 148 villagers in Dujail in following an assassination attempt against Saddam in 1982.

The defense team is scheduled to present its closing arguments on July 10 and a verdict is expected in mid-September.

The official said that it was his understanding that Obeidi, like other lawyers, had received a budget from the interior ministry to arrange for his own protection.

"It is a criminal act to weaken the defense at a time when it was preparing its final arguments. But we will continue our work," Dulaimi said.

In his closing arguments on Monday, the chief prosecutor demanded the death penalty for Saddam, his half brother Barzan al-Tikriti and former vice president Taha Yassin Ramadan for their alleged role in killing 148 villagers in Dujail in following an assassination attempt against Saddam in 1982.

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Many hunger-striking community primary school teachers fell sick on the fifth day of their strike yesterday demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

# Ahmadiyyas seek PM protection

Bigots in Uttara continue their hate campaign; rights bodies vow to resist mosque capture threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ahmadiyya community yesterday appealed to prime minister for protection in wake of threat by religious fanatics to attack their mosque in Uttara tomorrow.

Mobasherur Rahman, amir of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Bangladesh, submitted letters to the PM and state minister for home, seeking protection and detailing the fresh hate campaign of the bigots against the community.

An alliance of human rights organisations, the Working Group on Minority Rights, vowed to resist the fanatics on Friday, asking the government to take necessary security measures for Ahmadiyyas in the Ashkona area.

Meanwhile, activists of the anti-Ahmadiyya outfit-- Khatme Nabuwat Movement Bangladesh--

from across the country started to gather at different Kowmi madrasas in Uttara to carry out tomorrow's programme, announced by a little known radical Islamist leader Noor Hossain Nurani.

The self-declared 'Islamist militant leader' vowed to attack the Ashkona Ahmadiyya Mosque and loot houses of 22 Ahmadiyya families there, the community in its letters stated.

Nurani is spreading hatred against Ahmadiyyas with false and imaginary information about our religion, they said.

The letters said both leaders (Nurani and Mahmudul Hasan Montazi) of anti-Ahmadiyya outfits are out to create anarchy and disrupt law and order in the name of Islam ahead of the general election.



Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) bulldozes illegal roadside structures beside Gulshan Shooting Club in the capital yesterday.

# RU ready for another controversial hiring

Bribe, politics to influence recruitment of 350 staff

RU CORRESPONDENT

Over 350 employees are being recruited in the Rajshahi University (RU) allegedly on political considerations and through bribing, sources said.

Several hundred aspiring candidates have been flocking to the university campus every day to find and use influential contacts of the ruling parties to confirm a post.

Local BNP and Jamaat have set up makeshift 'offices' at different points on the campus and at Kazla gate and Binodpur bazaar where

the applicants are trying to make a deal to grab a post.

Influential pro-government employees of the university are seen spending time in these 'offices' with their preferred candidates, the sources said. It is alleged that to get the post of a third or fourth class employee, each candidate is paying as high as Tk 2 lakh.

The sources also said that some former Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) leaders and cadres have met with the university authorities and proposed to arrange for 'party

quota' in the ongoing recruitment process.

Meanwhile, the RU authorities have placed advertisements in the newspapers again inviting applications for around 200 vacant posts in the administrative offices, departmental offices, dean offices, halls and libraries. The sources confirmed that 150 more employees are also going to be recruited in the university.

Many university teachers expressed concern over the latest recruitment process, saying that it

## Govt employees threaten tough agitation for DA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The third and fourth class government employees across the country threatened to go for tougher movements to realise their five-point demands, including 50 per cent dearness allowance (DA).

At a rally held on Segunbagicha AG office premises yesterday, the leaders of different government employees' associations also declared to hold a grand rally at city's Paltan Maidan on August 7 if their demands are not met by July 20.

"We will declare tough agitation programmes at the grand rally, if our five-point demands, especially 50 per cent dearness allowance are not declared within July 20," said

# 10 killed in Trishal road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Ten people were killed and six others injured when a truck carrying them fell into a roadside ditch at Birampur Beltoli on Trishal-Balipara road in Trishal upazila yesterday morning.

The accident occurred at around 11:00am when the driver of the Gazipur-bound truck carrying fish traders from Balipara lost control of the vehicle. The truck skidded off the road and fell into a 20 feet deep ditch leaving 10 of the traders dead on the spot.

The victims, residents of Balipara in Trishal upazila, along with their fish, were commuting on

a sand-laden truck as it usually saved them some money.

The dead are as Sohag, 20, Mofazzel, 45, Suruj Ali, 35, Fazlul Haq, 35, Ashraf Hossain, 30, Asad, 26, Altaf Ali, 40, Raisuddin, 30, and Rafique Islam, 30, and Abul Kashem, 40.

Police recovered the bodies and took them to Trishal Police Station.

Police said that six other traders were injured in the accident and admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition. The injured are Kabir Hossain, 26, Jewel Mia, 28, Mujammel, 50, Shahid, 35, Abdul Matin, 55, and Dulal Mia, 40.

However, the driver and his helper fled the spot.



## Prosecution hopes HC to uphold lower court verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prosecution in the death reference and appeal hearing of Shazneen murder case yesterday said the High Court (HC) may uphold the lower court judgment of the capital punishment to the accused basing on the statement of their relatives.

"It is credible when a relative of the accused gives statement

## Hasina meets Manmohan tomorrow

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladesh Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina arrived here last night on a five-day visit during which she will meet Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh tomorrow evening and Congress President Sonia Gandhi the day after.

Hasina, accompanied by her close aides Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Kazi Zafarullah and Helaluddin, reached the Indian capital by an Air India flight two days ago.

She will meet Manmohan Singh tomorrow evening and Congress President Sonia Gandhi the day after.

## Rajuk knocks down illegal structures by Gulshan Lake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) demolished several roadside structures near the shooting club adjoining the Gulshan-1 link road to recover more than five acres of land.

Their eviction drive in that area will continue today, Rajuk officials said.

Rajuk officials along with hired workers and police force reached the spot at around 11:00am.

During their three-hour long drive, Rajuk bulldozers knocked down structures including three car garages, two offices of the real estate companies Nirman International and Rahat Real Estate and an office of the daily Lal Sabuz.

## Outlaws kill 3 rivals in Meherpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Cadres of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Communist War) killed three of their rival party men at Gangni upazila in Meherpur early yesterday.

The dead were identified as Abul Hossain, 32 and Dukhu, 22, of Kasthad village of Gangni upazila and Raju, 36, of Uzirpur village of



Ignoring traffic rules, vehicles move at Purana Paltan crossing even when the red light is on, causing gridlock on the busy road yesterday.