2 robbers killed in encounter with Ctg cops

Two robbers were killed in an encounter with police at a bazar in Hathazari upazila of the district last night.

Two cops, including a subinspector of the detective branch, received bullet wounds during the shootout that continued for 40 minutes from 8:15pm

Acting on a tip-off, plainclothes police surrounded Muhurirhat where a gang of robbers was looting shops. Sensing the presence of the police, the robbers opened fire, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate.

Police said two gang members were killed while others fled the scene through a canal. One of the dead was identified as Alamair, 38. The bodies were sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) morgue for autopsy. The injured cops are undergoing treat-

Police recovered two single-barrel guns, two light guns and nine bullets

Biman makes its last flight to NY today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an effort to end incurring perennial financial losses Biman Bangladesh Airlines will make its last flight to New York today amid protests from Bangladeshi expatriates in New York and Biman offi-

With 272 passengers, flight BG-011 is scheduled to fly for New York through Dhaka-Dubai-Brussels-New York route at 8:00am today.

The same flight will fly for Dhaka from John F Kennedy Airport through NY-Brussels-Dhaka route with 153 passengers from New York and 32 from Brussels, said Biman Operations, adding that the flight is expected to land at Zia International Airport at 3:15am on

The national flag carrier early this year decided to suspend all New York flights from June against the backdrop of a huge financial

Sources in Biman yesterday said it incurs a loss of Tk 52 lakh in each NY flight

Biman's New York flight is considered the costliest but most prestigious of all its international flights. But the flight appears to be an increasing burden on the staterun airline as it is already struggling to buy fuel and new generation aircraft because of financial con-

Due to pressure from various quarters, Biman had decided to continue the flights for two more months and cut down the number of its flights to NY from twice a week to only once on Sundays. The extension ends today. Although the third Sunday of the month was supposed to see the third weekly flight to NY, today's flight is only the second in the month and the last on this route.

In April, Biman rerouted its flight through Manchester, UK dropping Brussels as a stopover from its Dhaka-Dubai-Brussels-New York route, but the route continued for no more than a week, said Biman

Meanwhile, agitation grew within the Bangladeshi community in New York after Biman had decided to cut off all its flights to New York in 13 years since its inception in 1993, reports a New York-based news agency ENA.

A group of Bangladeshi expatriates, meantime, flew to Dhaka and met the prime minister urging her not to cut off the flights, and expected that Biman would purchase new aircraft to continue the flights, said Biman sources, but nothing came through.

During the previous Awami **SEE PAGE 15 COL 6**

BNP programme begins today

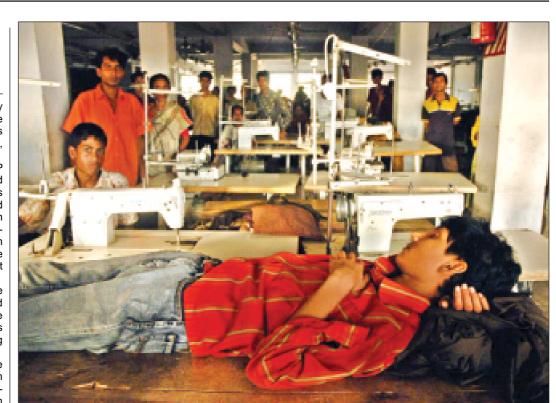
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling BNP's three-day programme, in response to the continuing agitation programmes of the 14-party opposition combine,

As part of the programmes, BNP would bring out processions and hold rallies at upazila headquarters today. Similar programmes would be held at district headquarters on Sunday and at divisional headquarters including the metropolitan cities on August 2. In the capital, the programme will be staged at Muktangon.

The ruling BNP announced the programmes to counter what it said was the opposition's plan to create terrorism, anarchy, chaos and its conspiracy to disrupt the ensuing

The ruling party's programme was announced at a time when Awami League-led 14-party opposition combine is going ahead with their road march programmes in the capital metropolitan cities district and upazila headquarters SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



A worker sleeps on a table at Multi Apparels Ltd, a garments factory in Tongi, which has been under siege for the last four days by its workers, demanding their one month's unpaid salary. The owner has also been detained by the demonstrators since yesterday.

Asian security talks held without N Korea

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urged North Korea to rejoin negotiations on its nuclear programme yesterday as 10 world powers held Asian security talks without the communist regime.

Rice told the meeting in Kuala Lumpur that the United States was ready "at any time, at any place and without any conditions" to meet North Korea under a six-nation framework that began three years

But North Korea, which left the six-way talks in November and caused further outrage this month when it test fired seven missiles,

said it would not return until US financial sanctions against it were dropped

Friday's 10-way dialogue involved North Korea's previous nuclear negotiating partners --South Korea, China, Japan, the United States and Russia -- along with Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Malaysia and New Zealand.

The apparent compromise talks followed failed diplomatic efforts to sway North Korea at the Asean Regional Forum hosted by the Association of Southeast Asian

"We do need to deal with the security problems that are currently bedeviling the region, especially

concerns about the nuclear program of the DPRK," Rice said, referring to the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

"The launching of seven ballistic missiles on July 4-5 here in Asia that violated the self imposed nuclear moratorium was indeed a dangerous action," she said.

North Korea -- which this week branded Rice an "imbecile" rejected a UN Security Council condemnation of the missile tests and said they were part of its legitimate right to self-defence.

"It is sheer robbery to have unduly taken this issue to the UN **SEE PAGE 15 COL 8**

Dhaka becomes 26th | Teachers send letter member of ARF

UNB, Kuala Lumpur

Bangladesh was officially admitted to the Asean Regional Forum (ARF) at the inaugural session of the 13th ministerial meeting here yesterday morning.

Bangladesh became the 26th member of the ARF, which was established in 1994. The ARF deals with issues concerning security of the Asia-Pacific region.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, who is leading the Bangladesh delegation to the ARF meeting, expressed his appreciation to all the members for their support to Bangladesh's admis-

In a statement at the inaugural session, he called upon the international community to take urgent steps for resolving the crisis in Lebanon and the occupied territo-

Morshed assured that

Road accidents

in Rangpur kill

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Seven people died and 45 others

were injured in two road accidents at

the same point on the Dhaka-Rangpur highway under Mithapukur

upazila of the district early yester-

day.
Of the dead, five were identified

as Nuri Hujur, 45, Toyab, 27,

Moklech, 28, Rafiqul, 32, and

7, injure 45

Bangladesh's participation in the forum would contribute towards strengthening the cause of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific

People take part in the 14-party opposition combine's road march in Chittagong, left, and Moulvibazar yesterday, the fourth day of the opposition programme.

On security concerns, he highlighted issues including disarmament, non-proliferation, small arms and terrorism, stressing the need for international cooperation on these issues.

The foreign minister offered to share with the participating countries Bangladesh's extensive experience as the world's leading troops contributor to UN peaceeping operations.

He particularly emphasised disaster management, suggesting that best practices developed in Bangladesh could help regional countries in dealing with natural disasters.

The 13th ARF meeting concluded with a statement by the SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

to UN HR body

Agitation to continue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) yesterday sent a letter to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights explaining their situation and demands to the government of Bangladesh

NFTE will also bring out processions and hold rallies at all upazilas

Earlier, NFTE declared a series of month-long programmes including roads and waterways blockade n the districts on August 1, grand sit-in programme in Dhaka on August 22 and a half-day hartal in Dhaka on August 23.

Furthermore, NFTE will organise representative meets at educational institutions from August 2 to 5, rallies and processions at districts on August 6 and at divisional

headquarters from August 8. Teachers and employees of non-government high schools. colleges and madrasas under four organisations have been on indefinite strike since July 6 demanding cent per cent salary from the government exchequer, increase in house rent and medical allowance, full festival allowance and implementation of relevant UNESCO and ILO recommendations.

Meanwhile, the stalemate over the Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Jote (SKOJ) proposed dialogue between the striking teachers and the government continues, as the government did not yet respond to the invitation letter sent by SKOJ on Wednesday

Leader of SKOJ, Shariful Islam, SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Schoolboys hired to update voter list!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Teenage school students, one not even old enough to vote, are helping the assistant registration officer (ARO) in updating the voter list in Abhoynagar upazila, Jessore!

Father of a16 year-old class eight student Maruf, Afsar Ali of Amdanga village under Noapara pourasava of Abhoynagar upazila alleged that his son has been involved in updating the voter list by the ARO Sanjoy Kumar, a teacher of Ghoperghat Government Primary School. Similar allegation was levelled at

same village. Mohammad Shahidul Islam. He alleged that his son Masud Rana, 18, of class ten, has been updating the voter list for the ARO. People of Amdanga village have

the ARO by another parent of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

One arrested for torturing domestic help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested a security company executive for allegedly torturing a nine-year-old domestic help at Banosri residential area in the capital.

Khilgaon police rescued the victim Salma Akhter, daughter of daylabourer Abdus Salam of Gaibandha district, from the house of Hafizur Rahman, managing director of a security service and admitted her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital at around 4:45pm yesterday. Police arrested Hafizur

Rahman while the other members of the family fled right after the incident, said a sub-inspector of Khilgaon Police Station. Salma, who had several injury

marks over her face, hands and legs, said housewife Chameli Chowdhury beat her up yesterday tying her hands and legs to the gril of balcony as she defecated twice

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR Tortured domestic help Salma shows her wounds.

commits suicide **DU CORRESPONDENT**

DU student

A female student of Dhaka University (DU) committed suicide early yesterday. Body of Khadiza Khatun, a 3rd

ear student of English Department and resident of room no 73 of the extension building of Rokeya Hall, was found hanging from a water pipeline of the hall bathroom.

She was daughter of businessman Nazimuddin Mia of Lakepara village of Rajshahi Sadar upazila, police said.

Khadiza had an hour-long talk over cell phone to someone until 3:00am. Right after that she broke her cell phone by throwing it on the floor and went to the bathroom, said one of her classmates quoting Khadiza's roommates.

She said Khadiza had an affair with a man for several months.

Ramna police went to the hall at SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

JMB THREAT Security beefed up in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) have beefed up security in the city apprehending threats of subversive acts by Islamic militants, particularly Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

The authorities concerned have set up new check posts in the city and formed watch teams According to a report of an intelligence agency, Islamist militants and operatives of an underground organisation are on the move to attack the city in the guise of street SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Prayer Timing		
July 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Injured city Jubo Dal leader dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT njured by criminals 16 days ago, city

ward Jubo Dal leader Monir Hosseir died at BIRDEM hospital in the capital Monir Hossein, 37, who was Jubo

Dal president of Ward no 66, was admitted to Mitford hospital in a critical condition after local criminals hacked him at Balu Ghat near Midford

hospital on July 13. He was later shifted to BIRDEM hospital After the incident, Salma Sultana,

wife of the deceased, lodged a case with Kotwali Police Station accusing Mamun, Sharif, Raja, Shanu and 10 others. Monir was also a joint secretary of

the fourth class employees union and the incident followed a dispute in the ward Jubo Dal committee, Mitford nospital sources said. The same group also hacked Md

Sadik, general secretary of the same ward, inside the Mitford hospital over establishing supremacy in the Mitford hospital area, sources said.

9 firearms, ammo recovered in Ctg, 3 arrested driver Syed Ahmed and took him

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested three people, including a woman, and recovered nine firearms and 76 bullets from their possession on Thursday night and early yester-

The arrestees, reportedly members of a gang of robbers, are Syed Ahmed, 30, Babul Barua, 30 and Nilu Akhter, 20.

According to sources, a team from Bayezid Bostami Police Station stopped a CNG-run autorickshaw at a police check post at Oxygen Intersection at around 8:00pm on Thursday and recovered two firearms and 12 bullets from a sack in the three wheelers. They arrested auto-rickshaw nto custody for quizzing.

On Syed's confessional statement, police raided the house of Babul Barua in Mohora Dighirpar area under Chandgaon Police Station early yesterday and arrested Babul along with 24 bullets.

As per Babul's statement, police arrested Nilu Akhter at a house in the same area and recovered three single-barrel and four double-barrel guns and 40

Two cases were filed with Bayezid Bostami Police Station. Police produced the arrestees in he Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court here yesterday afternoon. The court placed them on a three-day remand.

Ramzan, 35.Identity of the remaining two could not be known. Police and locals said a Rangpur-bound bus collided with a stone-laden truck at Boiragigani at around 5:00am, killing two bus passengers on the spot and injuring Soon after the accident, another

Panchagarh-bound bus from Dhaka hit the accident-ridden vehicles, leaving 30 passengers of the bus injured. Of the injured, four died on the way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital while another succumbed to his injuries at the hospital



Israel has amassed a large number of Merkava tanks near the Lebanese border. It has also called up more reservists

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