

BSF abducts 5 Bangladeshi cattle traders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) abducted five Bangladeshi cattle traders from Chhalishpara border point in Daulatpur upazila of the district yesterday.

BDR sources said a BSF patrol team of Jalangi camp in Murshidaba district picked up the Bangladeshi cattle traders as they went to the border point at about 6:30am to buy cows from Indian traders.

The abducted Bangladeshis are Pinat Ali, 40, Ashtul 33 of Choraipara village, and Sahidul 22, Ressel, 28, and Rubel, 32, of Charpara village in Daultapur upazila.

Relatives of the abducted persons informed the matter to local BDR camp.

When contacted, BDR officials said they will send a letter to the BSF authorities protesting the incident.

UN appeals for truce

Rice heads back to ME as Israel rejects call, 12 civilians killed in air raids

AFP, REUTERS, Beirut/ Tyre

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice headed back to the Middle East yesterday to find a way to end the bloody conflict in Lebanon as the United Nations appealed for a three-day truce to allow in desperately needed humanitarian aid.

The United States however continues to rule out an immediate ceasefire to end Israel's 18-day-old war on Hezbollah that has left hundreds of people dead, mostly civilians, in Lebanon alone, and made hundreds of thousands homeless.

Israel yesterday rejected UN calls for a 72-hour pause in fighting to enable relief workers to evacuate elderly, young and wounded people from south Lebanon and to bring in emergency aid.

"There is no need for a 72-hour

temporary cease-fire because Israel has opened a humanitarian corridor to-and-from Lebanon," said Israeli government spokesman Avi Pazner.

Rather Israel kept up a wave of air strikes, pounding Hezbollah targets including a missile launch pad it suspected was used to fire a new type of missile that landed in Afula, 50km south of the border, the deepest strike into Israel since the conflict began.

Israeli forces have pulled back from positions on the outskirts of a Hezbollah stronghold town in south Lebanon that has been the scene of deadly battles, Lebanese police said Saturday.

Tanks and armoured vehicles left the hills overlooking the main border town of Bint Jbeil late Friday and returned to Marun Al-Ras, which was captured by Israeli

forces on July 23, they said. But Israeli troops in Marun Al-Ras continued to bombard Bint Jbeil and nearby Aitarun, they said.

Advancing Israeli forces have encountered fierce resistance from Lebanese Shia militant Hezbollah guerrillas since they moved across the border, stepping up their massive air and ground offensive in Lebanon.

The army said six soldiers were wounded in the battle for the key Lebanese border town of Bint Jbeil, a Hezbollah stronghold that has been the scene of the deadliest combat between Israeli troops and Shia Muslim guerrillas.

Twelve civilians, including a mother and her five children, were killed on Saturday in a new wave of Israeli air raids on Lebanon, police said.

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JCD-Shibir clash at Dinajpur Medical College 33 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least 33 students of Dinajpur Medical College were injured as Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists engaged in clashes on the campus yesterday afternoon.

The ICS activists also vandalised a number of college dormitory rooms and Dinajpur Sadar Hospital.

Dinajpur Medical College sources said 10-15 JCD men swooped on ICS activists around 4.00pm at a dormitory room, leaving at least three ICS activists injured.

The injured were identified as Golam Faruque, 25, president of Dinajpur Medical College ICS unit, Abdus Shakur, 25, general secretary and Imran, 22. They are under treatment at Dinajpur Sadar Hospital.

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The authorities of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) dismantled the main gate of the campus yesterday to prevent a planned students' strike demanding deferment of their examinations. Usually striking students lock the gate so that others cannot enter the campus.

PHOTO STAR

4 US Marines killed in Iraqi rebel attack

Blasts rock Baghdad

REUTERS, AFP, Baghdad

Four US Marines have been killed in action in Iraq's western Anbar province, the US military said yesterday.

It said the Marines -- three from the 1st Brigade, 1st Armoured Division and the other from Regional Combat Team 5 -- were killed on Thursday. Statements on their deaths gave no further details.

More than 2,570 US soldiers have been killed in Iraq since the March 2003 US-led invasion to topple Saddam Hussein.

Bomb blasts echoed around Baghdad on Saturday as sectarian death squads pursued their bloody work and the US military warned

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PHOTO: AFP

An anti-US sign and Lebanese national flag placed amid the rubble of buildings bombed by Israeli air force in the southern suburbs of Beirut yesterday.

BNP, AL in 'dirty' race to lure Ershad

Says CPB

UNB, Dhaka

Leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday said the "dirty competition" between the BNP and the Awami League to get deposed autocrat HM Ershad into their fold is the naked manifestation of political bankruptcy of the country's two-party politics.

Addressing a rally in the city, they said the two parties are playing a dirty game to have the toppled autocrat in their political alliance to win the polls.

Ershad who had stained his hand with the blood of many martyrs, including Tajul, Majuddin, Noor Hossain, Jehad and Selim, has

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3 of a family killed as train rams tempo

UNB, Feni

Three members of a family were killed and two others injured as an express train ramed a tempo on a level crossing at Chhanua Bazar here yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place at about 8:30 am when the Dhaka-bound Subarna Express ploughed into the three-wheeler as it stopped and got stuck on the unmanned level crossing.

The deceased are Rekha, 22, wife of Mohammad Shahjahan, an expatriate living in Saudi Arabia, his sister-in-law Murni, 18, and nephew Mizan, 7.

The injured--Hazera, 15, and

tempo driver Kamal--were admitted to Feni Sadar Hospital.

Shahjahan's younger brother, Hanif, got down from the tempo and tried to move it by pushing, but the train did not give him time to succeed in his hectic effort to save his near and dear ones.

"As the train ripped through, the tempo skidded 100 yards off the scene," witnesses said.

On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the bodies and sent them to Feni Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Family sources said the victims were returning home at Uttar Chhanua village in Sadar upazila from Neyamatpur village by the three-wheeler.

SAARC Programming committee meets today

UNB, Dhaka

Saarc Programming Committee comprising senior officials meets in Dhaka today to prepare the ground for the meetings of the Saarc Standing Committee and the Council of Ministers from July 31 to August 2.

One of the important tasks before the Standing Committee and the Council of Ministers is to consider the observer status of the United States, South Korea and the European Union.

At the 13th Summit in Dhaka last November, the Saarc leaders agreed to accept Afghanistan as the 8th member of the regional forum

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UNSC reaches accord on Iran's nuke row

AP, United Nations

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council reached a deal Friday on a resolution that would give Iran until the end of August to suspend uranium enrichment or face the threat of economic and diplomatic sanctions.

The draft was formally circulated to the full 15-member council

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Prayer Timing		
July 30		
	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

RMG workers clash at Ashulia: 50 hurt

Cops club warring groups

JU CORRESPONDENT

Clashes between two groups of workers and consequent police action left at least 50 injured in Scandex Private Ltd, a garment factory at Zamgora in Ashulia, yesterday.

Police also arrested ten workers from the spot.

Factory staff Altaf and Alamgir came under attack by a group of workers whom they had rebuked early in the morning for delay in joining work.

Following the incident, workers of the factory got divided into two groups and locked into clashes.

Several workers were injured

and machinery vandalised during the incident.

Police reached the spot at noon and charged baton on the feuding workers, leaving several other workers injured.

Condition of ten workers including Altaf, Alamgir, Akash, Ahmed, Rabbani, Arju, Mahmud and Sanwar were stated to be critical.

The factory was declared closed for yesterday.

"An uneasy atmosphere was prevailing in the factory for the past few days. The arrests have been made to thwart any further violence," Officer-in-Charge of Ashulia Police Station Obaidur Rahman said.

