

Driver held on mugging link dies in cop custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A microbus driver, who was arrested in connection with mugging Tk 21 lakh of a garment factory, died in police custody at Bayezid Bostami Police Station on Friday night.

Police said driver Mohammad Masum, who was under a four-day remand since Thursday, committed suicide while transport workers' leaders alleged that he died from police torture.

Meantime, police refused to accept a murder case by the workers' union leaders who went in a procession to the police station

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Afghan governor dies in suicide blast

Nato-led forces kill 94 more Taliban fighters

AP, Kabul

A suicide bombing killed the governor of Afghanistan's eastern Paktika province and two other people outside his home yesterday, police said.

Three others were wounded in the attack outside Gov Abdul Hakim Taniwal's house in the provincial capital of Gardez, said provincial police chief Abdul Annan Raufi.

Taliban-led militants have

stepped up attacks in Afghanistan this year, including suicide bombings. More than 100 Taliban fighters raided a government compound in western Afghanistan early Sunday, while Nato and Afghan forces killed 94 Taliban fighters in airstrikes and ground attacks in southern Afghanistan, police and military alliance sources said.

Taliban fighters riding in pickup trucks and firing rocket-propelled grenades and AK-47 assault rifles attacked the compound in the

Farah provincial town of Kalaigar at about 1 a.m., said provincial police chief Sayed Agha. Two police were killed by the Taliban, who also burned two rooms of the compound and a health clinic in the town, said Agha.

Resurgent Taliban fighters have been most active in southern provinces. But attacks have started occurring in the west amid intense Nato military operations targeting Taliban in southern provinces like

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WATER RESOURCES Ruling lawmakers unhappy over non-implementation of projects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several ruling alliance lawmakers expressed frustration yesterday in parliament over non-implementation of different projects in their constituencies assured by the water resources minister during the last five years.

The lawmakers in the question-answer hour said the tenure of the government is going to expire next month, but the assurances for implementing different projects in their constituencies have remained unfulfilled.

Facing a volley of questions, SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Iran, EU see light in crucial nuke talks

REUTERS, Vienna

Iran's nuclear negotiator and the EU foreign policy chief said yesterday that they had made progress in talks in the search for a compromise to avoid possible UN sanctions over Tehran's atomic programme.

Iran's Ali Larjani said some misunderstandings had been cleared up, while the European Union's Javier Solana said the meeting was productive and that the two would meet again soon.

The EU and the United States want Iran to stop enriching uranium to qualify for trade benefits offered

by world powers and pre-empt sanctions by the UN Security Council.

"We have made constructive progress. We have reached common points of view on a number of issues," Larjani said.

"And as mentioned by Dr Solana, many of the misunderstandings were removed," he said.

The United States is pushing to begin moves next week for sanctions against Iran, its arch Middle East foe, over Tehran's refusal to halt its nuclear fuel drive before any negotiations to put the wide-ranging incentives offer into effect.

"The meeting, the hours of work,

have been productive. We have clarified some of the misunderstandings that existed before," Solana said.

"We have made progress. We want to continue that line and we are going to meet next week," he said without giving a date.

Washington's EU allies share its suspicions that Iran's nuclear work is a veiled bid to assemble atom bombs rather than a quest for an alternative electricity source as Tehran insists.

But, fearing the economic repercussions of isolating the world's No. 4 oil supplier, many in SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Sharapova wins first US Open

REUTERS, New York

Russia's Maria Sharapova used a big serve and powerful forehand to win the US Open women's singles title on Saturday by beating second seed Justine Henin-Hardenne 6-4, 6-4.

Sharapova, the 2004 Wimbledon champion, ended the 90-minute match when the Belgian

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Khaleda says BNP to crush 'conspiracy' against polls

UNB, Kamrangirchar

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said BNP along with people will thwart all "conspiracies" against the upcoming election and the democratic process.

"Internal and external conspiracies are going on so that the caretaker government could not hold a free, fair and neutral election," Khaleda, also chairperson of the ruling BNP, told a big public meeting at Kamrangirchar.

"Whatever strong the domestic and external conspirators may be, we would give a befitting reply if they conspire to jeopardise the general election and stall the demo-

cratic process in the country," she said.

The prime minister said people are with them [BNP] and they would unitedly face the conspiracy. She urged the people to remain alert about the "conspirators."

Khaleda said her government will hand over power to the caretaker government end of October and the caretaker government would complete the election next January.

"The responsibility of the caretaker government is to hold election freely, fairly and neutrally --and the process is going on," she added.

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7 hurt in N'ganj gunfight between Rab, criminals

UNB, Narayanganj

Seven people, including four Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) men, were injured in a gunfight between the elite force and a gang of criminals at Sonapur in the district Saturday night after abduction of two brothers for ransom.

Locals said criminals abducted Saddam Hossain and his brother Amir Hossain hailing from Magura and demanded Tk 1.50 lakh in ransom from their family when they went to visit Sonargaon.

On information, Rab-11 members raided Sonapur slums in Sonargaon to rescue the two brothers. Sensing the presence of the Rab team, the criminals fired on the Rab members forcing them to return fire.

Rab rescued Saddam and SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



The garbage trailer placed in front of the Dhaka Education Board staff quarters at Mirpur-1 in the capital spreads foul odour in the surrounding areas causing environmental pollution.

Indo-Pak leaders may hold talks in NAM summit sideline

AFP, Havana

Developing nations' leaders gather in Havana this week for a summit expected to feature talks between India and Pakistan, lobbying for Iran's nuclear programme and possible appearances by the Castro brothers.

About 50 heads of state and government are scheduled to

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Prayer Timing		
September 11		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-17
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

