



Programme for Eco Social Development (PESD) forms a human chain at Gabtali in Bogra yesterday to raise mass awareness about acid violence.

Five get life for murder in Naogaon

UNB, Naogaon
The district court yesterday sentenced five men to life imprisonment for killing a co-villager at Tatarpur village in Mohadebpur upazila nine years ago. Additional District and Sessions Judge Abu Ahmed Jamadar pronounced the verdict in a crowded court. The convicts are Abed Ali, Azim Uddin, Tazim Uddin, Ala Bux Sheikh and Ashraf Ali. They were also fined Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer one year more rigorous imprisonment. According to the prosecution, the convicts had dispute with Kayesuddin over land. They called him out of home on May 20, 1997 with a false plea taking him to a field they strangled Kayes.

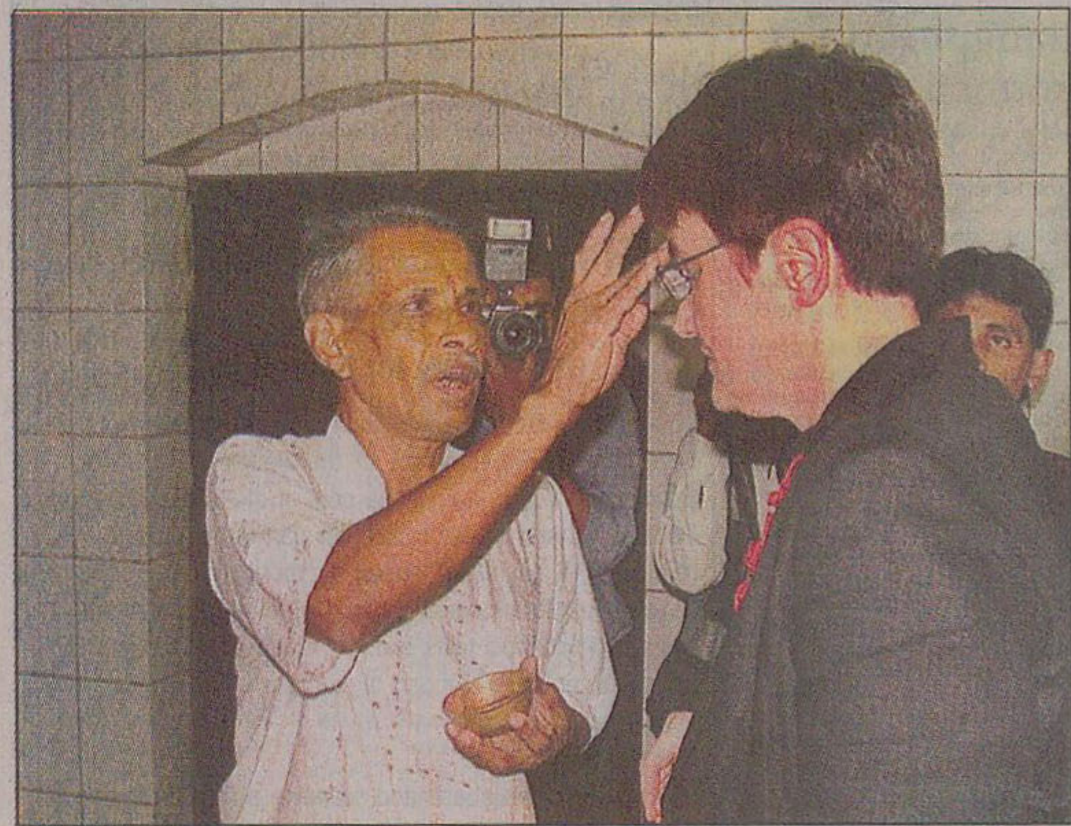
185 combatants killed in Sri Lanka in 6 days

AP, Colombo
A battle raging in northern Sri Lanka between government troops and Tamil rebels has killed 185 combatants over the past six days, government officials said yesterday. Army soldiers and Tamil Tiger rebels have traded artillery fire across their front lines at Muhamalai on Jaffna Peninsula since Thursday in battles that killed 35 soldiers, an official at the Media Centre for National Security said, speaking on condition of anonymity, citing agency policy. The fighting also has killed 150 rebels, the Defense Ministry said on its Website. However, the rebels disputed this toll. Tamil Tiger official Seevanatnam Puleedevan said

only 12 of the group's fighters had been killed. Both sides are known to exaggerate each other's death tolls, and it is virtually impossible to independently verify the information. Quake shakes western China
AP, Beijing
A magnitude-5.4 earthquake shook China's northwestern region of Xinjiang early yesterday, but there were no deaths or damage in the remote, unpopulated area, the government announced. The quake struck Xinjiang's Hetian County at about 2:00am (1800GMT Monday), said an official of the Xinjiang Seismological Bureau.

Life in ruins after Guantanamo jail Pakistani says

REUTERS, Pattan
Mohammad Sagheer says the year he spent in prison in Guantanamo Bay has ruined his life. He has lost his saw-mill business, his family has sunk into debt and his children have had to quit school. Sagheer, 54, said he was with a Muslim missionary group, preaching in northern Afghanistan, when the Taliban were ousted weeks after the September 11 attacks on the United States. Picked up by troops of an Afghan warlord allied with the United States, Sagheer soon found himself in US custody in Cuba. His family had no idea where he was. A year later he was home but things have never been the same, said Sagheer in an interview in his mountain village in Pakistan's rugged North West Frontier Province. "In the first two or three months after my release, I was unaware of anything but later I realised my sons had borrowed a lot of money to track me down," said Sagheer, sitting on the floor of a small hut with his sons and other male relatives. Sagheer's family borrowed more than 1,500,000 rupees (17,363 pounds) to pay people to search for him in Afghanistan. Struggling to pay back the debt, Sagheer was forced to sell a small piece of land and a house to cover some of it. But the people he owes money want the rest. "The situation is worse because the lenders are demanding their money. I have nothing left except this house. If I sell it I'll have no shelter," said the black-bearded man, sitting with his 7-year-old mentally retarded son, Shamsul Haq, on his lap. "THE TALIBAN ARE GOOD" If things weren't bad enough, a huge earthquake struck parts of northern Pakistan last October, including Sagheer's village. His main four-room concrete house was destroyed as well as a workshop where he kept a large mechanical saw with that he used to cut wood, his sole source of income. "Now I'm doing nothing. I'm jobless."



A priest anoints the forehead of US Ambassador Patricia A Butenis during her visit to Chatteshwari Temple in Chittagong yesterday.

Lightning kills 3 in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Three teenage boys were killed and five others injured seriously in two separate incidents of lightning at Kallihati and Gopalpur upazilas in the district yesterday. The dead were identified as Monwar Hossain, 14, of Zamdani village and Jahangir Alam, 16, of Boita village under Kallihati upazila and Ehsanul Haque, 16, of Dhuluita village under Gopalpur upazila. Police and victim's family sources said the first incident occurred at

around 11:00am when the thunderbolt struck Monwar and Jahangir leaving them dead on the spot and five others injured. The injured were admitted to Kallihati Upazila Health Complex in critical conditions. In the second incident, Ehsanul Haque, a student of class nine of a local high school, was killed when the thunderbolt struck him at around 11:30am. Three separate cases of unnatural deaths were filed with Kallihati and Gopalpur Police Stations in these regards.

'CONTROVERSIAL' APPOINTMENT 546 RU staffs demand job confirmation

RU CORRESPONDENT

Five hundred and forty-six employees of Rajshahi University (RU), whose appointments have been mired in controversy, laid siege to the vice-chancellor's residence yesterday demanding confirmation of their jobs. They staged the demonstration in the wake of a High Court order staying the procedures of recruitment of 573 employees until October 15. The court also asked the university authorities to show cause as to why the process would not be declared illegal. VC Prof Altaf Hossain, however, assured them that the process of appointment would continue as per the advertisement published in the newspaper, sources said. Later, the employees met appointment committee chairman and RU Pro-VC Prof Mamunul Keramat who also assured them that the process would

continue. When contacted, RU Registrar Prof Abdus Salam told reporters that they are yet to receive the copies of the HC order. Farman Ali, joint convener of 546 Employees Oikya Parishad, said they would launch a tougher agitation, including indefinite strike, if the authorities fail to confirm their appointment.

Kashmir couple shot dead

AP, Jammu
Suspected Islamic militants shot and killed a husband and his wife in a remote mountain village in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir, police said yesterday. The couple were killed late Monday night in the Thand Dhok area, some 190-kilometers (120-miles) north west of Jammu, the winter capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state, said local police chief Farooq Khan.

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শুভ উদ্বোধনে

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