

UK minister for trade arrives tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka
British Minister of State for Trade Ian McCartney MP will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow night on an official visit to Bangladesh.

McCartney will meet leading business representatives, government and political party leaders during his stay in the country.

Besides, British Vice Admiral Charles Style, who is Deputy Chief of Defence, will arrive here today on a two-day official visit as part of his South Asia tour.

"His trip is intended to strengthen Britain's bilateral military relationship with Bangladesh," a release of the British High Commission said.

Vice Admiral Style's visit will include a trip to Bangladesh naval base in Chittagong and meetings with senior officers of the armed forces.

3 killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT
A top leader of Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) Lal Pataka faction and two members of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (BPCP) ML-Lal Pataka faction were killed in 'encounters' between their accomplices and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in the early hours yesterday in Jessore and Naogaon.

The slain in Jessore was identified as Rafiqul Islam alias Lanu Molla, son of Hamid Molla of Shubhorara village under Abhoynagar upazila in Jessore, reports our Khulna correspondent.

Rab 6 in a press release said Rab captured Rafiqul while he and his accomplices were planning to carry out subversive activities in a secret meeting.

Later, Rab took Rafiqul along to recover illegal firearms at Shubhorara village and at around 2:30am came under fire from Rafiqul's cohorts that prompted them to return fire. Rab shot 30 bullets during the 16-minute long shootout.

Rafiqul was shot during the 'encounter' and died on the spot, claimed Rab.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

India tests N-capable missile

AFF, Bhubaneswar

India yesterday successfully tested a nuclear-capable ballistic missile from a test range in the eastern state of Orissa, defence sources said.

The test of the Prithvi-1 missile took place at the Chandipur-on-sea test site about 200km northeast of Orissa's state capital, Bhubaneswar.

The missile was test-fired from a mobile launcher at 9:55 am (0425 GMT) Sunday, the sources said.

The 8.5-meter (28-foot) surface-to-surface missile covers 150km in 300 seconds and has a range of up to 250km.

The test was part of an air defence exercise and trials of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

FREE, FAIR POLLS

Nagorik body places proposals to CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-member delegation of Nagorik Committee 2006 yesterday called on President and Chief Adviser to the caretaker government Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban and placed a set of recommendations for holding the next election in a free, fair and neutral manner.

They urged the president to reconstitute the Election Commission, bring necessary amendments to the existing Representatives of People Order, take steps for revision of the voter lists excluding false voters and reshuffle the administration at the field level for creating a congenial atmosphere for a free and fair

election.

Urging the president to bring necessary amendments to the Representatives of People Order (RPO) 1972, the delegation said it could be done through promulgating an ordinance.

The committee also pointed out the 'required' amendments to the order and presented a draft prepared through dialogues, and discussions with senior lawyers and legal experts.

The delegation also presented some documents to the president and recommendations for immediate and midterm actions for bringing political reforms and meeting people's expectations.

The delegation included Joint Convener of the committee and

former finance minister M Syeduzzaman, former cabinet secretary M Mujibul Huq, former adviser of caretaker government Syed Manzur Elahi, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and the committee's Member Secretary Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya.

The president gave the delegation members a patent hearing and assured them of implementing the recommendations, they told the newsmen after coming out from the Bangabhaban.

The president also sought cooperation from the civil society members for overcoming the existing political crisis, they said.

"We have urged the president to solve the crisis through discussions

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Former finance minister M Syeduzzaman speaks at a press briefing after a delegation of the Nagorik Committee 2006 met President and Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. Syed Manzur Elahi, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed and M Mujibul Huq are also seen in the picture.

6 killed in Rangunia road crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Six day-labourers were killed and nine others injured in a road accident on Chittagong-Rangamati Road at Rangunia in the district yesterday morning.

The accident occurred when a Rangamati-bound truck carrying 15 day-labourers skidded off and fell into a roadside ditch --Maghaichhari Khal-- around 20 feet below the road near Ranirhat at around 7:25am, killing four on the spot, sources said.

Two others later succumbed to their injuries on their way to hospital.

They were identified as Abdur Rahim, 30, Abdul Kader, 26, Md Idris, 27, Md Nasir, 25, Nurul Islam, 29 and Abdus Salam. All of them hailed from B Chowdhury Colony at Ranirhat.

Five of the injured were taken to the local health complex and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Aggrieved activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League beat up organisation General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

JCD men attack Chhatra Sangram Parishad activists on DU campus

Indefinite strike called from today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Chhatra Sangram Parishad (CSP), an alliance of seven 14-party backed student bodies, has called an indefinite strike at Dhaka University (DU) beginning today protesting an attack on its leaders and activists by Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) men that left at least five injured yesterday.

The CSP, led by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), announced the programme at a press conference and demanded resignation of the DU vice-chancellor and proctor for their 'failure to maintain law and order.'

The campus turned violent in the morning with explosions of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

Police administration put thru' transfer hoops

Kohinoor made OSD again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday transferred 49 deputy inspector general (DIG) and superintendent of police (SP)-level police officials and 618 inspectors and officers-in-charge (OCs) of different police stations.

It also transferred eight deputy commissioner (DC)-level officials and withdrew as many DCs to the establishment ministry.

The government reinstated eight officials including all four members of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), chairman and two commissioners of Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC) and the legal adviser to the foreign ministry.

As part of its ongoing administra-

tion reshuffles, the government transferred the 618 police officers within their divisional ranges. Seven deputy inspector general (DIG)-rank officers and 42 superintendent of police (SP)-rank officials were transferred to other parts of their divisional range.

The transferred police officers include Kohinoor Mian, deputy commissioner (DC) of Tejgaon, who was transferred to Rangamati as the commandant of 5th Armed Police Battalion (APBn) at Barbusia on November 14 following his controversial role in handling demonstrations at Karwan Bazar in the capital where one 14-party leader was killed.

Strongly criticised for his leading role of police excess at

Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University in 2003 and the attack on 14-party activists and leaders including former home minister Mohammad Nasim in Dhanmondi last month, Kohinoor was placed as officer on special duty (OSD) and attached to the police headquarters on November 6. After the government issued his transfer order to Barbusia APBn, locals staged demonstrations against his being posted in Rangamati.

The reinstated officials include BTRC Chairman Omar Farooq, also former home secretary and who was reinstated only two days after his contractual job was cancelled, earned strong flak for holding political programmes in his area

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

50 killed in Iraq attacks

Gunmen kidnap deputy health minister

AP, AFP, Baghdad

A suicide bomber in a minivan lured day labourers to his vehicle with promises of a job last morning then blew it up, killing 22 people and wounding 44 in the mainly Shia southern city of Hillah, police said.

Gunmen kidnapped Iraq's deputy health minister Ammar al-Assafar from his home in Baghdad's Sunni district of Adhamiyah on Sunday, a security source told AFP.

"Gunmen came in four cars and kidnapped the minister from his home in Adhamiyah," the source said.

Attacks by suspected insurgents in other areas of Iraq killed 27 people and wounded 50, raising the country's death toll to 49 by midday Sunday.

In the capital, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Moallem was to begin a

landmark visit, officials said. He would be the highest ranking Syrian official to visit since US-led forces ousted Saddam Hussein in 2003.

Syria and Iraq broke diplomatic relations in 1982, although trade ties have been restored.

The Bush administration is under growing pressure to ask adversaries such as Iran and Syria for help in trying to avoid the collapse of an increasingly violent Iraq.

Negotiating with the two countries would entail a major policy shift by US President George W Bush, whose reluctance to talk to them and US adversaries in general has come under increasing criticism.

Abipartisan US panel looking for a way out of Iraq was through ready to recommend increased engagement with Iran and Syria as part of a broader effort for more international

involvement in the conflict.

The minivan approached the men in central Hillah, a mostly Shia city 60 miles south of Baghdad, and exploded as they gathered around it, said police Capt. Muthanna Khalid Ali.

Unemployment is high across Iraq, and men often struggle to feed their families by working jobs such as the construction work the Hillah residents were seeking, Sunday is a working day in mostly Muslim Iraq.

"The sudden explosion shook the whole area and shattered the windows of a store I was standing outside of nearby," said Muhsin Hadi Alwan, 33, one of the wounded day labourers. "The ground was covered with the remains of people and blood, and

involved in the conflict.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Why keeping 338 Myanmar citizens in jail not illegal

HC asks govt to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court (HC) division bench yesterday issued a rule on four government officials asking them to clarify why confinement of 338 Myanmar citizens in Cox's Bazar jail will not be declared illegal.

The HC rule also asked officials to explain why the expatriate citizens will not be freed immediately and produced before the High Court.

The defendants are home secretary, inspector general (prison), Cox's Bazar's deputy commissioner and jailor of the district jail.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) on November 5 filed the case on behalf of the Myanmar citizens, who have been languishing in the jail for a long time without trial, said a press release.

The HC bench comprising Justice Syed Mohammad Dastgir Hossain and Justice Mamnun Rahman directed the officials to respond to the rule within three weeks.

Idrisur Rahman and Amatul Karim moved the case on behalf of the BLAST.

Girl's body found in abandoned suitcase

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of an unidentified ten-year-old girl was found inside a locked suitcase at Kamalapur Railway Station on Saturday night.

The victims' hands and legs were strongly tied with rope and cloth, said the railway police who found the body inside a large blackish brown suitcase at around 11:30pm.

There were marks of burn injuries on different parts of the victim's body and it seems the girl died at least two days earlier, Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue sources said.

Blair hints at change in 'war on terror'

Holds talks with Pak president

AFF, Lahore

British Prime Minister Tony Blair indicated yesterday that the west's approach to the "war on terror" had changed, as he and Pakistan's leader pledged to bolster cooperation against extremism.

Blair was asked at a joint news conference here after talks with President Pervez Musharraf whether the United States and its allies like Britain were winning the global fight against Islamic radicalism.

"We begin to win when we start fighting properly and I think we are now fighting properly. But we've got to do more," said Blair, who is on his

third visit to Pakistan since 2001. His official spokesman told reporters later that Blair was not criticising a previous approach or a particularly tactic.

Instead he said it referred to the "fuller appreciation" of what was required to fight extremism as part of a "broader global issue" that included the Middle East.

Blair called for a change in western efforts to tackle extremism in a speech in Los Angeles in August, urging the use of "soft power" techniques like aid and economic development as much as

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

JUDGES KILLING CASE

Hearing begins on condemned JMB men's appeal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hearing of appeals of six condemned militant leaders of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) including its chief Abdur Rahman and Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai in the Jhalakathi judges killing case began yesterday at the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

State defence lawyer Advocate Khalilur Rahman Bhuyian started reading out the paper-book (history of the case) that will continue today.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



A Malian walks out of the Great Mosque in Djenné, Mali in this August 10, 2003 file photo. Researchers in Timbuktu are fighting to preserve tens of thousands of ancient texts which they say prove Africa had a written history at least as old as the European Renaissance.

Libraries in sand reveal Africa's past

REUTERS, Timbuktu, Mali

Researchers in Timbuktu are fighting to preserve tens of thousands of ancient texts which they say prove Africa had a written history at least as old as the European Renaissance.

Private and public libraries in the fabled Saharan town in Mali have already collected 150,000 brittle manuscripts, some of them from the 13th century, and local historians believe many more lie buried under the sand.

The texts were stashed under mud homes and in desert caves by proud Malian families whose successive generations feared they would be stolen by Moroccan invaders, European explorers and then French colonialists.

Written in ornate calligraphy, some were used to teach

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Prayer Timing		
November 20		
	Azan	
Fajr	5-05	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-21	5-24
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation