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President's Miladunnabi function disrupted

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed had to abandon his scheduled Eid-e-Miladunnabi programme at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque premises yesterday evening amidst an awkward situation, reports UNB.

The President was invited by the Islamic Foundation to inaugurate its fortnight-long Miladunnabi programme.

A group of *musulits* raised shouts at about 7:45 pm when Religious Affairs Secretary Abdus Shakur was addressing the function.

Later, State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Nurul Islam took the microphone to deliver his speech at about 7:50 pm.

But Nurul Islam was also heckled by the troublemakers exhibiting shoes, witnesses said. One pair also dropped near

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Miladunnabi today

Holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi will be observed today, the 12th of Rabul Awal, with due solemnity, reports UNB.

Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM), the greatest and last Prophet of Islam, was born on this day in Makkah in 570 AD and also passed away the same day in 632 AD.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia gave separate messages on the occasion.

The day is a public holiday. The government and different political, religious and socio-cultural organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes.

The day will be observed

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Shima murder

Attorney General's office examining case file

The Attorney-General's office yesterday received the file of the Shima murder case from the solicitor's office at the Law Ministry to examine whether filing law appeal before the High Court is possible, reports UNB.

Attorney-General KS Nabi received the case file in the morning and immediately called three Deputy Attorneys General — ASM Shahid, Monjur UI Hoq Chowdhury and M Farook.

The AG handed over the copy of the case file to the three DAGs to scrutinise and give a joint report immediately as to whether

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Indian chopper crosses into Bangladesh airspace

HABIGANJ, July 17: An Indian helicopter allegedly crossed into Bangladesh airspace in Habiganj district today.

Witnesses said a green-coloured helicopter flew low over a tea garden in Chunarhat thana of the district at about 8 am.

When contacted, Balla border BDR authorities confirmed the incident. Duty officer at BDR headquarters in Dhaka declined to make any comment.

This is the third airspace violation by the neighbouring country since last May.

Holiday

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today [Friday] on the occasion of holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi.

Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow [Saturday].

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PW-3 narrates Aug 15 incidents in court Armymen took Russel, then gunshots and his groaning were heard

By Staff Correspondent

The third witness in the Bangabandhu murder case in his deposition to the court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, yesterday said that four or five army personnel pulled Bangabandhu from his room and took him towards the staircase.

Earlier, Sharifuddin Mukul had completed his cross-examination of the second prosecution witness Abdur Rahman alias Rama.

After recording the statement of the third prosecution witness, the judge asked the state defence to start their cross-examination. One lawyer on behalf of the 14 state defence counsels of the abounding accused pleaded before the court to let the defence lawyers for the

time for the court was fixed at 4:30 pm after which the court cannot sit without consensus of the parties concerned.

The judge then adjourned the days proceedings till Monday next.

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arrested accused to start the cross-examination.

Pleading before the court, Advocate Pran Nath, lawyer for the absconding accused Maj (relieved) Shariful Hossain, said that all the lawyers of the state defence were junior and not sufficiently experienced in the legal profession.

Khan Saifur Rahman, lawyer for accused Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farookur Rahman, observed that when a case involving capital punishment was being tried the defence lawyers for the abounding accused "should be of some standing".

The judge rejected the plea of the state defence and ordered then to begin the cross-examination.

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The proceedings in the court began at around 11:35 am and ended at about 4:30 pm when one of the defence lawyers reminded the court that the last

time for the court was fixed at 4:30 pm after which the court cannot sit without consensus of the parties concerned.

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nation of the third witness.

The third prosecution witness said, "Armymen receiving instruction from their officers took Russel bhat and afterwards heard sounds of firing and groaning of Russel", according to UNB.

Selim, who now works at Bangabhaban, became emotional while narrating the episode of killings.

The PW-3 who was injured by gunshots on the day at one stage of his deposition showed the wound marks to the court during yesterday's trial proceedings.

Rama told the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge's Court

The task force on export suggested the government to take immediate steps for improving overall efficiency and service facilities of Chittagong Port to cope with increasing volume of exports, reports UNB.

In a meeting yesterday, it emphasised evolving a permanent system so that the seaport, country's commercial lifeline, could function smoothly.

The task force also stressed the improvement of bank credit facilities and enhancement of incentives to the exporters for rapid increase of exports which raise foreign exchange reserve and create more employment.

The members of the task force argued that most of the countries including neighbours are practising this strategy for improving their economic condition.

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Asia Cup

India-Sri Lanka tie today

COLONBO, July 17: Indian captain Sachin Tendulkar, recently involved in controversy over team selection, said today he wanted to forget the past and start afresh with the Asia Cup competition, reports Reuter.

"I am going into this tournament with an open frame of mind. It's a new season for me," Tendulkar said ahead of tomorrow's match against world champions Sri Lanka.

"We are not thinking of what happened in the past. Neither are we thinking about what is going to happen in the future," Tendulkar said.

He had been quoted by Indian newspaper Aajkal as saying that he had been given a B-team, but Tendulkar has denied saying that "Everybody knows Sri Lanka is playing top cricket. To beat them we have to get big runs, to score as many as possible. That's what one-day cricket is becoming like," Tendulkar said.

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CHT talks

No briefing: PCJSS team may leave today

By Special Correspondent

Talks between the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT) and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) continued for the fourth day yesterday.

Both sides were trying late last night to iron out their differences to finalise the draft of an agreement to end decades of insurgency in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

The PCJSS delegation, led by its Chairman Jyotiindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma, extended its stay in the capital overnight to narrow down differences with the government side, represented by the NCCHT negotiators led by Chief Whip of Parliament Abul Hasnat Abdullah, according to sources.

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Young man stabbed to death by dacoits in Uttara

By Staff Correspondent

A gang of dacoits stabbed a young man to death at Dakkhin Khan under Uttara thana in the city early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Towhidul Alam alias Arzu, 24, son of Dewan Ali Akbar of Nogoribari in Dakkhin Khan. Police said the gang stabbed Alam in his abdomen and left him in an open space near a kindergarten, 300 yards from his house at about 3 am.

Uttara police recovered the body at 5:30 am and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Police said the gang attacked Alam's house at about 2:30 am. Then he and some other family members went out of the house and started chasing the dacoits.

After sometime, they returned to their house except Alam who did not come back even two hours after the incident.

Alam was found dead in the morning.

DCC to post armed guards in 3 underpasses

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has decided to post armed guards at the three underpasses built in the city recently following threats from terrorists, sources concerned said.

Some terrorists entered the underpasses at Gabtoli, Gulistan and Kawran Bazar a few days ago and asked the security guards to leave the places immediately.

"They beat up some guards and asked them to go away in a bid to take control of the underpasses," said a DCC official.

The DCC is now posting 40 armed Ansars in the three underpasses and this will cost the tax payers Tk 2,80,436 annually.

The acting chief engineer of DCC Shaiful Islam said that eventually, the security of the underpasses would be entrusted to the shopowners there.

8 photo journalists hurt in attack by hoodlums

Eight photo journalists of different national dailies were injured in an attack by hoodlums hired by a city restaurant owner, reports UNB.

The photo journalists came under attack after they complained about the serving of low-standard food in the restaurant.

Of the injured, Sanau Haq of Independent and AK Mohsin, Chief photographer of The Daily Star, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

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WHO official shot dead in Siddhiganj

By Staff Correspondent

Unidentified gunmen shot dead a local official of WHO at Mizmizi in Siddhiganj, about 20 km from the city, last night.

Saifuddin Mahmud, 35, a programme support officer of WHO, was shot inside his car at about 8:30 pm. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

DMCH sources said Saifuddin was bullet-hit in his chest and succumbed to his injuries on way to the hospital.

The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately. Siddhiganj police said they had heard about the incident but could not give details till late last night.

DMCH sources, quoting the victim's family members, said he was attacked soon after he boarded his car to return to his residence at Malibagh in the city. Father of two, Saifuddin went to Mizmizi to attend a family function at his cousin's

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Zia murder case Court allows 30 more days for submitting probe report

CHITTAGONG, July 17: The court today allowed 30 more days for submission of investigation report on the murder of former President Ziaur Rahman, killed in a coup d'etat in 1981, reports UNB.

The CMM, AKM Kamaluddin, following a time-petition by investigation officer (IO) Fazul Kabir, OC of Kotwali thana, fixed August 20 as next date of the case.

The CMM court earlier on May 28 this year gave the investigating officer 50 days to submit the report under Section 173 CrPC.

It then said: The commissioner of CMP will supervise or arrange to supervise the investigation.

Under the existing system, 45 per cent appointments are

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serve can go up to as high as 80 trillion cubic feet," he said.

The international oil majors sharpened their focus on Bangladesh after Cairn Energy, a British company, struck a huge gas reserve in the Sangal gas field, located in block no 16 in the Bay of Bengal.

The Petrobang