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Housewife slaughtered in city

By Staff Correspondent
A young housewife was slaughtered by three unidentified young men at her flat at Khilgaon Chowdhurypara under Shabubagh thana in the city yesterday.

Police identified the dead as Shirin Akhter, 35, wife of Abdul Quddus. The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

The incident took place when Shirin's husband was at his work place and her two sons were at school. Hasan, a minor boy who worked as a domestic help, was in the house at that time.

The gang entered the first floor flat of the three-storey building at about 10:30 am by pressing the calling bell. They had an altercation with her and at one stage they slaughtered her.

The killers tied up Hasan with ropes, locked the door

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Rape at court bldg

Petition filed for re-investigation of case
By Staff Correspondent
A lawyer of the Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) yesterday filed a petition with the Special Court for Prevention of Repression Against Women and Children, Dhaka for re-investigation of the Tania rape case.

Alina Khan, a lawyer of BSEHR made the prayer during proceedings of the case in the court. While making the prayer, she also quoted from a recent speech of President Shahabuddin Ahmed in which the incident was mentioned.

The day was earlier fixed for trial of the case but the court heard the prayer filed by Alina. No order was however passed.

Tania, a six year old girl, was raped at the police control room at the CMM's court building at around 3:00 pm on March 10 last. One person named Obaidul Matbar was indicted in the case on June 21.

Alina also pleaded that a judicial investigation into the

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Road barricade programme begins in Khagrachhari

From Our Correspondent
KHAGRACHHARI, July 12: The first day of a two-day road barricade programme called by BNP-led Sarbadalio Oikya Parishad, was observed peacefully in the district today.

The parishad earlier called the road barricade demanding release of its arrested leaders and protesting police harassment.

Police arrested 33 activists of the Parishad on Friday and Saturday for their alleged involvement in terrorist activities. Police said four of arrested persons were released today.

Normal life was partially paralysed due to the road barricade. There was no movement of vehicles on Khagrachhari-Feni road.

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France silence samba beats

SAINT-DENIS, July 12: Two first half headers by Zinedine Zidane and a late strike by Emmanuel Petit gave France its first World Cup win today on a 3-0 upset victory over defending champion and four-time titlist Brazil, reports AP.
Zidane headed the first in the 27th minute from Petit's leftwing corner and his second came in the final minute of the first half this time from a rightwing corner from Youri Djorkaeff. Petit added the third on a breakaway in second half injury time with Brazil already a beaten team.



GOAL: French Zinedine Zidane (10) scores the first goal for his team past Brazilian Leonardo (18) as teammate Lilian Thuram (L) and Brazilian goalkeeper Taffarel look on during World Cup final match yesterday. —AFP photo



The French, playing their first ever final, had to defend its two-goal lead without star defender Marcel Desailly for the last 22 minutes. The center-back, who had superbly kept the Brazilian strikeforce quiet, was expelled for his second yellow card.

But Aime Jacquet's team still created the best chances of the game and Stephane Guivarch squandered three opportunities with goalkeeper Taffarel to beat.

The French almost made a sensational start to the final when Didier Deschamps fired a long ball forwards from deep in his own half and Stephane Guivarch held off a challenge from Junior Baiano before trying an audacious overhead shot over the top.

In the fourth minute, Djorkaeff slipped a neat ball through to Zidane who did well

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Match statistics

PARIS, July 12: Match statistics from today's World Cup final between Brazil and France at the Stade de France:

Brazil	France
Goals	0 3
Shots on target	6 5
Shots off target	6 9
Corners	6 3
Fouls	15 13
Offsides	5 3
Total red cards	0 1
Total yellow cards	1 4
France red card — Marcel Desailly 68	
Brazil yellow card — Junior Baiano 34	
France yellow cards — Didier Deschamps 38, Marcel Desailly 48 and 68, Christian Karembeu 56	
Attendance — 75,000	

Paris explodes with joy

PARIS, July 12: The streets of Paris exploded with joy today as France beat Brazil 3-0 in the World Cup final, reports Reuters.

Tens of thousands of French supporters, many with their faces painted red, white and blue, earlier flooded the centre of the capital, clinging to lamp posts and shop awnings to get a view of the game on a giant screen set up there.

Chants of 'we're going to win' turned to 'we have won' as French star Zinedine Zidane headed home the two goals in the first half.

Cries of 'Zizou', the player's nickname, filled the air.

An incessant beat of drums and whistles throbbed through the city as the game started, firecrackers exploded and car horns sounded incessantly.

Those who could not get a glimpse of the giant screen crowded in front of bars with televisions.

Some first floor residents in the heart of the city placed their television sets on window sills to let fans watch the game.

The roads were awash with cars filled with people honking horns and waving French flags.

'This is unbelievable. I'm sure there weren't this many

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Golden boots for Suker

Croatian star Davor Suker, the top scorer with six goals, won the 'golden boots.'

We don't want to politicise business: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that political stability is imperative for economic development and prosperity of the country, reports BSS.

Addressing the members of the executive committee of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) who called on her at her Ganobhaban official residence, the Prime Minister said that her government have been making all-out endeavours to make positive impact on the country's economy.

Referring to the budget for the current fiscal, the prime minister said that before preparing the national budget, the opinion and suggestions

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Khaleda accuses govt of dividing nationalist force

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has accused the government of dividing the nationalist force by raising the issue of pro and anti-liberation forces, reports UNB.

'Awami League was silent about it during its movement against the BNP government,' she said while addressing the newly-elected office bearers of Dhaka Taxes Bar Association at her official residence at 29 Mintoo Road here last night.

She said those who work for country's independence, sovereignty and democracy are the pro-liberation forces.

Begum Zia said the government has exposed its undemocratic character by censoring a message of the President in BTW. 'The act is a demonstration of utter disrespect to the highest institution of the country,' she observed.

Begum Zia urged the lawyers to play their due role as the country is facing a critical situation with the deterioration of law and order.

She said many lawyers have

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Hashimoto may resign as LDP faces election setback

TOKYO, July 12: Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, whose ruling Liberal Democratic Party suffered a major setback in upper house elections today, will resign shortly, Reuters quoting Kyodo news agency said.

Kyodo quoted an official of the LDP as saying Hashimoto would announce his intention to step down tonight or tomorrow.

Initial exit polls on all major television stations forecast the LDP would win fewer than 50 seats, at least 11 less than its minimum target of 61, in the upper house elections.

The election was for half of the 252 seats in the House of Councillors, the less-powerful of the two chambers in Japan's parliament.

Japanese television networks earlier reported that Hashimoto will meet chief cabinet secretary Kenezo Muraoka from 9:30 pm (12:30 GMT) over the ruling party's election setback.

'He'll announce he's stepping down tonight or tomorrow. It's just a matter of time,' the LDP source was quoted as telling Kyodo.

The election for the upper house, normally decided on local issues, cannot unseat the LDP itself, but it became a referendum on Hashimoto's handling of the world's second-largest economy.

The LDP has a comfortable 13 seat majority in the more-important lower house. Hashimoto himself was not up for re-election.

AP adds: Polling closed at 8 pm (1:00 GMT) — two hours later than usual due to concerns over falling voter turnout in recent elections.

According to the Home Affairs Ministry, 44.51 per cent of Japan's 99.4 million registered

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Degree (Pass) exams: 35 pc come out successful

The result of Degree (Pass) and Certificate Course 1997 under the National University was published yesterday, showing a success of 34.65 per cent, reports UNB.

In all 65,434 candidates came out successful out of 216,943 students, including 58,659 females. These students

Merit lists on page 3

appeared in the examinations from 900 colleges throughout the country.

The percentage of pass is 32.45 in BA (Pass), 32.76 in BSS (Pass), 41.20 BSc (Pass), 41.10 in B.Com (Pass), 26.67 in B.Mus (Pass), and 49.58 in Certificate Course.

The National University announced the result yesterday

subject to the approval of the Academic Council and the Syndicate, said a university press release.

The 'result book' of the university has already been sent to each deputy commissioner to enable the examinees to know their results the same day.

The following are the group-wise results:

BA(Pass): In all, 31,763 students out of the 112,323 examinees came out successful. Of them 96 secured first division, 17,063 second division and 14,514 third division.

BSS (Pass): A total of 15,641 students out of the 53,261 have become successful. Of them, four obtained first division, 8,311 second division and 7,326

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Police asked to send homeless young girls to vagrant centre

By Masud Arif

The Department of Social Welfare apparently violating the Vagrancy Act has asked Dhaka Metropolitan Police to give priority to picking up homeless young women while detaining the vagrants.

The department, in a letter to the DMP Commissioner last month, emphasised picking up young girls as the authorities concerned do not have any other means to check the increasing sex trade on the streets, officials said.

However, a few months ago, the department in another letter to the police commissioner said that police were picking up 'beauty parlour workers' and those involved in prostitution and were sending them to the vagrant centres. It was affecting environment at the centres, resulting in moral degradation of genuine vagrants.

Arrest of floating sex workers cannot prevent prostitution on the streets permanently although police can use different provisions in the DMP Ordinance and the Penal Code in this regard, some senior police officials said.

The existing Bengal Vagrancy Act, 1943, defined 'Vagrant' as 'a person asking for alms in any public place, or wandering about or remaining in any public place in such condition or manner as makes it likely that such person exists by asking for alms but does not include a person collecting money or asking for food or gifts for a prescribed purpose.'

According to an estimate of the Department of Social Welfare in May, 570 out of 1,068 inmates of six vagrant centres in the country were prostitutes and only 84 of the rest were male vagrants.

A senior Social Welfare official, however, said that the Vagrancy Act could be used in

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