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Young man hacked to death in city

By Staff Correspondent
A young man was hacked to death by a gang of assailants in city's Mirpur area on Thursday night.
The dead was identified as Sagar, 25, son of late Hossain Badsha, a resident of Block-A under Section-6, in Mirpur.
After preliminary investigation police suspected that Sagar was killed following a dispute over a club in the area. Mirpur police said last night that Sagar was an accused in a number of cases filed with police.
Police so far arrested a young man identified as Taimur Rahman for his alleged involvement in the killing from the area the same night.
According to police, one Sayed called Sagar out of his residence at about 10 pm. Sayed
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BNP procession carrying Rubel's body

By Staff Correspondent
BNP has claimed that Shamim Reza alias Rubel, who was allegedly beaten to death while in the custody of Detective Branch of police Thursday night, was an activist of its student front, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.
The party workers brought out a protest procession in the city yesterday afternoon carrying Rubel's body. City BNP Convener Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP led the procession that paraded different roads in Siddeshwari and Malibagh areas.
Earlier, they along with local people, put up a barricade on the Malibagh-Mouchak Market road, protesting the "killing" of Rubel, a student of Independent University of Bangladesh.
Before the protests, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP visited the victim's Siddeshwari residence to see the body. He consoled the members of the bereaved family. Hundreds of people gathered there at that time.
Meanwhile, BNP chief Be-
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AL urges EC not to gazette Barisal-5 polls results

By Nurul Kabir
The ruling Awami League yesterday requested the Election Commission not to gazette the results of the by-election in the Barisal-5 constituency of Jatiya Sangsad, till a probe into the opposition allegation of rigging of votes in the polls.
But the EC has already ordered gazette notification after the Returning Officer for the polls sent the "officially consolidated results" to the Commission earlier. There is no way to entertain the request at this stage.
The Returning Officer has duly sent the officially consolidated results of the polls and we have already ordered gazette
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Sports Exclusive

Bangladesh cricket coach Gordon Greenidge spares no one as he speaks candidly to the Daily Star on the present and future of our cricket.
Part One of the two-part interview appears on page 13.

Death of varsity student in custody Five DB men arrested, remanded for 5 days



A magistrate examining the body of Rubel in front of DMCH morgue yesterday to prepare an inquest report. — Star photo

By Staff Correspondent
Five policemen of the Detective Branch, suspended and arrested early yesterday in connection with the death in custody of university student Shamim Reza Rubel on Thursday, were placed on a five-day remand for interrogation.
The plainclothes men were remanded to find out the reasons behind the death of the young man, a student of the Independent University, during DB's interrogation, within five hours of his arrest at about 4:30 pm.
The remanded detectives are Sub Inspector Hayatul Islam Thakur, Assistant SI M A Karim, Havilder Nuruzzaman, constables Parvez and Mir Faruq.
The action against the policemen followed intervention by Home Minister Rafiqul Islam, police sources said.
Allegations were there that a section of policemen attempted to cover up Shamim's death.
Ramna police produced the five before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday afternoon, praying for 10 days' remand. The court granted five days' remand. Later they were taken to the Police Control Room, court and police sources said.
The arrested men were reportedly members of the DB team which picked up Shamim from New Circular Road in front of their house at Siddeshwari under Ramna thana.
"It would be better if I were dead. They have killed my young son," wailed Abdur Rob, 66-year-old father of Shamim.
"Shamim was a brilliant student," said Rob, a retired official of the House Building Finance Corporation.
Shamim was the fifth among Rob's five sons and one daughter. He said they are originally from Gazariabazar under
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The water treatment plant at Kazirbazar in Sylhet town went under water as the Surma river is flowing above danger level. — Star photo

Flood situation worsens in 13 districts

Heavy rain aggravated the flood situation in the south-eastern hill districts, northern districts and central part of the country yesterday, reports UNB.
The flood situation may take a serious turn if rain and onrush of water from upper riparian continue for a few more days.
The flood water has already hit more than 7.5 million people in 33 districts and claimed 60 lives across the country, officials in the relief ministry said.
All major rivers swelled by continuous rain and are still flowing much above their red marks.
Official sources said the flood situation has aggravated in 13 districts, improved in 18 and remained static in two districts.
The districts where flood

situation worsened are: Dhaka, Jamalpur, Narsingdi, Manikganj, Narayanganj, Faridpur, Rajbari, Munshiganj, Gaibandha, Sirajganj, Comilla, Chandpur and Bogra.
The 18 districts that have marked improvements are: Mymensingh, Tangail, Madaripur, Sherpur, Lalmonirhat, Rangpur, Kurigram, Bandarban, Rangamati, Chittagong, Feni, Nilphamari, Chapainawabganj, Cox's Bazar, Pabna, Joypurhat, Moulvibazar and Magura.
The situation in Netrokona and Naogaon remained unchanged.
In Dhaka City, five thanas have been affected with the rise of water level in Turag river. Low-lying areas have been inundated and four people died.
Disaster Management officials said the four of the six

deaths reported yesterday were from Comilla, while two other people died in Sherpur and Mymensingh. Most deaths were caused by drowning, snakebite, house collapse and diarrhoea, they said.
UNB correspondent from Gaibandha said that five people were killed yesterday taking the death toll in the flood in the district to 12.
The Comilla correspondent said overall flood situation in the district deteriorated yesterday with flooding of new areas following breaches in Gumti embankments near Muradnagar and Salda river near Brahmanpara.
Over one lakh marooned people were in utter misery in want of food and pure drinking water.
District administration said
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PM urges political parties, NGOs to join relief work

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed government officials concerned to take all necessary measures to face the flood and post-flood situation, reports UNB.
"You will have to take all possible steps to save the people from flood and remain alert so that nobody dies from post-flood diseases," she told officials while addressing a meeting of the National Disaster Management Council at Ganobhaban in the morning.
It is not possible for the government alone to ensure all possible assistance to rehabilitate all the flood victims, Hasina said and urged all political parties, NGOs, and others to take part in the rescue, relief and rehabilitation work.
Precautionary measures will also have to be taken to face more serious condition, she said, apprehending recurrence of flooding which will be more
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Mud slinging misguides people: Samad Azad

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, July 24: Foreign Minister Alhaj Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said politicians should have maximum patience and there is no scope for sentimental approach in politics.
Development activities are harmed and people are misguided if political leaders become sentimental and commit mistake, he said while addressing a function marking the Fisheries Week at Abul Hossain Auditorium at Sunamganj town last night.
The Foreign Minister said, there should not be any mud slinging among political leaders. "If there is any misunderstanding, it can be solved across the table. It is not wise to make comments in public."
Samad Azad said that there was no scope for creating confu-
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Move to avoid loss from domestic gas sale Explorers get green signal to look for foreign buyers

By Sharier Khan and Inam Ahmed
As foreign oil companies are striking more gas, the government is encouraging them to find foreign buyers to avoid loss due to buying gas from these companies at rates much higher than domestic sale price.
Sources said that British company Cairn which has discovered and developed the Sangu gasfield and is currently working on more prospective fields (Semutang and Halda) in Chittagong and US companies Occidental and Unocal, which are also working on a couple of prospective gasfields (Bibiana and Jalalabad) in Sylhet have taken initiatives to look for gas buyers in the neighbouring countries.
These moves had been taken after receiving green signal from the government.
The new gasfields, if their discovery is confirmed soon, will start producing gas within a year. When these fields start supplying gas which may exceed 200 million cubic feet a day (mmcf), the government will have to buy this paying at least double the price of local gas sales price. The low foreign exchange reserve and Cairn's bills for gas supply are pushing the government all the more towards gas export.
Different donors led by the World Bank are also pushing the government for the last one year to take steps for gas export by 2002 to 2003 for the sake of "maximising economic benefit of gas reserves".
The donors also want immediate announcement of results of the Second Round Block Bidding and awarding different blocks to foreign companies.
Unocal is also independently pursuing the government to sign a contract for a pipeline project. The pipeline, the company claims, will start in the central Asia, pass through Pakistan and India and end in the ASEAN countries. Bangladesh will act as hub of the pipeline project. However, the project has remained stuck up in Afghanistan now and Unocal has failed so far to provide the agreements or memorandums of understanding (MOUs) of the prospective gas sellers and buyers.
The Finance Ministry, which is obligated to foreign oil companies to pay for the government's purchase of gas from them, strongly believes that gas export would be beneficial for the economy.
The government took a different stance earlier this year when The Daily Star published reports on its plan to export gas. The then Energy Minister Nooruddin Khan categorically denied any government plan to export gas and said that the current demand-supply situation in the gas sector was so grim that the government must first cater to the needs of the country.
However, the recent developments in the energy sector suggest that this may not come true because of the above mentioned factors.
A Production Sharing Contract (PSC) of Unocal on Shahbazpur Gasfield is now at its final stage. This PSC is part of Unocal's proposal to set up a number of power plants and a 'regional' gas pipeline which will run from Shahbazpur to bordering Kushiata.
Besides, Unocal has submitted another proposal under which it plans to set up two fertiliser plants and a pipeline in
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Tuition fee hike DU VC to sit with student leaders today

By DU Correspondent
Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof A K Azad Chowdhury will sit with the leaders of different student organisations at 3 pm today to discuss the situation arising out of the authorities' decision to raise tuition fees and other charges, official sources said.
The meeting will be held at the administrative building of the university. The VC, however, did not invite the leaders of the general students who
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Minister briefs on draft health policy 60 pc of budgetary allocation to be spent under ESP

By Staff Correspondent
services more effective, he added.
Women, children and the poor would be given preference in healthcare services, he said.
The draft health policy was submitted to the Prime Minister on Thursday and will be placed in the next session of the Jatiya Sangsad.
State Minister for Health Prof M Amanullah was also present at the press conference.
Addressing the press conference held at the Health Directorate, Health Secretary Mohammad Ali said, "For every 6000 people, there will be one 'community clinic' to ensure better healthcare services."
"A special proposal under which it plans to set up two fertiliser plants and a pipeline in
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Privilege for govt docs
By Staff Correspondent
Doctors in government services will be given option for private practice in their workplaces.
This was stated by the Health Minister Salauddin Yusuf while addressing a press conference on the draft health
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'Uranium' seized in Natore sent to BAEC

From Our Correspondent
NATORE, July 24: A packet, suspected to contain uranium, was recovered from the house of a former UP chairman, Md Sirajul Islam, at Bagrom village under Sadar thana of the district by CID police on Thursday, police sources said today.
According to a case filed with Natore Sadar police, a special squad comprising CID police and Natore police, led by an ASP of CID police, Pabna zone, went to Islam's house in the guise of customers and recovered the packet.
The label of the packet reads: "Uranium, 1lb, Atomic Energy, Russia—Waterproof".
Police also arrested one person named Mahmud Hossain Roton from the house. The owner of the house was absent.
CID police also arrested a boy named Alol from Pabna in this connection.
Police said that they were investigating the matter.
However, one source in the CID said that they managed to recover the packet after observations during the last two months.
UNB adds from Natore: Police sources said the two packets of uranium were kept in a wooden box at the house. The packets were sent to the Atomic Energy Commission in Dhaka.
Police suspects the explosive material essential for making atom bomb, was kept in Natore with a motive to smuggle it to India or Russia.

Obuchi poised to become next Japanese PM

TOKYO, July 24: Backed by Japan's top powerbrokers, Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi won the nomination of the ruling party for prime minister today, snaring a majority in a first ballot and taking a major step toward assuming the helm of the country's slumping economy, reports AP.
Obuchi, 61, overcame a revolt by younger lawmakers and lacklustre showings in public opinion polls to grab 225 of the 411 votes cast, defeating rivals former Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama, 72, and Health Minister Junichiro Koizumi, 56.
The senior Liberal Democratic Party stalwart is virtually certain to win the election for prime minister in Parliament, expected on July 30, because the LDP has a comfortable majority in the powerful lower house.
Obuchi would take over from Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who announced last week he would resign after the party's dismal showing in July 12 elections for the upper house of Parliament. Obuchi also inherits Japan's economy, now in its worst recession since the end of World War II.
The vote signalled a triumph of the party's long-time powerbrokers over younger rebels who have called for more dynamic leadership. The victory also defied public opinion polls
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Keizo Obuchi that showed Obuchi's rivals more popular among voters. Kajiyama came in second with 102 votes and Koizumi took 84.
The new LDP standard-bearer vowed today to straighten out Japan's financial mess.
"The key issue at the moment is to repair Japan's economy, fulfill our expected role in the international community and ease the public's uncertainty about the future," Obuchi told reporters in a news conference after the vote.
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Fate of SAFTA uncertain

The South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), due to be established by 2001, is likely to be deferred for nearly 10 years, reports UNB.
Officials sources indicated that it will be deferred due to reservation of some member states of the SAARC to implement it.
However, a decision on the fate of SAFTA would be taken at the SAARC summit scheduled to be held in Colombo on 29-31 July.
Sources said SAFTA is likely to be the main agenda of the summit where the member countries would present their opinion on the establishment of the special trade zone.
Out of the seven members of SAARC, six countries were learnt to have been opposing the implementation of the SAFTA by 2001 as decided in the last summit at Male. They all are in favour of deferral for at least ten years till 2008-2010.
Excepting India, other members want to implement the SAFTA first.
They observed that if SAFTA is established before the SAPTA is implemented, the least developed countries of the SAARC would be worst sufferer economically.
BNP leader killed in Jessore
JESSORE, July 24: A local leader of BNP was killed at a village in Sharsa thana here on Thursday night, reports UNB.
Police and local people said vice-president of Ushu Union BNP, Abdul Islam Gain, 55, of Kannyadaha village, was shot dead by a group of unidentified persons.
They said the miscreants fired 10-12 shots and killed Gain when he was asleep at a relative's house at Kagajpur village. Police recovered his body this morning.
Local BNP leaders blamed the ruling Awami League for the killing. A case was filed with Sharsa thana police.
Haluaghat thana OC closed
MYMENSINGH, July 24: The officer in charge of Haluaghat thana in the district was closed today allegedly for raping a widow, reports UNB.
Mohammad Ali was closed and brought to the district headquarters, official sources said.
The victim Rokeya, 30, of Khayrakuri village in Haluaghat thana, mother of two children, told newsmen at Mymensingh Press Club on Thursday that she was raped at the OC's official residence on Sunday at about 10.30 am.
Rokeya, who had filed a theft case, went to the thana to know about the case and the OC told her to meet him in his residence, she said.
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Foreign secys meet today to prepare agenda Vajpayee to use IAF choppers during Colombo summit

COLOMBO, July 24: The Indian Air Force will bring two helicopters for Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's use during his visit to Sri Lanka during a three-day SAARC summit here, diplomats said today, reports AFP.
Vajpayee, who will arrive in an Indian Air Force aircraft, will use the helicopters to travel from the international airport to the city centre which is 35 kilometres away, the diplomats said.
The aircraft will also be used on Thursday for Vajpayee and his delegation to travel to the beach resort of Bentota, 65 kilometres south of Colombo for a retreat with other South Asian leaders.
Vajpayee and Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif are to meet here on the sidelines of the July 29-31 summit of seven South Asian leaders.
This will be the first direct contact between India and Pakistan since the hostile neighbours conducted nuclear tests in May deteriorating the security in the region.
Both Sharif and Vajpayee have confirmed their participation at the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit, which will also bring together Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
The two leaders are under pressure from the international community, which roundly condemned their tit-for-tat response, amid calls for dialogue between the two countries to resolve their longstanding differences.
Earlier Pakistani foreign secretary Shamshad Ahmed left for Colombo late Thursday for talks with his Indian counterpart to prepare the ground for the much-awaited meeting.
Ahmed will also participate in the standing committee meeting of the association.
The committee comprising the foreign secretaries of the seven member states is to meet tomorrow to prepare the agenda for the summit.
The foreign ministry in Islamabad said the Indian and Pakistani foreign secretaries will focus on operationalisation of the mechanism for the resumption of the dialogue between the two countries.
Another report says, fearing
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