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## 9 killed in Manikganj road accident

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MANIKGANJ, July 30: At least nine persons were killed and 15 others injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Aricha highway at Mushuria in Shivalaya thana in the early hours of today, reports UNB.

Police said the accident took place at about 2:30 am when a Dhaka-bound night coach coming from Benapole fell into a road side canal while overtaking a speeding truck.

Of the dead, four were identified as Amena, 50, Kanta, 45, Buju, 3, Sankar Nandi, 50, Joy Nandi, 7, Sheikh Lutfar Rahman, 48, and Demor, 22.

Fire fighters rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies. Of the injured, five were admitted to Uthili Thana Health Complex.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a message from Colombo, has expressed

deep shock at the death of nine

She prayed for the salvation of the departed souls and conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved fami-

UNB adds: Three young women were killed and two others, including a minor boy, injured in a road accident on Pabna-Iswardi road yesterday. Medical sources said the ac-

cident occurred when a rickshaw van, in which victims were traveling, run over by a goods-laden truck near Dasuria in Iswardi thana at about 4 pm.

The dead were identified as Rubi 32, Tara 30, and Paru 20 of Musuriapara in Iswardi town The injured were Rubel 3 and rickshaw van puller Abu 25.

The truck driver, however, managed to flee the scene with

chasing police vehicles in and

led by Habibur Rahman Mollah

MP came under attack by pro-

hartal BNP activists at Sayed-

abad at about noon. The two

groups chased each other and

hurled brickbats. The MP suf-

fered minor injuries, police

said, adding that a number of

crackers were also exploded

during the clash that lasted

about half-an-hour. At least 10

motor vehicles were damaged

staff of a tempo, suffered bomb

injuries when pro-hartal ac-

tivists hurled bombs at their

vehicle in the area at about 8

ing, pickets hurled brickbats at

a police truck at about 1:00 pm

Two policemen, a Sub-Inspector

place around North South Road

and Navabazar area starting

from 11:00 am in which some

policemen were also brickbat-

ted. Police picked up three per

rounds of tear gas shells and

fired rubber bullets to disperse

JAGPA activists took place at

Bijoynagar at about 10:20 am

Tear gas shells were fired to

police and Jamaat activists

clashed in Paltan area. The

Jamaat activists exploded

crackers. Police swung into ac-

tion, firing tear gas shells and

BNP briefing

From Page 1

activists and police attacked

the BNP supporters at different

parts of the city, in which six

persons received bullet wounds.

by police opened fire at

Mouchak area where they ter-

rorised the people of the local

supporters and people at Bang-

shal and Nava Bazar where

clashes were going on late in the

evening," he said bringing a

litany of charges against the po-

tear gas and used batons at

Naya Paltan, near the BNP of-

fice while AL activists attacked

picketers at Mirpur Section-10

and at Badda, where they

opened fire. But people caught

a hand gun and handed him

similar attacks were carried out

at Dhalpur, where the BNP of-

fice was ransacked. Police also

attacked pickets at Motifheel,

Rubel in custody, he said if the

government had conducted a

judicial enquiry into the death

in police custody of Jubo Dal

leader Tuhin in 1996, Rubel

porters had been tortured by the

tion and it should be run ac-

HC trial

From Page 1

transfer it to another subordi-

nate court) together with a copy

of the judgment of the division

on such question, and the court

to which the case is so returned

or transferred shall, on receipt

thereof, proceed to dispose of

the case in conformity with

such judgment."

He said police is an institu-

detectives," he alleged.

Sadek Hossain accused the

over to police, he said.

Rampura and Shamoli.

hold of a gangster, Munir, with

Sadek Hossain alleged that

Referring to the death of

He alleged that police fired

ity in the afternoon.

He said the gunmen backed

"Police also attacked our

chased them away.

disperse the activists. Besides.

the pickets.

Police lobbed at least 50

Clashes between police and

Intermittent clashes took

and a constable, were injured.

At Ray Saheb Bazar cross-

Earlier, two brothers, both

An anti-hartal procession

around the area

#### Hartal: Sporadic clashes Earlier pickets were seen

closed. Banks were open but transaction was poor Attendance at government

offices was very thin Mahakhali, Siddeshwari, Mouchak, Paltan, Sayedabad, Farmgate and North South Road were the trouble spots during the day-long hartal. Chase and counter-chase between police and pro-hartal activists took place in these areas repeatedly.

The pro-hartal activists exploded crackers and brickbatted the police during the chase and counter-chase. The activists were even seen chasing police vehicles, hurling brickbats and crackers. Police lobbed tear gas shells to restore order in the areas.

Clashes between pickets and police at North South Road, Tanti Bazar and its adjacent areas continued even after the

hartal hours, till about 8:30 pm. The number of anti-hartal processions in the city during the hartal hours was relatively less this time, witnesses said.

However, chase and counterchase between anti-hartal Awami League activists and pro-hartal BNP workers took

place in some areas of the city. Such a chase and counterchase was witnessed at about 1:30 pm in Mouchak Market area, near the residence of Rubel

In that area, former home minister Abdul Matin Chowd hury was chased by activists of the pro-AL Chhatra League at around 2:30 pm, according to

Some of the anti-hartal activists approached the press photographers, asking them not to take any snap near the residence of Rubel. The activists carrying guns chased the prohartal activists.

### 8 policemen suspended in Jhenaidah

JHENAIDAH, July 30: Eight policemen were suspended here today following escape of three under-trial prisoners from their possession, reports UNB.

The suspended policemen were habildars Rais Uddin and Amir Ali, and constables Abu Salek, Lutfar, Liakat, Afzal Enamul and Shawkat.

An official source said three prisoners brought to the magistrate court Wednesday for hearing managed to flee the scene due to negligence of the police-

#### Health for All

From Page 1 eases. Countries of all levels of development should ensure that these services are performed at least to minimum standards and their implementation should be monitored by government agencies.

lack of coordination to attain wound not have died. the goals of HFA by 2000. There is hardly any coordination government of using the police for partisan purposes, allowing among the sectors like agriculture, finance, education, trade, the Detective Branch of Police transport, environment, water to deviate from its duty, torture supply and sanitation. its opponents and indulge in extortion. "Some 500 of our sup-

An expert said, "There is

He said, "Directly or indirectly these sectors affect global indicators that determine the status of the goals of HFA.

Indicators like percentage of national budget spent for healthcare, gross national product, mass literacy, safe delivery practices, infant mortality rate, immunisation and communicable disease control are some of the major factors that directly determine HFA goals.

According to official sources, a very small percentage of the national budget is allocated for the health sector. Per head annual expenditure in the sector is equivalent to 3 US dollar against the minimum requirement of 12 dollars, the sources said.

#### **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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From L to R: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, President of the Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga, Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, Bhutan's representative Jingme Thinley and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina pose for a photo call outside the hotel at Bentota resorts in Sri Lanka yesterday. — AFP photo

## Thai courts

From Page 1

rests with the competent Thai courts and neither the Thai government nor the Thai embassy in Dhaka can interfere with the judicial proceedings o the decisions. Major Huda's legal rights, including his right o appeal, are fully guaranteed under the Thai judicial system." the press release stated.

The embassy also said, "The extradition treaty between Thailand and Bangladesh is universal in scope and does not in any way refer to or meant for any person in particular."

The press release was issued in the backdrop of news reports in the media that the embassy in Dhaka had received a letter threatening to blow it up for signing an extradition treaty with Bangladesh on July 9. The treaty is likely to enable the extradition of Major (rtd) Bazlul Huda, an absconding accused in the Bangabandhu murder case Huda is currently being held in a Thai jail for shoplifting.

The embassy press release further said: "From July 26 to 28, the Royal Thai embassy received two letters signed 'Bazlul Huda, freedom fighter,' threat ening reprisals against the embassy, the Thai ambassador and his diplomatic personnel if the Thai government were to hand over Major Bazlul Huda to the Bangladesh government and opposing the extradition treaty signed between the two governments as a prelude to the handing over of Major Huda.

On receiving the threat, the authorities concerned moved swiftly to beef up security around the embassy premises and residences of all Thai

diplomats posted in Dhaka. The embassy in its press release also expressed its appreciation to the Bangladesh authorities "which has been extremely responsive towards the embassy's needs in countering this threat.'

#### Injured Laksam BCL activist dies at BMUH

COMILLA, July 30: A Chha tra League worker of Laksam thana succumbed to his injuries at Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital Wednesday night, reports UNB.

Police said the victim Abdul Ahad Hannan, 22, was among 30 people, who were injured in a clash between the activists of Chhatra League and Chhatra Shibir at Nawab Fayzunnessa Government College here Wednesday afternoon.

Four of the injured including Hannan were sent to Dhaka in critical condition while others were admitted to different loca hospitals.

Hasina, Sharif From Page 1 ever tripartite business summit in Dhaka early this year, where Nawaz Sharif and the then Indian Prime Minister IK Gujral attended. Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, who attended a luncheon hosted by

Sheikh Hasina yesterday, also

responded in affirmative to her proposal. The Pakistani prime minister apprised Hasina of the discussion between Sharif and Vajpayee held yesterday. He also referred to Hasina's visit to Pakistan and India following the nuclear tests by the two countries in May. "Your genuine quest for peace have moved us." Sharif told her Bangladeshi

Sheikh Hasina expressed her concern about peace and stability in the region, saying. "It was vital for the welfare of the people living there". She stressed for raising the living standard of the peoples of this

region. She observed that both India and Pakistan should resume dialogue to defuse tension. She said once the discussions start. many issues could be resolved.

#### Female students gherao CU VC for 18 hours From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 30: Vice Chancellor of Chittagong Uni-

versity Prof Abdul Mannan was gheraoed for 18 hours till 4 am today by resident female students of Pritilata Hall, campus sources said. The students gheraoed his

office at 10 am yesterday demanding withdrawal of the order cancelling seats of four students and showcause notices issued against eight others. The gherao was withdrawn

at 4 am today after the university authorities agreed to reconsider the demands of the agitat ing students. The Vice Chancellor stayed inside his office during the

## Terminal: TUs

gherao programme, the sources

From Page 1

The coalition leaders today held a meeting with BNP's city committee here to exchange views and to draw their support. union and party sources said. The coalition leaders also

held a meeting with the committee of south Chittagong unit of Awami League on Wednesday The coalition will also hold meetings with Chittagong chapters of Jamaat-e-Islami, Jatiya

Party, Left Front, city committee of Awami League, SKOP lawyers and cultural groups in the next few days to draw support, coalition sources said.

Besides, the coalition will organise rallies of workers here and announce an agitation programme on August 5. the sources added.

Chittagong Port authority recently formed a committee to review the overall situation. port sources said.

#### "Observance of hartal spontaneously has manifested the agony of the city dwellers and their hate toward the govern-ment for killing Rubel," Begum Zia said in a statement yester-

"People's demand for forming a judicial inquiry commission with a sitting judge of the Supreme Court as well as trial of the killing in a special tri-bunal was also reflected in observance of the hartal," she

Khaleda asks govt

Ensure fair

trial of killings

in police custody

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has congratulated the people of Dhaka city for ob-serving the hartal as a mark of

protest against the death of Rubel in police custody, reports

added. The opposition leader said the ruling party by politicising the police department has unleashed the force against the innocent people.

"The government has turned the country into a police state by resorting to killing, repression and oppression on the political leaders and workers and innocent people as well", she al-Begum Zia said Rubel, a

meritorious student of the Independent University, is an addition to the list of brutal killings by the police of Awami League government.

She asked the government to ensure fair and speedy trial of all the killings in police custody including Shamim Reza Rubel. "Otherwise the government will have to face the consequences." Indo-Pak talks

From Page 1 tary level talks, but decided to continue discussions tomorrow.

Highly placed sources said Raghunath held parleys with Ahmed for 90 minutes from midnight last night and continued the discussions today. Indian High Commissioner

to Sri Lanka Shivshankar Menon and Pakistani envoy Abdul Basit Haqqani were also present Prime Ministers Nawaz

Sharif of Pakistan and Atal Behari Vajpayee of India met for more than an hour at a seafront hotel in Colombo on Wednesday and agreed to resume official-level talks, hoping to ease tensions that worsened after the nuclear explo-

"Kashmir is the core issue The sooner it is resolved, the better it is for the two countries," Sharif said after meeting Vajpayee.

Three rounds of talks were held last year between the for eign ministry officials, but were stalled after their meeting last September over the question of priority while dealing with other problems.

India wanted to move quickly on easier issues - separation of forces, a boundary demarcation and economic relations — but Pakistan insisted on parallel movement on Kashmir.

# Two young men murdered in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two young men were killed in separate incidents in the city in last two days.

Police said Sayeedur Rahman Babu, 28, a resident of Khilgaon Tilpapara, was hacked to death allegedly by a gang of youths at Ambagan in the city's Moghbazar area yesterday afternoon.

Eight persons have so far been picked up for interrogation in this connection. The motive behind the killing could not be ascertained immediately.

Police said a gang of about six unidentified men hacked Babu at about 5 pm.

With fatal wounds at his abdomen, Babu was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors de-

clared him dead. The body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy. Police were

7 leaders From Page 1

to 10 years to set up a free trade zone in South Asia, on the lines of the European Union, given the low volume of business among the seven member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina made a proposal for setting up a fund for disabled people in South Asia. The SAARC leaders were learnt to have agreed with her proposal. Hasina also made a sugges-

tion that the time for the implementation of SAFTA should be extended from 2001. The leaders also considered her views on the matter. It was learnt that a committee may be formed in 2001 to review the condition of its implementa-The leaders are expected to

approve recommendations by their foreign ministers to ease visa restrictions to promote tourism, establish direct air links between their capitals and simplify customs formalipreparing to file a murder case in this regard till filing of this report last night.

In another incident, Hafizur Rahman Kanak, 25, reportedly a final year student of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute, was stabbed to death by a gang of about five persons at the city's West Shewrapara at about 8 pm Wednesday.

Kanak, son of Noor Mohammed Dhali of the city's Moghbazar area, was attacked when he went to visit a friend's residence at Shewrapara along

with two other friends. Kanak and his friends had an altercation with the gang and at one stage Kanak was stabbed at the back with a knife. The miscreants fled the

scene quickly. Kanak was rushed to Holy Family hospital only to be declared dead. The body was sent

to DMCH morgue for autopsy. Saiful Islam, brother of the victim, lodged a murder case with Mirpur thana in this regard yesterday.

## BAU issues showcause

BCL leaders MYMENSINGH, July 30: The Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) authorities have issued showcause notices upon six leaders of Chhatra League (S-P) for their alleged involvement in terrorist acts, reports

The students were given August 10 deadline to reply the notices. After that, the authorities will take decision, officials at the BAU said today.

The accused Chhatra League leaders are MA Ratan, Alamgir Mohiuddin Kabir, Zahid Hossain, Imran Hossain, Mizanur Rahman and Sidderthwa Shankar Roy.

#### Obuchi Japanese PM From Page 1

however, the opposition-dominated upper house endorsed Kan considered the country's most popular politician — as premier with 142 votes of the 245 votes

counted. Obuchi came in second

place in that race. Since the lower house has the power to overrule the upper house in the vote for premier, Obuchi was declared the winner after a conference between the two chambers failed to come up with a compromise. It was the first time the chambers had split in a vote for premier since

The new government, moved quickly to announce a so-called 'economic reform Cabinet' with former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in the crucial post of finance minister - considered a key position in the administration's efforts to repair the econ-

Obuchi has pledged to cut income taxes by 6 trillion yen (42.6 billion dollar) and promised 10 trillion yen (70.9 billion dollar) in new spending to kickstart economic growth and spur lagging consumption. He is also under political

battle with party reformists, and the party could split or see its popularity plummet even further if he fails. Most key posts in the new

Longtime Liberal Democratic

was named chief cabinet secremer education minister, became minister of international trade and industry.

Obuchi as foreign minister. One non-party veteran, Taichi Sakaiya, a writer and former bureaucrat, was named director-general of the Economic Planning Agency. The Cabinet included one

woman: Seiko Noda, who was named as post and telecommunications minister. A former hotel employee, she entered politics at age 26 after inheriting the campaign support group of her grandfather, who was a noted lawmaker.

The 37-year-old becomes the youngest Cabinet minister in Japanese history.

#### Crab export banned tapism had been preventing a From Page 1

catching the crabs during their breeding season, the government decided to act.

tative from the Bangladesh Live Crabs and Turtle Exporters Association (BLCTEA) in 1996. which submitted a string of recommendations in November The committee recom-

mended further study on the crabs and their life cycle to clearly determine their breeding season, keeping the ban on catching crabs from the sanctuaries in the Sundarbans and forest areas. But it allowed export of farmed crabs, adhering to the guidelines.

"We also suggested a strict monitoring of the export and its impact on nature, to review the situation periodically," said Rashiduddin Ahmed, a committee member from the International Union of Conservation of Nature (IUCN). A policy guideline on the

crab export has also been forwarded to the government, suggesting that only genuine farmers having properly equipped farms would be allowed to raise and export crabs.

The catching and export of crabs having the requisite weight, the males weighing not less than 200 grams and females not less than 130 grams, would be permitted, an official said.

The decision to halt the export came only to finalise the guideline and help conserve the crabs during their breeding season, he added.

But Mahmudul Hasan Khan

"We are going to lose the market, which we developed painstakingly all these years in

Taiwan, China, Hong Kong. Thailand, Myanmar, India, Sri Lanka and even in Pakistan. They were trying unsuccessfully to compete with us. But buyers preferred our crabs because of their specialty in taste, Chowdhury said. He said the BLCTEA have al-

ready petitioned the government. The farmers staged protests in Khulna demanding immediate resumptions of exports. If a decision is not taken quickly it would throw thousands of people out of jobs, he warned. Chowdhury said they are

ready to stick to the guidelines. But it must be given as soon as possible before time runs out.

From Page 1

#### **NCBs**

has to be formed in each bank, which will formulate action plan to do this.

Expressing concern over unionism in NCBs, BRC said the banks are facing an extreme form of mismanagement because of unwanted intervention in their administrative and business functions. It said the unions intervene in loan sanctioning and realising defaulted loans. Union members do not attend offices. In addition, some associations in NCBs are functioning like unions. The activities of such unions and associations must be stopped

immediately. In this regard, the BRC urged the government to take action on the recommendations contained in the earlier submitted report of the task force on unions.

#### Six DB men placed on remand cordingly. But the government had failed to run the police properly and the home minister During questioning the five of the death of the young uniers. But those were rejected by should resign for the failure, he arrested accused denied that the the court. victim was brought to the DB of-CID officials said last night tody fice for the second time, the CID that they are likely to interrogate a few more DB men includofficial added.

Low-lying areas in the city's Gulshan thana have been submerged by flood waters.

ing the two SIs who were duty officers at the DB office on July Another CID official said they did not find any document showing that Rubel was taken to the DB office for the second

time. At the DB office register,

three entries were found relating to Rubel's arrest. The first entry in the register showed that the DB men took Rubel into custody, the second noted that he was taken to his home and the third one noted that he was taken to the hospi-

But there are no records that

he was brought back to the cus-

tody at DB office for the second

UNB adds: The CID investi-

gators yesterday sent a message to Rampal, Munshiganj, to pick up Jashim who was in DB custody at Minto Road when Rubel was allegedly tortured to death on July 23. Some 46 people were in DB

hajat when Rubel was taken there. Half of them were shifted to different thanas soon after the death of Rubel, sources close to the investigation said last Mysteriously, 22 pages of the

register recording the arrests by DB including that of Rubel, were missing. However, police are yet to dig out the mystery of Rubel's arrest

on July 23 even after one week

versity student in police cus-Meanwhile, a chit with the

address of Rubel's house in Siddeswari area was recovered from the almirah of Hayatul Islam Thakur 'surmounted the mystery' as to who wrote down the address. AC Akram, SI Aminul Islam

and Hayatul Islam Thakur who were arrested in connection with the killing denied having written the address. The person who had written the address on the chit only

knows the reason behind

Rubel's arrest, said a CID official Aminul Islam, who was arrested Wednesday night, admitted that he was in the DB team that went to Rubel's house for the second time along with Rubel to recover the so-called

gail and Dhaka.

basin that covers Dinajpur, Ramay remain unchanged.

part of the Meghna basin covering Sylhet. Mymensingh, Comilla and Dhaka is likely to improve, but from Bhairab main unchanged.

From Page 1

## - Star photo Flood

ishahi, Pabna, Kushtia, Jessore. Khulna, Faridpur and Barisal may also improve. But the districts along the Padma from Rajshahi to downstream

Bazar to downstream may re-In the Southeastern Hill

istry control room said the flood hit 2,187 unions in 247 thanas of 37 districts. Till yesterday the number of unions was 2,162 in 246 thanas.

The upstream of the Ganges

The flood situation in upper

basin, which covers Noakhali, Chittagong and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the situation will continue to improve further. Officials at the relief min-

Chowdhury, who represented the BLCTEA on the committee, said typical bureaucratic red

# notices on 6

Obuchi won the LDP presidency last week only after a bruising

> Cabinet went to ruling party veterans instead of reformers. Party politician Nonaka, 72, tary. Kaoru Yosano, 59, a for-

State Foreign Secretary Masahiko Komura, 56, replaced

pressure to succeed quickly.

decision to resume the export.

It form a committee with experts, officials and a represen-