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Spurious liquor kills 2 more in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 9: Spurious liquor claimed two more lives in the district within a span of 24 hours.

Besides, three others fell sick in the same incident that occurred at village Kaliganj Borsha in Tanor thana yesterday.

The dead were identified as Moazzam, 25, son of Moslemeddin and Ershad Ali, 25, son of Haru Mondal of Kaliganj.

Those who fell sick are Ataur Rahman, 18, Babu, 21, and Shamim, 24, of the same village.

Police said the victims purchased liquor from one Ansar Ali at Kaliganj Bazaar at around 11 pm on Sunday.

They fell sick soon after taking the drug and were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where Moazzam and Ershad died yesterday.

The condition of three others are stated to be critical, hospital sources said.

Police Superintendent, Rajshahi today visited the spot to investigate the incident.

Meanwhile, two persons were arrested in connection with Amnara liquor tragedy in Chapainawabganj that claimed three lives on Monday. A probe committee, headed by additional district magistrate has been formed to investigate the matter.

One killed as smugglers clash with BDR

JAIPURHAT, June 9: One person was killed and two others injured seriously as BDR personnel fired on a group of alleged smugglers at Panchbibi frontier early today, reports UNB.

Officials and local people said a group of smugglers swooped on BDR men when they challenged them at Dargapara in Panchbibi thana. At one stage, the BDR opened fire, killing one on the spot and injuring two.

The dead was identified as Rustam Ali, 40, of Dargapara. The injured are Nasiruddin, 30, of Nowda, Dargapara, and Bazlu Hossain, 21, of Nayapara in the thana.

Bazlu's condition was stated to be critical as a bullet pierced his head. Both the injured were sent to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

After the BDR firing, tension

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Star Magazine



BTW's decision to stop airing package programmes without any prior notice/ warning came as a big surprise to the viewers. This Friday's cover story of the Star Magazine focuses on the crisis and the reasons behind it.

Inside Today

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Politics in sports

An Opportunity for National Understanding Lost

Column: Currents and Crosscurrents by MM Rezaul Karim Page 4

Alternatives

Mastanocracy: Reflections and recollections; Mastan: A social disease; and Mastans and arms Pages 6 & 7

Prayer Timings

	Azam	Jamaat
Fajr	4:15	4:20
Zohr	12:45	1:30
Asr	4:45	4:55
Maghrib	6:40	6:43
Esha	7:40	8:10

Source: Islamic Foundation

Budget with bigger deficit likely

By Inam Ahmed

In its fourth financial year, the Awami League government still has its hands full of concerns like a burgeoning current expenditure, severe strains on revenue collection and a weak balance of payment (BOP) to contend in the budget to be placed today.

Business circles will closely watch how Finance Minister SAMS Kibria lends support to a sagging export sector and an under-performing industrial base.

The government's development and current expenditures have overshot estimates by many percentage points putting fresh strains on the economy. According to sources, this year's current expenditure

mainly used for paying salaries and wages have increased 10 per cent to about Tk 17,600 crore from an estimated Tk 15,937 cr. At the same time, development expenditure has increased Tk 400 crore, which does not cheer one up, as most of it was due to flood rehabilitation programmes. The main development concern of improving the project implementation rate remains elusive at only 53 per cent till March this year.

All these factors mean the budget deficit will increase, further, this year putting fresh pressure on the economy. When the international aid scenario rules out the possibility of increased aid and domestic revenue collection remains handicapped, deep concerns about further domestic borrowing surface, once again. The net domestic borrowing, which was 5.8 per cent of total expenditure in 1990-91, had already shot up

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Budget on internet

By Staff Correspondent

For the first time in Bangladesh, budget for the fiscal 1999-2000 (July-June) will be available on Internet.

"The budget will be available at www.bdec.org as soon as it is announced," said a press release yesterday.

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Reconciliatory mood in Jatiya Sangsad

By Staff Correspondent

Both the Treasury and the Opposition benches in the Jatiya Sangsad appeared to be in a reconciliatory mood yesterday as the two sides discussed their fight in the House on the previous day.

There was a near pandemonium situation in the House on Tuesday when angry BNP members hurled abuses at Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed following his comments on Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia for her earlier remarks about Tuesday's situation.

Terming Khaleda's comment a usual Opposition practice, the former finance minister said, "Had the Speaker felt insulted by the remark, he could have talked to her."

The senior BNP leader also said that the way "irrelevant" charges were brought against the Leader of the Opposition and former prime minister was unfortunate.

Earlier, BNP lawmaker Fazlur Rahman Khatun said Tofail Ahmed's remark on the Opposition Leader was unfortunate. "We did not expect such a behaviour from a senior leader

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4 days in police custody without any charge

By Raziar Rahman

A seven-year-old boy was kept in custody by Mohammadpur police for about four days without any charge.

Saifur regretted Tofail Ahmed's comment on the Opposition Leader, which led to Tuesday's situation.

According to Mohammadpur police, owner of a building near the Aziz Moholla had shifted to another flat of his building on Saturday. The owner of the building, an engineer, engaged Firoz's father Jobed Ali of the same area to help him shift.

Firoz also went to the flat to see his father's activities. The engineer's family later found that a mobile set was missing. The family then informed police. But no case or GD was filed.

According to local people, SI Fazlul Huq of the thana picked

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90pc hand-pumped tubewells not functioning in greater Rajshahi

By Naimul Haq, back from Rajshahi

Fall in ground water level

November 23 last year to April

this year, meteorologists in

Rajshahi said. Since April,

there was only 8 millimeters of

rain. This is a drop in the ocean, they said.

During a visit to Mirzapur under Nachol thana in

Chapainawabganj and

square miles.

The water table in the region has dropped by at least 10 feet on an average over the last five years," a senior official of the Barind Multipurpose Development Authority (BMDA) told The Daily Star on Monday.

"This is a serious problem in the region," said Sarwar Jahan, Divisional Executive Engineer of the Department of Public Health and Engineering.

"Normally, the water table gets recharged during rain. But our measurement indicates that the underground water table is declining." The problem becomes acute from mid-February to mid-May, he said. Even tubewells sunk up to 75 feet remain inoperable whereas 30 feet should be enough for a hand-driven one to pump water, he said.

The Barind region experienced no rainfall from

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Mohanpur under Godaguri union in Rajshahi, this correspondent found that nine out of eleven tubewells sunk by the government were not functioning. On an average, there is one tubewell for 30 households in the areas.

The situation is no better in Naogaon, Natore and Pabna districts.

People in the region said they collect drinking water from deep tubewells. But in villages where there is none, they have to walk miles.

"We collect a jar of water from deep tubewells in the neighbouring village and use it for two days. For cooking, bathing and washing, we use water from pool but that also rains dry most of the time except during monsoon," said Sirajul Islam, a farmer at Mirapur village.

Chhatak thana police arrested Sohel Mahmud, 25, a close aide to the Muhibur Rahman Manik MP early this morning from Hasnabad Bazar area while he was picketing on the Sylhet-Sunamganj Road

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He was frequently suffer from intestinal diseases when we use surface water".

According to the NGO Forum, an apex body of some small NGOs working for supply of drinking water, 90 per cent of

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The outlawed Bangladesher Biplobi Communist Party (M-L) in a statement yesterday categorically said that none of their comrades had surrendered at the June 7 ceremony in Jessore, reports UNB.

"It's part of a deep-rooted reactionary tantrum to misguide people about the party, its image and communist struggle," said BBCP general secretary Arif Hossain on behalf of the central committee.

The BBCP (Marxist-Leninist), founded by the late communist leader Abdul Haq, in the statement accused the government of unleashing "state terrorism" on communists in the name of anti-terrorist drive.

It also blamed Purba Banglar Communist Party, Sarbajala Party, Banglar Communist Party, Gano Bahini of JSD, Sramajibi Mukti Andolon and Socialist Party

Zimbabwe scare Australia

LONDON, June 9: Opener Neil Johnson saw his brilliant unbeaten knock of 132 off 144 balls go in vain as Australia beat Zimbabwe by 44 runs in the second round of the World Cup here today, reports AFP.

Aussie opener Mark Waugh hit a high-class century to pave the way for his team's much-needed victory. But Australia were given a scare at Lord's as Neil Johnson hit back with a sparkling ton, keeping Zimbabwe in contention for much of the match.

Zimbabwe have five points, with Pakistan to play on Friday.

for the first time, were on course for an upset.

But five wickets then fell for 47 runs to kill off the run chase.

Australia now have four points and need to beat South Africa in their final Super Six game to make sure of reaching the last four.

Zimbabwe have five points, with Pakistan to play on Friday.

The Australians - who lost to Zimbabwe in the 1983 World Cup, 16 years ago to the day in one of the tournament's greatest upsets - were left badly bruised despite winning.

Leg spinner Shane Warne had to be withdrawn after his

first five overs went for 44.

Paul Reiffel was Australia's best bowler but still conceded 55 runs off his 10 overs, taking three wickets.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of Zimbabwe's innings in the World Cup Super Six match against Australia at Lord's yesterday:

ZIMBABWE

N Johnson not out 132 (144)
G Flower lbw b McGrath 21 (32)
M Goodwin c Moody b Bevan 47 (56)
A Flower c Gilchrist b Reiffel 0 (1)
A Campbell c Fleming b Reiffel 17 (22)
G Whittall c M Waugh b Reiffel 0 (3)
D Viljoen st Gilchrist b Warne 5 (13)

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A view from the Gully
By Tawfiq Aziz Khan

Whatever happens between India and Pakistan, it has always been an element of drama in it. Tuesday's match between these two traditional rivals at Old Trafford, away from home, was no exception. Wasim Akram's patronising attitude about this particular match dubbing it no more than a practice, finally backfired and he is actually into the "crunch" situation which he thought would be the last match against Zimbabwe.

It was difficult to go through what was happening in his mind when he lost the toss and was put into bat, but no one with such experience and class would make such an amateurish comment prior to a match against a team like India. Wasim Akram got what he wanted and he must now prove a point or two.

A victory against Pakistan is always the priority for any Indian team and this was no exception either. Once again the Indians proved that in the theatre of World Cup they were

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Supporter of CHT peace accord shot dead in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, June 9: One person was killed and another critically injured when a group of extortionists fired on them at Mohalchhari bazar, some 25 kilometres from the district headquarters, police said, reports BSS.

Mohalchhari police said, peace accord Utpal Chakma, 25, supporter of died on the spot and his fellow Raju Chakma, 24, received serious bullet injuries when a group of extortionists fired on them in front of a local cinema hall at around 10:15 pm last night.

They said the terrorists opened fire after an altercation with the victims.

Members of the law enforcement agencies rescued Raju Chakma, member of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC) and Shudhashindhu Khisha, and admitted him to Khagrachhari military hospital in a critical state, police said.

Basu to make a symbolic bus ride to Dhaka

From Pallab Bhattacharya NEW DELHI, June 9: West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu will undertake only a symbolic ride on board the Calcutta-Dhaka bus on January 19 before flying from Jessore to Bangladesh capital, official sources said here today.

They said Basu would fly from Calcutta to Petrapole in Indian side of the border before boarding the bus there and travel three kilometres before disembarking in Bangladesh territory.

The veteran Marxist leader will then fly from Jessore to Dhaka where he will join Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh to receive the bus passengers from Calcutta.