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One shot dead as BCL factions clash in Pabna

PABNA, Apr 27: One person was shot dead and 35 others were injured in a clash between two factions of pro-Awami League Chhatra League in sadar thana today, reports UNB.

Altaf Hossain, 50, was killed as an armed group opened fire while attacking the house of former BCL leader Moniruzzaman at Badalpara, about 10-km off the town, at about 8 am.

Police said the attackers raged Moniruzzaman's house and opened fire indiscriminately, leaving Altaf Hossain dead.

Some 26 people were injured in the attack and 11 of them were admitted to Pabna General Hospital.

Later, three critically injured — Sheult, 18, Amir Hossain, 30, and Masud, 25, — were shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with bullet wounds.

Police arrested one person in this connection. A case was filed.

Arrested 3 on remand Forced occupation of house in city

By Staff Correspondent

The three persons, arrested during a raid at a house Kalabagan in the city on Wednesday, were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday.

The three - Shahidul Islam alias Babu, Mohiuddin alias Pintu and Syed Mahmud, -- were placed on three days' remand, police said.

Police said no specific charge was brought against them but admitted that they were arrested on the basis of a written complaint by one Shahjahan Begum. Police said they would decide whether to accept the complaint as an FIR or a General Diary after investigation.

Shahjahan Begum is the sister of the owner of the house from where they were arrested. In the complaint, she alleged that a gang of terrorists tried to grab their seven storied building.

Police said the arrested persons are members of a notorious gang called Emon Group which is involved in grabbing land, extortion, killing and other criminal activities in the city.

Talking to this correspondent, some residents of the area also alleged that the gang used to operate under the command of Sadiq Abdullah, son of Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah.

Abul Hasanat Abdullah has left the country on April 24 to attend a programme of the International Parliamentary Union. He is scheduled to return on May 12, she added.



Students dance at the nobin boron programme, meant to greet freshers, of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal on Dhaka University campus yesterday.

—Star photo

Civil society should play vital role to rejuvenate SAARC

CPD dialogue told
By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a dialogue said that the civil society should play a leading role towards re-activating and enhancing economic co-operation in South Asia and rejuvenating SAARC for greater prosperity and development in the region.

The dialogue on South Asia 2010: Challenges and Opportunities was organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue at its conference room yesterday. CPD Chairman Professor Rehman Sobhan was the moderator.

Regional co-operation should be advocated in the interest of small states like Bangladesh, the speakers felt. Some of them called for making maximum use of Bangladesh port facilities to facilitate the trade of landlocked countries like Bhutan and Nepal.

Former Foreign Secretary and Co-convenor of Coalition for Action on South Asia Cooperation (CASAC) Farook Sobhan presented the keynote paper.

Since there was no alternative to regional co-operation for maximising trade and business in South Asia, all states should divert their attention and efforts to deriving benefit from the greatest amount of regional co-operation, Sobhan said.

"The imperative for regional co-operation has increased in view of globalisation," he said.

The dialogue was based on the outcome of a major regional conference, convened by the Coalition for Action on South Asia Cooperation (CASAC) which was held in Kathmandu from December 1 to 3 last year.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Foreign Secretary Shafi Sami, former foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, Kazi Zafrullah, Hemayet Uddin and Laila Rahman Kabir were among those who attended.

Speakers said that interaction, particularly at people-to-people level, needs to be intensified through networking arrangement at the non-government level.

Speakers also underscored the role of Bangladesh to bring about a political understanding between SAARC countries, especially two estranged big neighbours.

Prof Rehman Sobhan said Bangladesh should "liberate" Nepal and Bhutan from their landlocked condition. Bangladesh interests would be served best by giving access to the landlocked states to the Bay of Bengal, he said.

Next FF-people grand rally in Ctg on May 13

The next grand rally of the freedom fighters and people (Muktijoddha-Janata) will be held in Chittagong on May 13, reports BSS.

Convener of the Sammlito Muktijoddha Front (SMF) and Political Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr S A Malek announced it at a review meeting on the post-Muktijoddha-Janata grand rally in the city.

"As part of our movement to resist the razzakars and enemies of democracy through reuniting the freedom fighters under a single banner, we have decided to hold the grand rally of the freedom fighters and people in Chittagong on May 13," he said.

Dr Malek, who presided over the meeting, said in the first phase the grand rally of the freedom fighters and people will be held in all divisional headquarters and then in the districts and upazilas.

The aim of holding such grand rallies and meeting is to reunite the freedom fighters to foil the nefarious designs of the razzakars an enemies of democracy, he said.

The meeting was also addressed by SMF steering committee members Industries Minister Toifal Ahmed, Major Mububuddin, Birbrikram and Major (Rtd) Ziauddin Ahmed.

Take care of Karwan Bazar roads, pavements Leaders of different associations urge

By Staff Correspondent

Different organisations in Karwan Bazar area have appealed to the authorities to take measures to repair the roads in the area and also to remove encroachment from footpaths.

The leaders of Truck Owners' Association, Truck Drivers' Union, Bangladesh Shopkeeper Hawkers' Association and Bangladesh Rickshawwan Drivers' Association were talking at an informal meeting convened by The Daily Star on its premises yesterday.

The leaders blamed the dilapidated condition of the Karwan Bazar roads, encroachment and indifference of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) for the 'chaotic situation' of the area.

President of the Truck Drivers' Union, Roy Ramesh Chandra said although Karwan Bazar vegetable market caters for about ten million people of the city, the authorities have not bothered to build a parking lot for 300 to 400 trucks arriving there everyday.

He said measures must be taken to make a one-way road so that the trucks may come from one side and leave from the other. He said parks which have been illegally occupied should be converted into truck terminals to make room for this big volume of traffic.

Christopher Gomez, President of Truck Owners' Association said that while the authorities allowed garment factories to grow along the VIP roads, the police do not allow trucks to stop there. "The garment factories must have their merchandise loaded and unloaded but the police do not allow," he said.

The meeting was chaired by the Editor of The Daily Star, Mahfuz Anam.

Permission for pvt radio station soon: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would give permission for private radio station soon alongside the operation of independent television with satellite facilities for the electronic media, reports UNB.

"We must ensure that media activities serve larger interest of the people and the nation as well, she said while reviewing the activities of different departments under the Ministry of Information at the Secretariat.

GMG back in business

By Special Correspondent

GMG Airlines is back in business after one of its De Havilland Dash-8 aircraft made a suspected heavy landing at Zia International Airport on April 10.

GMG sources said that the aircraft had its landing gear-rigging fixed and its Black Box returned by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh following which the aircraft was airborne again from April 19.

The Black Box was seized by the CAAB following the incident. It was taken to Singapore by a member of the CAAB investigating team.

Shahab Sattar, Managing Director of the GMG airlines told the Star that the Black Box was not damaged as claimed by the CAAB.

He said the Flight Data Recorder or Black Box was certified after every 4000 hours of its flying by the manufacturer. There was nothing wrong with it. There was no recording on certain portions, which was not uncommon. "But it cannot be described as damaged," he added.

Japan ready as ever to respond to aid call

Yutaka Yokoi tells The Daily Star
By M. Shamsur Rahman

Yokoi said the ODA will be given in phases, depending on the implementation of the pre-

Bangladesh has been established since 1991 and economic structural reforms are in place. The director of Loan Aid Division said democratisation is strong in Bangladesh but local politics remains the weakest point.

"I learned that a general strike is being called. It takes severe toll on the economy. You have a parliament which should be made more effective. I personally like to see the parliamentary system in action."

Asked to comment on the issue of corruption in government that was raised during the Paris Consortium meet, he said it is a poison for the people of the country.

People will lose faith in the government if corruption can not be dealt with, Yokoi said. This very poison will act as a detriment to future ODA of a developing country.

However, he said corruption can be reduced by enhancing salary of low paid government officials.

Yokoi said poverty alleviation will get top priority in getting Japanese aid, which was also emphasised during the Paris meeting recently.

He said the seven per cent growth rate envisaged by the Bangladesh government is the key to poverty alleviation. The economic growth led by the industry and energy sector is mostly desired.

Yokoi said other major development issues are development of agriculture since it will be the most important industry. Rural development, improvement of productivity, basic infrastructure for investment and export promotion, and disaster management will also be on the list of priority areas of Japanese economic cooperation.

He, however, said that im-



Yutaka Yokoi

He said democratisation in various phase to be monitored by Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JABIC).

The CAP, formulated this year for Bangladesh, Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Peru, is meant to enhance effectiveness and transparency.

Yokoi said Bangladesh is considered very important as it is the spokesman for the least developed countries (LDCs), and since Tokyo is making strenuous efforts to reinforce ties with the South Asian countries.

"Strengthening relations with Bangladesh will contribute to Japan's relations with the LDCs and also to political stability throughout South Asia. In extending economic cooperation, Japan has taken into account the enormous demands placed on it by Bangladesh and its capacity to service those debts.

He said democratisation in

Principal accused in Jalal Murder Case sent to jail

By Court Correspondent

The Fifth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday sent Ziaul Ahsan, the principal accused in Jalal Ahmed Shafi Murder Case to Dhaka Central Jail.

Ahsan surrendered to the Metropolitan Sessions Court as per directives of the High Court with a prayer for bail. The court rejected bail prayer and sent him to the jail.

The next date for hearing was fixed on May 16.

Ahsan was granted an ad-interim bail from the High Court Division of the Supreme Court on September 12 last year for 14 weeks. The HC cancelled Ahsan's bail on February 27 on the basis of a petition filed by the prosecution lawyers and asked him to appear in the lower court within 15 days.

Since then Ahsan absented himself from the court three times on grounds that he had been suffering detachment of the retina and mental depression for long time.

Ahsan went to the court yesterday after his two sureties were asked to produce him in the court at the earliest.

The decomposed body of Jalal, a DB informer, was recovered from the roof-top water tank of DB office at Minto Road on March 25 last year.

The CID investigated the case and chargesheeted five people for the killing. Of the accused Abdul Malek is still absconding. The victim's son Abbas Uddin filed the case.

The remaining three now in custody — havildar Bilal Hossain, constable Abdur Rauf and canteen manager Anwar Hossain — were produced before the court yesterday at about 11 am.

7 Bangladeshis die from carbon monoxide poisoning in UAE

AJMAN, United Arab Emirates, Apr 27: Seven Bangladeshis men, including a father and his three sons, have been found dead from suspected carbon monoxide poisoning, newspapers reported today, says AFP.

Police said it was likely the men inhaled carbon monoxide from a generator they were using during a power cut in their two-bedroom flat in Ajman, in the north of the United Arab Emirates, and died in their sleep Wednesday, the Gulf News said.

BB circular to keep banks open in Ctg port Saturday

Star Report

The Bangladesh Bank yesterday issued a circular to all the banks in the Chittagong Port to keep their businesses open on Saturday, banking sources said.

According to the circular, the banks in the port will also remain open on Friday in case of general strike on any previous working day of the week to make up for the loss.

It was decided in the wake of repeated pleas from the business community who continued to suffer due to unrest and strikes at the port, one business leader said.

He said country's exports and imports are facing severe problems due to crisis in the port.

Crimes on the rise

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 360 cases against 2044 people were filed under the Public Safety Act (PSA) over the last 70 days across the country, half of which were in Dhaka city, police said.

Of these, 171 cases against 566 people were filed in the Dhaka Metropolitan police area alone. Police arrested only 199 people in the city.

According to records, the number of cases under PSA and other legal provisions increased dramatically. Forty-five cases were registered with the DMP during the month of February, 58 in March while 68 cases were filed until April 25.

Twenty-four cases of murder, 11 of robbery and 41 of mugging were filed in April. Twenty-six cases of murder, 40 of robbery and 18 of mugging were filed in February while 24 cases of murder, 22 of robbery and 41 of mugging were filed in March.

The statistics were given during a press briefing at the police headquarters yesterday morning. Assistant inspector general (AIG) of police (Confidential) Mahmud Shahjahan, AIG (operations) Sanad Huq and AIG Kamrul Ahsan were present at the briefing.

The briefing was organised to inform newsmen of the success of block raid, which began on April 24.

The officials said 275 people were arrested from April 24 to 26 from four zones in the DMP. Sixteen platoon of BDR, 16 platoon of police and eight platoon of armed forces were involved in the operation.

During the period of raid, 5613 bottles of phencyclidine, 300 gram of heroin and 63 cans of local liquor were recovered.

The officials, in reply to a question, said they will continue the raid until the situation improves. An additional deputy commissioner is overseeing the raid, they said.

The officials said the block raid aims to curb the rising incidents of crime.

Asked when they will start cleansing drive against the corrupt personnel in the police, they said it has always been there; whenever there is allegation against someone, action is taken.

Plan to procure APCs for police

By Mizan Ali

The government is planning to strengthen the riot handling capacity of the police department by procuring four Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs), highly placed sources said.

The APCs would be purchased shortly at a cost of Tk 2.8 crore, according to official sources. Each of these carriers would cost the government about Tk 70 lakh.

The APCs may be imported either from Turkey or Russia, sources said, adding that necessary study in this regard has already been conducted and the

Keep eye on environment while conducting exploration

Sajeda asks foreign oil cos

Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury asked the foreign oil companies yesterday to keep an eye on environment while conducting exploration and commercially producing gas, reports UNB.

"We expect oil and gas exploration companies will take into account the sensitivities of our coastal ecosystem," she said at a workshop on "Impact of Oil and Gas Exploration on Coastal and Marine Ecosystem in Bangladesh."

National Conservation Strategy Implementation Project (NCSIP) of Ministry of Environment and Forest and IUCN-Bangladesh jointly organised the workshop at the BARC auditorium.

The workshop, split into five sessions, focused on environmental damages caused by oil and gas exploration work and emphasised that proper Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) be carried out by skilled professionals before implementation of any project to minimise impact of offshore and onshore exploration activities.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) has been made compulsory for every project by law, Sajeda said and hoped that foreign oil companies would follow proper EIA codes for oil and gas exploration.

Narrating natural gas as the country's future resource base, she said it must be used without any harm to ecological balance. Sajeda iterated the govern-

ment's full commitment to safeguarding environment and said the government wants to integrate economic development with environmental protection to ensure a sustainable growth and balanced use of resources.

She referred to recent steps taken by the government, including passage of environmental court act, amendment to 1995 environmental conservation act and updating 1927 forest act with special focus on social forestry.

Environment and Forest Secretary Syed Marghub Mursheed chaired the inaugural session while Charge d'Affaires of Norwegian Embassy in Dhaka Erik Berg, IUCN country representative Dr Anun Nishat and NCSIP programme coordinator Munjurul Hannan Khan also spoke.

April	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
28	-	6:26 pm
29	5:26 am	-

Prayer Timings

April 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:45	5:15
Juma	12:30	1:30
Asr	5:00	5:15
Maghrib	6:25	6:30
Esha	8:00	8:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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ডি,আই, পি b. ২০০.০০
গ্যালারী b. ১০.০০

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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