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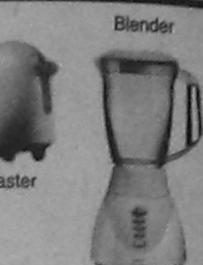
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Shimul accused in 70 cases including 27 murders

Top leader of outlawed party remanded

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 27: Mahmud Hasan Shimul, 32, alias Shimul Bhuiyan, a leader of an outlawed party and his associate. Jamal, 30, were taken on seven days police remand to-Jamal, also an armed cadre of his outlawed party, the SP of of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party is one of the

chargesheeted accused in the Asha murder case. Ashabul Huq Asha, joint secretary of Chuadanga District

Awami League was gunned down on October 26, 1998. Police recovered from them two mobile phones and an identity card (No 0119/2000) is-

sued by a newspaper on March The identity card bears the name of one Abul Hasan but Shimul used it to identify himself as a Khulna-based corre-

spondent of a Bengali daily published from Dhaka. Police said Shimul was arrested from the house of Shujon, a leader of Jessore city unit of Chhatra League. Shujon is

absconding, police said. An MA in Bengali Literature from Rajshahi University, Shimul joined Purbo Banglar Communist Party in 1986 when he was a student. He is the

fourth issue of his parents. Hailing from Damodar lam at his office room at noon. Union under Phultala PS of Khulna district, Shimul is accused in at least 70 criminal cases including 27 murders

Apart from 40 years' RI in Imran Ghazi Murder Case. Shimul was also given 12 years RI in another case under Arms

Construction of two new res-

Some 1200 to 1500 students

idential halls began at Dhaka

University recently to ease the

acute accommodation problem

will be accommodated in the

two five-story halls -- one for

male students and the other for

being constructed near the

Shahidullah Hall and that for

females in front of the

Bangladesh-Kuwait Moitri

was to start last year, but was

delayed due to lack of funds and

tender-related complications.

for the work, sources said.

Construction of the halls

The male students' hall is

During the first phase of interrogation at Jessore police lines yesterday. Shimul named KCC Ward Commissioner Asaduzzaman Litu and Mushfegur Rahman Hirok as 'commanders of the military wing' Jessore told this correspondent last night. He also disclosed that Bitu and Hitler were two other members of the party's 'military wing' in Khulna city. the SP added.

Shimul is accused in eight murder cases in Narail district, while his 'chief bodyguard' Jamal is wanted in 10 murder cases in Chuadanga district.

Jamal slaughtered seven persons in Chuadanga in 1998, the SP said

"We are determined to recover all firearms and ammunition at any cost which are in possession of Shimul and his armed cadres," he said.

Designated as 'political commissioner' of the party's southern zone. Shimul became infamous after murdering lmran Ghazi of Dumuria in 1993. He created sensation in party politics after shooting down Phultala thana UP Chairman Abul Kashem Sarder in presence of the then TNO Kamrul Is-

Police, quoting Shimul's confessional statement, said he played the key role in the physical liquidation of 90 people since 1991. "They were enemies of the people". Shimul told police adding that some journalists were also on his 'hit list

Disclosing his links with some political godfathers in Khulna city, Shimul said he recently set up his stronghold in several places in Khulna district to "intensify the operation against class enemies."

He denied his direct involvement in the murders of Mir Elias Hossain Dilip and Afzal Hossain of Jhenidah. "But it was within my knowledge as it was our party decision," he told police during interroga-

Claiming himself to be a believer in Marxism and Leninism, Shimul admitted his close link also with Indian Naxalites.

"Journalists who write against me are on my hit list," he told police. "I am committed to uphold the line of my party politics, from which some of our cadres deviated," he was quoted as saving.

He said he came to attend a conference of the divisional unit of the party at Ghose Para in Jessore town on Thursday

Shimul and his armed cadres are in possession of most of the looted arms including those from Shiromoni Cable Factory and Akij Jute Mills, po-

His wife is a final year student of MA in political science at Rajshahi University. Constable Sadek of Jessore Police Lines is his younger brother. He has been transferred to Bagerhat immediately after Shimul was arrested, the Police Superintendent said.

Milton's wife sues 12 BNP men under PSA at Barisal

From Staff Correspondent galows for provosts and house tutors are being constructed at a BARISAL, May 27: Najcost of Tk 20 crore, the sources munnahar Mukta, wife of Quyum Hossain Milton, today Accommodation problem of filed a case with Kotwali thana students, particularly females, against 12 leaders and workers will be greatly eased with conof BNP, JCD and Jubo Dal for struction of the two halls. Vicetheir alleged involvement in Chancellor Prof. AK Azad the attack on her husband yes-Chowdhury said while talking

to The Daily Star. The accused included Advo-The halls are yet to be cate Majibar Rahman Sarwar, named. The university Syndilocal BNP MP, his brother cate will sit for a meeting to Mosaraf Hossain, Dist JCD name the new halls, he said. President Akhtar Hossaín, city Out of 14 halls on the cam-JCD joint secretary Mashiul pus, only three are for female Alam Sentu, Juba Dal leader students who constitute about Prince, and BNP leader Abdur

40 per cent of the total of 28,000 students of the university. Nearly 9,000 students are There was re-tendering thrice now staying in different resi-

dential halls of the university The halls and attached bun- although there are 6,000 seats.

Some powerful countries helping LTTE: Lanka

Construction of 2 new

DU halls begins

By Abul Kalam Azad

DEHRADUN, May 27: Some powerful countries were helping LTTE in its fight against Sri Lankan forces in Jaffna peninsula, Sri Lankan Minister for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development Mahinda Rajapaksa said here today. reports PTI.

Some powerful countries which want to get foothold in the region are helping the Tamil rebels in its fight against us. Rajpaksa said.

He, however, did not divulge the names of such countries saying I would not be able to pinpoint those countries but definitely some powerful countries are there. Otherwise they (LTTE) would not have been able to sustain their offensive against a full-fledged army.

On being asked to name the countries helping the rebels in the north-east of the country, the minister clarified certainly they are not Asian countries.

He expressed doubt over the Norwegian initiative to broker peace in the strife-torn island nation saying Sri Lankan people might not trust them (Norwegians) as an impartial peace broker.

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We will always prefer an Asian country because we have had very bad experience with the western countries. We know it because we have been ruled by the Portuguese, the Dutch and the British in the past.

Rajpaksa emphasised that India must play a role in bringing the LTTE to the talk -

On being reminded of the Indian Peace-keeping Force (IPKF) experience when Sri Lankan government and the army helped the LTTE fight the Indian forces, Rajapaksa said yes, we are aware of it. The pre vious government led by President Premadasa did help the Tigers and he (Premadasa) paid the price heavily and was killed by the Tigers.

He said in 1987 the situation was different. The then Prime Minister Premadasa and the defence minister were against Indian intervention in the mat ter. Even the general mood in the country was against any

"But now the situation has changed and we want India to broker peace.

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Ershad Shikdar denies link with Shimul From Staff Correspondent

The case was filed under

Quyum Hossain Milton, a

top terrorists of the town and

an ousted JCD leader was

stabbed, beaten up and shot by

his rival armed activists led by

Sentu, a supporter of the local

BNP MP Sarwar yesterday

Milton were also severed during

Tendons of hands and legs of

Sections 4. 9 and 10 of the Pub-

lic Safety Act (PSA).

evening.

the attack

KHULNA, May 27: Ershad Shikdar has denied his link with Mahmud Hasan Shimul the 'political commissioner' of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party, Khulna division. I know Shimul personally, but did never make any deal with him so far as business matters are concerned', Ershad was quoted as saying today while being taken to the Special Court in connection with Shi-

raj murder case. He said 'I had no illegal fire arms. So, question of their recovery does not arise at all'.

Police have information that some of the firearms looted from Cable Shilpa Ltd at Shiromoni, Sundarban Sea Foods at Rupsha east and Akij Jute Mills of Noapara were sold to Ershad Shikdar by Shimul in 1998. Police believe Shimul looted these firearms with the help of his armed cadres.

Cable operators' token strike today

Cable operators across the country will observe a hourlong token strike today protesting arrest of their leader K M Alimed Raju, Reports UNB.

Telecast 'of all channels from the cable networks will remain stopped from 9 pm to 10 pm. said the cable operators at a protest rally at Muktangon in Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd, 229, Tejgaon Industrial | the city yesterday.

They also brought out a procession demanding release of Raju. Representatives from about 100 cable operators across the country attended the meeting and procession.



Star photo

New computer virus

WASHINGTON, May 27: A potent new computer virus is rapidly spreading via US e-mail systems, with the capacity to ravage information systems at

businesses around the world,

US authorities announced late yesterday, reports AFP. Officials at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the US government's National Infrastructure Protection Centre (NIPC) say the new infiltrator masquerades as a resume sent by a prospective job appli-

The subject line of the e-mail carrying the virus is: "Resume -Janet Simons." Computer users opening the e-mail's attachment risk having entire files on their computers deleted.

As with other recent computer viruses, the new virus spreads via Microsoft Corporation's Outlook Program, which handles electronic mail, calendar and address book functions.

So far, the FBI reported that an unspecified number of corporate e-mail systems had been affected — and even shut down by the new bug, which spreads by mailing itself to everyone in the recipient's address book. (Details on page 5)

2 alleged dacoits beaten to death in Feni

From Our Correspondent FENI. May 27: Two alleged dacoits were beaten to death by the villagers at Sarajpur village in Sonagazi thana of the district last night.

The dead were identified as Anowar Hossain, 35, son of Abdul Malek of village Char Chandia and Sumon, 22, son of Mokbul Ahmed of village Sarajpur.

According to police and local people, a gang of seven youths entered the house of Abdur Razzak by breaking upon the door at midnight and started looting valuables.

The gang also beat up Razzak and other members of the family as they fired to resist them. When the members of the family cried for help, the villagers rushed to the spot and surrounded the house. They caught two of the gang while others managed to flee. The villagers beat up the two

mercilessly, resulting in their death on the spot. Police recovered the bodies

at 10 am today and sent them to Feni Hospital for autopsy.

50 injured as villagers clash in Habigani

HABIGANJ, May 27: At least 50 people were injured, 15 of them seriously, when the villagers clashed over a trifling matter here today, reports UNB. Of the seriously injured 10 were rushed to Nabiganj Hospi-

tal and five to Habigani Sadar

Hospital. Police and witnesses said an altercation ensued over entering of a cow of one Quddus Mia of village Vicirpur in Nabiganj upazila into a jute field of Upari Mia of neighbouring Noagaon | cute the rebel leader, reports village in Baniachang upazila | AP

At one stage both the groups equipped with lethal weapons attacked each other that lasted for hours. Police from the two respec-

tive thanas rushed to the spot but failed to disperse the feuding groups. Later a contingent of hostages are still in rebel riot police from the district headquarters brought the situation under control.

US certain Pakistan can help round up bin Laden Pickering tells Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, May 27: After two days of meetings with Pakistani officials, US Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering said today that Washington is certain Pakistan can influence Afghanistan's ruling Taliban to hand over suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden, reports AP.

"It is hard for me to conceive of the fact that Pakistan's continued support for the Taliban is irrelevant to the question of the possibility of Pakistan playing a very constructive role in bringing Osama bin Laden to justice and that remains the United States point of view," Pickering told Pakistani reporters at the end of an two-day

On the US 10 Most Wanted List, bin Laden is suspected of masterminding the twin US Embassy bombings in East Africa in 1998. Bin Laden is living in Afghanistan protected by the Taliban, who have refused to hand him over for trial either in the United States or a

KURIGRAM, May 27: Al-

though border tension subsided

following Friday's flag meeting

between BDR and BSF, prob-

lems of the residents of

as their early rehabilitation

remained uncertain, reports

ple, who fled to the mainland

for security of their life were

compounded with the heavy

talion commander level flag

meeting today, a BDR official

told newsmen that they pro-

posed a joint inquiry commis-

sion for solution to the prob-

lem. But BSF said such a move

required involvement of the

district administration and as-

sured the proposal would be

communicated to the district

BSF at the flag meeting ad-

mitted that 100 cattle were

lifted and 46 houses torched.

They have also admitted that

337 residents of 130 families of

Indians backed by CRP and BSF

looted 82 cattle, 47 goats and

lambs, 900 maunds of paddy. 32

maunds of rice and torched 55

11 residents abducted by Cen-

FREETOWN, May 27: Guerillas have released 180

more UN hostages in Sierra

Leone, leaving fewer than 100

captives in rebel hands, and

President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah

has announced plans to prose-

handed over Friday to authori-

ties in Foya, a border town in

neighboring Liberia, according

to government statement re-

leased in the Liberian capital.

Monrovia, Liberia said fewer

than 100 of the original 500

Meanwhile, Kabbah accused

rebel Revolutionary United held

hands.

The UN peacekeepers were

When asked for returning of

houses in the enclave.

According to a BDR estimate,

the enclave fled their homes.

magistrate of Kuchbehar.

Briefing the outcome of Bat-

rains on Friday and Saturday.

Miseries of the enclave peo-

Mashaldanga enclave increased

"We hope in fact that we can encourage in every conceivable way Pakistan to use all of its

third country.

contacts and all of its relationships with the Taliban to make it clear to the Taliban that the United States considers the harboring of Osama bin Laden as something very unfriendly to American interests," said Pick-"Particularly when it is

clearly known and fully established that he was responsible for the bombings of our embassies as well as closely connected with, among other things, the individuals now on trial in Jordan, who sought to cause havoc and mayhem at the time of the turn of the year," he

Pakistan has repeatedly denied having influence enough with the Taliban to force them to hand over bin Laden.

tral Reserve Police (CRP) of In-

dia. BSF admitted that six per-

sons were arrested for violation

of law and order and sent to

Dinhata jail. BSF said that they

had nothing to do with the ar-

rest and they would be tried un-

of opening a separate corridor

near 6/SR pillar to facilitate

movement of enclave residents

BSF said it was a matter of civil

BSF demanded return of an

Indian couple that eloped and

allegedly crossed into

Bangladesh. Whereabouts of

them were not known, BDR

problem of Mashaldanga deep

ened for failure of the district

administration, which did not

take appropriate action when

persecution by the Indians was

Ministry has asked the district

administration, BDR and Police

to form a joint committee to

look into the problems. Ac-

cordingly DC, Police Super and

BDR Commanding Officer vis-

ited Banshjani where the up-

rooted people have taken shell

ter. The homeless people there

Front leader Foday Sankoh of

will be prosecuted," Kabbah said

in comments carried Friday

night on state radio and televi-

sion — the government's first

comment on his fate since the

rebel leader's capture earlier

treason in 1998 and sentenced

to death but was later released

from jail under the provisions

of a peace accord signed last

July that was meant to end an

charges the rebel chief would

face or when a trial would be

Kabbah did not say what

eight-year civil war.

Sankoh was convicted of

this month.

"This time around Sankoh

committing serious crimes.

are living in utter distress.

180 more UN hostages

freed in Sierra Leone

In a recent directive, Home

duly notified on May 20.

Informed sources said the

administration to decide.

As for another BDR proposal

der the Indian law.

Rehabilitation of people

in Mashaldanga

still uncertain

Flag meet proposes jt enquiry commission

countries to recognize the Tal-

iban and is considered to be the Taliban's strongest ally. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates also recognize the

Pickering is the first high

level US visitor to Pakistan since US President Bill Clinton made a five-hour visit in March, when he urged a return to democracy, renewed talks with hostile neighbor India and an end to Pakistani support for militants fighting in Indian Kashmir. Pickering repeated Washing-

ton's call for Pakistan to end aid to militants. Pakistan, while openly sympathetic to the militants fighting Indian troops in Indian-ruled Kashmir, contends it neither arms for supports them. India, however, has refused

to restart talks with Pakistan until insurgents waging a bloody 11-year-old insurgency Pakistan is one of only three are withdrawn from its terri-

Six new thanas

With the inauguration of

in Chittagong Metropolis has

Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina who was scheduled to

inaugurate the new police sta-

tions could not attend the func-

tion due to inclement weather.

ports BSS.

risen to 12

one in city

inaugurated in Ctg A young man was killed and CHITTAGONG, May 27: Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury inaugurated six new police stations at a function at Dampara night, reports BSS. Police Ground here today, re-

sources said Nitai Barman, 32, these new police stations, the total number of police stations

> gers when they waylaid the rickshaw passengers. The body was sent to the Mit-

In a message on the occasion Hasina expressed the hope that the six new police stations in Chittagong Metropolis would cal condition. contribute immensely towards improvement of law and order in the area.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) AYBI Siddiqui and CMP Commissioner AT Ahmadul Huq also addressed the function, attended by local elite. government officers and police personnel. Mayor Mohiuddin Chowd-

hury said, it is for the first time that the terrorists are dealt with iron hand and that no criminal whatever party he belongs to is spared. He said the new police stations were set up not to serve the interest of any party, but to serve the people of the port city.

Windies 273

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, May 27: West Indies were bowled out for 273 in reply to Pakistan's first innings total of 269 after lunch on the third day of the third and final Test here on Saturday. reports Reuters.

One found dead in BCCI bldg

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, May 27: A young man was found dead in the Barisal Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BCCI) building

The body was identified as Biplab Kumar Banik, 30. Kotwali police recovered his body from the first floor of the

BCCI building. The first floor of the BCCI building at Nazirer Pool area in the town is reportedly being used by some armed terrorists

for long time. It was not a case of suicide but killing by torture, it is sus

None was arrested in this connection, police said.

city June 12 By Staff Correspondent Prokrichi-BCS Central Coordination Council will hold a rally at the Institution of Engineers in the city at 11 am on June 12 to realise its eightpoint demand.

Prokrichi-BCS

Council rally in

The Council, a joint body of 26 cadre services and professionals, announced it at a press conference at BMA Bhaban

Expressing disappointment over government's inaction regarding their demands the Council leaders told the newsmen that they would also hold a national council at the same venue on July 22.

The eight-point demand includes introduction of promotion rules on the basis of intellect and competence, and a sixgrade service and wage structures for all officials irrespective of their status as cadres or non-cadres.

The council secretary general Chowdhury Khalequzzaman read out a written statement at the press conference while its vice-president Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub and other leaders were present.

Body to probe assault on DMCH nurse Dhaka Medical College Hos-

pital (DMCH) authorities yesterday formed a five-member committee to probe an alleged assault on a staff nurse by a medical student on May 25, reports BSS. The committee headed by the

Head of the Cardiology Department Prof Momtaz Hossain has been asked to submit its report within 72 hours. The committee was consti-

tuted following submission of a memorandum to the Director of the Hospital by the nurses. Earlier, the nurses brought out a procession and paraded

the corridors of the hospital demanding exemplary punishment to the student who allegedly assaulted the nurse. They also held a demonstration in front of the office of the di-

Monwara Begum, a senior staff nurse of the hospital was assaulted by Mamunur Rashid. a fifth year student of Dhaka Medical College on May 25 while she was on duty in the

Muggers kill

three others were injured critically when muggers hurled bomb on them at North Brook Hall Road in the old city last Local people and hospital

a resident of the area, was killed on the spot and three of his friends sustained bomb injuries at about 8 pm yesterday. Pedestrians chased the mug-

ford Hospital morgue for au-

Meanwhile, the injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a criti-

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