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Indians kidnap Bangladeshi in Naogaon

NAOGAON, June 21: A gang of Indian miscreants on Sunday kidnapped a Bangladeshi youth and demanded Tk 50,000 as ransom, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the armed Indians entered Bangladesh territory in the afternoon and abducted Mostafa, 25, at gunpoint from Khayer, Bari Ghat in Dhamoirhat upazila.

Later, the kidnappers in a message sent here demanded the amount for the release of Mostafa, son of Muslim Uddin of the same upazila.

When contacted, the in-charge of the Chakelam border outpost admitted the incident.

Interrogation of Shimul: Report likely by Sunday

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 21: Senior Superintendent of Police (SB), Dhaka Golam Mostafa and Sakawat Hossain, additional SP of CID, Dhaka left Khulna on Tuesday evening for Dhaka. They were among the three-member high-level team assigned by the police headquarters to interrogate leader of the outlawed PBCP Mahmud Hasan Shimul. The other senior officer of the team was Mazharul Haq, deputy commissioner (South) of KMP.

Chairman of the three-member team Golam Mostafa is likely to submit a report to the government by Sunday on the outcome of the five-day interrogation of Shimul, who named his godfathers in political arena and business circles in Khulna city and in the district.

Medicine worth Tk 4 lakh looted in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 21: Five youths snatched two cartons of life saving drugs worth over Tk 4 lakh from near Society Cinema Hall on Tuesday night. The medicines belonging to 'Khulna City Clinic' at Heraj Market were being carried in a van for booking in the Sundarban Courier Service for a certain customer in Dhaka. Bladu Bhowmik, proprietor of the medicine shop was severely injured in the attack by alleged muggers who are residents of south Tootpara under Khulna thana.

Police today arrested one of the muggers named Pintoo from Mohanimedan Club.

Ctg mass killing Court summons 12 police officers to testify

CHITTAGONG, June 21: A court here today summoned 12 police officers as witnesses to the mass killing in the port city to appear before it July 3-6 to testify, reports UNB.

First Additional Sessions Judge AMM Sayeed issued the order following an appeal of government pleader Advocate Sambhu Prasad Biswas.

The officers include then Kotwali thana OC Kazi Shahabuddin and its Inspector Avijit Chakma and then Chandgaon thana OC Dukhu Mia.

Earlier, the court had recorded statements of three high police officials from June 5 to 7.

Depositions from 69 witnesses will be taken in the sensational Mass Killing Case, officials said.

The killings took place on January 24, 1988 when police opened fire on a rally of the then opposition Awami League at Lalidighi Maidan.

SKOP leaders condemn 'police action' on workers during strike

Leaders of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) yesterday condemned the police action on the processions of the workers in various industrial belts of the country, reports UNB.

A day-long countrywide strike called by SKOP to press home its demands, including announcement of minimum national wage and enactment of labour act, ended at 6 am yesterday.

In a statement the SKOP leaders threatened to announce fresh agitation programmes if the government does not implement the agreement signed with them soon.

Minister, experts tell workshop USG tech saves urea, raises food output

By Staff Correspondent

Agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury said yesterday the government will continue supporting the urea super granule (USG) technology that can contribute up to 20 per cent rise in food production in the country. "USG can save 30-40 per cent of urea while giving 15-20 per cent higher yields of food grain. This results in a great increase in profit for farmers and grain yields as well as savings of urea," said the minister while addressing a national workshop on USG technology at IDB Bhaban.

The last such programme by ATDP, an USAID-supported Agriculture Ministry project, ATDP or Agrobased Industries and Technology Development Project completes its task by July 31 next.

The USG technology is a method of urea application where the fertilizer is used in granular form instead of dust form. While farmers traditionally used to apply urea on the surface, USG application requires deep tillage in the lands. This technology was evolved to make fertilizer use more efficient and cost-effective.

With Agriculture Secretary Dr AMM Shahkhat Ali in the chair, the inaugural session of the workshop was also addressed by Dr Zahurul Karim, executive chairman of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC); M Enamul Haque, director general of

Department of Agricultural Extension; M Anwarul Haque, chairman of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC); Dr Ronald P Black, chief of party of ATDP; and an USAID official Richard Rousseau. Inaugurating the workshop the agriculture minister urged research organisations and extension departments to find out what other interesting and useful uses of USG could be made for fertilizing fruits and vegetables.

Referring to inundated tidal areas of the country, the minister said the areas which are lagging behind in the adoption of USG technology should be given special attention so that they may also catch up with others.

Other speakers also highlighted the success of the USG technology that expanded from a mere two hectares land in 1995-96 to three lakh hectares in 1999-2000.

The participants, however, underscored on the need for balanced application of different soil nutrient and avoid overuse of urea in the cultivable land.

Later on the day, seven papers were presented at the workshop, split into two working sessions. These papers dealt with wide range of subjects such as impact of USG, history and development of briquette machine that produces USG and role of NGOs in promotion of the USG technology.

Abducted Ctg BNP leader beaten up, released

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 21: BNP leader who was abducted from the premises of party office, was released by the gunmen at 1 am last night, police and party sources said.

Shah Alam, president of BNP Lalkhan Bazar unit, was abducted by the gunmen from the premises of party office at Nasim Building at Nur Ahmed Road at 7 pm yesterday, police and party sources said.

After his abduction, police raided different places in the city, but could not rescue the Alam.

Three mugged near Sonargaon Hotel

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers in the guise of passengers of an auto-tempo snatched Tk 4,000 and valuables including gold rings from three persons near Sonargaon Hotel yesterday evening, witnesses said.

The victims — Zahedur Rahman Iqbal, manager of a private company; Hasan Ahmed, and Khaja Ahmed, both officials of Philips Bangladesh Limited, told The Daily Star that they boarded the tempo from Farm Gate area on their way back to Malibagh at 8 pm. When the vehicle arrived at Sonargaon crossing six muggers — one carrying a revolver and others brandishing razors and knives — asked them to hand over their valuables.

Then they were ordered to get down near the FDC where there were no street lights. The victims said the vehicle had no number plate.

IMF: Budget reaction

From page 1

It blamed the 'overly ambitious' revenue target, underestimation of the impact of reduced customs duties, lack of adjustment of petroleum prices and other SOE tariffs and 'strong expenditure pressure' for the 'higher-than-budgeted' overall deficit, which is close to six per cent of GDP.

Hicks said some measures (which include tax holiday extension, restructuring of import duty to protect domestic industry in the proposed budget undermine the medium-term objective of efficient revenue mobilisation. Referring to the 'lower-than-expected' revenue and 'sharply expanded' expenditure (including a major increase in ADP spending), he expressed concern that the broad money stock has recently been expanding at an annual rate of around 19 per cent.

Deficit financing from the banking system (including Bangladesh Bank) in the current

rent fiscal is estimated at close to Tk 40 billion, which is more than double the amount targeted in the official monetary programme, Hicks pointed out.

The large increase in ADP spending for the second consecutive year appeared 'excessive' in IMF's view against the backdrop of the government's resource constraints. It also questioned 'Whether such an increase can be channelled wholly into productive projects' and suggested curtailing low-priority ADP projects with high foreign exchange component, including projects financed by high-cost foreign suppliers' credit.

IMF also said the partial reversal of the overrun in current expenditure, as envisaged in the proposed budget, may be difficult to achieve with the continuing rapid increases in the government's domestic debt and deficit financing of SOEs.

The additional wage burden on the industrial SOEs expected from the recommendations of the Wage Commission could also significantly boost current spending, IMF said.

The budget proposal to issue Tk 18 billion bonds through nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) to cover up the bad debts of defunct SOEs, IMF said, further adds to the public debt burden without addressing the underlying causes of poor governance in the SOEs and NCBs.



Employees at the Department of Roads and Highways yesterday brought out a procession in the city to press their 5-point demand. —Star photo

Bodies of two young men recovered in city

By Staff Correspondent

Bodies of two young men were recovered in the city yesterday morning, police said.

The body of an unidentified young man was recovered from Ramna Park yesterday.

Ramna police recovered the body from near water pump in the park at about 6:30 am and said adding that there were marks of injury on both sides of his chest.

Police suspected the young man might have been a victim of torture by an unidentified gang. They, however, could not ascertain the reason behind the killing.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Ramna police station in this regard, but none was arrested in connection with the killing.

Uttara police recovered the body of an unidentified young man from a paddy field at Bhaturia, Uttara in the city at about 7:45 am yesterday. Hospital sources said there were marks of injury in the body. Police suspected that the victim was killed and dumped in the paddy field at least 3 to 4 days ago.

The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Govt plans to increase maternity leave, JS told

By Staff Correspondent

Education Minister ASHK Sadique told the parliament yesterday that the government plans to increase the maternity leave from 12 weeks to 16 weeks and a decision to this respect is likely very soon.

Responding to a call attention notice raised by Razia Matin Chowdhury, he said the Ministry of Establishment is examining the matter.

Sadique, who is in charge of the Establishment Ministry in parliament, further informed that discussion is now going on with other ministries to take a decision regarding the enhancement of maternity leave.

The minister said currently there is provision of 12 weeks maternity leave with salary (six weeks before and the rest after the birth of child). Bangladesh Breast Feeding Foundation has recommended to enhance the leave up to 16 weeks and this recommendation was submitted to the Women's Affairs Ministry, he added.

Replying to a question Sadique said he is optimistic about a positive decision in this respect very soon.

Three shot in city, Narayanganj

By Staff Correspondent

Three people were shot in separate incidents in the city and in Narayanganj yesterday.

A young businessman, identified as Delwar Hossain, 28, was called out of a house by his business partners in the early hours of yesterday and was shot in his chest and leg, said police and hospital sources.

He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later shifted to the Chest Disease Hospital at Mohakhali.

Delwar told hospital sources that a gang led by his business partners — Sohel and Mannan — called him out of his house at Ganderia under Sutrapur police station at about 3:00 am, shot him in his chest and leg and fled the scene.

Loadshedding continues

By Staff Correspondent

The city and its adjoining areas experienced 169 megawatt loadshedding yesterday due to shortage of power supply.

The Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) sources said the Power Development Board (PDB) allotted 860 megawatt power for the city and its adjoining areas against the requirement of 1029 megawatt. The PDB had first allotted 880 megawatt power for the DESA areas covering Dhaka, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Manikganj and Gazipur districts. Later it reduced the allocation by 20 megawatt in the afternoon, a source in DESA said.

The DESA maintained loadshedding in almost all areas of the city and its adjacent areas under its command.

3 killed, 30 hurt as bus-truck collide in Gaibandha

By Staff Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 21: Three people were killed and 30 others injured, seven of them critically, in a bus-truck collision at Matherhat on Dhaka-Rangpur highway in the early hours today, reports UNB.

The deceased were identified as Johirul Islam, 23 of Talukbari, Abdus Sattar, 55 of Sandarpara of the district and Ansar Ali, 35 of Shahjadpur.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when the Gaibandha-bound night coach from Dhaka collided with the truck coming from opposite direction at Matherhat, killing the three on the spot.

Of the injured 14 were admitted to Sadar Hospital, four shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital and the rest given first aid.

The truck fled the scene immediately after the accident. A case was filed with local police.

Most of its threats, especially deportation.

"I believe this is merely to mount pressure on the bidoon to force them to expose their real identity. It is doubtful whether the threats will work," one diplomat told AFP.

The bidoon have generally lived in Kuwait for several decades and claim they are deprived of Kuwaiti citizenship because of the government's failure to apply the nationality law correctly.

The government claims that the bidoon, who totalled 250,000 before the 1990 Iraqi invasion, crossed the borders into the emirate from neighbouring states, mainly Iraq, after the economic boom following the discovery of oil in the 1950s.

Those who comply will be granted a normal residence visa allowing them to live legally in Kuwait, while those who do not will be stripped of all civil rights and documentation such as a driver's licence.

Diplomats, however, doubted whether the government would be able to execute

most of its threats, especially deportation.

The remaining 75,000 whose claims for nationality have been ruled out must either produce their actual nationality or pledge in writing before June 27 that they will do so within one month, Subaai warned.

Those who comply will be granted a normal residence visa allowing them to live legally in Kuwait, while those who do not will be stripped of all civil rights and documentation such as a driver's licence.

Downing of plane by India World Court says it lacks jurisdiction over Pak claims

THE HAGUE, June 21: The World Court ruled today it has no jurisdiction over Pakistan's claims against India for downing a military aircraft last year, killing 16 people, reports AP.

The court reminded the two South Asian nations that they had agreed 28 years ago to solve their disputes by themselves, and said it had no legal right to intervene.

The judges reached their decision by a vote of 14-2. "The Court's lack of jurisdiction does not relieve States of their obligation to settle their disputes by peaceful means," said the ruling.

Pakistan claimed the Atlantic reconnaissance aircraft was shot down over its territory. India said the plane had intruded into its airspace over the western desert near the Arabian Sea.

The Aug 10 incident came a few weeks after a fierce 10-week border conflict in Kashmir, when war tensions between the two hostile neighbours were at a peak.

Pakistan claiming the navy aircraft was on a routine training flight no more than 90 miles east of Karachi when it was hit by air-to-air missiles. It crashed into the sand of

the remote desert, killing everyone on board.

India claimed the plane was on a spy mission over a sensitive military area, and its warplanes were justified in bringing it down.

Pakistan brought the suit to the court last September, but India challenged the court's jurisdiction. The court heard arguments over the juridical aspect in April, without addressing the responsibility for the incident.

Today's ruling said both sides had affirmed they would settle disputes bilaterally in the 1972 Simla Accord, which ended the third war the two countries had fought since they became independent from Britain in 1947.

Pakistan had sought the intervention of the court, formally known as the International Court of Justice, for an award of \$160 million damages from India and compensation for the families of the victims killed.

India argued against the court's adjudication, saying it had accepted the court's jurisdiction except in disputes involving other members of the old British Commonwealth.

Corruption case against 4

By Staff Correspondent

Bureau of Anti-corruption filed a case with Uttara police station accusing four people including three army officers yesterday of misappropriating about Tk one crore, police said.

SMM Akhter Hamid, an inspector of Bureau of Anti-corruption, filed the case accusing Brigadier (Retd) Ali Hasan, Lt Col Anwarul Zinnah, Major ABM Nasir Uddin and Rezaul Huq Chowdhury.

The four misappropriated 1500 metric tons of wheat worth Tk 99 lakh and 60 thousand allocated for a development project of Bangladesh National Cadet Corps. Hamid said in his complain.

Damaged DC-10 to be brought back today

Star Report

A DC-10-30 aircraft of the Bangladesh Biman which suffered damage to one of its wings on way to Dhaka from Dubai on Saturday would be brought back today without any passenger, Biman sources said.

The mishap resulted in change of the schedules of 12 international flights of Biman.

Engineers were sent by Biman to fix the wing and bring it back to Dhaka without any passenger as a precautionary measure.

10 hurt as train derails near Pubail station

By Staff Correspondent

GAZIPUR, June 21: A train derailed near Pubail station following removal of sleepers early today, injuring 10 people, including the driver and his assistant, reports UNB.

A number of trains halted at different stations with thousands of passengers as the accident disrupted rail communications on Dhaka-Chittagong-Sylhet routes for seven hours, witnesses and officials said.

Railway sources said the engine and two bogies of the Dhaka-bound local train from Mymensingh via Bhairab slipped off the tracks at about 3 am.

Train services on the route resumed at 10 am after a relief train came from Dhaka and salvaged the bogies and the engine.

The train narrowly escaped a fatal accident as it was running slowly at that time," one official said.

Workers of US factory at CEPZ stage sit-in

CHITTAGONG, June 21: Over 100 workers of a US company, 'Qualitex Group,' located at the local CEPZ today observed a six-hour sit-in in front of local press club in protest against authority's issuance of notices against them, reports UNB.

The company issued the notices on the workers, who have been observing strike from June 11, giving an ultimatum to join their duties by today (Wednesday).

Otherwise, the company warned of taking legal actions, including firing from the jobs, against the workers.

Hartal demanding release of Kajol

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, June 21: A dawn-to-dusk hartal was observed in Kaliganj, Kotchandpur and Mohehpur thanas of Jhenidah and Chowgachha thana of Jessore district today demanding release of Farooq Ahmed Kajol, chief of the so-called Syndicate Bank.

The Survey and Disbursement Committee which has taken responsibility to realise investors money from Kajol and other agents of the bank, enforced the hartal.

All modes of transports including long-route buses were off the roads and shops and educational institutions remained closed during the hartal. However, no untoward incident was reported from any of the four thanas.

Serajul Islam Seru, Chairman of Kotchandpur Municipality and convener of the committee told the local journalists this afternoon that they gave an ultimatum to the authorities concerned to release Kajol by tomorrow. Otherwise, he said, the committee would take next course of action.

The investors, who deposited crores of taka with the bank to earn quick capital gains, still hope that they would get back their money if Kajol was freed from the jail.

Arrested newsmen Calcutta police yet to confirm identity

By Staff Correspondent

The Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh in Calcutta could not provide any substantial document to Calcutta Police to figure out the identity of the Bangladeshi journalist who was arrested by default, sources said yesterday.

The Bangladesh mission officials also could not ascertain why the Calcutta Police are not releasing him if he was arrested by default as claimed by Bangladesh Police, which requested their counterpart in Calcutta to arrest three accused in a murder case. They also sent pictures of the accused.

The Calcutta Police arrested on June 15 a Bangladeshi journalist undergoing treatment there mistaken as Shaful, one of the three FIR listed accused in Ittefakur Rahman Shipu murder case. One of the accused is the son of a ruling party MP.

Some officials of Bangladesh Police claimed to have made an informal request to Calcutta Police to secure arrest.

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AL leader murdered in Meherpur

MEHERPUR, June 21: A local Awami League leader and headmaster of Ramnagar Primary School Amjad Hossain was hacked to death by terrorists at Bhabanipur in Gangai upazila this morning, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said Amjad Hossain, 50, AL general secretary of the Kaizipur union parishad, came under attack on way to Gangai at 9 am.

The terrorists, waylaid Hossain's motor cycle on Bhabanipur-Gangai road, indiscriminately hacked him with sharp weapon and left the place, leaving him dead.

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