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Sandwich Maker



Trawler with  
605 bags of  
rice looted  
in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 27: A big trawler with 605 bags of rice was looted from Skid Ghat by a group of miscreants on Monday night.

Police recovered the trawler from Sholmari under Digholla thana today.

According to police, the armed miscreants attacked the trawler belonging to a businessman of Barguna at midnight and took control of the trawler from its crew gunpoint.

They took the trawler to Sholmari river under Digholla thana and loaded the rice in another trawler which belongs to an accomplice of Ershad Shikder, said a source in Digholla thana.

Police could not recover the looted rice till 7 pm today despite a combing operation in all suspected areas of the city and the district.

The incident took place while a team of armed police of river outpost was on patrol duty there, witnesses said.

Mobs clash near  
polling station  
in Calcutta

CALCUTTA, June 27: Rival political groups today hurled home-made bombs at each other and police responded by firing in the air and used tear-gas to try to restore order in Calcutta, 48 hours after the city was rocked by a spate of explosions, reports Reuters.

Police said one person was injured during the clash, but political leaders said at least six people were hurt.

The incident occurred near a polling station in central Calcutta, where authorities ordered a revote after allegations of malpractices in the bitterly contested municipal elections on Sunday.

"We have arrested five people and seized 10 bombs. Maybe as many bombs were exploded by them," Deputy Commissioner of Police Nazrul Islam told Reuters.

Islam said today's violence was confined to one area, unlike Sunday's blasts in seven areas of the city.

Witnesses said trouble erupted when supporters of the ruling Communist Party of India (Marxist) clashed with members of the rival Trinamool Congress, a regional ally of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpeyi's Bharatiya Janata Party.

A spokesman of the Communist Party said one of its candidates for the local elections was injured by policemen who tried to disperse the crowd.

"They (police) singled out our party workers and seriously injured our candidate and two other local leaders. We condemn the police action," he said.

Indian woman  
remanded for  
seven days

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 27: The Indian woman who was arrested in the city yesterday was placed on seven days' remand today.

Taslim, 23, will be interrogated by a joint-interrogation cell in Dhaka during the remand.

Taslim will be taken to Dhaka tonight, police said.

She was arrested from near Chittagong Passport Office at Katalganj under Panchalish thana.

Indian Intelligence informed Bangladesh Intelligence that one Indian woman named Taslim was coming to Bangladesh through Benapole border to carry out some subversive activities including attempt on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's life. Such a news was also aired by BBC on May 11.

On receipt of the news, DB police became alert here. Special Branch of police arrested Taslim as her name and identity were similar to the Indian Intelligence report.

Taslim in her statement to police said she is daughter of one KK Ahmed of Kanu village of Kerala in India and was married to her, cousin Sirajuddin, a businessman of Chittagong, who brought her here on May 14. Sirajuddin's father Bashir Ahmed settled here during Pakistan period and is a citizen of Bangladesh, she said.

She went to passport office yesterday to extend her VISA which expired few days back, she said.

## Kibria may revise some tax proposals today

By Shahriar Karim

The other changes may include revision of taxes on some raw materials used in pharmaceutical industry, the sources said.

The changes are being made in view of demands by different trade and chamber bodies, the country may be divided into four zones to give recognition to top taxpayers of each zone as VIPs, the sources said. However, another source said, instead of dividing the country into four zones, top taxpayers of each division may be recognised as VIPs.

The Finance Minister in his budget speech on June 8 had proposed, among other things, 37.5 per cent duty on HDPE (film grade), 25 per cent on polymer ethylene (except film grade) and two per cent VAT at retail level on all locally manufactured goods.

In fiscal 1999-2000, more than 100 items and wholesale

trading of all products were brought under the VAT (value added tax) net.

As requested by different trade chamber bodies, the country may be divided into four zones to give recognition to top taxpayers of each zone as VIPs, the sources said. However, another source said, instead of dividing the country into four zones, top taxpayers of each division may be recognised as VIPs.

The Finance Minister in his budget speech declared that top taxpayers would be recognised as VIPs by the state and given some special facilities including invitation to different state functions.

Hearing of writ continues

### '13th amendment affects independence of judiciary'

Counsel of the writ petitioner challenging the 13th amendment to the Constitution senior Advocate M I Farooqi yesterday submitted his arguments saying that amendment affected the independence of the judiciary and dignity of the court, reports BSS.

Advocate Farooqi said that the 13th Amendment violated the people's right to choose their representative and that may face a political vengeance thus has damaged and jeopardised one of the basic structure of the Constitution.

He further argued that the preamble of the Constitution and the concept of the elected members of the legislature under constitution direct that the Republic would be run by elected representatives of the people as such there is no scope to create any non-representative government to rule the country.

The Bill on the 13th Amendment was passed on March 26, 1996 and the President assented to the bill without referring it to referendum. Referendum is required under Article 142(1A) of the Constitution, therefore the bill constituted by the President is clear violation of the mandate of the Constitution, Farooqi contended.

In support of his arguments,

### Mayor Gold Cup missing from CCC office

CHITTAGONG, June 27: The Mayor Gold Cup, weighing 25 grams, has been missing from the Chittagong City Corporation building, Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury said here today.

The mayor disclosed it at a post-budget press conference at the CCC building.

### Dacoity at Sayedabad : 4 arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits took away cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Tk. six lakh from a residence at Sayedabad on the city yesterday.

Police quoting the FIR said, a gang of dacoits entered the house of one Mostafa Kalam at 20, Sayedabad cutting grill of the house.

Four persons were arrested for their alleged involvement in the dacoity. Of them, one was arrested by Demra police and the rest by Shyampur police. Demra police said.

### One sentenced to death for murder in Ctg

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 27: One person was sentenced to death in a murder case here today. The court of four Additional Session's Judge awarded death sentence to Babul Kumar Banik of South Mekhila village under Hathazari thana in Chittagong for killing Satkari Bank of the same village on March 25, 1992.

According to the case, Babul stabbed Satkari following a dispute over construction of a house at the village.

### 9 to die for murder in Pirojpur

PIROJPUR, June 27: A court here today sentenced nine people to death for killing a couple six years ago, reports UNB.

The convicts are Abdul Latif, Mujibur Rahman, Abul Hasem, Altaf Hossain, Abdur Rahim, Motaleb, Abdur Rob Sardar, Abdul Khaleque, and Abdur Rob of village Fuljhuri in Motihari upazila.

According to the prosecution, they hurled bombs on Abul Hossain Sardar, 48, and his wife Ambia Begum on Care Road on July 14, 1994 when the couple was fleeing the village fearing attempt on their life following a land dispute.

Abul was killed in the bomb attack while Abul Hossain was chopped to death.

Their son, Anwar Hossain, escaped unhurt and later filed a case with the local thana.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Alhaj Muhammad Ainul Islam pronounced the judgement amid tight security.

Of the nine convicts Abdur Rob Sardar, Abdul Khaleque, Abdur Rob and Motaleb were tried in absentia.

### US towel factory workers call off hunger strike

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 27: The agitating workers of the three towel factories of the US company Qualitex Group called off their fast unto death programme at 8 pm today after SKOP leaders assured them of supporting their movement.

They began the hunger strike at 10 am yesterday demanding reinstatement of 15 workers and reopening of the mills.

Meanwhile, about 400 workers returned to their duties in those crisis-ridden factories and as a result, partial production resumed, CEPZ sources said.

Trouble began in those factories on June 11 after termination of 15 workers.

The workers staged sit-in in front of the factories demanding reinstatement their colleagues. Though trade unionism is banned in CEPZ.

## Young man, woman murdered in Demra

By Staff Correspondent

Two people were murdered in separate incident in the city's Demra area yesterday.

A young man was shot dead by unidentified men at Par Gandaria in Demra area in the early hours of yesterday.

The victim was identified as Mahbub, 25, son of Abdur Rob of 13/B Dayaganj in Demra.

Demra police found the bullet-ridden body of the victim on the road in front of a house at 14 Par Gandaria yesterday morning. They sent it to Mitford Hospital for autopsy. The body also bore marks of stab injury, police said.

Hospital sources quoting family members said Mahbub came out of his residence at about 11 pm on Monday saying that he would be with his relatives at Par Gandaria for the night.

Mahnuda Begum, mother of

the victim, filed a case with Demra police station accusing Aloke, Samar and six others of the area.

None was arrested in connection with the killing till filing of this report last night.

Body of an unidentified woman was found in front of Badhuwa community centre at Sayedabad in the city yesterday morning.

Police quoting the inquest report said there were marks in injury in different parts of the body.

Police recovered the body at about 10:30 am and sent to Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

Police said miscreants murdered the woman and threw the body in front of the community centre.

A case was filed in this regard.

### Pvt container terminal

## CCC Mayor gives alternative proposal

CHITTAGONG, June 27: The Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation has put forward an alternative proposal for building a private container terminal under a self-financed project of the CCC, reports UNB.

The CCC mayor also demanded government approval for six other self-financed development projects undertaken by the city corporation at a cost of more than Tk 2000 crore.

The projects include a modern tourist centre at Patenga, garments village at Hathazari and adjoining areas, a five-star hotel at Tiger Pass and a ring road in the port city.

"I don't suggest that the Royal Family should close down and shut up shop, but if people want a monarch of the new century they should have a palace of the new century, in line with the architecture you see around London," said Mowlam.

"I am not a great fan of the monarchy, even though I like Prince Charles and I like Princess Anne, and exchanges I have had with the queen have been very pleasant," she said.

"But in terms of constitution, I would support a change. The public aren't of a like mind yet, so it won't happen yet. But it will come. It will evolve. I think the Queen realises this."

Stevedores at Ctg Port threaten strike from today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 27: Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association (BMSA) has threatened to go on strike at Chittagong port from 8 pm tomorrow if the proposed bill in the budget for forcing stevedores to take licence from customs authorities is not withdrawn by 4 pm tomorrow.

BMSA took the decision in its emergency meeting yesterday, association sources said.

Munjur Alam, Chairman of BMSA, wrote a letter to the Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority to take steps for withdrawal of the bill.

The stevedores work under the port authority after taking licence from it. So, question of taking licence from customs authorities by the stevedores does not arise, BMSA said.

## UK minister asks royal family to quit palace

LONDON, June 27: A high-profile British Cabinet minister has called for the royal family to move out of Buckingham Palace into a more modern abode in an interview published today, reports AFP.

Cabinet Office Minister Mo Mowlam told the *Saga* magazine that she was also in favour of Britain changing its constitutional monarchy system of government.

"I don't suggest that the Royal Family should close down and shut up shop, but if people want a monarch of the new century they should have a palace of the new century, in line with the architecture you see around London," said Mowlam.

"I am not a great fan of the monarchy, even though I like Prince Charles and I like Princess Anne, and exchanges I have had with the queen have been very pleasant," she said.

"But in terms of constitution, I would support a change. The public aren't of a like mind yet, so it won't happen yet. But it will come. It will evolve. I think the Queen realises this."

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