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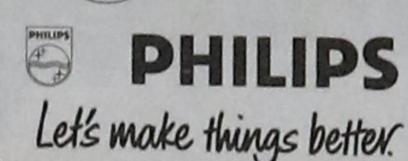
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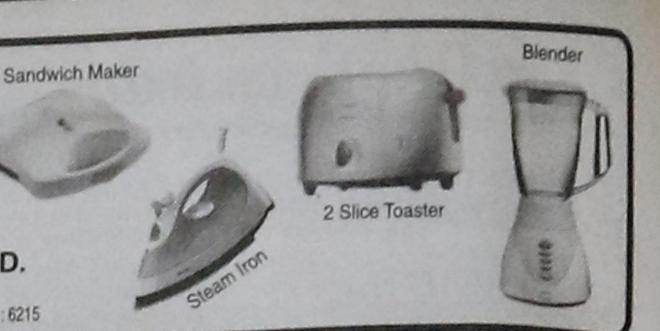
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Mango eating contest



A woman contestant to eat three kilograms of mangoes within three minutes yesterday during a mango eat ing contest in New Delhi India, which is the world's largest producer of mangoes and grows 1,100 varieties, is now faced with dwindling exports because of growing competition. - AFP photo

Khulna rally 20 hurt as AL factions clash

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, July 8: At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two factions of Awami League near Bangladesh Bank while the grand rally of the freedom fighters was in at the Circuit

House Maidan today. The clash began when supporters of ward commissioner Asaduzzaman Litu chanted provocative slogans against the Jubo League activists supported

Meanwhile, supporters of Whip Mostafa Rashidi Suja and State Minister Talukdar Abdul Khaleque chased each other at Picture Palace and Dakbunglow squares.

Police However managed to bring the tense situation under control.

Of the injured, two were admitted to Khulna Medical | thief Begum Zia." . College Hospital (KMCH)

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today did not respond to several demands of the people of Khulna during her 40-minute speech at the grand rally.

The demands included restoration of the lost glory of Khulna Newsprint Mills by granting running capital to restart full production works.

She however reiterated her government's pledge to start construction work of Rupsha Bridge by the end of this year or early next year.

BCL-Shibir clash Ctg Commercial Instt principal's office ransacked, 10 injured

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 8: At least 10 people were injured while the office of the principal was ransacked during a gunfight between Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Chhatra Shibir activists at the Government Commercial Institute at Bakalia today, police and witnesses said.

The injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and private clinics for treatment.

Police said the BCL and Shibir activists clashed for half an hour from 12 noon today to establish supremacy on the college campus. They traded gunfires. Three were hit

by bullets during the clash. At one stage BCL and Shibir activists ransacked the office of said. Police rushed to the spot and arrested five people. Additional police force were deployed on the campus.

Alleged dacoit beaten to death in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 8: An alleged dacoit was beaten to death by a mob in Muradpur

lice said. The victim was identified as Abul Kasem, 30. Kasem was caught red-handed a house at

area in the city last night, po-

Muradpur at 3 pm. The mob then took him out-

side the house and started Minister Mamata Banerjee won beating mercilessly. He died on by 6 votes with councillors of the spot, police said. Congress abstaining the polls.

184/A, Eastern Road, Lane # 2 Mohakhali, Dhaka Tel # 9884851, 603798

men or their relatives were ac-

the killing of Bushra Islam

Phool, a teenaged college girl

and daughter of a retired police

officer, at their residence at

Hajipara on July 2. Police and

the victim's relatives suspect

that a leader of the ruling par-

Jewel Majumder, son of an

The latest such incident was

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No headway in a number of

sensational murder cases

By Staff Correspondent

left the country, allegedly with

another ruling party MP, is also

accused in a double murder at

sain Jewel, 28 and Mohammad

Ali Rebel, 24 - were called out

of their house one after another

Pasha on May 5 and shot dead,

according to the FIR lodged with

Mohammadpur police. Kamal

the help of police.

Mohammadpur.

But the accused reportedly rested yet

Kamal Pasha, a relative of murder of three young men

Two brothers - Ashfaq Hos- tion, giving the victim's family

Baly Complex, Sector-3

Airport Road, Uttara, Dhaka

The case was transferred to

DB, but the only accused in the

murder case could not be ar-

near the Mahakhali police box

on April 5. Gulshan police filed

a murder case in this connec-

rate petition case with the CM

M's court Dhaka, accusing 11

people. Motahar Hossain, the

main accused in the case, re-

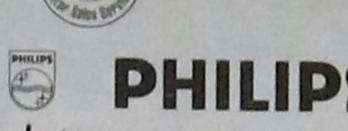
portedly enjoys blessings of an

influential ruling party leader.

The family later filed a sepa-

no scope to file case.

The DB could not make any headway in investigating the





Dust storm greets people coming in or going out of the capital on Gabtali Aminbazar stretch of the highway under renovation for long. - Star photo by Anisur Rahman

PM tells FFs at Khulna rally

ty's, city unit was linked with the within 15 minutes by Kamal

The Detective Branch of po- murder of cellular phone trader

lice so far failed to make any Iftekhar Ahmed Shipu at Baheadway in investigating a nani. The case was recently

Resist rajakars & their collaborators

Minister Sheikh Hasina today urged the freedom fighters to foil conspiracy of the anti-liberation forces, reports UNB.

"We will have to resist rajakars and their collaborators. You will have to remain alert about the conspiracies so the evil forces cannot capture power," she told freedom fighters at a freedom fighters-people grand rally at Circuit House Maidan here in the afternoon.

In a veiled attack on the BNP-led opposition alliance, the Prime Minister said the rajakars, autocrats and vote dacoits are plotting to oust the government by any means. The grand rally was organ-

ised by Bangladesh Muktijoddha Front in its move to mobilize the freedom fighters raising voice for establishing the spirit and values of Liberation War in every sphere of life.

Hasina urged the war veterans to foil all conspiracies and establish the spirit and values of Liberation War.

She said Golam Azam, who tressed freedom fighters. aided Pakistani occupation army in unleashing genocide, rape and torture, joined hands with autocrat Ershad and "vote-

from one platform because they all do not believe in independence of the country. They united against the values of liberation war and to protect the killers of Bangabandhu who have been sentenced to death.

About control of terrorism. the Prime Minister said the government had taken tough action against terrorism and terrorists of the southwestern region and they surrendered arms.

Peace is prevailing in this region for timely action of the government, she said and warned that the government would take stringent action if anyone tried to disturb peace. "Terrorists will not be

spared, the government is taking tough action them and will continue its effort for ensuring peace and security of public life," she said Prime Minister Hasina said a

special allocation of Tk 15 crore

had been kept in the current

budget for the welfare of dis-The present government has increased honorarium for the freedom fighters and at the same time given state honour to the national heroes.

Budget session likely to be prorogued in a couple of days

By Staff Correspondent The budget session of the parliament is likely to be prorogued in a couple of days.

The session resumes at 9.30 a.m. today after a two-day

The current session began on June 5. As planned earlier, it was to continue till the end of this month. But, it is being shortened as the planned business for the session is almost over and there is little chance of Opposition's return to the House, parliament sources said.

In the current session, the House passed the national budget for 1999-2000 financial year and a good number of bills including the controversial Zila Parishad Bill. Besides, some other bills including one on retention of women's reserved seats in parliament were introduced

On Friday, the BNP-led opposition parties completed one year of boycott of parliament sessions. The parties last attended a session on July 7 last year. Since then, they refrained from attending four consecutive

They however registered a token attendance in the House to avoid losing membership due See page 11 col 6

Baitul Mukarram hawkers' demand

By Staff Correspondent Hawkers doing business in Baitul Mukarram mosque area held a rally at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding allotment of the newly constructed small shops there to genuine' hawkers.

They said the Islamic Foundation has constructed 98 small shops there for hawkers, but those are being allotted to 'rich people.

The rally, organised jointly by the Baitul Mukarram Hawk ers' Welfare Association and other small traders' associations, was presided over by AKM Mizanur Rahman, said a press release.

Addressing the rally, General Secretary of the Welfare Association Nurul Hossain Moral alleged that although the authorities constructed the shops for hawkers, those were being allotted to rich people at the influence of a "gang of terrorists " led by one Hashem. He said the Islamic Foundation was doing irregularities in

allotting the shops. 10 hurt as BCL factions clash at SUST

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, July 8: Ten activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League were injured in a clash between two rival factions on the Shahjalal University cam-

pus this afternoon. Of them, four with serious stab wounds have been admitted to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

The authorities suspended all final examinations and semester examinations of different departments following the clash.

Additional police force has been deployed on the varsity campus and in all dormitories.

Today's clash was a sequel to previous rivalry between the two groups over collection of illegal tolls from the contractors engaged in construction work in the varsity.

Several gunshots were fired and crackers blasted during chase and counter chase between the two groups, sources

Dacoity at DGFI officer's house By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits took away gold ornaments and cash from the house of an army intelligence officer at Kakrail in the city early yesterday morning.

Police quoting the FIR said, a gang of dacoits entered the government quarters of AB Jafar Ahmed, an additional director in the office of the Director General of Forces Intelligence at about 4 am and looted Tk 25 busy with hundreds of fisher- tiative to build a decent hotel or thousand in cash and 25 totals of gold ornaments at gun point.

Jafar Ahmed filed a case with Ramna police but none was arrested in this connection till writing of this report last night.

reports: The low-lying areas in

The affected upazilas are:

water and rains.

hajadpur.

JCD calls hartal in dist today

dead, 50 injured at Cox's Bazar

injured in a gunfight between the activists of JCD and another organisation under the banner of 'Amara Muktijoddhar Santan' in the town today, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Begum Jan, 50, a maid. Police said the trouble

started at 4 pm while the activists of 'Amra Muktijoddhar Santan' swooped on the meeting place of Chhatra Dal, the student wing of opposition BNP, at Public Institute Hall (PIH). As the organisation of the

wards of freedom fighters announced to hold a meeting at the same venue, police and district administration earlier in the day had requested them to hold their meeting at Airport road instead of PIH

The activists of the group today gathered at Airport road in afternoon. Suddenly they attacked the JCD meeting, defying police barricades, and locked in a fierce clash.

and injuring 50, including 25 The maid was hit by bullets

crossfire while sitting nearby during the clash. Police also fired several gun shots and teargas shells to dis perse the warring groups.

Ali and ASI M Taslim were admitted to Sadar Hospital while

called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the district on Monday and protest meetings in every thana

Police patrols were reinforced

ties in awarding tender, it did

When fully equipped, 12 op-

erations could be performed

simultaneously at the complex.

overhead OT lights, anaesthesia

and diathermy machines, suck

ers, ventilator machine,

portable X-ray devices and

See page 11 col 7

not do that, the source said

to fend off further trouble. Both the groups traded gun-New DMCH OT complex

Tk 3 cr allocation for equipment lapses

Star report

An allocation of over Tk three complex but due to 'irregularicrore for procurement equipment and instruments for the newly built operation theatre (OT) complex at Dhaka Medical College Hospital has lapsed causing further delay in putting

the complex into operation. "It is a big blow to the plan for improvement of services at the hospital," said a senior doc-

Health and Family Welfare Minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim allocated the funds in May on an emergency basis. But the allocation lapsed as the funds were not utilised by the end of the just ended financial year,

sources concerned said. "All formalities for procurement of equipment and instruments were almost completed. However, as tender for procurement of those could not be floated by the end of last fiscal year, the allocation lapsed, making it difficult to get a fresh allocation," one source said.

Construction of the OT complex was completed in 1996. The five- storey complex was built under an Asian Development Bank funded project --Second ADB Assisted Health and Family Planning Project.

The ADB was also supposed to provide funds for procurement of necessary equipment and instruments for the OT

Gunfight leaves one

COX'S BAZAR, July 8: A shots during two-hour battle in woman was shot dead and 50 and around the hall till 6 pm including 25 policemen were killing Begum Jan on the spot in her chest and abdomen in

Of the injured, Police Inspector Pranab Kumar Roy, SI Asif

> JCD workers Sayem, Rahed and Rahim to Dulahazra Memorial Hospital with bullet Meanwhile, local people said the youths under the banner "Amra Muktijoddhar Santan"

are activists of Chhatra League, ruling party's student wing. Protesting the incident, JCD

tomorrow (Sunday).

Mokarram area under Motijheel police on Thursday succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital early vesterday morning. The victim was identified as

22 Cellular phone

sets, Tk 25000

looted from

city shop

By Staff Correspondent

lular phone sets from a shop at

Hatkhola under Sutrapur police

a shop at 137 Hatkhola and

took away 22 cellular phone

sets and Tk 2 5,000 at gun-

people entered the shop in guise

of customer and took away Tk

25,000 and 15 cellular phone

sets worth about Tk 3 lakh

Asif Ali, owner of the shop,

filed a case with Sutrapur po-

lice, but none was arrested till

filing of this report at about 11

Alleged mugger

beaten by mob

in city, dies

By Staff Correspondent

beaten by a mob at Baitul

The alleged mugger, who was

But Sutrapur police said two

point, witnesses said.

from the shop.

in the city yesterday afternoon.

Dacoits looted cash and Cel-

A gang of five dacoits entered

Selim, 26, and a resident of Goran under Sabujbagh thana in the city. Selim was admitted to the

Dhaka Medical College Hospital with assault injuries on Thursday. He succumbed to his injuries at about 4 am yesterday. The victim's wife, Rina,

filed a case with Motijhhel police

saying her husband was a ven-

dor and he used to ferry his

products in and around the

Baitul Mokarran area, police Selim was victimised because

he earlier refused to pay toll to some local miscreants, Rina The equipment needed include

Motifheel police said they are investigating the incident as victim's wife filed a case in this connection. None was arrested

in this regard, police added.

A potential tourist spot with panoramic view

By Morshed Ali Khan with Akhteruzzaman Bablu

SIRAJGANJ, July 8: The town protection embankment along the mighty Jamuna here has become a very popular

panoramic view and holds the potential to become a bustling tourist spot. A three-hour jourthe principal of institute, police | ney from the capital through the Bangabandhu Bridge on the Jamuna, Sirajganj has many other attractions for tourists round the year.

During winter, thousands of or elsewhere. Moving about in migratory birds flock on the

CALCUTTA, July 8: Trina-

mul Congress won the coveted

mayoral post of the prestigious

Calcutta Corporation defeating

the candidate of the ruling Left

noon, reports BSS.

Front in polls held this after-

namul Congress led by Railway

Subrata Mukherjee of Tri-

sandy shoals rising from the

compared to those in the capital

also brings joy to visitors.

The long and beautifully carved walkway is probably one of the most attractive features of the town. At night, the illuminated Bangabandhu Bridge,

Despite all these potential people who come here to relax and pass their time close to the colourful sail boats on the river nature.

Fresh areas in Sirajganj, Kurigram flooded

Fresh areas in Sirajganj and UNB adds: Flood situation Kurigram districts went under deteriorated in Kurigram today

According to sources, some Our Sirajganj Correspondent 37,000 people of char and other low-lying areas have been marooned and passing their days

> sources said, the river Dharla was flowing 12 cm above the danger mark at Ferryghat Point while Brahmaputra at Chilmari Point rose by 4 cm. But Teesta at Kownia receded by 23 cm and Dudkumar at

BANGLADESH AIRLINES Head Office, Balaka, Kurmitola, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh Request For Proposal (RFP) for Operating Lease/Lease Purchase/ Lease with Option to Purchase of Four

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Schedule containing detailed specifications and terms and conditions will be available in the office of GM Planning, Biman Head Office, Balaka, ZIA, Dhaka and Foreign Stations of Biman at New York (Fax-1212 808 4589) London (Fax-44020 7629 0736), Paris (Fax-331 4562 6704), Amsterdam (Fax-3120 625 7786), Singapore (Fax-65 221 9800), Bangkok (Fax-662 236 9973), Tokyo (Fax-813 3502 7921), Hong Kong (Fax-852 272 46284), Dubai (Fax-9714 278451) on all working days from 11 July 2000, free of

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Congress got 13 councilors. Mamata Banerjee described

Kanti Ganguly was the Left her party's win as victory in "semi-final" with final to take place next year in the Vidhan Sabha polls. In her instant reaction she said "our goal is next year's West Bengal Assembly polls and I hope today's result will be reflected there.

Anil Biswas, Secretary o CPI (M) West Bengal while admitting the defeat said such contest has been going on for long between Left Front and Congress. "This is a defeat, but not rout." Biswas stressed.

National Congress West Ben gal President Abul Barkat See page 11 col 6

By Staff Correspondent

water today due onrush of hill inundating fresh areas. waters and heavy rains.

five upazilas of the district went in great hardship. under water due to flash flood triggered by onrush of hill Water Development Board About 10000 people of some 1000 families have been seriously affected by flood as river Jamuna swelled further.

Kazipur, Sirajganj Sadar, Belkuchi, Chowhali and Sha-Noonkhawa by 7 cm See page 11 col 7

GD-652

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Jamuna, creating a spectacular scene. The river water during this dry season is clear and promenade for thousands of lo- many people travel to isolated shoals for picnic and a dip in cals and outsiders. The entire area offers a the water. During rainy season, the town's early morning fish market on the river bank gets There has never been any ini-

Front candidate

A launch anchored along the town protection embankment at Sirajganj.

men arriving to sell fresh catches on auction. The fresh water fish are much cheaper

Left Front defeated: Trinamul

captures mayoral post

The election for the 141

councillors of the corporation

was held on June 25 where Tri-

namul its electoral alliance

BJP and its independents with

blessings of BJP and Trinamul

Congress bagged 66, while Left

Front got 62. Indian National

breathtaking view.

several miles away, gives a the area remains neglected an eatery for the tourists. The existing facilities are grossly inadequate for hundreds of