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Sandwip tragedy 12 more bodies recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Twelve more bodies of the victims of Sandwip trawler capsizes were found yesterday along the coastline from Kumria to Mirersara.

With these, the number of death toll in trawler disaster in Sandwip Channel rose to 19.

The rescue operation is being carried out by Bangladesh Navy equipped with six gunships and speed boats.

Official sources said all the bodies were mutilated. Only one of the recovered bodies was identified as Abdur Rahman, 28, of village Murapur under Sandwip upazila.

The rescue teams are yet to trace the fishing trawler, FB Mahfuz. The trawler, with about 230 passenger on

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Bomb blast kills 10 in Gopalganj church: 3 suspects arrested

ABUL KALAM AZAD, from Baniarchar

At least 10 people were killed and 26 injured, six of them critically, when a powerful bomb exploded during prayer at a Catholic church at Baniarchar village under Muktadpur thana in Gopalganj district yesterday morning.

The dead were identified as Sumon Halder, 27, Miltu Mondal, 25, Manmat Sikder, 26, Jatin Biswas, 48, Binod Das, 35, Amar Biswas, 25, Michael Mallick, 25, Pitar Shah, 35, Roadaries Zitba, 17 and Sanjib, 25.

All the dead except Amar were residents of Baniarchar village, about 20 km from Gopalganj town and 25 km from Tungipara. The village is along the Goalonda-Gopalganj highway.

Seven persons died on the spot while Michael Mallick and Pitar Shah died while being taken to hospital. Sanjib died at Faridpur Medical College Hospital (FMCH). The bodies were sent to FMCH morgue for autopsy.

Of the injured, Mano Mistri, David Gain, Saraj Sarkar, Bhabasindhu Boidya, Suranjan Halder, Tomas Baroi, David Mohanta, Nittananda Boidya, Alladi Biswas, Sanjib Baroi, Samuel Baroi and Tushar Boiragi were admitted to the FMCH, Rajoir Thana Health Complex and in different local clinics. The

rest were released after treatment.

Police took into custody three suspects for interrogation. They are Milton Borai, Liton, both brothers and Robin Borai. They were taken to Muktadpur thana.

Witnesses said a powerful bomb wrapped in a black polythene bag exploded at about 7.50 am when the weekly Sunday Mass was going on. The bag was kept beside a bookshelf at the church.

The explosion damaged the roof made of CI sheet, and walls of the church.

"We were in weekly prayer. It was beyond my imagination that a powerful bomb was going to blow off," said Father Mimmo, an Italian priest.

He said, on Saturday night, he had seen a man going into the church carrying a bag. The man left with the bag after a while. When this correspondent asked why he did not check the bag, Father Mimmo said, "Many people come and visit the church every day. None can believe that somebody is carrying a bomb."

A villager whose residence is adjacent to the church said, "There was a big

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People crowd outside the Catholic Church at Baniarchar village under Muktadpur thana in Gopalganj where a powerful blast during the Sunday Mass killed at least 10 people and left 26 injured yesterday.

Khaleda demands judicial inquiry, punishment of culprits

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday demanded judicial inquiry into the incident of bomb blast at a church in Gopalganj and immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the culprits.

In a statement she expressed deep shock at the death of people in the Catholic Mission at Baniarchar in Muktadpur upazila of the district.

"Those who planted the bomb to kill people in a place of worship cannot be termed as human being, they are worst than beasts," she said, adding "whoever committed the crime, their motive is heinous."

Calling upon the people to launch a social movement against the bombers and killers, the BNP

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Announcement

Starting today *The Daily Star* will publish an 8-page A-3 size weekly *Star Lifestyle* magazine every Monday (see advertisement elsewhere on this page). This 4-colour magazine has been priced at Tk 3 only. Hence, *The Daily Star* of every Monday will be available for Tk 10 only.

INSIDE TODAY

Article 4

Great game or end game in Eurasia's heartland?
Column: Perspectives
Brig (Rtd) M Abdul Hafiz

Business 6-8

NBR detects fake treasury *challans*
Countdown begins to bond market crash in Japan
DSE, CSE price quotations

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
June 4		6.42 pm
June 5	5-11 am	

Prayer Timings

June 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-20
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-46	6-50
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Share scam: 2 Beximco cos move petition for HC stay

STAR REPORT

Two Beximco concerns yesterday moved a petition in the High Court seeking stay on an order by the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions' Judges' Court.

Beximco Pharmaceuticals and Shinepukur Holdings Limited moved the petition in the bench comprising Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury and

Justice Mohammad Abdur Razzak. The court on May 27 rejected discharge petitions filed by the two companies along with Doha Securities that have been accused of manipulating shares in the 1996 stock market scam.

Lawyers for the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) along

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9 army men killed as truck skids off road in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Nine army personnel and two civilian pedestrians were killed and five soldiers injured when an army truck in a convoy skidded off the Hathazari-Khagrachhari road and fell into a ditch at Charria yesterday afternoon, police and security sources said.

Four of the injured were flown to Dhaka by helicopter for treatment, the sources said.

Seven army men and the two civilians were killed on the spot as they were trapped in rainwater in the ditch, police said. The bodies were recovered by other soldiers in the convoy.

The convoy was carrying soldiers, who were on leave, from Khagrachhari to Chittagong cantonment. It was passing through the area at about 3 pm when the truck skidded off the rain-drenched slippery road.

The injured were rushed to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) at Chittagong cantonment, from where four of them were taken to Dhaka.

Hundreds of people thronged the spot after the tragic incident, creating a heart-rending scene, witnesses said.

The bodies of the victims will be sent to their homes after autopsy, the sources said.



Mourners wait with flowers outside the royal palace in Kathmandu yesterday to pay their last respect to the mass-creed Nepalese royal family.

Killing of royalty remains shrouded in mystery

Dipendra was shot in the back?

Nepal's new regent terms it a tragic 'accident'



Prince Gyanendra

AFP, AP, PTI, Kathmandu

Nepal's new regent tried yesterday to pass off the slaying of almost the entire royal family as a tragic "accident", while the country, rife with rumour and speculation, struggled to come to terms with the enormity of the event. The shocking attack has left this Himalayan kingdom with a new king - who allegedly was the gunman - clinging to life and raised questions about where the monarchy goes from here.

King Dipendra was pictured in royal attire on page one of the government newspaper, *The Rising Nepal*. In reality, the 29-year-old royal remains in critical condition in a hospital.

"The condition of King Dipendra is extremely critical," Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala told the state-run radio after visiting Dipendra and three. The report did not say whether Dipendra was still on life support, as reported on Saturday.

However, official sources on condition of anonymity maintained that 30-year-old Dipendra had received bullet wounds in his back.

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Nat'l Mourning Day today

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh will observe National Mourning day today to condole the tragic and untimely death of King Birendra Bir Bikram Shahdev, Queen Aishwarya and other members of the Nepalese royal family.

The national flag will fly at half-mast atop all government, semi-government and autonomous buildings throughout Bangladesh and also at Bangladesh missions abroad as a mark of deep respect to the departed souls of the members of the Nepalese royal family, an official announcement said yesterday.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited the Nepalese Embassy in Dhaka to express her profound shock at the massacre of Nepalese royal family.

The Prime Minister stayed for some time at the chancery and

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The royal trouble . . .

AP, Kathmandu

The killing of Nepal's royal family apparently had its roots in a problem familiar to many royal houses around the world: finding a suitable mate for the prince and keeping the line of succession intact.

Although there has been no official confirmation of the prince's intentions, local newspapers and the talk of the town has been that Dipendra wanted to wed Devyani Rana, the 20-something daughter of a Nepal Parliament member and former cabinet minister.

Queen Aiswarya is believed to have objected. She would have preferred an arranged marriage the type had by most Nepalese.

Rana's father had appropriate blood because he comes from the ruling-class Rana caste, but the young woman's mother was not, making Rana unsuitable by royal terms. Rana's mother was from India, and even though she was part



Devyani Rana

of the royal Gwalior family, that apparently wasn't enough.

King Birendra came from the Shah caste, as all Nepalese monarchs must, and royal Shahs are permitted only to marry other shahs or into the Rana caste.

The *Deshantar Weekly* here

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Chest Diseases Hospital in acute medicine shortage



Jahangir Hossain, a tuberculosis patient at the city's Chest Diseases Hospital, is being attended by his mother.

STAR REPORT

Most tuberculosis patients at the Chest Diseases Hospital have are forced to buy their own medicines, although they are supposed to get these free of cost from the hospital store. The reason, as the staff there says, is inadequate and inconsistent supply of drugs.

More than 11,000 patients sought treatment at the hospital, one of its kind in the country, but only a handful got the basic drugs they needed. In most cases, drugs had to be bought from outside.

Sources claim that sheer ignorance on the part of the authorities has led to the shortage of medicine at the hospital.

"They (authorities) simply need to write a letter to the World Health Organisation (WHO) seeking medical aid. The WHO is pledge-bound to supply whatever drugs needed at the hospital for tuberculosis control programme," said an official of the hospital. "However, they are surprisingly indifferent. People are dying everyday due to non-availability of medicines when a simple cheap antibiotic for TB could have saved them."

During a recent visit to the hospital in the city's Mohakhali area, this correspondent talked to a number of patients and their attendants.

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