

Bina's killers

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not be traced. "Several police teams are on manhunt in the city, while several left Dhaka in pursuit of him," he added. "We are also pressing his family members to track him down."

Meantime, security was tightened in the old part of the city. Seven police squads are now patrolling the areas round the clock.

The funeral of Bina took place yesterday afternoon on arrival of his wife Sharika Sarkar, son Sanjay and daughter Pinki from Darjeeling in India. He was cremated at the Postogola Crematorium.

Fifteen people, including two relatives of Ripon, arrested yesterday, have been placed on a three-day remand. Kotwali police produced them before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday seeking a seven-day remand.

The Detective Branch of Police in charge of investigation into the Bina murder case is interrogating the remanded persons.

Bina, commissioner of the ward No. 72, was shot and killed on Wednesday. He was also the

One gets life term for rape of a housewife

UNB, *Narail*

A court here has sentenced a man to life imprisonment in a rape case.

The court also fined the convict, Shaheb Ali, of Baladanga village of Lohagara upazila, Tk 10,000, in default, to suffer six more months in jail.

According to prosecution, Shaheb Ali raped a housewife at her house at Chakulia village on July 31, 2001.

Police charge-sheeted him after primary investigation.

After examining the records and witnesses District and Sessions Judge M Masder Hossain pronounced the judgement on Wednesday.

BDR nabs 15

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beaten after arrest, they claimed. Relatives of some of the arrested persons alleged that BDR personnel ransacked furniture at their houses during the raids.

BDR denied the allegations. Our Staff Correspondent adds: When contacted, the BDR headquarters at Pilkhana in Dhaka city said that the raid was a joint operation with the district police. "It is not correct that police were not informed. Police were with BDR men during the raids," an official said.

"BDR is conducting the operation as per instruction from the home ministry. May be, for security reasons, only certain police officials were informed about the raid beforehand."

Ctg WASA

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tions' although international tenders were invited on several occasions.

Chief Engineer of Chittagong WASA Abul Kashem said they can now meet only one-third of the city's demand for water.

He admitted that illegal connection is increasing due to non-availability of meters.

Chittagong WASA invited international tender twice in 2001 to procure eight thousand meters at a cost of Taka two crore. But bureaucratic tangles are delaying the procurement, sources said.

Flying to KSA

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ernment neither knows anything about such a condition nor does it care at all which airlines carry passengers.

State Minister Mohammad Qamrul Islam while talking to The Daily Star however denied the allegation of charging higher fare by Saudia. "It charges the actual fare and does not give any commission. That's why their ticket is costlier," he said.

"Other airlines give huge commissions on tickets and so, their fare is low," he observed.

None of the Saudi embassy officials could be contacted over telephone to comment on the allegation. The telephone operator at the embassy said that the acting ambassador was out of the country and that the visa counselor "did not talk to outsiders".

Later, this correspondent faxed a questionnaire to the embassy, but there was no response.

Mohamamd Faruque, general sales agent of Saudia in Bangladesh, categorically denied the allegation of monopoly business.

"It is not true because according to agreement, the national carriers of both the countries are supposed to carry equal number of passengers and Saudia is just doing that", he claimed.

president of ward No. 72 unit of the ruling BNP.

Sources said Bina was killed over his rivalry with Ripon, one of his rivals. The locals said Ripon was hankering after the post of president of the ward No. 72 after his failure to get the BNP nomination as commissioner in the just-concluded Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) polls.

"Ripon was desperate to win the post and got infuriated when he lost it to Bina on Tuesday," said a tea stall owner at Tanti Bazar.

A grocer said Bina's growing influence as commissioner made him rival of some influential persons in the area.

During a visit to Shankhari Bazar yesterday afternoon, this correspondent found shops and business establishments in the area open. The shops kept their shutters down after the incident. Still, the area is tension-gripped.

Some newly elected ward commissioners, particularly those accused in criminal cases are now on the run, sources said.

Ctg plunges into darkness for 3 hours

UNB, *Ctg*

The port city remained without power for over three hours yesterday following an explosion at Khulshi Grid Station.

The explosion occurred at 7:40am at circuit number-2 of the station. Power supply through circuit number-1 was also cut off due to the explosion.

Partial power supply, however, resumed at 11am when the circuit number-1 was made operation. But circuit number-2 could not be repaired till 10pm.

PDB sources said short circuit caused the explosion, snapping power supply to Patharghata substation.

An official of PDB said Gulshi Grid Station supplies 60 megawatts electricity in the city but they managed to supply only 25 megawatts from it after the incident.

Monk murder

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living in a heightened sense of insecurity.

The Awami League president complained of a conspiracy to divert public attention from the murder of Gyanjyoti through tarnishing his image and urged the people to remain alert about it. "This is being done to create a scope for the escape of the real killers," she told the strikers.

She observed that the non-communal image of the country was smeared following the killing of Gyanjyoti and a Hindu priest in Khagrachhari.

"People of this country believe in peace and harmony, they won't tolerate torture and criminal acts," she said assuring the Buddhist community that her party will remain with them and continue its struggle for ensuring a secure life for the people of all faiths.

Poet Shamsur Rahman, Buddhist leaders Dr Deenapati Bhikhu, Dr Bikiran Prasad Barua and leaders of various political and socio-cultural organisations addressed the gathering of protestors expressing solidarity with the Buddhists. Poet Shamsur Rahman broke their fast in presence of Sheikh Hasina.

Two arrested with arms at Cox's Bazar

BSS, *Cox's Bazar*

Police arrested two youths from a residential hotel here in the early hours of yesterday and recovered a light gun from their possession.

Acting on a tip off, police raided the hotel at about 3 am and arrested Ripon Barua, a former leader of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and Uttam Pal, an employee of the local pourasava.

During the raid police also recovered one VCD player and a computer.

Two cases were registered under Arms Act with Sadar police station.

Tremor

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epicentre of the quake was 163 kilometers off the port city.

An 18-second aftershock occurred at 1:52:17 when the measuring scale read 4.05 and yet another tremor was felt for 13 seconds at 2:17:32 with the intensity of 3.83 shown on the Richter Scale.

The epicentres of the second and third quakes were 152 kilometers and 113 kilometers respectively off Chittagong.

Two murders

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point-black.

The locals and relatives of the victim rushed him to Al-Helal Hospital. Later, he was shifted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died at about 8:45pm. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

The duty officer of Mirpur Police Station said last night that none went to the station to file a case.

In another incident, a rickshaw driver was stabbed to death at Kawan Bazaar, Tejgaon at around 1:45pm.

Mohammad Jahangir, 28, son of Bacchu Miah, was resident of Nahar Garden at Kazipara, Tejgaon.

Eyewitnesses said some criminals called him out of a restaurant and stabbed him at will.

The on-duty doctor at the DMCH declared Jahangir dead on arrival. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy. The reason of the killing could not be known immediately.

The duty officer of Tejgaon Police Station told The Daily Star that no case was filed, nor any arrested till writing of the report last night.

Nazrul

FROM PAGE 1
the birth anniversary of the national poet at national level.

Various socio-cultural and political organisations have taken up programmes on the occasion. The programmes include seminar, discussion and cultural function.

Awami League will place wreaths at the mazar of the national poet at 8 am today.

Dhaka University has also drawn up elaborate programmes on the occasion.

The day's programme will begin with placing of wreaths at the Poet's mazar at 6:30 am. DU teachers, officers, employees and students will place wreaths at the mazar on the Dhaka University campus.

Later, a discussion meeting will be held on the mazar premises with DU vice-chancellor Anwarullah Chowdhury in the chair.

Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television and private TV channels will air various programmes and national dailies will publish special articles on the occasion.

Playgrounds

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country boats to and from destinations in the metropolis, has almost disappeared now due to four decades of wrong policy of the city administration who filled up the canal to construct roads. The canal had its outlets to the Buriganga, Sitalakhya, Balu and Turag rivers.

Other important canals of the city forming the main drainage channel for central Dhaka included the Segunbagicha Khal extending from Shahbagh to the Jurain Khal, Begunburi Khal extending from Dhanmondi Lake to Trimohani via Rampura before emptying into the Balu river, Ibrahimpur Khal, Kathalbaggan-Rajbargh Khal, Gopibagh Khal etc. Together with other minor canals, these canals were the victims of either encroachment or acquisition by government for construction of roads, box culverts or underground drains. All these projects have totally frustrated the original purpose for digging these canals.

The dire straits that Buriganga is in at present puts the entire existence of Dhaka City in danger. A lot of rhetoric has been pronounced but no proper steps have yet been taken to save this dying river from the large-scale pollution by the industrial wastes from tanneries and other industries. Besides, continued and unrestrained encroachment makes matters worse for the river that is called the lifeline of Dhaka City.

1000 small organisations

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parliament and BNP chief khaleda Zia.

Those who supported the meeting were branded as BNP sympathisers and those opposing it as AL sympathisers.

The BNP-led coalition government formed a committee comprising six ministers, including a hardliner like Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General and Minister for Social Welfare Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahed, on November 28 last year. The committee is scheduled to meet on May 27 for the fifth time since its formation to chalk out an 'auspicious and timely' guideline for the functioning of '1700' registered NGOs in the country, which obtained about Tk 1,300 crore last year alone from foreign donors.

The NGOs in the forefront have come under strict scrutiny. Having blocked their clearance of funds, the NGO Bureau, under the Prime Minister's Office, launched a massive investigation involving at least four security agencies. In the process, it confiscated volumes of documents from Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha, International Voluntary Services Inc, PRIP TRUST, Centre for Development Services and PROSHIKA.

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) 'reopened' its files on persons heading these NGOs and also launched an inquiry into accounts of these organisations for the last six years. The NBR reportedly 'detected substantial tax evasion' by those heading the NGOs and is now hearing the cases.

Recently, an NGO was in trouble when its representative approached NGO Bureau officials for clearance of a project for raising awareness about HIV/AIDS and sex education. Based on national and international guidelines, the project proposal contained some illustrations about male and female sex organs. An official asked the NGO representative to withdraw the illustrations or face rejection of the project. His efforts to convince the official that the illustrations were given for

India may opt for 2-pronged attack should war erupts

AFP, *New Delhi*

India's numerically-larger military is likely to favour a two-pronged approach should war erupt with nuclear rival Pakistan over the disputed territory of Kashmir, military officials and experts said.

Opinion-makers, however, said that despite rising tensions there was still scope to avoid a conflict between the neighbours, who have put some one million troops on their border spanning the frozen heights of Siachen glacier to the searing Thar desert.

"And if all that fails, then war is inevitable in the next few days," warned C Raja Mohan, strategic affairs editor to The Hindu newspaper and an influential analyst.

With Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in Kashmir warning of a "decisive battle" to crush cross-border Islamic militancy, officials and experts said the question to be answered is "whether the forces will open a single front or more."

A defence ministry official, who asked not to be named, said India could use its 138-ship navy to enforce a tactical blockade of Pakistan in the Arabian Sea, thus strangling its fuel supplies.

"Indian ships are already there and are backed by submarines and surely they are not out there for fishing," he said, as an Indian destroyer, a frigate and three corvettes began steaming towards the

India gives Pakistan two months

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and Kashmir," the daily said.

Much would depend, it added, on whether state elections in Indian-administered Kashmir due late September/early October unfold peacefully.

"We hope that the first of all good sense prevails on both sides between India and Pakistan," Musharraf said when asked about the prospects of diplomatic efforts to succeed in defusing the tension between Pakistan and India in an interview with BBC World.

Moreover, he said, the United States is playing a role and "all that I would like to say is that we would like to cooperate, certainly, because we don't want war."

But, the President warned, "let war not be thrust on us, then we will defend."

A spokesman of Pakistan Navy in Islamabad said, Pakistan Navy is ready and fully prepared to counter any misadventure by the adversary and any such eventuality will be met with full force.

Pakistan's sea frontiers were under constant surveillance by the Navy, which was fully vigilant to safeguard the maritime frontiers of the motherland, if a threat to it develops, he said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has informed neighbouring countries of its plans to conduct missile tests between 25th and 28th this month, an official spokesman said in Islamabad yesterday.

"These are routine tests and are conducted as part of technical requirements," he stated.

He said Pakistan has also informed India of the prospective tests and has emphasised that these are "in no way related to the current situation" existing between the two countries.

The details of the tests to be conducted are to be intimated later, he added.

India and Pakistan have mobilised nearly a million troops along their borders after an attack on India's parliament last December, which New Delhi blamed on

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education purpose and that the contents were taken from the government-approved textbooks on sex education went in vain. The project paper had to be recast to get the bureau's approval.

Director General of the NGO Bureau Abul Kashem, who said he joined the bureau only three weeks ago, admitted having some backlog regarding fund clearance. He added that his office is now conducting separate investigations concerning the five NGOs.

"I have already instructed the investigators to expedite the investigations and as soon as we get the report, we will let them know it," Kashem said.

Launch disaster

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This was the first time a launch owner Nasiruddin-- was sent to jail for offences under the Inland shipping Ordinance 1976.

The court had issued warrants of arrest against all the five owners, but the rest four are yet to be nabbed.

At least 25 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured in an attack by JCD at Hatpara upazila headquarters yesterday.

A group of JCD activists equipped with sharp weapons swooped on the BCL men when a biennial conference of Hatpara BCL unit was going on at Hatpara College at noon.

Other analysts said the step would drain Islamabad's military of fuel, making it more difficult to redeploy troops from the Afghan border to Kashmir, where India could attack Islamic rebels camp.

C Uday Bhaskar, Deputy Director of the military-funded Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), said a naval blockade would be activated if conflict erupts.

"It will be standard operating procedure," he said.

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New Delhi argues that Islamabad, which conducted tit-for-tat nuclear tests in 1998, arms and trains militants in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir to launch attacks in India's zone of the disputed Himalayan region, where separatist violence has claimed more than 35,000 lives since 1989.

Pakistan denies the charge but gives moral and diplomatic support to what it calls the Kashmiris' struggle for self-rule.

Uday Bhaskar, who is also a naval commander, said since a conventional war was undesirable, India could resort to strikes on militant camps in Pakistan-administered Kashmir New Delhi's main "political objective".

India gives Pakistan two months

Pakistan-based militants fighting its rule in the Himalayan state of Kashmir.

Tensions have spiralled since an attack last week by Islamic militants on a bus and army camp near Jammu in southern Kashmir in which 35 people were killed, with India taking a number of military and political steps analysts believe are a prelude to war.

Among these is increased shelling of Pakistani positions along the frontier and the disputed Line of Control, the de facto border, according to another daily, the Times of India.

The Indian paper, quoting unnamed officials, said yesterday Indian soldiers had also begun "aggressive patrolling" along the frontier.

"The idea is to raise the costs to the terrorists crossing the Line of Control and to those who support them," the daily quoted one official as saying.

The fighting has triggered an exodus of people from border areas, with official estimates suggesting that 30,000 to 40,000 people have fled the latest barrage to camps across Kashmir.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and sending Islamic militants into Kashmir where it has battled a Muslim rebellion for the past 12 years. Pakistan says it only gives the Kashmiri guerrilla groups moral and political support.

Meanwhile, Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged mortar and small arms fire overnight across their border in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir for the eighth successive day, an army spokesman said yesterday.

Heavy Pakistani shelling was reported in the border areas of Poonch, Rajouri, Kathua and Samba, which continued all night, he said.

Reports of intermittent small arms fire were still coming in from these areas, he added.

One woman was killed and five injured when Pakistan opened "sudden and unprovoked firing" in

Naushin's family

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father's lap?" "If a child is not secure with her parents, who else has the security under this government?" she said pondering over the tragic death of the 2-year-old Naushin.

Referring to killings and lawlessness across the country, the Awami League president alleged that the government was sponsoring criminality by releasing criminals from jail and giving them nominations while innocent people were being victimised.

"The killers and criminals are being allowed to go scot-free, but the innocent victims are being harassed afresh by police Even the victims do not dare to seek justice lest further attacks should come down on them," she said.

Asked what would be her role being the shadow prime minister in this situation, Hasina said the concept of shadow prime minister functions in a genuine democracy.

"But is there any democracy or rule of law in this country? Do the people get results of their vote? What happened on October 17? People voted for us, but did they get the results?"

Being in the opposition, she said, they will conduct movement but want to leave it to the people to take their decision about this government.

Asked if she would seek resignation of the home minister, Hasina quipped, "What is the use? He (home minister) has left it to Almighty Allah. People are regularly being slain by criminals and the government escapes its responsibility by leaving it to Allah."

"What an incredible situation! The country cannot be run in such a situation," said the ex-PM.

Ahearing scene unfolded at house of Naushen when Sheikh Hasina arrived there at around 11:10 a.m. as her parents and relatives burst into tears.

Naushin's mother Assia Islam burst into wails embracing Sheikh Hasina. "Oh Allah, why it happened to me ... Naushin will never come back to me..."

Joint drive in city

FROM PAGE 1
place. Pintu, a leader of ruling BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), was gunned down in front of Dhaka College. In the other incident, Siddhartha Sarkar, a leader of Awami League's student front Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), was shot dead and four others were injured in a shoot-out in Badda.

In another incident on the same day, two BCL leaders were shot at Habibullah Bahar University College in a clash over formation of a new BCL unit at the college.

Commissioner Binoy Krishna Sarkar Bina of ward no. 72 was shot dead near his residence at Shama Patti in old part of the city. His associate Prodip was also bullet-hit in the abdomen.

Bina was the second ward commissioner killed since the April 25 election of Dhaka City Corporation. Earlier, BNP-backed commissioner of ward no.8 Saidur Rahman Neuton was gunned down in Dhanmondi on May 10. Both the commissioners had criminal records, police sources said.

On Wednesday, BNP-backed Jubo Dal activist Sohel, 30, was stabbed to death on the roof of a two storied building at Kellarmor in old part of the city. Police recovered the body of another youth -- Johnny -- from Mirajanager in Shyampur area on the same day.

Police recovered the body of an unidentified man from Adarshanagar in Badda on May 20.

The victims of the May 19 double-murder at Nazrul Islam Road in Mohammadpur were JCD leader Sagir Hossain and contractor Neaz Ahmed Khokon. They were killed in

WC lottery draw

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Wahidur Rahman, a 49-year-old service-holder from Tejknipara, Dhaka was the lucky winner of the second prize, an 8.5 CFT Toshiba refrigerator.

The third prize, a Toshiba semi-automatic washing machine, went to M Shafayat Alam from Pallabi, Mirpur while Mohammad Nasuruddin Tuhi, a student from Surya Sen Hall, Dhaka University won the fourth prize, a Toshiba rice cooker.

The fifth and final prize, a Toshiba dry iron, was won by a 20-year-old student from Sir AF Rahman Hall, Dhaka University, Mohammad Aminul Islam.

Five eminent guests, Professor Dr. Faisul Islam Faruki, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University, Rajshahi Medical College Hospital Director Brig Gen Nurul Islam, advocate Ekramur Rasul, president of the Rajshahi Bar Association, Professor Rafiqul Islam, the Student's Advisor of Rajshahi University and Rumi Hossain, Managing Director of Rangis Industries Limited picked out the lucky coupons.

Apart from the five prizes, thirteen special prizes, four Toshiba rice cookers and nine Toshiba electric irons were also distributed among the audience following a raffle draw.

Naushin's father Nazrul Islam, too, was weeping while her lone brother Sakib, a student of Standard III of Bangladesh International School, was stunned and grief-stricken at the loss of his only sister. Nawshin's relatives and neighbours were sobbing.

Sitting beside the wailing mother, Sheikh Hasina consoled her putting her arm around Naushin's mother.

Hasina stayed with the bereaved family for nearly an hour, listened to how the gunmen's bullet killed Naushen on that fateful day. She consoled them saying, "I know the pain of losing the dearest ones. Pray to Allah, your daughter would find a place in heaven."

Awami League leaders Zillur Rahman, Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, ASHK Sadique, Abdul Mannan, Ivy Rahman, Adv. Shahara Khatun, Adv. Qamrul Islam and student leaders were present.

Outside the house local Chhatra League workers brought out a spontaneous procession protesting the killing of Naushin and demanding arrest of the killers.

Buddha Purnima

FROM PAGE 1
welfare.

He said the contribution, the Buddhist community has been making for the country's socio-economic progress, is praiseworthy.

The Prime Minister, in her message, wished that the messages of the Great Buddha would encourage all across the world in establishing peace.

She said Gautam Buddha spread his messages of non-violence and harmony among the people.

Sheikh Hasina, in a separate message, said the ideology of Gautam Buddha was peace, harmony and welfare.

She hoped that his messages would inspire all of us to bring an end to injustice hatred and anarchy.