

Gunmen kill mill manager in Sutrapur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Gunmen shot and killed a steel re-rolling mill manager in the city's Sutrapur area yesterday.
Sohel, 27, son of late Mohammad Kamal Hossain of Begumganj Lane at Narinda, was gunned down on his way home at about 2.00pm at Sarat Gupta Das Lane.
Sources quoted witnesses as saying that an armed gang of three shot him in the chest and abdomen.
The on-duty doctor at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) declared Soheli dead on arrival.
Babul, the elder brother of the victim, said Soheli worked as manager at Swadesh Re-rolling Mill in Gazipur. Soheli was innocent, Babul said. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.
A case was filed with the Sutrapur Police Station. None could be arrested in connection with the killing, though.

Second link to Ctg planned

New route to serve as transit way

ANWARUL HAQ
The government plans to build a second highway or railway between Dhaka and Chittagong to speed up movement of passenger and cargo traffic between the two cities.
The proposed second route could also facilitate transportation as a transit to and from neighbouring countries and become part of the proposed Asian Highway that now intends to connect Dhaka to Bangkok.
Talking to The Daily Star, Minister for Communications Nazmul Huda said the government plans to build a new "high speed communication link between Dhaka and Chittagong. This could either be a second highway which would be an expressway or a railway for high speed train service."
He said the government is working on the details and

will conduct a feasibility study for the railway or the expressway.
Asked about financing of such a major project, the minister said it could be on the basis of BOT or BOO (Build Operate Transfer or Build Operate Own.)
International tender will be floated after a policy decision is taken in this regard, he said.
Sources mentioned that land for the second highway-- to be a two-lane toll paying expressway-- is already available beside the existing Dhaka-Chittagong highway. Between 100 and 140 feet of land exists on one or both sides of the present road.
If taken up on a BOT basis, experts said, the private investor or consortium of investors building the expressway would operate the new road for a period of 15 to 20 years and collect toll fixed mutually by the parties con
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Two Rajuk officials suspended

UNB, Dhaka
Two RAJUK officials have been suspended for their involvement in irregularities and harassing people.
They are S M Asaduzzaman, Authorised Officer of RAJUK and Fouzi Bin Farid, former Authorized Officer currently posted at the Public Works Department as Executive Engineer.
The suspension orders came into effect from June 4, said an official handout.
S M Asaduzzaman was suspended as per recommendations of an inquiry committee, which was formed following a report of NSI on surplus manpower and mismanagement in RAJUK.
Fouzi Bin Farid was suspended as per recommendations of an inquiry committee formed to investigate the irregularities in approving plans by the RAJUK, the handout said.



A fire-fighter sprays gas at a metal-plaque shop on flames at Mohakhali in the city yesterday. Triggered by an electric short-circuit, the fire left one person injured and goods in damage.

Reebok showroom robbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Robbers looted cash, goods and other valuables reportedly totalling over Tk. 4 lakh from a Reebok showroom from Elephant Road in the city's Dhanmondi area yesterday.

The incident came to light when some friends of former national cricketer Athar Ali Khan, the owner of the shop, were passing the area during their morning walk. They informed Athar immediately who rushed to the spot at about 7:30am and found the shutters and glass door of the shop broken.
According to Athar, the robbers stole cash, several expensive items including shoes and the stores music system.
He said an FIR was filed with the Ramna Police Station yesterday afternoon but the officer on duty said no complaints were filed in this regard till last night.

Two cases of robbery were reported in the city yesterday with robbers injuring two security personnel in one incident.

Sources said a gang of about ten robbers entered the courtyard of the house of Mohammad A Hamid, managing director of Bentrans at Road 1, Gulshan Circle 1 at about 12:30 am.

Two guards of the house, Nazrul Islam and Amir Hossain, were seriously injured by the robbers who looted valuable parts of three cars parked inside the courtyard. The condition of Amir Hossain was stated to be critical.

In another incident, a gang of robbers looted cash and gold ornaments from the residence of advocate Abdus Salam Sheikh at Dhalkanagar Lane in the city's Sutrapur area yesterday.
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Man chopped to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A young man was chopped to death near Sohagh Filling Station at Mohakhali in the city's Gulshan area last night.
The deceased was identified as Amir Hossain, 32. The incident took place at about 9:00pm yesterday but no other details were available immediately.
Amir was an employee of Reliance Medical Services.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
June 6		6-44 pm
June 7	5-10 am	

Prayer Timings		
June 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-48	6-52
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Bangladesh faces nuke fallout

FM for Indo-Pak force pullout

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT
Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan has said Bangladesh is 'now under the shadow of a nuclear war' and urged both India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and pull back their troops.
"In the prevailing situation, Bangladesh has become a frontline state. We are living under the looming shadow of nuclear fallout if a war breaks out. We are seriously concerned at the situation prevailing between the two countries. Chances are there that millions of people in the Subcontinent could perish within a few minutes in case



M Morshed Khan

of a war. It is a matter of utmost concern as one fifth of the world's population live in South Asia," Morshed Khan told a press briefing at the foreign office yesterday.
He went on, "Bangladesh is seriously concerned as it is situated in the neighbourhood of the two nations who have capabilities. We are very much within the range nuclear fallout."
The foreign minister however said Dhaka will not withdraw its diplomatic personnel from Delhi or Islamabad because bringing them home will not guarantee their safety in case of a war.
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Arsenic creeps into food chain

Impact on health still unknown

NAIMUL HAQ
About one fifth of the population in most of the arsenic affected areas in the country are at risk of consuming arsenic-contaminated rice, wheat and vegetables, researchers told the Daily Star yesterday.
But whether they are affected by consuming the arsenic-contaminated food is yet to be studied, they said.
However, there is a wide variety of crops in those areas which are safe, said the researchers who are working in this field in the country for over two years.
Long-time consumption of such foodstuff may damage the kidney,

liver, lungs, bladder and other major organs of the body.
The highest concentration of arsenic was found in arum, which was 150 mg per kg.
The level was 5.1 mg per kg in bean, 20.1 mg in gourd leaf, 93.3 mg in onion, 7.2 mg in tomato, 0.83 to 1.1 mg in papaya, 1.8 to 2.7 mg in cauliflower, 0.05 to 7.2 mg in cabbage, 1.9 to 4.5 mg in leafy vegetables like lal shakh and data shakh, 1 mg in wheat and 5.3 mg per kg of rice in the affected areas.
The maximum allowable limit of consumption of arsenic through food by a person is 0.2 mg per day.
However, the study showed that potato, bitter gourd, brinjal, snake

gourd (chichinga), gourd, Kakrol, ladies finger, palwal (potal), puishak, pumpkin, sweet potato, turmeric, ginger and green chilli are safe as presence of arsenic in them are insignificant and does not pose any threat.
These were found in a study titled "Arsenic in Groundwater of Bangladesh: Contamination in the Food Chain", jointly conducted by the Department of Soil, Water and Environment of Dhaka University and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO).
A total of 1000 samples of crops, cereals and vegetables, 1000 of soil
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Ovee returns home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Schoolboy Ovee who was missing since he left home for school on Monday returned home yesterday after a trip to Cox's Bazar, detective police confirmed.
Reports on the 'missing' of Enamul Hasan Ovee, 14, a student of class nine at Motijheel Government Boy's High School in the city, were carried by different national dailies yesterday. His father went to the Jatiya Press Club on Tuesday and appealed to journalists to help find out his son.
The authorities asked the Detective Branch (DB) of police to trace the boy. A DB team then contacted Tonmoy, a friend of Ovee and came to know that he went to Cox's Bazar. He took money from his family for the trip and discussed with Tonmoy how to go there. Tonmoy's uncle is a naval officer there.
When contacted last night, DC of DB AKM Mahufuzul Haq said the boy's father knew that he left home with the required money but he (father) concealed it.
"We are sure the boy has returned home" the DC said. He mentioned that the boy had also left home about a month ago.

Chetia case Court issues warrant against IO

COURT CORRESPONDENT
The First Assistant Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, yesterday issued a non-bailable warrant of arrest against the Investigation Officer (IO) of a case against ULFA leader Anup Chetia and two of his associates on charge of possessing a satellite telephone set.
Chetia and the two others, now in jail custody, were produced before the court yesterday.
The court fixed July 6 for next hearing of the case.
Judge Abu Syed Dilzar Hossain issued the warrant as the IO Sub-Inspector Mohammad Farid Ahmed, did not appear in the court to face cross-examination by the defence lawyers. He did not turn up on eight dates despite being summoned by the court.

Miners told superiors about coalmine crack!

ANWAR ALI, From Barapukuria
Barapukuria coalminers yesterday claimed to have informed the Chinese firm about a crack in the roof of the mine just 15 minutes before Monday's accident that left two workers killed.
Still in a daze, Abul Hossain, a worker who saw one of his colleague die in the roof collapse, said, "Only 15 minutes before the accident, we informed our Chinese supervisor of the crack in the roof of the newly blasted-out tunnel."
The Chinese authorities did not care about the complaint and asked the coalminers to mind their own work, Abul Hossain said.
"They (the two killed) were greasing the compressed air-driven drill machine. Within seconds, a huge rock of the roof crashed down upon them, and they died instantly," he added.
Asked, General Manager of the coalmine project Sirajul Islam told The Daily Star that he heard about the labourers' complaint. The complaint is being investigated, he said.
Sirajul Islam said, "It was an accident, which is common in such projects abroad too. According to

our primary investigation, Monday's accident was due to carelessness of the labourers."
The pace of work on the project has slowed down since the accident, he said.
Now, the coalminers want to go back to work, but the Petrobangla suspended the work after the accident.
Meanwhile, the Chinese construction authorities have promised a favourable environment in the mine to shore up confidence in the workers.
But Ataur, Manik, Rahman and several other labourers told this correspondent that they were in fear and did not decide whether they would join the work within a day or two.
Md. Sadequul Islam, assistant secretary of the Barapukuria Load and Unload Labourers Union said that at least 200 labourers affiliated with the union work on the project, but after the accident, all of them stopped working. "Considering all, we must join our work soon."
Managing Director of the project Golam Mustafa said, "For a proper investigation into the accident, we have suspended the work at the

tunnel-point where the accident took place...but the work in other tunnels is going on."
The managing director quoted the experts of the Chinese firm, CMC, as saying the work at the accident point can resume now, but we are waiting for completion of the investigation.
Asked about any new safety measures, the managing director said all possible security measures were already existing in the mine. "No security measure will work in case of accident," he said.
At least three committees were investigating the accident. The committee formed by the project management and headed by General Manager Sirajul Islam has already completed its investigation.
The committee formed by Petrobangla, headed by a senior general manager, is likely to start its investigation from today.
Meanwhile Petrobangla Chairman Syed Sajedul Karim visited the coalmine site yesterday.
The US\$ 227 million coalmine project was signed in February, SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Flash flood alarm rings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
Flash floods are likely in the north-eastern and south eastern districts during this month due to 'unusual rainfall', the Meteorological Department says.
The rainfall may be 10 to 15 percent above average.
The monsoon may spread all over the country by the 10th of the month and frequency of rain may be two to three times higher than normal, the Met office said.
The monsoon winds have already reached the Bay of Bengal and the country experienced heavy pre-monsoon showers.
The rainfall was above average in the past three months also. It was

49 per cent above average in March, 36 per cent in April and 22.4 per cent above average till mid-May.
An expert from the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre said there is possibility of flooding next month because of above average rainfall in the past few months. But it will be of medium intensity, he said seeking anonymity.
Some meteorologists however compared the present situation with that of 1998 when there was serious flooding preceded by above normal rainfall.
But everything will depend on the amount of rainfall during the monsoon and in the upstream of the country's major rivers like Ganges, SEE PAGE 11 COL 8



Members of the Nari Progoti Sangha line up in a human chain in front of the High Court yesterday, demanding an increase in the budgetary allocation to women.