

BSF kills 1 in C'nawabganj

BSS, Rajshahi

A Bangladeshi young man was shot dead by the members of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in the Mahananda river near frontier Char Dharampur village under Bholahat upazila in Chapainawabganj district on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Bazlur Rahman, 17, son of Abul Hossain, a resident of Char Dharampur village, BDR sources said.

The body of the victim is still missing, the sources added.

BDR sources said, Bazlu went to the BSF Muchiya camp and handed over a letter sent from Polladanga BOP regarding snatching of a Bangladeshi boat belonging to one Churni Mondal by BSF personnel on Wednesday morning.

A BSF patrol party fired on him while he was returning to the BOP camp by a country made boat at about 5.30 pm.

BDR personnel sent a protest letter to the BSF yesterday morning.



PHOTO: STAR

Two construction workers lie buried under rubbles of the collapsed building in the city's Maghbazar area yesterday.

DCC to build 9 steel-framed foot overbridges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is planning to construct nine steel-framed foot overbridges in the city at a cost of about Tk 10 crore.

The money for the project would come from the Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP). A notice, inviting tender has already been floated in this regard.

DCC sources said the steel-framed footbridges would be constructed at nine different locations, which include Firm Gate Police Box, Bangla Motor intersection and Mukti Swarani at Shanir Akhra.

The DCC has also decided in principal not to use the 'girder technology' any more to construct footbridges in the city. Engineers said the decision to abandon the 'girder system' was taken after heavy concrete girders fell off from an under construction bridge in March, killing two people.

Engineer Syed Kudrat Ullah of DUTP told The Daily Star that steel-framed over-bridges are light, removable and easy to maintain. He said that these bridges, if required, could be resold as scrap metal but with girders there would be no such option.

Sources in the DCC said the authorities are yet to decide the fate of the seven over-bridges in the city, construction of which was discontinued after the fatal accident. The half-completed structures are still standing at busy intersections of the city seriously threatening public safety.

BNP standing body meets today

BSS, Dhaka

A meeting of the BNP National Standing Committee will be held here at 7.30 PM today.

All members of the standing committee have been requested to attend the meeting on time.

Political parties term Badruddoza's exit harmful for democracy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition political parties denounced the BNP move compelling President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury to quit office, saying it is a 'dishonor' to highest office of the country and a 'bad precedent' for democracy.

Chairman of his faction of Jatiya Party HM Ershad said the BNP Parliamentary Party is not the proper forum to ask the president to resign. "It is totally unconstitutional. It is also immoral to take the decision in such away," the former president told the BBC.

He said the ruling BNP has created a bad precedent. "It can harm the growth of democracy."

In his reaction, president of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Manjurul Islam Khan said this move has not only harmed the dignity of the office of president, but also tarnished the image of the country. It might even lead the country to 'parliamentary autocracy,' he feared.

Media men assaulted by SSF at Bangabhaban entrance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several media men were injured as they were assaulted by police and SSF men at the entrance of Bangabhaban while they were covering the departure of outgoing president AQM Badruddoza from there yesterday evening.

Cameras and cell phones of some of them were damaged.

In another incident, some other media men were harassed and pushed out of the Speaker's chamber at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban by one of his staff.

Journalists representing national and foreign media had been waiting at the Bangabhaban gate amid drizzles in the evening.

When Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury came out of the Bangabhaban at around 6:30 pm, the media men tried to go near his car and approach him for his comment.

But police and members of the SSF (Special Security Force) pushed the journalists aside and

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Two criminals held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two criminals were arrested in the port city on Thursday night.

Kotwali thana police raided Bardopati area at about 8 pm and arrested Md Jasim Uddin, 28, and his accomplice Shafiq Azam Chowdhury alias Bahar, 30.

Police said Jasim Uddin, a listed criminal, was arrested in connection with three cases filed against him.

Israel to pursue reoccupation of WB towns

AFP, Jerusalem

The Israeli security cabinet decided at a meeting Friday to pursue its reoccupation of all the Palestinian self-rule towns on the West Bank, political sources said.

The security cabinet, at a three-hour meeting in Tel Aviv chaired by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said troops will remain inside the self-rule towns as long as it takes to put an end to Palestinian attacks, the sources said.

By midday Friday six out of eight West Bank self-rule towns were partly or entirely reoccupied by the Israeli army in retaliation for two Palestinian suicide bombings and a deadly attack on a Jewish settlement this week.

The only self-rule towns not to be occupied by Israeli troops on Friday were Hebron and the Jordan Valley city

of Jericho.

The security cabinet meeting was called by Sharon after a Palestinian gunman attacked the Jewish settlement of Itamar near the northern West Bank town of Nablus late Thursday, killing five Israelis, including a mother and three of her children.

The assailant was shot and killed by soldiers. Immediately after the attack, claimed by the secular Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Sharon met in Tel Aviv with Defence Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer and senior army and security officers to discuss retaliatory measures.

Hours later, Israeli tanks stormed into Nablus, pursuing a new policy of grabbing Palestinian land in retaliation for violence, while deadly clashes broke out in the

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School teacher, Krishak Dal leader shot dead in Jessore

UNB, Jessore

A school teacher and a Krishak Dal leader were shot dead by miscreants in separate incidents in Abhoynagar and Sharsha upazila on Thursday night.

Locals said a gang of armed miscreants called the school teacher, Harendranath, 50, out of his house at about 11pm and gunned him down at village Kalishakuli in Abhoynagar.

The killers dumped the body in a ditch from where police recovered it and sent to hospital morgue yesterday morning.

In another incident, miscreants abducted Liakat Ali, a leader of Jatiyatabadi Krishak Dal and shot him dead at village Balidaha in Sharsha upazila at the same time.

After recovering the body, police sent it to Jessore General Hospital for autopsy. The reason for the killing could not be known immediately.

Feni Jubo League activist abducted

UNB, Feni

A Jubo League activist was kidnapped from Kalipal Kaliganj on Feni-Sonagazi road on Thursday.

Locals said a gang of seven armed criminals abducted Humayun, 27, son of Abdul Haque of village Baishgharia in Sadar upazila, at about 9 pm.

The law enforcers raided several places but failed to trace Humayun, a painter by profession, till yesterday afternoon.

Fish trader murdered in Fatullah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A fish trader was murdered and his associate abducted by a gang of miscreants from Aliganj area under Fatullah police station yesterday morning.

Police and witnesses said fish trader Deen Islam and his associate Ripon came under attack when the two reached Baluaghat area to supply fish and ice to Aliganj Fisheries.

The hoodlums beat Deen Islam to death and abducted his associate, Ripon.

Police could not rescue Ripon till yesterday evening. They recovered the body of Deen Islam from Aliganj at about 8 am and arrested six people in connection with the incident.

The arrested people were identified as Jaz Mia, Mosharrif, Jamal, Sumon, Monzur and Mahtab.

Police could not unearth the reason behind the murder of Deen Islam till 7 pm yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury speaks at a press briefing at his Baridhara residence in the city yesterday on his resignation. Mahi B Chowdhury, his son and a ruling BNP MP, is also seen.

Germany prevail

REUTERS, Ulsan

Germany reached the World Cup semifinals with an entertaining 1-0 victory over the United States courtesy of Michael Ballack's first-half header and great goalkeeping by Oliver Khan.

Ballack rose to glance home a Christian Ziege free kick six minutes before halftime to send his country into the semifinals, or equivalent, for the 10th time in 15 tournaments, where they will play Spain or South Korea.

But they were pushed all the way on Friday by the underdog U.S. team, who showed no respect for the three-time winners and created some great chances of their own,

only to be foiled by Kahn. They played the more creative football and midfielder Landon Donovan lived up to coach Bruce Arena's description of him as oblivious to fear by twice breaking through the German defence.

First, after 17 minutes, the 21-year-old cut in from the right and fired in a sharp low shot that forced Kahn into a full length diving save.

After half an hour a defence-splitting pass by Claudio Reyna sent him through again but the giant Kahn was on hand once more to save well at the near post.

Eddie Lewis also had a shot beaten out but just as the Americans were starting to think they had a real chance of making their first semi-

finals since 1930, Ballack struck.

Despite the U.S. fielding three centre-backs, they had looked shaky against the high ball, and when Ziege curled in a tempting free kick from the right it was midfielder Ballack who rose highest to head past Brad Friedel.

Striker Miroslav Klose almost claimed his sixth of the tournament soon after when he connected with a deep Oliver Neuville cross but his header rebounded off a post.

The U.S. came out full of running after the break and were unlucky not to equalise within four minutes when German defender Torsten Frings handled on the line after Kahn had half-saved a Gregg

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Pollution down on rickshaw off-limits streets

MORSHED ALI KHAN

Vehicular pollution has reached a significant low on the city roads off-limits to rickshaws, say environmentalists and police officials.

The Traffic Department of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has so far declared half a dozen city thoroughfares off-limits to rickshaws. The roads are Panthapath, Tongi Diversion Road, Kakrail (Matsyabhaban Crossing), part of the Mirpur Road, part of the Gulistan Intersection, and the Inner Circular Road (near Rajmoni Isha Kha Hotel).

Traffic congestion has almost disappeared, giving the road users an easy and smooth ride.

Also, noise pollution on these roads has decreased significantly, as motorists no longer use horns frequently to warn rickshaws and other slow-moving vehicles.

Since there is no pressure of slow-moving vehicles and the motorists do not change gears frequently, toxic emission has been at a low, improving the quality of air in the areas, an environmentalist said.

According to an estimate, about 500,000 rickshaws are plying the city roads providing livelihood to thousands of youths.

Rickshaws are considered environment-friendly, but their overwhelming number results in traffic jam and pollution. They are also held responsible for slowing down fast-moving vehicles.

In the recent past, the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) implemented a Tk 5 crore project to segregate rickshaws by building separate lanes along the main thoroughfares. The project proved to be a complete failure as the then mayor failed to make the rickshaws use the lanes. The DCC allocated fresh funds for removal of the lanes in the face of widespread criticism.

The Traffic Department officials said that they are now trying to make all roads with bus routes off-limits to rickshaws.

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BNP squabble blamed for 10 deaths in 43 days

SHAIKH NAZRUL ISLAM

Rivalry among local leaders and activists of the ruling party and its fronts in different areas of the city has left at least 10 people killed and a dozen others injured in 40 days till June 18.

Those killed included two BNP-backed ward commissioners of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), four Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders and activists, three Jubo Dal leaders and activists and a BNP activist.

Besides, a female student of Bangladesh Engineering University and Technology (BUET) was killed in crossfire between two factions of the BNP-backed JCD on the campus on June 8.

Most of the killings took place due to rivalry among the party men after the recent DCC election. They resorted to violence for establishing domination over each other in different localities mainly for extortion and other matters involving money.

Saidur Rahman Newton, a ruling party-backed DCC ward commissioner from Mirpur area, was gunned down and two of his associ-

ates were wounded at Dhanmondi in the city on May 10.

Police suspected that feud over the DCC election and rivalry over 'control of business' in the area led to his murder.

JCD leader and former vice-president of Dhaka College unit of the organisation Pintu was shot dead by some youths on May 12 near the campus.

Sources said he was killed following rivalry in the organisation over 'control of the adjacent areas for 'illegal moneymaking'.

Another JCD leader, Sagir Hossain, and his friend Asaduzzaman Titu were gunned down at Nazrul Islam Road in Moahammadpur area on May 19. Sources said the killing followed a feud over 'control of the area for extortion and such other activities.'

Bino Krishna Sarkar, a BNP-

backed DCC ward commissioner from the old part of the city, was shot dead at Tanti Bazar on May 22. Police said he was killed following a dispute with some party men over 'grabbing of land.'

On the same day, Mohammad Sohail, an activist of Lalbagh unit of Jubo Dal, was stabbed to death on the roof of a building at Kellarmor in the area. The reason behind the killing was a feud with party workers, sources said.

Jubo Dal activist Mizanur Rahman was shot dead at Rampura in the city on May 30. The gunmen sprayed bullets on him twice in about half an hour to make sure he is dead. Dispute over 'control of the area was known to be reason behind the killing.

A local leader of the BNP was gunned down at North Prierbagh in

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