

SI killing

FROM PAGE 1
According to Bagerhat Police Superintendent Jashim Mondol, SI Altaf Hossain had gone to Khalishpur on Wednesday morning to arrest a notorious terrorist, Abdul Quddus.

After arresting Quddus, Altaf returned to Fakirhat thana in late afternoon. At about 7 pm, he went to a tea stall at Chulkathi bazar to have tea. Four unidentified young men wearing lungi fired four shots on his head and chest from close range, killing him on the spot. The killers escaped in two motor cycles, the SP said.

According to local political leaders and the chairmen of Fakirhat union parishad, SI Altaf was a terror to terrorists as he led all the operations against them since joining Chulkathi police camp on July 26 last year.

The killers followed the police team to snatch Quddus while he was being taken to Fakirhat thana from Khalishpur. As the snatching bid failed, SI Altaf was murdered, said a high official of Bagerhat district police.

The murder of a police officer by terrorists has created a sensation and panic among people in Bagerhat district. Several hundred men and women brought out a procession at Bagerhat town yesterday protesting rise in murders and other terrorist acts.

The body of SI Altaf Hossain has been sent to his village home at Arhpara in Jhenaidah for burial. A case has been recorded with Fakirhat thana with OC as the complainant.

None could be arrested yet in connection with the murder.

It may be mentioned that on July 3, three persons including local BNP leader Aslad Hossain were gunned down at Gouramba union in Rampal upazila.

On July 4, Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal (labour front of ruling BNP) activist Lavlu Sheikh was stabbed to death at Bagerhat town. On June

NCBs reduce

FROM PAGE 1
central bank met the NCBs on Wednesday and instructed them to curtail the margin.

Monjurul Huq, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Exporters & Manufacturers Exporters (BKMEA), in a statement, lauded the decision and added that it is a welcome move for the exporters.

More deaths in Kashmir

FROM PAGE 12
valley, the scene of the most intense fighting since separatist rebels took up arms in 1989.

He said most of the missing are youths "believed to have been either lured to join terrorist outfits operating in the state or gone across to Pakistan for arms training," he said.

Human rights groups, however, charge that most of the people went missing after being taken into official custody.

Soharwardhy dismissed the allegations, saying security forces have been "directed to ensure the safety" of everyone detained or questioned.

He said the state's human rights commission has also been making surprise visits to jails and interrogation centers to inspect conditions.

India accuses Pakistan of funding and arming Muslim militants in Kashmir. Islamabad denies the charge, but says it gives moral and political support to what it calls an indigenous struggle for self-determination.

The nuclear-armed countries have massed more than one million troops on their common borders since a December attack on the

Indian president

FROM PAGE 12
Though Sharma refused to divulge who had made the death threats, newspaper reports said the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahedin, two of the many Muslim guerrilla groups battling New Delhi's rule in Indian-administered Kashmir, were the main suspects.

Kalam is seen as a politically correct choice as he belongs to the minority Muslim community. The ruling BJP's reputation was badly scarred by anti-Muslim violence this year in the western state of Gujarat, the largest state controlled by the party.

India's communists, who nominated Saghal, had accused Kalam of not speaking out loudly enough against the riots in Gujarat, which have left more than 1,000 people dead.

Saghal is a veteran freedom fighter, having raised a women's battalion for the Indian National Army in Singapore which fought against British colonial rulers in the 1940s.

She was one of the first to congratulate Kalam on his victory.

"I congratulate Dr Abdul Kalam on his election to the post of president and convey my best wishes to him," she said in a statement.

Kalam, who began his career

24, local BNP leader and Chairman of Morelganj Union Parishad Abdur Rashid Khan was shot dead by terrorists. In April, BNP leader MA Awal of Bagerhat was gunned down by armed cadres of PBCP.

Haroon Habib terminated

UNB, Dhaka

The management of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) has terminated Haroon Habib from his job of senior special correspondent of the official news agency.

In a letter, new managing director of BSS Amanullah Kabir informed Habib that he has been dismissed since he failed to join his original position of Special Correspondent after his contractual service as the agency's chief editor and managing director was scrapped by the government.

Haroon Habib said the letter, sent by post, was signed on July 11, 2002, but it said the termination would be effective from December 31, 2001.

A columnist, writer and freedom fighter, Habib expressed his surprise over the termination order and called it "ridiculous and illegal."

Harob Habib said he who filed a writ petition in the High Court demanding that he should be allowed to join his original position as Special Correspondent after termination of the contract he had signed with the previous government for a two-year term.

Haroon Habib was appointed by the previous Awami League government to head the BSS keeping his original position of special correspondent in lien for two years. He was removed by the outgoing caretaker government of Justice Latifur Rahman. Later, the new government terminated his contract and placed his services under the Ministry of Information in violation of the terms and conditions of his contractual responsibility.

Haroon Habib filed a writ challenging the violation of the contract and claiming that the government has no legal standing to place his job under a ministry. The High Court issued rule nisi upon the government and asked it to explain why the notification would not be declared illegal. The matter is still pending with the court.

UPDF activists abduct 2 jeep drivers in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Two jeep drivers were abducted allegedly by the activists of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) from Tarabunia under Kawkhali police station of the district yesterday.

Police said some armed activists of UPDF stopped the jeeps near Tarabunia bridge at about 8 in the morning and abducted jeep drivers Abdus Sattar, 26, and Nona Mia, 27, at gunpoint.

The jeeps were carrying passengers to Kawkhali from Rangamati district headquarters.

The UPDF activists have long been demanding illegal tolls from the drivers of all transports that ply the way, police added.

Kidnapping 4 DU students expelled

BSS, Dhaka

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday temporarily expelled four students for their alleged involvement in abduction of two youngsters for ransom.

Meanwhile the university authorities have formed a two-member committee to investigate the incident, a DU press release said.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury asked the committee to submit report within three days.

The expelled students are Masudul Hoque, a second year student of Physics Department, Ashrafur Alam Azad, a second year student of Statistics Department, Sabbir Hasan, a third year student of Physics Department and Tajul Islam, a third year student of Pharmacy Department.

One gets life term for killing school teacher in B'baria

UNB, Brahmanbaria

A court here yesterday convicted a man in absentia and sentenced him to life term imprisonment for killing a female school teacher.

The convict Humayun Kabir of Rudrakhbari village was also fined Tk 50,000, or in default, is to suffer two more years of rigorous imprisonment.

According to the prosecution, Humayun stabbed Shilpi Akhter, teacher of Natghar Rishipara Swalpalbayee Community School in Nabinagar upazila, on her way to school on March 27, 2000. She later died at Sadar Hospital.

5 listed criminals held with arms in Ctg

BSS, Ctg

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested five listed criminals in separate raids in the early hours of yesterday, a CMP press release said.

Acting on a tip off, Bakalia police raided Sona Sawdagar building at Chaktai Amin Hajee road at 3:00 am and nabbed Abdullah, 35, Parimal Das, 35, Basu Das 22, and Suhag, 25.

Police also recovered one country-made gun, one sawed-off rifle and 30, succumbed to his injuries.

A case was filed in connection with the incident.

Three separate cases have been registered with the respective police stations.

50,000 more

FROM PAGE 1
listed as prospective tax payers.

To yield better results, joint and additional tax commissioners were given the responsibility to co-ordinate the survey. Previously, income tax inspectors used to carry out search for new tax payers.

According to sources, there are around 12.50 lakh income tax payers in the country. To up the number, the NBR would conduct another survey soon. "Currently, less than one per cent of the total population are under the income tax net and we are trying to double the number," an NBR official said.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman while addressing a meeting of the NBR high officials recently asked them to increase the number of income tax payers by at least three lakhs.

He also asked them to increase the total revenue earning by a minimum of 25 per cent during the current fiscal.

The government has fixed a Tk 4,988 crore income tax target for the current fiscal. The amount is around 21 per cent higher than the previous years' Tk 4,100 crore.

Last year, income tax collection faced a shortfall of around Tk 217 crore.

Community participation

FROM PAGE 1
approach of strategy' to save the city's deteriorating environmental status for making the city livable.

City Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka in his speech said the DCC would form a citizen's group comprising experts, leaders, people's representatives and the officials concerned of different departments.

He also proposed to formulate a co-ordination body to avoid adopting unplanned policy of different government departments, adding that DCC couldn't do much to save the city without the help from city dwellers.

"The prime minister will soon convene a meeting with all service organisations to discuss and chalk out a way to solve the problem of lack of co-ordination," the city mayorsaid.

Environment Secretary Sabihuddin Ahmed said a committee has been formed to identify and demarcate all the designated flood flow zones in and around the city, and added that canals must be excavated.

"I think we can start waste management in about 15 places of the city by setting up transfer stations immediately," Ahmed said.

Vice Chancellor of BUET Nooruddin Ahmed said environ-

mental hazards would be reduced drastically if the government could stop the filling up of the lowlands in and around the city.

"The DCC should take immediate measures to check the open public nuisance," he suggested.

Vice Chancellor of BRAC University Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury said enacting necessary laws is not the ultimate solution for protecting the city's environment, but that decentralised planning and policy could yield a better result in this regard.

He proposed to set up open billboards bearing environmental laws in every ward commission of DCC for public information.

"Construction of box culverts is not the proper solution to the drainage problem, and the WASA and other bodies of the government should stop this process immediately," he said.

The Country Director of IUCN Professor Ainun Nishat said planning should be done taking into consideration its implications for up to 20 years in the future.

Engineer Kazi Mohammad Sheesh said the Hazaribagh tanneries are causing enormous environmental and human damages in the city.

Libraries in political web

FROM PAGE 1
Osman, Hassan Azizul Huq, Dr. Anisuzzaman and Humayun Azad.

At least 20 books were authored by the committee members, their wives and close associates.

Sources said the committee selected most of the books written by people affiliated with the BNP — many of them are bureaucrats and former army officers.

At least eight books by two ministers such as Law Minister Barrister Maudud Ahmed and State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Huq Milon were included in the list.

Two books written by immediate past president Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, one each by Khaleda, Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain and Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, MP of the Jamaat-e-Islami, and two by Jute Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed, were also enlisted.

The list includes a book titled "Muktijuddho: Bangladesh Ziaur Rahman" priced at as much as Tk 4,000, written and edited by a

cartoonist named Iqbal Hossain Sanu. Readers say the book is nothing but a compilation of pictures and documents.

Education Minister Dr Osman Farook headed the committee, with the state minister for education, Education Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Alam, Director General of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education and book specialists on it.

Prof. Emajuddin said the books were selected, considering many aspects.

He said the past Awami League (AL) government had blacklisted many books and enlisted those based on its own ideals, so the present committee gave priority to the blacklisted ones.

During its five-year rule, the AL selected only two books on late Ziaur Rahman for its project, Emajuddin said. The committee at the time "looted" funds of the project, he alleged.

"The selection of books is political or semi-political," he told The Daily Star.

Lost in red thick

FROM PAGE 1
the opposition or wants to repress them through the BAC. On the other hand, 47 per cent think that the bureau cannot remain neutral.

The delay in obtaining permission from higher authorities to conduct inquiry also hampers the BAC activities, leaving 77 per cent of graft cases stuck, a TIB survey report says.

Due to delay in getting permission from the PMO for filing case, evidence is "often ruined" for which action cannot be taken against corruption.

A BAC evaluation report, submitted to the PMO in the first week of July last year, concludes that political interference and a lack of political will has turned it into a crippled institution.

Against this backdrop, the civil society has long been vocal for establishment of an independent anti-corruption commission.

Establishment of such a commission was also on the election

manifesto of the two major two parties — the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the main opposition Awami League (AL).

In the wake of rampant corruption that placed the country atop the list of corrupt nations last year, an independent anti-corruption commission has become imperative, civil society members feel.

Any such commission has to be preceded by a law enacted by the Jatiya Sangsad. However, the government has not made any meaningful effort in this regard, according to sources.

The TIB, meanwhile, is now preparing a draft bill for an independent anti-corruption commission based on a structure it proposed in December last year.

The TIB hopes to finalise the bill in next two months and will then submit it to the government and also to the parliament members for their consideration.

The TIB has had a series of

Kazi Golam Hafiz, Rajuk's Town Planner said the rivers, canals and wetlands around the city must be kept free of any encroachments. He said these waterways must be dredged regularly.

Dr Toufiq M Seraj, President of REHAB emphasised the need for better co-ordination among the service providers and to follow the Master Plan of the city.

AH Mohammad Maqsood Sinha of Waste Concern said the waste could be gainfully utilised as resource.

He emphasised the need for private-public and community based partnership for better management of the city waste.

Dr. Azharul Haque, Managing Director of Dhaka WASA said service providers should be more responsible towards their customers to keep the city clean and livable.

Director of Department of Environment Mohammad Reazuddin said the zone-based composting plan could solve the city's severe waste management problems.

The programme was jointly moderated by Mahtuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star and Dr. Nizam Uddin Ahmed of BUET.

Emajuddin said the committee has already brought some changes to the book list.

Asked about the selection of as many as eight books by himself, he said, "Two of his books have already been dropped from the list."

The committee selected eight types of biography of Ziaur Rahman.

Subjects of many books are the same and overlapping. The books are titled Janotar Zia, Chhotoder Priyo Zia, Cheerajibi Zia, Rhidoyjura Zia, Deshnayek Shaheed Zia, Sangathak Zia, Smitrite Zia, Chhotomonider Zia etc.

Books on Khaleda include "Deshonetri Khaleda Zia", "Nandito Netri Khaleda Zia" etc.

In the past, the AL had also enlisted books for libraries on political considerations.

During its past rule, the AL selected as many as 34 books on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, seven on AL President Sheikh Hasina, and 13 were written by pro-Awami League intellectuals.

Education reforms

FROM PAGE 1
academics, bureaucrats, chairmen of education boards, representatives of teachers' associations and teachers of prominent schools and colleges.

Professor Bari briefly explained the recommendations of the final report to the prime minister.

The report and recommendations for reforms in such a vital sector were prepared after discussions and review of reports and recommendations of seven sub-committees.

The sub-committees are: Primary Education Affairs, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Affairs, College Education Affairs, University Education and Research Affairs, Science, Vocational and Technical, and Information Communications Technology Affairs, Higher Education of Professional Affairs, and Improving Standard of Education Affairs.

Thanking all members of the committee for preparing the reform report and recommendations, the prime minister said the next step would be taken after examining the recommendations properly.

Underscoring the high standard of education, Khaleda said eligibility and competence should be the yardsticks for appointing teachers to educational institutions.

She informed the delegation that instructions had already been given for recruiting teachers to educational institutions having shortage of teachers.

JCD rampage at CMC

FROM PAGE 1
yesterday, all were panicked there. The situation at the hospital had returned to normalcy on Wednesday.

The siege was however lifted and locks were opened at around noon after a tripartite meeting among the JCD activists, police officials and college authorities.

"The situation again became tense today due to the fresh trouble with enforcement of a shutdown at the CMC" an official of the hospital told this correspondent requesting anonymity.

Four JCD leaders including the general secretary of its CMC unit were arrested from a shop near the college campus on Wednesday when they went there allegedly to collect illegal tolls. They are now in jail custody, sources said.

Later in the evening, police also raided the college hostels and arrested an outsider. No arms could be recovered.

Police also searched the residence of JCD's CMC unit president Rashedunnabi Biplab in the early hours yesterday.

Biplab was not at the residence as he left for Dhaka on Wednesday night to meet a minister from Chittagong.

JCD leaders at a press conference on Wednesday denied the charge of illegal toll collection by the four leaders.

They claimed that police arrested the four leaders when they went to the shop to collect advertisement for a souvenir to be published soon on the occasion of convocation of local JCD.

But sources claimed that they attempted to collect illegal toll from the shop.

At the press conference, JCD activists had said that their leaders were arrested because of conflicts

"The task of teachers would be to teach cordially and sincerely while of students to study attentively and diligently," the prime minister said.

Other members of the delegation were State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haq Milon, Deputy Minister for Education Abdus Salam Pintu, Prime Minister's Advisor for Primary and Mass Education Prof Jahana Begum, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, ex-DU VC Prof Emajuddin Ahmed and member-secretary of the expert committee Mohammad Abdul Wahab.

Three robbers arrested in city

BSS, Dhaka

Dhanmondi police yesterday nabbed three alleged robbers from a house opposite Dhaka College at Mirpur Road.

Police said a gang of dacoits entered the house of Ali Hossain at 14/1/C Mirpur Road at about 3:30 pm and started looting valuables from the house.

Hearing screams, residents of the area rushed to the spot and caught three robbers. They were identified as Jasim, 35, Omar, 35, and Abdul Haque, 25.

A case was registered with police.

among ministers from Chittagong and "conspiracy" by local leaders of a component of the ruling alliance.

They said the CMC unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, had proposed formation of a joint panel of candidates for the August 5 election of CMC Central Students Union (CMCCSU), but JCD rejected it.

Shibir might be behind the "conspiratorial" arrest of the JCD leaders to foil the election, they alleged.

Cashier killed

FROM PAGE 1
The on-duty doctor at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) declared Ali dead on arrival at about 11:20am. Earlier, he was taken to the nearby Central Hospital and shifted to the DMCH. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for an autopsy.

Son of Atahar Ali of Safiabad, Bushra in Feni, and father of six, Ali was residing at a mess at Free School Street, said Ali's brother Saiful Islam Sohel.

The duty officer of Dhanmondi Police Station said last night that they are yet to receive the FIR from Ali's family or his employer.

Although the police along with Shakhawat went on a manhunt for the muggers, none was arrested till last night, police said.

Of relevance, a gang of muggers shot dead Shamsul Alam, 25, the sales manager of Smart Technology (BD) Limited at Dhanmondi Road No. 4 on February 4 this year.

Over the last few years, many, including an on-duty police official, a deputy secretary and an incoming Bangladeshi air passenger, have been killed by muggers.

Pvt TV coverage

FROM PAGE 12
missing, have been repressed since the BNP-led alliance's assumption of power nine months ago. Threats to newsmen still continue.

Officials of the Parliament Secretariat at the first Business Advisory Committee meeting immediately after the parliament came into being sought the House leader's suggestion on the coverage by private TVs. But Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, the leader of the House, left the issue unresolved, sources said.

The restriction was tightened even more when the main opposition Awami League (AL) joined the House, lurching from its eight-month boycott. On several occasions, the crews were seen taking footage from the close circuit television installed in the press lounge.

The AL, which introduced private television channels while in office, was at loggerheads with the authorities, who denied the electronic media access. The AL lawmakers spoke on the issue for several days in the House and termed it constitutional violation.

The AL will send the authorities written suggestions on the issue, said Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid.

Hamid had to shift the venue of a press conference from his parliament chamber to outside for the restriction.

"The authorities curbed my privilege by refusing the newsmen entry to the parliament building...it's humiliating," said Hamid, former speaker of the House.

Asked why the crews were not allowed to cover the press conference, the acting speaker said, "The deputy leader of the opposition is not entitled to get TV cameras, nor were the authorities officially informed about the event."

He said the private channels were allowed on some special occasions like swearing-in, placement of the budget and prorogation. "The rest of the time, the BTV covered the parliamentary proceedings."

During the last session, a reporter of a Bangla daily was barred to cover the parliament proceedings for his report on a controversial news item in the daily. The Office of the Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar (now acting president) had instructed the authorities not to issue press accreditation to that reporter. Later, the bar was lifted, though.

Channel hopping

FROM PAGE 12
Censor Board" to regulate the cable channels.

A number of city dwellers while talking to The Daily Star last night expressed their frustration. "We have no alternative to pass our leisure with the closure of the channels," said Samia, a resident of the city's Panthapath area.

"It is very difficult for children who are used to spend their time enjoying various programmes, especially the cartoons," she lamented.

Another resident of Rampura said the government should immediately go for initiatives to solve the crisis. "The government should take necessary measures considering the crores of citizens who are suffering," he said.

Many viewers said that they could not pass time 'fruitfully' by only viewing the Bangladesh Television (BTV) and the Ekushey Television (ETV) programmes.

If this persists for too long the 'idle brains' are bound to cook up some devilish mischief.