

## Gangster killed in shootout, 5 passers-by injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang member was shot dead and six persons including five passers-by were injured in a shootout between two local gangs at Lal Mohan Shaha Street in the city's Sutrapur area yesterday evening.

The dead was identified as Julhas, 20, a member of a gang allegedly led by one Montu, police said. Another gang member -- Jummon -- was injured but it could not be known which group he belonged to.

Of the five injured passers-by, three are of a family.

The injured are Nikhil, his wife Shila, their three-year-old child Kajal, Manirul Haq and Miraj.

The injured except Jummon were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The rival gangs led by Montu and Afzal traded shots for about half an hour from about 7:30 over supremacy in the area.

Julhas died on the spot. The body was sent to Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

The duty officer at Sutrapur police station said a team went to the spot immediately to take control of the area. He could not give details.

## Terrorism: Dhaka denies Delhi's allegation

BSS, Dhaka

The government yesterday denied an Indian allegation that there is a rise of terrorism in Bangladesh.

Describing the allegation as untrue, a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the country has been consistently pursuing the policy of peace and there is no scope for speculation about rise of terrorism in Bangladesh.

This was stated by the spokesman when his attention was drawn to a statement made by Indian State Minister for External Affairs Digvijay Singh in Indian parliament that terrorists were concentrating in Bangladesh along with five more countries.

The spokesman said as far as Bangladesh is concerned the allegation was not true.

The spokesman said Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi has been asked to lodge a protest in this regard with Indian authorities.

## Three drown as boat capsizes in Cox's Bazar

BSS, Cox's Bazar

At least three people drowned and 20 others were injured after a passenger boat capsized in the Bak Khali River on Thursday afternoon.

Police quoting witnesses said the Cox's Bazar bound boat carrying 45 passengers from Son Khola Ghat under Sadar upazila capsized at a place near Godarpara Ghat after it was caught in a storm.

Three passengers died and others swam to shore.

Villagers recovered bodies of Kirmdad, 45, and Abu Bakar Siddiki, 25, on Thursday but the body of Nurul Islam, 22, was recovered yesterday.

Injured passengers were admitted to different hospitals in the town. The boat could not be salvaged yet.

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
July 20		6-47 pm
July 21	5-23 am	

## Prayer Timings

July 20		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-52	6-57
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

# Let good sense prevail

## Govt proposes new power project scrapping obsolete and costly Haripur expansion scheme

SHARIER KHAN

The government is finally going to scrap the proposal for expansion of the decade-old and costly 109 MW Haripur power plant and has requested the project's Japanese financier to finance a new power project instead.

The expansion project would be costlier than a new power project of similar size, sources said.

The Power Development Board (PDB), which has been resisting the idea of scrapping the expansion project and taking up a new scheme,

is still trying to retain the same consultant for the new project.

The consultant's self-contradictory role had delayed and complicated the proposed expansion project, the sources said.

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) last month requested the Japanese financier -- JIBC -- to consider a new plant with new specification.

The Haripur expansion project was conceived in 1991 with an estimated cost of 151 billion Japanese yen, equivalent to Tk 416 crore or around 66 million US dol-

lars.

But since 1995, cost of power plant has gone down significantly and it is possible now to set up a new 180 MW power plant at almost the same cost estimated for the expansion project, the sources said.

In a letter to JIBC on June 19, ERD said with the advancement of power generation technology, it is possible to install an improved power plant at a cost lesser than that of the proposed extension project. A new plant will be more beneficial for Bangladesh, the letter said.

But PDB is still pondering

whether to renew the contract with the extension project's consultant Mott MacDonald, which expired on May 25 last.

Till May, the PDB and the energy ministry held the view that the expansion project should be implemented. But there had already been controversies and disagreements over it.

The PDB sought the Cabinet Purchase Committee's approval in

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## Drunken Dumuria SI on rampage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Sub-Inspector (SI) of Dumuria Police Station Enamul Huq backed up by 15 riot policemen allegedly rampaged through at least four villages in the upazila, broke portraits of national leaders and looted gold ornaments in overnight raids on at least 50 houses Wednesday.

The drunken sub-inspector carried out the first raid on the house of CPB leader Shamim Ahmed at 3.00am in Shajiarha village and vandalised furniture. The officer also verbally abused Shamim's 74-year-old mother, Zohra Akhtar, said locals.

The policemen threatened Zohra with dire consequences for her son, said Chowkidar Sohrab Hossain who was forced to accompany the rampaging team to identify the

houses of political leaders and outlaws of the Biplobi Communist Party (BCP).

The team also raided the house of Alamgir Hossain, a Jubo League leader, in Gutudia Village. SI Enamul broke the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and damaged valuables worth over Tk 2 lakh. Looted were gold ornaments worth Tk 30,000 and Tk 20,000 in cash.

Once again, the police team raided the house of Asaduzzaman Mintu, the organising secretary of Dumuria Upazila unit of the Jubo Dal.

Here, Enamul broke the portraits of late president Ziaur Rahman and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and vandalised furniture and other valuables worth over Tk 1 lakh, said Sohrab.

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## More Bagerhat cops on hit list: PBCP

### Message faxed to Dainik Purbanchal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) has claimed full responsibility for the murder of sub-inspector Altaf Hossain in Bagerhat.

In a message faxed to the Dainik Purbanchal on Thursday midnight, Tapan Mahmud, chief of the Khulna divisional unit of PBCP, has dubbed Altaf a 'broker of the reactionary forces' and 'oppressor of the revolutionary forces'. "It's our commitment to physically liquidate Altaf."

The message has added that the PBCP would not spare any of the Police Department, who are on the hit list. The PBCP divisional chief has ordered his party cadres to attack 'their class enemies' includ-

ing policemen.

Leaflets circulated by the PBCP cadres in different areas of the Bagerhat town and Fakirhat also claimed responsibility for the murder.

The incident sent shivers among policemen, especially those who carry out operations against criminals, sources said.

Police feel insecure in carrying out their duties, said officer-in-charge of the Bagerhat Sadar Police Station.

The motive behind the murder of Altaf on Wednesday night is cloaked in mystery, said a police official.

Fish trader Khalil of Chulka Bazaar accompanied the policeman when the murder took place.

Earlier, they threatened him with

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PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Caught in a pothole, a goods-laden rickshaw tips over on its way through the Old City's Nazimuddin Road yesterday. The road has been dug up and left like that for a long time.

# Boon for burn patients



PHOTO: STAR

Mabel Cunningham supervises a training centre for manufacturing pressure garment that helps burn victims minimise scar development without surgery.

NAIMUL HAQ

Locally manufactured pressure garment to be used first ever in scar management for burn patients will cut more than 95 per cent of costly surgeries and reduce the price of the fabric.

Normally, a ten-inch long imported pressure garment costs nearly Tk 5,000, whereas the local product of the same size will cost less than Tk 200.

After a burn, healing fluid or collagen builds up around the wounded area to produce a new layer of skin. An uncontrolled flow of this fluid makes the skin develop irregularly causing scars and even possible deformities known as hypertrophic scars. By applying a counter pressure to the area, the pressure garment prevents the uneven build-up of the fluid on the skin, lessening the extent of the scar.

The specially designed elastic fabric (lycra), set to be produced locally, helps in reducing the effects of hypertrophic scarring by retarding the growth of the scarring and the deformities.

Mabel Cunningham, a fashion designer-turned-physiotherapist who is now in the city to supervise and train local physiotherapists as well as a number of acid survivors to prepare them for manufacturing the garment for local use. "I am teaching the girls to manufacture the material and supply it to other hospitals around the country. I am very confi-

dent and happy with this unit which is doing so well with their task."

Cunningham, invited by the Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF), is on a ten-day visit from the Queen Victoria Hospital in England -- one of the pioneers in burn treatment. She has been working round-the-clock to transfer the technology to the country, where a large number of people survive with various burns.

She has recently written a manual on how to prepare the garment from ready-made fibres. To make things easy, Cunningham has helped to translate her manual in Bangla for the convenience of others.

"The garment is going to be very significant in reducing scarring especially resulting from acid burns, and it should be used under the close supervision of an experienced therapist," said the delighted lady.

Following a burn injury, scar tissues undergo a period of maturation for 12 to 24 months. Hypertrophic scars are a frequent and frustrating outcome to a severe burn injury, which can lead to deformities, disfigurements and the loss of full functioning of place of injury.

After being discharged from the hospital, a burn patient with a scar may have a satisfactory appearance. However some weeks later, the scar may develop further and become more evident.

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## Six alleged criminals escape police cordon in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Six alleged criminals escaped through police cordon by exploding powerful hand grenades at about 10:00am yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sonadanga thana Ahsan Habib and 10 constables cordoned off a house at Siddiqua Mahalla belonging to one Abdur Razzak where the alleged criminals were planning their operations.

Sensing police presence around the house, the criminals exploded powerful grenades and escaped by climbing over the boundary wall of the house. Police could not see the criminals escape due to the thick smokescreen created by the grenade explosion.

However, after thorough search police recovered two pipe-guns, two bullets and ingredients for making grenades from the house, which the criminals used as their hideout. A woman named Feroza Begum, 35, was arrested from the house with two live grenades.

According to police, the criminals belong to an organised gang based in the Sundarbans. They are disciples of a ward commissioner now absconding as a chargesheeted accused of Journalist Shamsur Rahman murder case.

The woman is an informant of PBCP (Purbo Banglar Communist Party) armed cadres, police said.

# Tutor trap

ABDUL KADER

If you ever think of landing a temporary job through so-called tutor providers in the city, stay watchful for their fraudulent practices.

The providers charge a house tutor Tk 200 to 250 in membership fees and an advance of Tk 1,000 to 2,000 in appointment confirmation fees, which are half the first month's payment to the tutor by the guardian of the ward.

But it is alleged that after taking the money, they often send the tutors to fake mail addresses.

Many brilliant students pursuing higher education especially at the Dhaka University with meagre financial support from their families contact tutor-providing centres only to fall victims.

The tutors are lured into the 'membership trap' through high-sounding advertisements the centres publish in different newspapers and are caught in six- to 12-month cycles of membership.

Saiful Islam, a student of the Department of Marketing, Dhaka University (DU), allegedly paid Tk 300 in membership fees on the condition of giving 50 per cent of his first monthly payment from the guardian.

The centre gave Saiful the address of a house that proved false. When he informed the centre, he was assured of a new one. "I didn't get any appointment to any house yet," the student com-

plained.

Tofael Ahmed, a student of the Mass Communication and Journalism Department, DU, alleged, "I've waited for almost a year for this after being member of two centres. And I paid each Tk 200 in membership fees."

Malpractice has another edge. The tutors are asked by the providers to identify themselves to the guardians as students of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) or of the DU English Department with O/A-level educational background to meet the guardians' demand, though their background is different at bottom.

Worse, the providers send two tutors to the same address on the same day keeping both in the dark, often leading to cancellation of the second appointment. They justify the cancellation by saying he could not reach the house in time and another provider sent another tutor by the time.

Mohammad Hasan of the DU said, "One centre asked me to identify myself as a BUET student to the guardian but I refused to lie."

However, Shamim Ahmed of the same university has a different opinion that some students benefit from them.

Fare International, Panja Venture Tuition Centre and Tathyo

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# Student bodies 'no' to ban on their politics

STAR REPORT

Leaders of different student organisations have rejected the Expert Committee recommendation for banning politics by students and teachers at educational institutions. The committee has failed to identify the reasons behind the campus violence, they said while talking to this correspondent yesterday.

Hasanul Huq Inu, General Secretary of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), termed the recommendation unconstitutional.

A teacher of Dhaka University also rejected the idea.

Bahadur Bepari, former president of the Central Committee of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) said, "It is a ploy to snatch our right

to do politics."

He said student politic grew not through any law but out of the need of the society. So it can not be stopped through any law.

Rather, the government and the expert committee should think about ways to stop campus terrorism, toll extortion and involvement of non-students in student politics, which have polluted student politics now, he said.

Shrifuzzaman Sharif, President of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), said the Expert Committee recommendation is a "move to divert people's attention towards a non-issue".

He said a "massive movement" will be launched if the government tries to ban student politics at educational institutions.

The committee members, most of whom are inclined to ruling BNP, are trying to save the image of the government after its failure to maintain law and order in the country, he alleged.

"We reject the Expert Committee recommendation on student politics, which is totally unrealistic," he said.

Selimumzaman Selim, vice-president of Jatiyatibadi Chhatra Dal, ruling BNP's student wing, said campus violence could not be removed by banning student politics.

"All political parties should take initiative to remove the dark sides of present student politics instead of banning it. Banning student politics will not benefit any party", he said.

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## Sona Masjid LC station reopens after 13 days

BSS, Rajshahi

Import from India through Sona Masjid Land Customs (LC) station resumes today after a 13-day unscheduled closure at the north-western port.

The decision was taken at a fruitful tripartite meeting at a local hotel on Thursday, which was attended by the leaders of three business organisations-Importers and Exporters Association and Clearing and Forwarding (C&F) agent of the LC station and Mohodipur Exporters Association in India.

The port users went on a strike on July 6 protesting the decision of observing the weekly holiday on Friday by C&F agents.

The meeting sources said that the C&F agent have unanimously withdrawn their earlier decision to observe the weekly holiday on Friday.