

Khalid jailed for 12 yrs for attack on Hasina's car

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Naogaon
A young man, Khalid Bin Hedayet, has been sentenced to 12 years in the prison for his attack on the car of the leader of opposition, Sheikh Hasina, at Naogaon. After the verdict Khalid was taken to the Naogaon prison amidst strict security.

BNP leaves Sylhet reps in the cold

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has decided to drop Sylhet from the Chittagong-Sylhet divisional representatives meeting.



Stagnated water in the under-construction area of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque, a suspected breeding ground for aedes, sums up the laid-back attitude of the Dhaka City Corporation in fighting the dengue outbreak.

SAARC FMs meet today amid tight security

AFP, Kathmandu
Security was tight in Nepal's capital Kathmandu yesterday as foreign ministers from South Asia arrived for a regional conference. The seven-member South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) meeting is being held here even though the government is fighting a Maoist rebellion that has left some 4,300 people dead since 1996.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Tyrone Fernando was due to attend but cancelled at the last minute because of a crucial parliamentary vote at home. Fernando's deputy, Lal Gamage, is expected to travel to Kathmandu on Thursday to make a token appearance. The main themes of the meeting will be economic cooperation, social development and combating terrorism, officials in Kathmandu said.

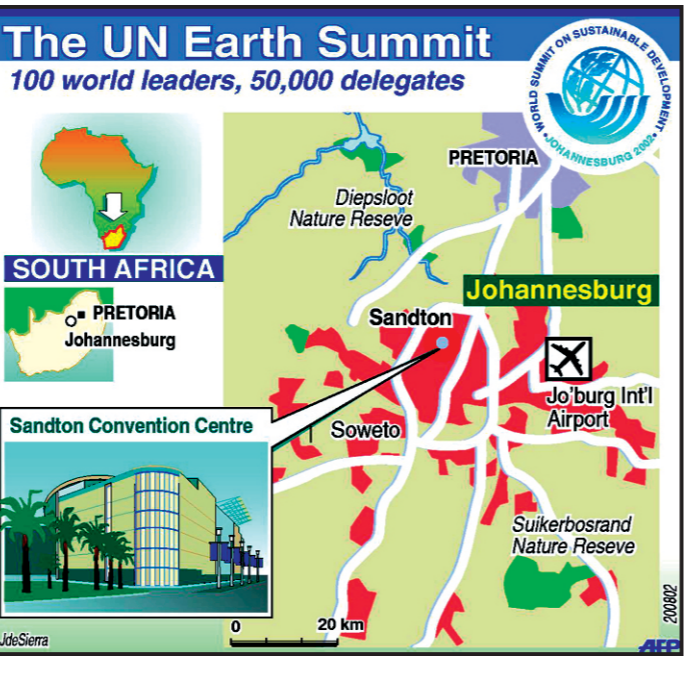
Pry school teacher shot dead in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
A primary school teacher was shot dead by unidentified assailants at village Meherpur under Golapganj upazila in the early hours of yesterday.

Storm clouds gather over Earth Summit

'Brackets' litter 71-page action plan

AFP, Paris
Negotiators girded themselves yesterday for the Earth Summit, grimly aware of the task ahead to save the Johannesburg super-gathering from sliding into rows, ridicule or dud compromise. Billed as the largest conference in history, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) aims at hauling the planet's environmental health out of a dizzying downward spiral and easing the plight of its two billion poorest.



- a plan to halve, by 2015, the number of people without access to safe drinking water;
- reducing or phasing out 'environmentally harmful and trade-distorting subsidies', including farm products, and ensuring wider access for Third World goods in rich markets;
- a call to phase out energy subsidies and boost the global share of renewable energy sources to at least 15 per cent by 2010;
- slowing the planet's rate of biodiversity loss by 2010;

Correction

In our yesterday's issue, a wrong news item was placed under the headline "Hearing on Bushra case begins". We regret the inadvertence and reprint the report.

Hearing on Bushra case begins

COURT CORRESPONDENT
The trial of Bushra murder case began Monday at the Third Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, with the deposition of first prosecution witness and the victim's mother Mosammat Laila Islam. Judge Sarker Abul Mansur adjourned the hearing till August 26 following a time petition by the prosecution lawyers as the witness was feeling sick during the recording of her deposition.

AL activist stabbed to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
An Awami League activist was stabbed to death in Mirersara on Monday night. Tea stall owner Nurul Islam Babul, 45, was stabbed in front of his shop at Gazaria Bazar in Shahekhali union by a gang allegedly led by one Nurul Huda, according to Additional SP (north) Hasib Aziz. Babul died on the spot. The police official said the killing could be sequel to previous enmity. He said Babul and Huda were activists of AL.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia consoles the bereaved mother of Rubaiyet Ahmed Bappi at her office yesterday.

Tariqul urges editors to help build social resistance to crimes

Information Minister Tariqul Islam yesterday urged newspaper editors and senior journalists of different newspapers, news agencies and the electronic media at the conference room of the information ministry. Different types of crimes including killing, rape and abduction will be reduced if it is possible to build social resistance through spontaneous participation of people, he said.

Govt to disband AL-formed municipal bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government has decided to disband a number of municipalities formed towards the end of the Awami League rule for 'infrastructural inadequacy'. The decision comes after local legislators and people complained that the municipalities did not have minimum personnel or logistic support, sources said. The Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives has already dissolved three municipalities - Hazrabari at Jamalpur, Faridganj at Chandpur and Goila of Barisal.

110 die in Russian chopper crash in Chechnya

Rebels down Mi-26?
AFP, Moscow
Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov yesterday rushed to the scene of a Russian military helicopter crash in Chechnya as the death toll climbed to 110 soldiers in the worst loss of the 35-month war. Chechen rebels said they shot down the Mi-26 transport helicopter on Monday, a claim rejected by Russian officials who cited engine trouble as a possible cause. RTR state television quoted military sources as saying 17 of the 33 soldiers rescued from the flaming wreckage of the Mi-26 chopper were recovering in hospital in serious condition. Ivanov and Prosecutor General Vladimir Ustinov flew out of Moscow for a rare visit to the separatist North Caucasus republic, underscoring the shock triggered by the incident on Russia's military.

Microbus driver flees with bank money

BSS, Mymensingh
The driver of a microbus carrying Taka one crore of Arab Bangladesh Bank (AB), Mymensingh branch, fled from Bogar Bazar on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at noon yesterday. The AB Bank authorities here told BSS correspondent that the microbus (Dhaka Metro Cha 11-4177) hired from Vanguard Services of Dhaka was carrying the money from the branch office to the head office at 11:30 am. Besides the driver, Vanguard Services official Nazir and security personnel Zahirul Islam were in the microbus, they said. Driver Hanif stopped the vehicle on plea of mechanical fault at Bogar bazar under Bhaluka Upazila and asked Nazir and Zahir to push the microbus. As they pushed it, driver Hanif soon fled the place with the money. Nazir and Zahir immediately rushed to the nearby Bhaluka thana and informed the police about the matter. Police super, Additional police super and Manager of the AB Bank Branch rushed to the spot. Nazir and Zahir have been taken into custody.

Malibagh incident: Judicial body starts functioning

UNB, Dhaka
The judicial inquiry commission on Malibagh incident began its functioning yesterday. Justice Joynal Abedin visited the mosque-madrassah complex and talked to the people. The commission has requested witnesses and persons concerned to enlist their names at its office at Central Circuit House, Kakrail, on Thursday and Friday. Four persons were killed in gunfire August 15 at Mosque-Madrassah complex constructed on a disputed land.