

**UK war veteran finds he's been dead for 60 yrs**

REUTERS, London

A British war veteran looking at a memorial in his local park discovered he had been listed as dead for almost 60 years, the Times newspaper reported yesterday.

George O'Key, 83, was stunned to find himself on the roll of honour on the monument in Middlesbrough, northeast England.

"I went straight to the park manager's office. I said 'I just want you to know I'm still alive,'" he told the paper. "I had several near escapes during the war but no one managed to kill me off."

The name on the bronze plaque should have been that of George's elder brother Frederick, who died as a Japanese prisoner of war in 1944. George served in the merchant navy.

Middlesbrough council said it would correct the mistake.

**AL defers rally, asks govt to step down**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition party, Awami League (AL), deferred its June 7 rally in view of party chief Sheikh Hasina's delay in returning home.

The decision came from the AL presidium meeting held with the party's acting president Zillur Rahman in the chair yesterday.

Hasina, who is on an organisational tour of the United States, was scheduled to come back on June 4. But her return will be delayed by a week as she plans to attend the funeral of AL's US unit president Enaetur Rahim.

Rahim died on Thursday.

The presidium condoned the death of Rahim who rose through the ranks to become the unit chief.

The AL decided to hold the rally after the party chief's return in the second week of June.

The meeting expressed concern over deterioration in law and order and said the government failed on

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**Robbers loot cash, medicine worth Tk 9 lakh from Square Pharmaceuticals**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Robbers looted cash and medicine worth about Tk 9 lakh from the godown of Square Pharmaceuticals at C&B road here in Barisal town in the early hours of yesterday, police said.

Company sources said a group of 8-10 armed robbers forced their way into the godown and cut through the barbed wire fence over the wall and tied up the three on-duty guards and two employees.

Then they broke into the godown and looted Tk 5 lakh worth of medicine and Tk 4 lakh in cash before fleeing the spot.

Police arrested guards Nurul Huq, Mahbubur Rahman and Mojibur Rahman suspecting their complicity in the robbery. A case was filed.

**ASM NURUNNABI**

Consumers are in trouble --there is nothing called quality or price control and adulteration is quite common.

Apart from adulteration, a galling aspect of the products offered to consumers for sale is their price differences. Sellers say they had their supplies of those products at higher rates. There are, of course, some elite areas in the city where consumer items, particularly if they are imported, command a higher price even if the same products may cost less in other shopping centres. Such high price differences at elite shopping centres in places like Gulshan and Banani, frequented by the affluent, are quite in keeping with the trends in exclusive shopping areas in Tokyo, London or New York.

People in moderate-income groups are flabbergasted by the price differences in respect of the common items of consumption.

As already noted, the phenomenon of adulteration is most

Living close to extinction. Having survived for more than a century in villages of Keshabpur in Jessor, the hanuman species (Grey Langur) are now under threat of being wiped out.

**Hanuman next door to extinction**

PINAKI ROY, back from Keshabpur

Having survived for more than a century in some villages of Keshabpur, the hanuman species (Grey Langur) is now facing extinction.

Living in a group of 10 to 20, hanuman finds it hard to survive in the face of continuous deforestation, fast expansion of township, unfriendly people of three villages in Keshabpur upazila, Jessor.

Only six groups of hanuman are seen these days. According to wildlife expert Dr Ali Reza Khan, about 100 hanuman exist in the region.

A large group of 20 hanuman lives on Keshabpur bazar (market). Five other groups live in the bazar outskirts and in the fast-vanishing groves of Ramchandrapur and

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As a result, many conscious customers, before buying anything, tend to spend some time and energy comparing prices of the commodities which they intend to purchase. But such practices are not easy to follow, particularly during big festivals when rush of customers makes such price checks impossible.

As already noted, the phenomenon of adulteration is most

widespread particularly in old areas of the city. Within the city, there are some well-known centres where adulteration practices are followed almost with impunity. Lately, a new dimension has been added to adulteration practices. To hasten the process of ripening, a chemical named calcium carbide is added to green and half-ripe mangoes and bananas at Badamtali fruit market. There is none to check this

evil practice. Zinzira, situated on the other side of the Buriganga, is known for adulteration practices in respect of almost all commodities. It is widely believed that such adulterated products are marketed in profusion not only in urban areas but also outside them, so much so that it is well nigh impossible to distinguish them from the

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## DOWN TO EARTH

# Consumerism at unstable levels

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## Establish Palestinian state with Al-Quds as its capital

### ICFM adopts 141-pt declaration

BSS, Tehran

338 (1973) and UNGA resolution number 194 on the return of Palestinian refugees and the UNSC resolutions on Al-Quds.

One resolution of the Tehran declaration praised the fight of the Palestinian people and their legitimate and national leadership under the chairmanship of President Yasser Arafat against the Zionist aggression.

The ICFM conference extended its support to the Arab peace initia-

tive to resolve the Palestine issue and issues in the Middle East adopted by the 14th Arab Summit. The Conference affirmed support of member states to the peace process in line with foundations defined by the Madrid Peace Conference.

The declaration in another resolution asked the quartet (the United States, the Russian Federation, the EU and the UN) to resume initiatives

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## Thousands pay tribute to Zia

BSS, Dhaka

The 22nd death anniversary of President Ziaur Rahman was observed across the country yesterday with a call for national unity to build up a self-reliant Bangladesh.

The mazar of Shaheed Zia turned into a human sea as thousands of people from all walks of life thronged the mazar premises near Crescent Lake at Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar to pay tributes to the late leader.

President Iajuddin Ahmed placed wreaths at the mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman in the morning and offered munajat there. The president stood in solemn silence as bugles of the Bangladesh Armed Forces played the last post.

Immediately after the departure of the president, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia arrived at the mazar premises and placed floral wreaths there. She stood in solemn silence

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Prime Minister Khaleda Zia offers prayers with ministers and BNP leaders at the mazar of president Ziaur Rahman on his 22nd death anniversary yesterday.

## Nepalese PM resigns amid agitation

PTI, AP, Kathmandu

Nepalese Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand yesterday resigned amidst joint agitation by major political parties demanding formation of an all-party government.

"Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand has tendered his resignation to His Majesty King Gyanendra and the King has accepted his resignation," a palace statement said.

It said the King has already started consultations for the formation of a new council of ministers.

Chand's resignation has come at a time when major political parties are agitating against the royal takeover and demanding formation of an all-party government with full executive power to rectify the constitutional error.

The King, meanwhile, has asked Chand to continue as the caretaker Prime Minister till a new government is formed.

Chand was appointed Prime Minister by King Gyanendra on October 11 last year, a week after he dismissed the elected government led by Sher Bahadur Deuba of the Nepali Congress.

The King on October 4 removed Deuba through a royal proclamation declaring him incompetent

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## College student found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A college student was found dead at the Ramkrishna Mission hostel here yesterday morning.

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## Hot spell likely to continue

BSS, Dhaka

A moderate to severe heat wave may smother Khulna division and the regions of Rajshahi and Ishwardi and a mild wave may continue in Dhaka division today, the meteorological office said.

It said tropical nor'wester storms might slam into one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessor, Kushtia and Comilla.

Rains or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind are likely to occur in one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Sylhet, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions, weathermen said.

Yesterday's highest temperature was recorded at 39.4 degrees Celsius in Jessor, while the lowest at 20.3 degrees in Mymensingh.

## Sun Rises Sun Sets

May 31 6-42 pm

June 1 5-11 am

## Prayer Timings

May 31

Fajr 4-15 4-45

Zohr 1-00 1-30

Asr 5-00 5-15

Maghrib 6-45 6-50

Esha 8-15 8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Pak deadline to wind up militant camps

PTI, Islamabad

The Pakistan government is reported to have set May 31 as the deadline for militant groups operating from Pakistani occupied Kashmir (PoK), ahead of a ministerial level meeting of least developed countries (LDCs) that opens in Dhaka yesterday.

More than one thousand NGO

activists and garment workers attended the rally organised by Naijyo Banijyo Jote (NB), ahead of a ministerial level meeting of least developed countries (LDCs) that opens in Dhaka today.

NB

brings together some leading NGOs including the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), Proshika, Coalition for Urban Poor, Karmajibi Nari, Oxfam GB Bangladesh, Action Aid, Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association and the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Activists attended the rally carrying banners and placards reading 'Make Trade Fair', 'Ensure Fair Wage for Workers', 'Increase 1 per cent Trade for the Poor', 'Eradicate Poverty for 130 Million People', 'Increase the Market Access of LDCs (Least Developed Countries) to the Market of Developed Countries'.

The NBJ leaders demanded free movement of labour so that workers from the LDCs get a chance to work in the developed western countries.

In the name of free trade, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank are capturing the economy of LDCs and the developed countries are dominating the world in the name of service, they said.

They have been told that they would not be allowed to operate, they said.

While some of the militant

groups operated from PoK, capital Muzafarabad has been informing the media during the past few days that they were under pressure to wind up their camps, Pakistan news agency SANA reported on Friday that militants outfits have been ordered to shut their camps by Saturday.

The report also said the militant groups vowed not to follow the orders.

The crackdown was aimed preparing the ground for the forthcoming India-Pakistan peace talks, the report said.

India along with US has been insisting that Pakistan close all militant camps and destroy the infrastructure before New Delhi and Islamabad begin talks to normalise relations as well as to resolve differences on various outstanding issues, including Kashmir.

**Girl missing after vehicle plunges into river**

BSS, Munshiganj

A minor girl was missing and three people were injured when a microbus plunged into the Dhaleshwari river being hit by a truck in the rear at Muktarpur Ferry Ghat in Munshiganj yesterday, police said.

They said locals fished out microbus driver Hannan and passengers Tofazzal and Abu Hashem from the sunken vehicle, but did not find Sumaiya Akther, 8.

The accident occurred when the truck laden with potatoes knocked the microbus, parked in front of the ferry. The microbus, carrying the four, went down in the river immediately.

Firefighters from Munshiganj salvaged the microbus at about 3:00pm, three hours after the accident.

Police seized the truck, but the driver made a getaway.