



PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

Young girls take a break from their misery to have fun in flood waters that, after overflowing the Dhaka-Aricha highway, inundate the Sharupai village in Manikganj, one of the 23 affected districts.

Attack on Tofail's convoy in Bhola, 20 injured, BNP blamed for it

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Awami League (AL) Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed and 20 others were injured in an attack at Lalmoohan in Bhola yesterday.

Tofail was attacked yesterday morning when his convoy reached Lalmoohan. He was to attend a programme arranged by the local AL to mourn the dead in the recent launch capsizing.

AL blamed Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) for the attack but the BNP put the blame on Jatiya Party (JP, Ershad).

When Tofail's convoy reached the spot, a gang riding motorbikes attacked them.

Ransacking the dais, they attacked the microbus carrying Tofail and his party men injuring 20.

Tofail blamed Water Resources Minister Major Hafizuddin Ahmed, local Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal leader Kabir, Imam, Ibrahim Kasal for the attack.

Jasimuddin, Lalmoohan BNP secretary, denied the charge and said that Jatiya Party (JP, Ershad) and AL arranged the same programme at the same venue and they clashed to hold their programmes.

Denying the BNP allegation, Al Qaium Nazrul, local JP secretary, SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Bullet-hit boy dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenage boy who was hit by a stray Tuesday afternoon died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Thirteen-year-old Jamal got hit in the throat in a crossfire between two feuding criminal groups at Tipu Sultan Road in Sutrapur.

An alleged criminal of one of the gangs, Binoy Hossain Kalu received bullet injury in his left eye in the gunfight. He is undergoing treatment at the DMCH in police custody.

Idris Chand, Jamal's father, lodged a case with the Sutrapur Police Station.

Two including an accused in the case was picked up by police from Sutrapur yesterday.

Babuni group and Dacoit Shahid group locked in a gun battle to assert supremacy in the area, police said.

Jamal was an employee of SS Engineering at Lal Chand Mukim Das Lane in Sutrapur.

Table with Sun Rises and Sun Sets for July 17 (5-18 am, 6-50 pm)

Table with Prayer Timings for July 17 (Azan, Jamaat, Fair, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, Esha)

Dhaka, Ho Chi Minh City to boost trade

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Vietnam yesterday agreed to explore economic potentials for greater cooperation and increased volume of bilateral trade and investment.

The agreement came when Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien held talks with his Bangladesh counterpart M Morshed Khan yesterday afternoon, soon after his arrival on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh.

During the 45-minute talks, they also agreed to reactivate the Joint Commission and exchange business delegations between Dhaka and Hanoi.

"Our talks focussed on trade and economic cooperation since the volume of bilateral trade is very modest... We should look into it together," Nguyen Dy Nien told reporters after the talks.

He said business people of the two countries should meet and discuss how to expand two-way trade since Bangladesh and Vietnam have got enough potentials.

According to figures available, both-way trade was around \$15 million in fiscal 2000-2001. Bangladesh's major exports included leather, chemical fertiliser, pharmaceuticals, raw jute and shrimp while imports were e g e t a

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Vietnam to back Dhaka's run for int'l, regional fora

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday sought Vietnam's support for its (Bangladesh) candidature in different regional and international organizations including ARF, ECOSOC ASEM and Mekong-Ganga Co-operation.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan sought the support during a meeting with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien at the foreign ministry in the afternoon.

In response, the Vietnamese foreign minister said that they will support Bangladesh's candidatures in those regional and international fora.

Nguyen, however, sought Bangladesh's support for their bid in the UN Security Council's non-permanent members

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PHOTO: STAR

Lawyers of the Supreme Court yesterday form a human chain in front of the bar association office to press home their demand for an independent judiciary.

Cop held for mugging Tk 5 lakh at Paltan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people, including a police constable, were arrested for snatching over Tk 5 lakh from a businessman in front of Polwell Super market, only a hundred yards away from Motijheel Police Station. The incident took place at 8:45pm on Tuesday.

The arrested were Tajul Islam, a police constable who worked as a computer operator at the Additional Deputy Commissioner's (Prosecution) office and Sarwar Hossain, a ward-boy of Rajarbagh Police Hospital.

"Six people led by constable Tajul intercepted a businessman, Jamal, and snatched away the money," the duty officer of Motijheel Police said.

As the gang was leaving, Jamal caught one of the gang members. Tajul shot Jamal in the thigh and the muggers fled the spot, he added.

The injured businessman was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with a bullet wound.

After the incident, police came to know that a policeman was involved in the mugging. Following

investigation, Motijheel police arrested Tajul from Rajarbagh Police Line at around 1:00am yesterday and seized a 7.65 bore pistol along with seven rounds of bullets.

Police arrested ward-boy Sarwar Hossain from a nursing hostel at the Police Line and recovered Tk 51,000 from his possession. Police said that the constable and the ward-boy were involved in this gang for a long time.

Two separate cases were filed under the Speedy Trial Act with Motijheel Police Station in this regard.

Khaleda's JS speech draws AL wrath

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid yesterday flayed Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for what he called a failure in playing her role as the leader of the House.

"Rather than working as the leader of the House, she (Khaleda) indulged the people who made parliament ineffective," Hamid told newsmen over a luncheon in the Sangsad Bhaban cafeteria.

Hamid pointed to Khaleda's vaudeville address to the just-concluded budget session, in which she praised Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui for running the House effectively in the absence of the speaker.

The main opposition Awami League (AL) accused Siddiqui of not running the Jatiya Sangsad in line with the Rules of Procedure. "We wrote a letter airing our grievances against the way the deputy speaker was chairing the parliament session. The prime minister's thanks to him (deputy speaker) show he had per

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Four PBCP men shot dead by rivals in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Four armed cadres of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) were shot dead by unidentified men yesterday at Badhal of Ghatbhog union under Rupsha thana of Khulna district, police said.

The dead are Abu Saeed alias Kala Saeed, 38, Kala Mannan alias Mannan Howladar, 35, Biswajit Das, 28, and Shah Jamal, 30, all belonging to PBCP's Tapan group. Kala Saeed was second-in-command of the group operating in Rupsha-Terokhada belt and was wanted in as many as 13 murder and a dozen criminal cases in the southwestern region.

The deceased were suspects in Daulatpur Jute Mill rifle loot case, police said.

Officer-in-charge of Rupsha thana said the bodies were recovered from shrimp enclosures at Badhal and bore marks of stab and bullet injuries. Kala Saeed and Kala Mannan hailed from Mahishagani of Rupsha upazila, and Biswajit was from Ajogharha of Terokhada upazila.

Six used shells of 303 rifle bullets were recovered from the murder spots. The bodies were sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police suspect the assailants belong to the outlawed party 'Janajuddho', which was floated last month by dissidents in Tapan group in conflict with PBCP's central leadership.

Locals said four other PBCP cadres were picked up by 'Janajuddho' men.

JS body Formation Govt violated Constitution, accuses AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition party Awami League (AL) yesterday accused the government of violating the constitution and Rules of Procedures of parliament while forming 34 parliamentary standing committees on different ministries.

The constitution and the Rules of Procedures do not entitle the government to form such 'incomplete' standing committees, a presidium meeting of the AL observed quoting Article 246 of the Rules of Procedures of parliament.

Leader of the opposition and party chief Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting at the Dhanmondi office in the city.

The meeting said the government neither discussed committee formations with the opposition nor did inform them of the moves.

The unilateral decision of the government also violates an UNDP-funded agreement made during the previous AL rule when both the AL and BNP had agreed to a c c o m m o

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23rd PW gives deposition

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Additional Superintendent of Police, CID, Mojibur Rahman, the 23rd prosecution witness and investigation officer (IO) of the Shazneen case, gave his deposition before court yesterday.

Later, he was cross-examined by the lawyer of Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, the prime accused.

Kazi Rahamat Ullah, judge of the Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, recorded the deposition. The court adjourned the hearing till July 21.

In his deposition, Mojibur Rahman told the court that he took over the charge of investigation into the Shazneen murder case on April 27, 1998. He took the charge from Sub-Inspector (SI) Mohammad Shamsul Haq, the first IO of the Shazneen murder case, at the Gulshan Police Station.

"After taking over the charge of the case, I scrutinised the case diary, inquest report, postmortem report and evidences collected by the first IO and took the arrested accused Hemayet Mollah, Humayun Kabir, Shafiq, Yasin and Faruk to custody."

"Then I, along with the first IO, visited the place of occurrence and scrutinised the sketch-map, prepared by the first IO and found it correct. Moreover, I recovered s o r m e

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Sadarghat getting in order

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

With the capsizing of MV Nasrin-1 in which 600 passengers are feared to have died, there are signs of things moving in the right direction at Sadarghat launch terminal.

The Directorate of Shipping has posted two marine magistrates at the terminal. The magistrates check the number of passengers and volume of cargo every time a vessel leaves the terminal, said the launch operators.

The officer in charge of the

terminal, Mofizur Rahman, told The Daily Star that with the introduction of the new system, there is no scope for overloading of any vessel leaving or arriving at the terminal.

The marine magistrates and the new staff of the BIWTA posted at the terminal are ensuring strict compliance with navigational rules. "If a passenger launch has taken passengers up to its capacity, it has to leave the terminal before the scheduled time and if it refuses it will face instant cancellation of the depar

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Pro-American mayor, son killed in Iraq

AP, Baghdad

The pro-American mayor of the western city of Hadithah was shot and killed driving through the town yesterday in escalating violence in Iraq that also took the lives of a US soldier in a supply convoy and an 8-year-old Iraqi in an attack on US forces guarding a Baghdad bank.

The US military confirmed a report by the Arab satellite network Al-Jazeera that Mayor Mohammed Nayil-al-Jurayfi's car was shot up by unidentified attackers as he drove

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BNP MP's brother not produced before court

Jail super show-caused

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Speedy Trial Tribunal-4, Dhaka Division, yesterday issued a show-cause notice on the senior jail superintendent to explain why necessary action should not be taken against him for his negligence to produce the accused before the court.

Judge Jahangir Alam Mollah issued the order on the jail super as he (jailer) showed negligence in producing Reazuddin Ahmed Monir, brother of the ruling BNP MP, Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pintu, an accused in the Keraniganj double murder case, before the court yesterday.

The court also asked the jail super to submit the report by July 20.

In the order, the judge mentioned that the accused Monir was not produced before the court yesterday though it was fixed for trial of the case. Moreover, the jail authorities did not inform the court of not producing the accused in the court. So, the court could not begin trial of the case.

The complainant and first prosecution witness of the case, Amir Hamza, was present in the court to give his statement.

Amir Abullah alias Shakil, 26, SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Another case filed against Daily Star, Prothom Alo editors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A defamation suit was filed against The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam and the Prothom Alo Editor Motiur Rahman in a Joypurhat court Tuesday.

Advocate ATM Moksedur Raham, member of Joypurhat Lawyers' Association, filed the case.

The case was sent for a judicial inquiry to magistrate of region 'C'.

In his petition, Rahman said the defendants published articles in

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Advertisement for Friday Star Weekend Magazine featuring 'Speedy Trial Tribunal' and 'After several sensational cases being resolved with an unprecedented quick pace in the Speedy Trial Tribunal, enthusiasm of the public has heightened. But the question remains, will it be effective, as well as accurate, in meting out justice? Will the verdicts remain the same after being heard in the High Court? These are the questions that are being raised by experts. SWM examines the nature and the ramifications of the Speedy Trial Tribunal.'