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The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION
TODAY'S ISSUE 20 PAGES

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REGD. NO. DA 781 VOL. XIII No. 181 DHAKA SUNDAY JULY 20, 2003 SRABAN 5, 1410 BS ZAMADUI- AWAL 19, 1424 HIRI 20 PAGES PRICE: Tk 7.00

Wedding party mayhem

Gunmen barge into community centre; shoot 50 bullets; pregnant woman killed; 12 wounded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A wedding reception party turned into a mayhem when unidentified gunmen opened fire inside a community centre, killing a woman and wounding at least 12 at Kazipara in Kalur yesterday.

It was the wedding reception party of Golam Mostafa Labu, assistant organising secretary of Dhaka city Awami Juba League (North), at Kazi Community Centre. At around 3:15pm, as guests sat to lunch, six gunmen totting pistols entered the centre.

As the wedding feast was underway, two of the six killers, both carrying pistols, entered the hall room, "a witness said. They fired at random to disperse the guests.

received three bullets in her chest and abdomen when she stood up to see what was happening. She was taken to the Orthopaedic Hospital where doctors declared her dead.



Mayhem at wedding reception party; (Clockwise) Police guard the Kazi Community Centre at Kazipara yesterday after unknown gunmen opened fire on a wedding reception party; arrested suspect Amir Hossain Babu; another suspect flanked by law enforcers and an injured man at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Case No. Four against Star, Alo editors, still counting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Another defamatory suit was filed against the Editor of The Daily Star, Mahfuz Anam, and the Editor of the Prothom Alo, Motiur Rahman for publishing news on Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, the parliamentary affairs advisor to the prime minister.

Flood tightens grip on Dhaka, central dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Floodwaters began to recede from most of the 23 affected districts, but tightened grip on Dhaka and its environs as swollen rivers were flowing fiercely towards the central region from upstream yesterday.

Dhaka, Manikganj, Narayanganj, Shariatpur, Madaripur and Barisal still reeled under floodwaters that marooned lakhs of people in their submerged villages.

The situation in Narayanganj took an alarming turn as more areas in seven unions in Sadar upazila went under water, marooning over 10 lakh people.

Saarc ministers to meet in Dhaka in Aug for common WTO stance

NAZMUL AHSAN

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has called a special meeting of commerce ministers and secretaries of the member states in Dhaka between August 9 and 10.

issues ahead of the next World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial meeting, slated for September in Mexico.

The initiative of the SAARC Secretariat came at the heels of a request by Dhaka for such a meeting, sources said.

Student chopped to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

'Burqa' clad assailants chopped a college student to death near Sutrapur Bazar yesterday afternoon. Three criminals covered in black burqa waylaid Partha Sarkar, 22, and stabbed him indiscriminately when he was passing the area by rickshaw.

Rail to link Gazipur with Khulna, Rajshahi this month

REAZ AHMAD

Direct train communication between Gazipur and the divisional headquarters of Khulna and Rajshahi begins later this month. Trains from the northern and southern regions will also run up to the capital with the completion of dual gauge (metre gauge and broad gauge together) track-laying between Joydevpur and Kamalapur in the city (34 kilometres) by the end of next year, Bangladesh Railway (BR) sources told The Daily Star recently.

Kelly's death doubles Blair's trouble

BBC ONLINE

Police have confirmed that the expert at the centre of the Iraq dossier row bled to death from a slit wrist, as Tony Blair comes under increasing pressure over the affair.

Dr Kelly's family said he was a "loving, private and dignified" man, adding that recent events had made his life "intolerable".

press conference in Hakone, Japan - the first leg of his Far East tour.

A plainclothes police officer, left, escorts a woman presumed to be Janice, right, the wife of Dr David Kelly leaving her home at the village of Southmoor in Oxfordshire yesterday. Janice was told by British police that her husband's death was a suicide.



PHOTO: AFP

11,000-strong joint force swings into action in southwestern region

UNB, Pirojpur

An over 11,000-strong joint force comprising police, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Ansar launched a special drive last night to flush out criminals and underground activists in southwestern districts.

days to finalise the strategy to mop up the criminals.

Fakirhat and Mollarhat upazilas of Bagerhat are the most troubled areas where about a dozen policemen fell victim to underground activists in recent months.

Home ministry move to relieve BNP MP's brother of murder case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry has asked the Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor (PP) to relieve Reazuddin Ahmed Monir, brother of the ruling BNP lawmaker Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pintu, and nine others, of charges in the Keraniganj double murder case.

The nine others are -- Salahuddin, Mohammad Molla alias Malu, Mohammad Hasan, Jahangir alias Janu, Manju alias Manjur Ali, Shahin, Mohammad Alam, Mohammad Mesbah and Javed.

AL plans tie with left parties

SHAMEEM MAHMUD

The main opposition Awami League (AL) recently decided to talk its like-minded left-leaning parties into a common platform against the BNP-led four-party alliance government.

Day trips on four launch routes from next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The launch owners association has decided to operate launches on at least four routes during the day starting next month.

More microfilms decay at DU

HASAN AHMED TUSHER

Another 2,143 microfilmed manuscripts at the Dhaka University Central Library have decayed over the years due to hot weather and lack of persons trained on microfilm processing, sources at the library said.

however, denied any microfilm damages and said, "Not a single microfilm of the library has been damaged."

CityCell cuts call tariff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

CityCell Digital yesterday sliced off the call tariff for its subscribers and promised to reduce it further shortly.