

BDR, BSF hold flag meeting

BSF abducts two Bangladeshi farmers in Lalmonirhat

BSS, Rajshahi

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday held a battalion commander-level emergency flag meeting near Sonamasjid Land Customs Station in Chapainawabganj.

Both sides met after BSF members shot dead two Bangladeshi near Chalkpara border area under Shibganj upazila Tuesday evening.

During the two-hour meeting, the BDR protested frequent killings of Bangladeshis inside Bangladeshi territory by BSF members, sources said.

The meeting also discussed border situation and both sides agreed to continue their efforts to restore peace along border areas to diffuse tensions.

Col Shabeed Uddin Khan of the 6th Battalion of the BDR led the home side, while NK Nayal, 63rd BSF Battalion Commandant, headed the Indian side.

Meanwhile, our Lalmonirhat correspondent adds the BSF members yesterday allegedly abducted two Bangladeshi farmers from near

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PHOTO: STAR

Scouts having a field day with small things at Mauchak in Gazipur on the second day of the Seventh Bangladesh and Fourth Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Scout Jamboree yesterday.

GLOBAL WARMING

Quarter of land life faces extinction by 2050: Study

AFP, London

Over one million plants and animals -- a quarter of all life on land -- could become extinct in just decades due to man-made climate change, scientists say.

The main culprit for this change, they say in an article due out Thursday in the British journal

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Nature, is greenhouses gases, which are churned out by automobiles and industry and trap heat in the earth's atmosphere.

"An immediate and progressive switch to technologies that produce little or no new greenhouse gases, combined with active removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, could save a million

11-party observes road-barricade programme amid attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The left-leaning 11-party alliance yesterday put up barricades on highways and railways across the country for two hours amid attacks allegedly by the BNP activists backed by lawenforcers.

The alliance demanding resignation of the BNP-Jamaat coalition government launched the programme from 12:00 noon to 2:00pm.

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PM finds talents lacking in administration Stresses quality recruitment

UNB, Savar

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia sees a dearth of talent in all spheres of national life, including government administration, and said emphasis will now be given on recruitment of talented persons.

She said the situation can be changed through quality training.

The prime minister made the observations while inaugurating an international training complex and the 32nd foundation training course of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) here yesterday.

Addressing the civil servants, the prime minister said BPATC was no more a dumping ground and mentioned that she had given particular responsibility to her principal secretary to assemble talented and skilled personnel at the centre for providing high-quality training.

Referring to reforms made by her government Khaleda said, "We have laid stress on a knowledge-based administration."

"From now on arrangement will be made for civil servants to receive

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Bush asks Congress for new immigration rules

REUTERS, Washington

President Bush unveiled an election-year proposal Wednesday to let millions of mostly Hispanic immigrants work legally in the United States in what would be the biggest overhaul of US immigration law in almost two decades.

The effort to court Hispanic-American voters and patch frayed relations with Mexico faced an uncertain future on Capitol Hill, where the guest worker program

creating a three-year renewable temporary work permit drew skepticism from Republicans and Democrats alike.

The Bush administration sought to balance the concerns of politically important Hispanic groups seeking to legalise immigrants' status and major employers who want workers for low-paying jobs. Others worry about security and job

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Iraqi WMD threat 'misrepresented' US search team withdrawn for finding nothing of substance

REUTERS/AFP, Washington

Bush administration officials "systematically" misrepresented the danger of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programmes, which were not an immediate threat to the United States and the Middle East, a report from a US

think tank said Wednesday.

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace said in its study, "WMD IN IRAQ: Evidence and Implications," that there was "no convincing evidence" Iraq had reconstituted its nuclear programme and that UN weapons

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He is expected to meet a number of senior civil and military officials of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

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By-election to Kushtia-1 JS seat Feb 29

BSS, Dhaka

The by-election to the Kushtia-1 seat of the Jatiya Sangsad will be held on February 29.

The seat fell vacant following the death of former state minister Mohammad Ahsanul Haque Mollah, MP.

The Election Commission (EC) in

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PHOTO: STAR

Leaders and activists of the 11-party left alliance shout slogans during a demonstration in Kanchpur in Narayanganj yesterday against the rule of the BNP-Jamaat coalition, law and order downslide and price spiral of essentials. The alliance put up two-hour barricades on highways and railways.

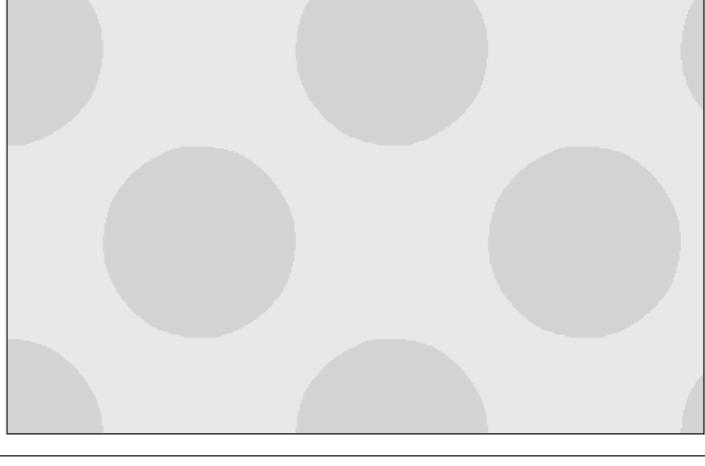
Abducted schoolboy rescued at Hathazari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A joint police team yesterday rescued a schoolboy, five days after he was abducted from Hathazari in Chittagong and held three alleged kidnappers.

Raiding Farhadabad area, Pahartali and Hathazari police recovered Rajin Iqbal Jonny, son of

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