



Schroeder quits as party leader

BBC ONLINE

German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder has announced his resignation as chairman of his centre-left party.

"I will concentrate on my work as chancellor and head of government," he told a news conference.

The decision comes after

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Top Jihad boss, boy killed in Israeli raid

REUTERS, Gaza

An Israeli helicopter gunship slammed a missile into a car in Gaza City yesterday, killing a top Islamic Jihad commander and a 12-year-old bystander and drawing vows of revenge by Palestinian militants.

The attack on a car carrying Aziz al-Shami coincided with the start of a military trial in Gaza of Palestinians accused of killing three

Americans, and a Washington Post report of an impending mission by US officials to discuss Israeli plans to "disengage" from the Palestinians.

The Israeli army confirmed it had targeted the vehicle carrying Shami, who was a top commander in Islamic Jihad's "Jerusalem Brigades" armed wing and a relative and bodyguard of Islamic Jihad leader Abdallah al-Shami.

Doctors said Shami died several hours after being critically wounded in the missile attack, which also killed a 12-year-old boy. Two other militants in Shami's car were seriously wounded and seven passersby were hit by shrapnel, they said.

"Our people will not stop this resistance...and Jihad until the

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PHOTO: STAR

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina addresses the party's triennial conference at the auditorium of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, in Dhaka yesterday.

Hasina vows tougher agitation after hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her firm conviction that ouster of the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government is now a matter of time only.

"It seems the government is indifferent to Awami League's one-month ultimatum to meet its 15-point demand," she said, adding her party will launch a tougher agitation to dislodge the government after the scheduled hartal across the country on February 12.

The ultimatum expires on February 10.

The AL chief and leader of the opposition was addressing new office bearers of Dhaka city unit of

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BANGLADESHI HAJIS 3 more die in Makkah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more Bangladeshi Hajj pilgrims died of natural causes at Makkah over the past few days, raising the death toll of Bangladeshis to 40 this Hajj season, a press release of the Ministry of Religious Affairs said yesterday.

Mahmudul Haq (passport no.

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MYSTERIOUS DEATH Another foreign pilot dies in Ctg

UNB, Cox's Bazar

A foreign pilot of an aircraft chartered by a private airline died at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) yesterday soon after he was shifted from Cox's Bazar General Hospital.

Ivor Nikolavich, co-pilot of a Ukrainian cargo plane and a national of Moldova, was hospitalised here at around 1:30pm. As his condition deteriorated, he was rushed to the CMCH, where he died

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PHOTO: STAR

Police intercept a Bangladesh Chhatra League procession protesting the prime minister's visit to the Dhaka University campus to open a book fair yesterday.

Outlaws kill AL man, wound informant

Threaten to kill UP chairman in Keshabpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Armed outlawed operatives killed and wounded an Awami League (AL) activist and an informant in Rampal and Fakirhat upazilas in Bagerhat on Friday and have threatened to kill the chairman of

Shufalakati Union Parishad of Keshabpur upazila in Jessore.

UP Chairman Master Abdus Samad received a letter on February 5 mailed to him on January 28 by the Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) from Shajiarha Post Office of Dumuria

upazila of Khulna district.

The BCP letter accused the UP chairman of helping the joint forces arrest most wanted BCP armed cadre Haider Shaikh in November

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10 killed, 60 hurt in road accidents Ctg pirates kill two crews, loot goods

STAR DESK

Ten people were killed and more than 60 others injured in two road accidents in Madaripur and Noakhali yesterday.

A Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Kalkini in Madaripur dashed against a roadside tree and was badly damaged at Panthanagar on Barisal-Dhaka highway, 20 km from the district headquarters, in the morning.

Six people died on the spot and at least 30 others were injured.

The dead included owner of the vehicle Badsha Howlader and helper Modhu. The others were yet to be identified.

Madaripur fire service sources

said the bus-- Sarbik Paribahan-- was running at a very high speed before it hit the tree.

Of the injured, 18 were admitted to Madaripur Sadar Hospital and four shifted to Dhaka and other hospitals.

Traffic movement on the road remained suspended for several hours due to the accident.

A case was registered with Kalkini Police Station.

In Noakhali, four persons were killed and 30 others injured when a passenger bus skidded of the road at Ramzan Bibi at about 10 am.

The driver of the bus fled.

One of the dead was identified as

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Pirates killed two watchmen and looted some goods from a Mongolian flag carrier anchored at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port in the early hours of yesterday, police and hospital sources said.

The gang raided the 250-foot MV Star-4 at about 3:00am.

Port sources however said the watchmen-- Shahidul Islam, 28 and Mofazzul Huq, 38 -- were injured while trying to resist the pirates.

Member (operation) of Chittagong Port Captain Amirul Islam said the injured watchmen were rescued by a tug boat and sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). "So far as I know,

the two watchmen received injuries as pirates attacked them with lethal weapons," he added.

But CMCH sources said the watchmen were brought dead and their bodies would be sent for autopsy.

Amanat Uddin, an official of RK Shipping, local agent of the ship, said the vessel was imported for scrapping here. "Pirates raided the vessel while it was waiting at the outer anchorage to be beached at Sitakundu coast. Two watchmen engaged by us were injured in the attack."

Coast guards said five incidents of piracy took place in and around Chittagong Port this year and 35

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Prayer Timings		
February 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-40	6-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-55	6-00
Esha	7-15	7-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		