

Cops swoop on traders during protest against robbers' attack on Rangs outlet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 15 people, mostly shopkeepers, were injured as police swooped on a procession protesting robbers' attack on a Rangs Toshiba showroom at Bandartilla under Port Police Station in the city yesterday.

The police team was led by Assistant Commissioner Mahmudur Rahman. He also misbehaved with journalists covering the incident.

Witnesses said a gang of five robbers in an autorickshaw appeared before the showroom in the afternoon and entered it exploding two cocktails.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Demand for 40 percent ADP funds for UPs

Speakers at The Daily Star, NUPF LGI roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should enhance the Annual Development Programme (ADP) allocation for Union Parishads (UPs) to 40 percent from less than two percent now to ensure people's participation in formulating and implementing development projects.

The UPs should also get the funds directly and not through Upazila Parishads in the form of block grants as at present.

This was the view of most speakers at a roundtable on "ADP allocation to the Union Parishads" in the capital yesterday.

Speakers included legislators from the ruling and opposition parties, representatives of donors and different non-governmental organisations (NGOs), members of the civil society and chairmen and members of the UPs.

The roundtable was jointly

organised by the National Union Parishad Forum (NUPF) and The Daily Star with assistance from the Local Government Initiative (LGI), a programme funded by the USAID and implemented by ARD Inc.

Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam moderated the discussion, held at Sheraton Hotel.

The roundtable also stressed accountability and transparency in the use of funds allocated to the UPs to accelerate development of the country.

While majority of the speakers suggested direct ADP allocation to the UPs, some ruling party legislators differed on the idea.

Speakers also stressed full autonomy of local governments and formation of a local government commission.

Dr William J Cartier, LGI chief of party, said both the government and political parties should work

together to ensure direct ADP allocation to the UPs to strengthen the local government.

Golam Sarwar, president of the NUPF, said the issue of UPs has long been neglected and it never came up for discussion in parliament.

He mentioned the ADP allocation to the UPs was only Tk 174 crore in fiscal 2003-04 and the proposed allocation is Tk 190 crore for fiscal 2004-05.

Sarwar also said in Bangladesh, ADP allocation to the UPs is below two per cent while the local government in the Philippines get 40 per cent allocation and in Thailand 35 per cent.

Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad) lawmaker Rawshan Ershad differed on Sarwar's contention that the UPs were always neglected, and said the JP government had strengthened

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



A roundtable on 'ADP Allocation To Up' progresses at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. The Daily Star and the National Union Parishad Forum co-organised it.

RED CROSS Proposal to stop emblem misuse to be tabled in JS soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An amendment proposal to stop rampant misuse of Red Cross and Red Crescent emblem will be tabled in the Jatiya Sangsad soon, top Red Crescent officials told a seminar in the port city yesterday.

"According to the existing law enacted back in 1950 the penalty for unauthorised use of emblem is only Tk 50 and we have proposed a penalty of Tk 5,000 or a three-day imprisonment in place of the older

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

50 fishermen missing in the Bay

UNB, Cox's Bazar

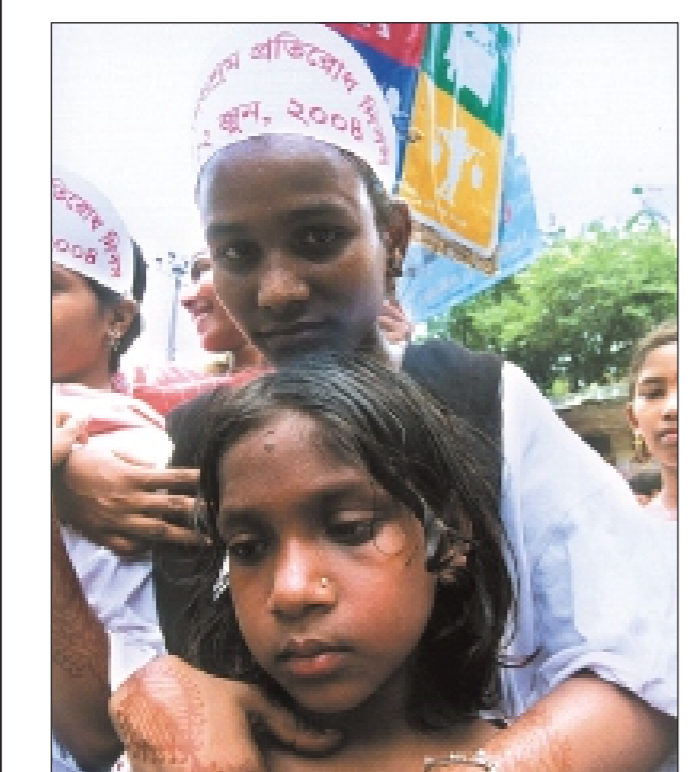
At least five fishing boats with 50 fishermen aboard, caught in a violent storm, capsized in the Bay yesterday.

Local met office sources said the storm lashed the town and its adjoining areas in the morning under the influence of monsoon depression.

Police said three boats capsized close to the shore while they were proceeding towards it. Thirteen fishermen of the boats, however, swam ashore.

Naval officials, the deputy commissioner and police superintendent rushed to the spot. They rescued the fishermen and sent them to Cox's Bazaar Sadar Hospital.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Palli Mangal Karmasuchi, an anti-child labour organisation, stages a colourful rally at Mukhtangan in Dhaka yesterday, marking World Day Against Child Labour yesterday.

3 lakh child home helps in Dhaka

Says Unicef release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An estimated three lakh children in the capital Dhaka alone work as domestic help, one of the worst forms of child labour that exposes them to risks of sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking.

The United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) said this in a press release marking the World Day against Child Labour yesterday.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Dubious court distinction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proceedings of a case have been adjourned for over 1,000 times in a Khulna court, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed revealed yesterday while speaking on the slow process of case disposal.

"A total of 89 cases have been pending with different courts in Dhaka for the last 35 years," the law minister said citing his ministry's report on the state of the pending cases in Bangladesh.

"We are making amendments to some laws to make the judicial system more dynamic. The tenure of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Judo Dal leader shot dead in Mirpur

Cellphone repairer killed in Dhanmondi; condition of Arambagh Club VP critical

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown assailants gunned down a local leader of ruling BNP's youth front in a hail of bullets near his house at Mirpur-1 and a cell-phone set trader-cum-repairer at his shop in Dhanmondi in separate incidents yesterday.

Three criminals ambushed Kamrul Hasan Biplob, 33, member of Dhaka City (North) chapter of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal and also an executive member of Dhaka City WASA Contractors' Association, minutes after he left his house on a

motorbike and drove a couple of yards at around 5:15pm.

Police suspect Kamrul was killed apparently due to rivalry with fellow contractors in the locality over getting work orders.

Two of the criminals sprayed

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Twenty hurt as garment workers clash with cops over due salary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 people including three law enforcers were wounded in a clash between garment workers and police at Pallabi yesterday.

A few hundred workers of Lord Star Sweater Factory, demonstrating for the payment of four months' arrears, rampaged through the factory building at about 9:30am. They damaged machinery, furniture and window-panes of the factory.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

2 killed, 20 hurt in Rupsha bus accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two persons were killed and 20 others injured, six of them seriously, in a road accident at Amdabad under Rupsha upazila of Khulna district yesterday.

One of the dead was identified as Tareb Ali, 35, of Chulkat village under Rupsha upazila. The identity of another could not be known till 7:00pm.

Of the injured, six were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH), while the rest to Rupsha Upazila Health Complex.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when a Rupsha bound passenger bus from bagerhat skidded off the Rampal-Rupsha road and fell into a ditch at about 11:15am.

Ex-ambassador Sultan passes away

BSS, Dhaka

Former ambassador and Bangladesh's permanent representative to the United Nations in Geneva Mohammad Sultan died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday at the age of 78.

Sultan left behind his wife, two daughters and a host of relatives, friends and admirers.

He will be buried at his ancestral home at village Fatepur of Ramganj under Noakhali.

Prayer Timing		
June 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

HC stays order on govt interference

FBCCI defers emergency meet

STAR REPORT

Apex trade body FBCCI yesterday postponed an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) yesterday in the wake of a last-minute High Court stay order the same day on a commerce ministry order that asked for making provision to remove its president and vice-president.

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry convened the meeting at 3:00pm yesterday to discuss the commerce ministry order that the business leaders see as an interference in the apex body's functioning.

The High Court Division Bench of Justice Md Abdul Wahaab Miah and Justice Zinat Ara issued the order yesterday after FBCCI General Member Mohammad Jalal Uddin filed a writ petition against the commerce ministry move.

"In view of the order passed by the High Court Division, the FBCCI should not hold the EGM scheduled to be held on June 12, 2004 at 3:00pm," Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq, who moved the petition for Jalal Uddin, said in a letter to FBCCI President Abdul Awal Minto.

The letter reached the FBCCI at 2:50pm yesterday when around 250 members gathered at its office to attend the EGM.

The commerce ministry in a May 17 letter asked the FBCCI president to take measures to incorporate a clause in its Memorandum of Articles of Association (MAA) enabling the members of its board to remove the president or the vice-president if their conducts are deemed as detrimental to the interest of the federation.

The ministry also asked the FBCCI president to implement the government order in four weeks.

An emergency board meeting of the FBCCI on May 22 decided to convene the EGM on June 12 where the general members of the apex

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



A hazy maze of electric cables hangs dangerously overhead on a narrow lane in Old Dhaka's Shankhari Bazar, posing serious threats of fire and electrocution.

al-Qaeda tape slams ME reform plan

REUTERS, Dubai

A top leader of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network, in a purported audio tape aired yesterday, criticized a proposal for reform in the Middle East as a US ploy and said change will only come through "resistance."

Al Arabiya television broadcast the brief recording which it said was from bin Laden's deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri, an Egyptian militant who Washington says played a major role in the September 2001 attacks on US cities.

"America has nothing to do with

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Indo-Bangla rail link to boost economy

Says Indian HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian High Commissioner (HC) to Bangladesh Veena Sikri yesterday said India was willing to establish direct rail communication with Bangladesh involving both passenger and cargo trains, hoping the link would be a win-win situation for the neighbours.

"Establishment of rail communication between Bangladesh and India would be a win-win situation for both the nations as it would boost economic activities," she said in a speech to the launch of three locomotive engines bought from India for Bangladesh Railway (BR) in Joydevpur.

The BR bought the Rs 29 crore broad gauge diesel electric locomotives with an Indian credit of Rs 200 crore.

"Rail communication between northeastern Indian states and Bangladesh would boost trade and commerce," the envoy said.