

Rab arrests Ctg ward commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a dawn raid nabbed Awami League (AL)-backed Chittagong Ward Commissioner SM Shahidullah with firearms including a revolver at a slum near his house at South Bakalia yesterday.

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Violence flares in northern Iraq

20 killed in suicide car bomb, 25 others in clashes

AGENCIES, Kirkuk

A suicide car bomb exploded yesterday outside a police academy in Kirkuk, killing 20 including 14 policemen and leaving 36 people wounded, said Dr. Rida Abdullah, head of the Kirkuk general hospital.

Southwest of the city at 3:45 pm (1145 GMT), Hakim said. Kirkuk, with its mosaic of Kurds, Arabs and Turkmen, is a frequent target of roadside bombings and shootings, as insurgents seek to upset the delicate ethnic balance in the city.

A hardcore criminal awarded life imprisonment in a murder case seven months ago was granted bail by the High Court on Wednesday just before it went into two-month long vacation.

HC grants bail to life term convict just before vacation

UNB, Dhaka

This has surprised the government and Attorney General AF Hassan Arif was summoned to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). It is learnt that the attorney was asked to immediately move the Supreme Court against the bail.

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Sheba Telecom sold to Egyptian company

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

After a long secretive deal, Egypt-based mobile phone operator Orascom Telecom (OT) has bought local operator Sheba Telecom for \$60 million -- \$50 million in cash and about \$10 million in debts it has repaid -- OT said.

OT intends to invest \$250 million in Sheba over the next few years to develop and expand its GSM (Global System for Mobile Communications) network.

Sheba officials could not be reached for comment. The small operator has about 60,000 subscribers in and around Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Kashmir peace plans okayed at Delhi talks

Foreign ministers sit today to discuss further

AFP, New Delhi

Top Indian and Pakistani officials yesterday approved proposals to break the logjam over Kashmir and strengthen bilateral ties on the eve of a meeting between the rival states' foreign ministers.

productive and had taken place in cordial and constructive atmosphere," said the statement issued at the end of talks here between Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran and his Pakistani counterpart, Riaz Khokhar.

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Khulna UP chairman held for outlaw link

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Hujjat Ali, chairman of Amirpur Union Parishad in Batiaghata upazila in Khulna was arrested on Friday afternoon at the office of the Superintendent of Police Habibur Rahman.

BLAST INJURY

10 more AL leaders off to India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) on its own sent yesterday 10 more of its leaders wounded in August 21 grenade attack on an AL rally, to India for better treatment.

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Table with 3 columns: Prayer, Azan, Jamaat. Rows for Fair, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, Esha.



The giant Arecibo telescope is used to scan the skies

Astronomer deny ET signal report

BBC ONLINE

Astronomers have moved swiftly to quell speculation they may have received a deep-space radio signal from ET.

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Unocal, Petrobangla sign Bibiyana gas purchase deal

UNB, Dhaka

State-run oil, gas and mineral corporation Petrobangla and international oil company Unocal yesterday entered into a gas purchase and sale agreement (GPSA) on Bibiyana gas field.

Unocal Bangladesh Chief Andrew L Fawthrop and Petrobangla Director (PSC) Raihanul Abedin initialed the deal on behalf of their respective sides at Petro Centre.

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