



US Open goes to Kuznetsova

AFP, New York

Ninth seed Svetlana Kuznetsova won her first Grand Slam title, hammering 34 winners and four aces to beat Elena Dementieva 6-3, 7-5 here on Saturday in the first all-Russian US Open women's tennis final.

The 19-year-old Kuznetsova was playing in her first major final and this marked the second all-Russian Grand Slam final in history, following this year's French Open.

This was the first time at the US Open that none of the top four women's seeds reached the semifinals. It was also the first time in 22

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Five of a family killed in Ctg landslide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three children and two women of a family were killed in a landslide in Samtir Para slum near Dhaka-Chittagong highway under Sitakundu upazila yesterday, police and fire service sources said.

Heavy downpour due to a depression in the Bay of Bengal caused the landslide. Police said a big mass of mud from hilltop collapsed on a shanty and buried the victims during their sleep at 4:30am.

Police along with firefighters and locals recovered the bodies and sent them to hospital for autopsy. The victims are Robin, 2, Rima, 4, Rabbi, 7, their mother Fatema Khatun, 27, and aunt Rokeya

Begum, 25.

Met office sources said at least 139mm rainfall was recorded in Chittagong in the last 24 hours until 9:00am yesterday. The downpour paralysed normal life here and triggered waterlogging in the low areas.

Landslides in and around Chittagong city during monsoon have so far claimed lives of over 70 people, mostly shanty and slum dwellers, in the last two decades, sources in police and fire brigade said.

Most of the shanties 'vulnerable' to landslide are located at the foothills or hillsides in Lalkhan Bazar, Batali Hill, Bayezid Bostami, Khulshi and parts of Nasirabad.

After overnight rains, death by

landslides has become a regular phenomenon in the shanties of these areas.

Two women and a boy were killed and another girl was critically injured when a wall collapsed on their thatched houses in Bagghona in Lalkhan Bazar during heavy rains at dawn on July 10.

The boundary-cum-protection wall measuring about 60ft by 15ft of a hilltop bungalow broke off and fell on some thatched houses below.

On June 20, a destitute young woman and her only child were killed in another landslide when a huge mound of earth and rocks from a hill fell on a slum in Ali Nagar in Nasirabad.



Dhaka University teachers yesterday protest the ransacking of Duta President AAMS Arefin Siddiqui's office by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal supporters during Saturday's attack on Bangladesh Chhatra League activists.

BCL leader killed in police custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Mahbub Rahman Hulli, a leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Shibganj College unit of Bogra was killed in police custody yesterday morning.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Zahir of Shibganj Police Station said he caught Mahbub from Mahasthangarh on Saturday at 10:30pm and handed him over to constables Abdur Rahim and Gowra Chandra.

Zahir arrested Mahbub as he was accused of extortion, drinking

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Namibia may shut off Bangladeshi workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recent agitation by a group of Bangladeshi workers in Namibia blocked the chances of around 700 immediate overseas employment there, said sources in the Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment.

A Malaysia based textile giant Ramatex ordered a total of 1,000 workers from Bangladesh to be recruited in their factories in Namibia.

Accordingly, a group of around

300 workers arrived Namibia last month and another group of 500 was supposed to go there next month. As the first batch already created disturbances, the possibility of recruiting next batches is almost zero, the source added.

AFP reports the agitating Bangladeshi workers attacked two managers of the factory on Friday alleging poor accommodation facilities. The workers also accused the authority of paying 80 dollars less as the company had committed \$200 salary per month but gave only

\$120.

Dalil Uddin Mondal, secretary for expatriate welfare, told The Daily Star yesterday that the government would not give permission for further migration of workers to that country, until the situation becomes normal.

He observed that the Bangladeshi workers should have shown their efficiency before going for strike.

Recruiting agents who sent workers to Namibia also became

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India rejects Saarc Summit boycott report

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India yesterday termed "grossly" inaccurate and speculative a newspaper report suggesting India may not take part in the coming Indo-Bangladesh foreign secretary level talks and Saarc Summit in Dhaka next year.

"We've seen the report. It is grossly inaccurate and speculative," Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sama said in response to a query about the report published in a Delhi newspaper yesterday.

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Rab, extortionists firefight leaves one hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested two extortionists after a firefight that left one of the arrestees critically injured at city's Dhanmondi area.

Earlier the same gang of extortionists had abducted a contractor and held two Rab men hostage.

The gang later freed the contrac-

tor in front of National Press Club. But they warned that they would kill him if he does not pay Tk 2 lakh in a week.

The injured, Moshad, 32, was undergoing a surgery at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while the Rab-2 men were quizzing the other arrestee Khokon till filing this report at 8:15 last night.

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Govt to send 8,000 pilgrims to Mecca

42,000 more to go private

BSS, Dhaka

The government has decided to send 8,000 people to perform hajj in 2005 and will allow 42,000 pilgrims to travel to Mecca through private agencies approved by the religious affairs ministry.

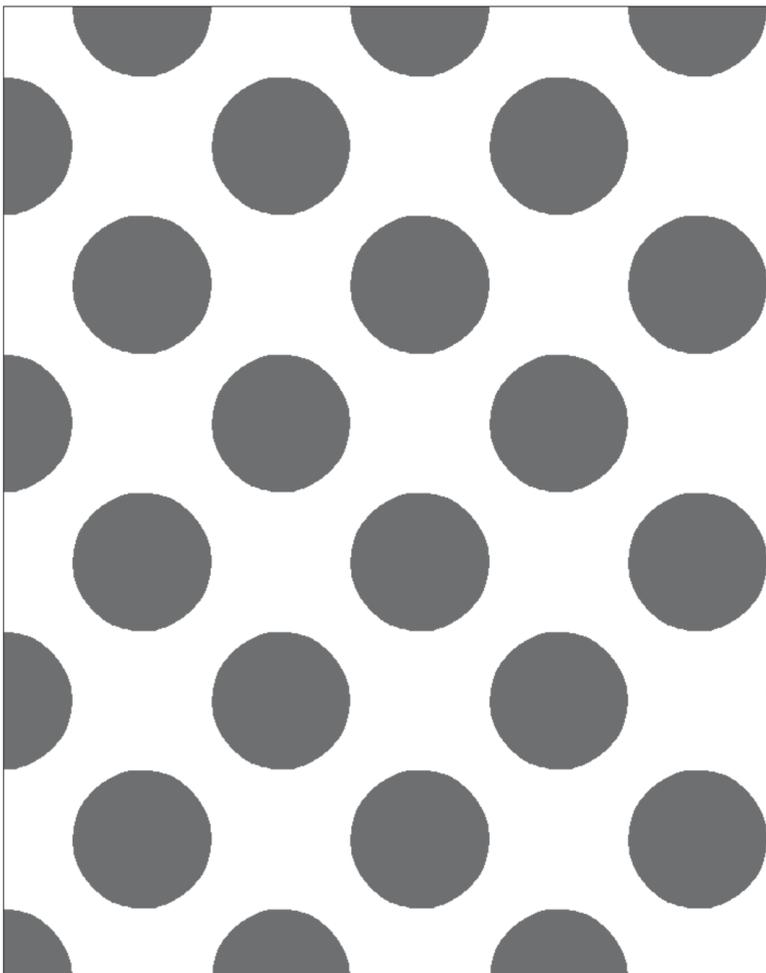
The ministry in a press release yesterday asked the people willing to perform hajj under the government management to process their residence allocations, pilgrim passes, visas, air tickets and required foreign exchange through the hajj office in Dhaka.

They will fly to Jeddah and return by the flights of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

The hajj will be performed on January 21 subject to the appearance of the moon, the press release added.

Pilgrims going under private management have been asked to collect visas from the Saudi authorities on the

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2 hurt in Rab, drug peddler shootout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two persons were injured in a gunfight between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and drug smugglers at 1:30pm yesterday near Minakhi cinema hall at Anjuman road under Daulatpur of Khulna City.

The wounded have been identified as Naik Sarwarul Shahid of Rab and drug peddler Nauroz.

Naik Sarwarul went to the hide-out of drug peddlers in the guise of a buyer but one of the drug runners could recognise his identity and stabbed him in his chest when challenged. The gunfight began when Rab's back-up forces rushed to rescue Shahid from the clutches of the peddlers, Rab sources said.

The Rab men and drug runners exchanged more than 30 rounds during the gunfight. Rab recovered two pipeguns, two gun cartridges and 108 bottles of phensidyl and arrested three drug traders namely

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GRENADE ATTACK TREATMENT

Hanif, his son off to Bangkok

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former mayor Mohammad Hanif and his son Sayeed Khokon injured in August 21 grenade attacks flew to Bangkok for treatment yesterday.

Hanif, president of the Dhaka City Awami League, and Khokon, organising secretary of the same unit, will receive treatment at Bamrungrad Hospital, said a press release.



Rehabilitation of flood-damaged city roads is yet to start as this Mohammadpur-Basila thoroughfare shows with its pock-marked brick top.

Govt spends Tk 11cr extra for project delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has to spend an additional Tk 11 crore on a transport project as it could not be completed on time.

The additional money is being spent as payment to a foreign consulting firm overseeing the project under the communications

ministry. Originally the consultancy fee was Tk 38 crore, but the firm increased the fee because of delay in completion of the work.

The purchase committee chaired by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday approved the extra amount.

Following the 1998 floods that damaged many highways, the

communications ministry proposed to rebuild the roads and rehabilitate them at a cost of Tk 2,500 crore of which Tk 1,375 crore was provided by the World Bank (WB) as loan.

The WB objected to payment of the additional amount to the consultancy firm due to delays and warned the government that 'all

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Headless body found in Lalbagh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered an unidentified headless male body sliced into five pieces from Girda in Lalbagh yesterday.

Being informed by a rickshaw-puller, police found the body stuffed in a jute-sack lying near Aliah Madrasa on Urdu Road at 10:30am.

There were two plastic bags inside the sack. One bag contained hands and legs cut off from the joints and the other one the rest of the body.

Police sent the body to Mitford Hospital for autopsy. The man was about 22.

"The killers might have cut the body into slices after killing the man elsewhere on Saturday night and dumped there," said the duty officer of Lalbagh Police Station.

Prayer Timing		
September 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-17
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation