



Munna finally gives in to death

SPORTS REPORTER
Former Bangladesh football captain Monem Munna died of cardiac-respiratory arrest at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital (BMCH) early Saturday morning. He was 39. The mercurial defender, who had undergone kidney transplantation in Bangalore, India, in March 2000, was admitted to a private hospital

Show-causes to precede closure of 7 pvt varsities

MUSTAK HOSSAIN
The education ministry is set to serve show-cause notices on seven private universities this week as a last warning before shutting them down for failing to create an atmosphere congenial to standard education.
"This is the last corrective measure before we close these poorly performing universities," Education Secretary Faruq Ahmad Siddiqi told The Daily Star recently.
The seven institutions facing the axe are Central Women's University, Comilla University, Queens University, American-Bangladesh University, Southern University, Green University and Pundra University of Science.
Siddiqi said the move has been taken as per the Private University Act (Amended), 1998. A one-man judicial probe body formed in line with Article 16(1) of the law also recommended closing down these varsities, he added. The article

prescribes a judicial probe into any allegation against these tertiary-level academic institutions in the private sector.
The secretary said the show-cause notices would be served first, as "it is necessary to give them a chance to defend their side."
"If they can show any valid reason [for their poor performance], the ministry will take it into consideration," he noted.
The judicial probe body of Justice M Fazlul Huq formed in November submitted its 43-page report to the secretary on January 16.
The judicial investigation was undertaken after a high-powered University Grants Commission (UGC) committee, after evaluating performance of the private-sector universities, had blacklisted eight of them -- the seven named above and BGC Trust University.
The UGC evaluation committee was formed on July 15, 2003 as per a directive of the prime minister,

amid widespread allegations of poor educational quality and non-compliance with the UGC rules against several private universities.
The committee in its report submitted to the prime minister on October 17 recommended that the government should close down eight of the 52 private universities it evaluated.
The committee headed by UGC Chairman Prof M Asaduzzaman found seven gross flaws and irregularities including poor academic standard, absence of students and faculty, temporary and overcrowded campuses, false statements by students and faculty, and almost a total lack of administration in the blacklisted varsities.
It found these universities had opened departments and enrolled students without the obligatory approval of the UGC.
The universities were found to

Govt can't escape by shifting blame

UNB, Dhaka
Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina has warned the Nizami government that it cannot get away with trying to shift the blame of Kibria's killing to the Awami League (AL) through a dirty conspiracy and machinations.
In a press statement yesterday, she strongly condemned the arrest of Laskarpur Union Awami League General Secretary Zahidur Rahman who was tortured during eight days of police remand.
Hasina alleged that the government was protecting the real culprits who killed five people, including Shah AMS Kibria, in Habiganj on January 27.
She said the government is trying to extract a confessional statement from Zahidur Rahman by resorting to inhuman torture on him.



With the Amar Ekushey only eight days away, workers spend a busy day yesterday scrubbing off the dirt from the Central Shaheed Minar premises.

Harkatul demands Tk 20 lakh each from 11

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra
The religious extremist group Harkatul Jihad has sent letters to as many as 11 recipients, including teachers, physicians and politicians, demanding they each pay Tk 20 lakh or else they will face death.
One police official of Naogaon has acknowledged the incident, saying one Hamidul Huq, an activist of the Communist Party, has lodged a diary with police in this connection.
The police official said the sender of the letters is Abdullab Ibne Jahed, self-proclaimed second-in-command of the banned political

Prayer Timing		
February 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

ATTACK ON JOURNALISTS Media men vow to fight back

UNB, Dhaka
Editors, leaders of the journalist unions and senior journalists at a meeting yesterday condemned the killing of Khulna journalist Shaikh Belaluddin in a bomb attack by extremists and decided to take a strong stand to ensure the safety and security of newsmen across the country.
The meeting held at the Jatiya Press Club also expressed solidarity of the journalist community with those in the southwestern region where at least 15 journalists were killed in the last 13 years.
Chaired by Reazuddin Ahmed, president of the Jatiya Press Club, the meeting was called in response to an appeal from Khulna Press Club urging the editors and the

union leaders to take a strong stand against terrorist attacks on newsmen in the southwestern districts.
The meeting decided to issue a joint statement today signed by all the editors of national dailies and union leaders condemning the killing of journalists to create pressure on the government to take effective steps against such assassination.
The meeting decided to form a body entitled "Forum to Protect Journalists" with Jatiya Press Club President Reazuddin Ahmed as its convenor.
The meeting was attended, among others, by Editor of The Daily Jugantor ABM Musa, Editor of The Independent Mahbubul Alam, Editor of The New Age Enayetullah

Looking for new professions

SHAMIM ASHRAF
Lifestyles and professions are rapidly changing in the south-western region as environmental degradation and climate change threaten food security, access to potable water, housing and income opportunities.
Already suffering from land destruction, salinity intrusion, waterlogging, cyclones, storm surges and floods, people in the south-west are now suffering for a new set of challenges imposed by global climate change, including a further rise in the sea level, changes in river water, and increases in temperature. The results, including increased salinity intrusion and waterlogging, have resulted in



A couple in Jessore makes a living farming crabs in cages after permanent waterlogging put an end since 2000 to regular crop and fishery cultivation in the area.

Judge, 3 GIs killed in Iraq

18 die in car bomb attack
AFP, AP, BBC ONLINE, Hilla
Eighteen people were killed and 16 wounded yesterday by a car bomb in the town of Musayyib, south of Baghdad while a prominent Iraqi judge has been assassinated in the southern city of Basra, police and medical sources said.
"Eighteen people were killed, including three policemen, and 16 wounded, three of them also policemen, in the explosion of a car bomb at 8:30 am (0530 GMT)," said the head of the general hospital in the nearby city of Hilla.
Police Lieutenant Mohammed Tamimi said the bomb, near hospital and local council building, was not a suicide attack.
"Most of the victims are people who were heading to the hospital or to the headquarters of the local council," he said.
Musayyib is a mixed Shia-Sunni town some 100km south of Baghdad, on the edge of a violence-wracked area dubbed the "triangle of death".
On Friday, 14 people were killed in a suicide car bomb attack near a Shia mosque in the town of Balad Ruz, northeast of Baghdad, while another seven were killed in an attack on Shia-owned bakeries in the capital.
A prominent Iraqi judge has been assassinated in the southern city of Basra, police say.
Taha al-Amiri, a former chief judge at Basra's highest criminal court, was shot as he drove to work, a police spokesman told the Associated Press.

