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KIBRIA KILLING FBI visits spot, quizzes accused

UNB, Habiganj

FBI special agent Trung Vu, accompanied by two other US security personnel, yesterday visited Boidder Bazar Government Primary School ground where former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria came under grenade attack on January 27.

Police sources told UNB that Vu, the US secrete-service agent, went for the spot inspection at about 11:30am and stayed there for more than two hours examining the scene and its surroundings.

They also took video of the place for the inquest.

Later, the US investigators went to Habiganj jail where they questioned the main accused in Kibria murder case Habiganj BNP Vice President Qaiyum and others for an hour.

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Jail for reckless driving on cards

Govt to amend motor vehicles law to provide for tough punishment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Drivers are going to face imprisonment for reckless and drunk driving, illegal parking, using fake driving licences and other transport-related crimes.

The provisions for such tough punishments are coming under a government move to amend the Motor Vehicles Ordinance, 1983.

Provisions for punishment have also been proposed for emitting black smoke, overloading vehicles with passengers or goods, installing

extra seats in buses as well as plying vehicles without proper registration, fitness certificate or route permit.

The move follows rampant violations of law in the transport sector leading to seven to 10 thousand deaths and a loss of national resources worth Tk 39 billion in road accidents every year.

A meeting at the ministry yesterday reviewed the ordinance and adopted a number of proposals for making a "new and time-worthy law", an official announcement

said. Chairing the meeting, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda said about 70 percent of the driving licences now in use are fake. He said those who will be found to be involved in fabricating and carrying fake driving licences will be liable to at least two months' imprisonment with fine, meeting sources said.

The sources also quoted the minister as saying that if any driver, helper or conductor of a bus, mini-bus, three-wheelers or cabs

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Raw sewage gushes out of the sewer system into the Gulshan Lake near the United Nations Road yesterday, polluting its ecology.

Mosharraf rules out gas export possibility

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain yesterday told the BBC Bangla Service that the government would not export gas considering the prevailing situation in the gas sector.

"There is no need to export gas when there are a number of investment proposals from foreign companies including Tata for setting up gas-based industries in the country," he said.

"Three years ago the government was considering exporting gas for the sake of gas extraction, but now we no longer feel such necessity as the foreign companies have already set about discovering and exploring gas fields and thus producing gas in the country," the minister said.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently wanted to know

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Khaleda calls to resist anti-Dhaka campaign

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called for building resistance and waging a movement against those coordinating smear campaigns at home and abroad against the country's interests.

"Those who are halting country's advance... by way of spreading false propaganda through distributing leaflets abroad against the country... are anti-independence; they have to be identified," she told a function of freedom fighters.

"We have good relations with all, including the neighbours, and malice to none," she said with refer-

ence to a big investment being made in Bangladesh by Indian company Tata.

The PM was addressing an exchange-of-opinion meeting with delegates of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Central Command Council (BMCCC) at the International Conference Centre of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) complex in the afternoon.

Over 200 freedom fighters representing various units across the country attended the meet.

The war veterans in the meeting pledged all-out support to the struggle for economic development led by Khaleda Zia, also chief patron

and chief advisor to the BMCCC. They also voiced their unanimous opinion for fighting all sorts of conspiracy against national interest.

Refuting the claims that Bangladesh is "a dysfunctional state", the PM said a Nobel laureate on economy had appreciated Bangladesh's progress and said that it can be a model for other countries.

Referring to various steps and projects her government had taken for the welfare of freedom fighters and their families, she said the proposal to restart the programme for sending children of freedom fighters abroad was under active

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

7 indigenous people abducted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Seven villagers were abducted from a remote area of Naniyarchar in the hill district of Rangamati on Saturday night.

The abductors in a message reportedly demanded a ransom of Tk 10 lakh from the relatives of the victims, sources said.

The victims are Nirjan Chakma, 42, Sarod Jyoti Chakma, 24, Phulkumar Chakma, 52, Bikash Chakma, 30, Kalabu Chakma, 38, Nanda Kumar Chakma, 24, and Sudajun Chakma, 60.

Our Rangamati correspondent reports, the seven indigenous villagers were kidnapped from Barpolepara under Naniyarchar upazila of the district at around

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Ex-Bac director in action again

Issues letter to staff, assigns ACC duties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite the government's repeated warning, a former director of the now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac) has issued a letter to its staff, claiming to be a director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Lt Col Abdul Hannan Mridha introducing himself as ACC director (administration and establishment)

issued the letter last Thursday. In the letter, he assigned additional duties to himself and a number of Bac staff.

The former Bac directors and deputy directors received the order yesterday. Copies of the letter were also sent to the ACC chairman and two commissioners, sources said.

In the letter, Hannan, the ex-Bac director (administration, establishment, bank and passport) said he

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Delhi should honour its Yangon pledges

Morshed tells The Hindu on tri-nation pipeline project

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bangladesh Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said there is no question of his country going back on its commitment to the Myanmar-Bangladesh-India gas pipeline project.

Bangladesh is "not sliding back on its commitments towards the project," Khan was quoted by The

Hindu newspaper as saying in an interview to it in Singapore.

Khan said India should honour its commitment under the "comprehensive" agreement that was reached in Yangon recently on the project. "India had indeed committed itself to addressing questions related to equitable balance, not equal balance, of trade with

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

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India chase 383

REUTERS, Bangalore

Opener Shahid Afridi led with a 26-ball half-century as Pakistan blazed away in their second innings, setting India 383 to win on the fourth day of the final Test on Sunday.

The explosive batsman hammered eight fours and two sixes in his 34-ball 58, the fastest 50 by a Pakistani batsman, and the visitors boldly declared on 261 for two from

just 50 overs after bowling out India for 449.

First innings double centurion Younis Khan added 84, with 10 fours, and opener Yasir Hameed scored a solid 76.

India, who lead the three-match series 1-0, were 25 without loss at the close to set up an exciting last day.

Earlier, Vangipurappu Laxman had held firm with 79 not out,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

VERDICT AGAINST JOURNOS Ctg lawyers form human chain to express concern

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Aynijibi Samanwaya Parishad Chittagong chapter formed a human chain here yesterday expressing concerns at the recent court verdict against two newspaper publishers, two editors and three reporters for contempt of court.

After the human chain on the Chittagong court premises, the lawyers held a rally chaired by former president of the district bar association Prof Shafiqul Alam.

Speakers at the rally expressed grave concerns at the court judgement against journalists while, they observed, no suo motto was issued

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Beijing to allow its tourists to freely visit Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

China is going to award Approved Destination status to Bangladesh allowing Chinese tourists to visit the South Asian country, Bangladesh's Ambassador to China Ashfaqur Rahman was quoted as saying by Xinhua.

This will be one of the agreements that China and Bangladesh are expected to ink during Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's next month's visit to Dhaka.

The accord will also include one to establish the first direct air link between the two countries by launching an air route between

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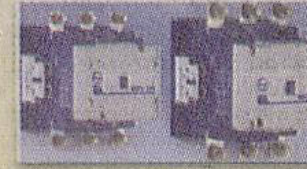





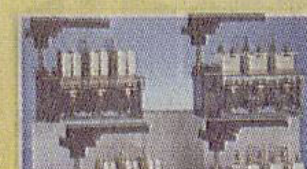
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