

BAF PLANE CRASH
Burnt housewife
dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The housewife, who was fighting for life with critical burns since the June 7 Uttara plane crash, died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Rowshan Ara was shifted to the hospital's ICU Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit with 60 percent burns on June 8 where she died at 5:35am, DMCH sources said.

An F-7 MB fighter of Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) nosedived into her house in Uttara in the capital when she was feeding her 18-month-old daughter Albina. The accident left

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Outlaw killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A 'shootout' between the police and the outlaws killed a cadre of underground Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) at Bhabanipur village in the sadar upazilla in the early hours yesterday.

The dead was identified as Shamim Hossain alias Dat Shamim, 36, a top cadre of the outlawed outfit.

Police said they went to Bhabanipur on information that the GMF was about to clash with outlawed Biplabi Communist Party over establishing supremacy in the village.

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Judicial probe into 'murder' by Khulna cops ordered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) has ordered a judicial probe into the filing of a case by Fatema Khatoon that named seven policemen and an informer as accused for torturing her two younger brothers to death.

First class Magistrate Mohammad Nazrul Islam, now on deputation in Khulna city corporation, has been asked to probe into the incident by Mohammad

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Mobile operators ask govt to withdraw tax on SIM card

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All the four private mobile phone operators yesterday urged the government to withdraw the proposed Tk 1,200 tax on new subscription in the budget for fiscal 2005-06.

Imposition of the tax will hinder fast growth of mobile telephone sector and also adversely affect foreign direct investment (FDI), said the top executives of the cellular operators at a press conference.

The number of mobile phone subscribers in the country will not exceed eight lakh instead of rising to projected five million during the next fiscal year if the proposed tax is not

withdrawn, they said quoting an estimate.

Eric Aas, chief executive officer (CEO) of GrameenPhone, Nasir Baharom, managing director of Telekom Malaysia International Bangladesh (TMIB), service provider of AKTEL, Lars P Reichelt, CEO of Sheba Telecom that operates Banglalink, and Faisal Morshed Khan, vice president of Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited (PBTL), service provider of CityCell spoke at the press conference.

This sector has attracted huge FDI and is one of the largest contributors to government revenue earning through direct and indirect

taxes, the CEOs said in a statement.

The strategy in the sector is to attract new customers with limited income. Connection fees have been reduced to Tk 200 and call charges by up to 35 percent while prices of cellphone sets have come down by almost 40 percent this year, they mentioned.

They hailed the proposed reduction of import duty on cellphone sets to Tk 300 each.

The new tax will discourage lower income groups and rural people to own mobile phone, the executives feared.

It will greatly hinder network

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No tax on SIM, RUIM card replacement

NBR clarifies

UNB, Dhaka

The newly imposed duty of Tk 1,200 will not be applicable for replacement of a missing or defective mobile phone SIM (subscriber identity module) or RUIM cards or CDMA technology with a fresh one for the same phone number, the NBR (National Board of Revenue) said yesterday in a clarification.

Earlier, the NBR in a circular enforced the June 9 budgetary provision imposing supplementary duty of 35 percent (Tk 760.20) and VAT (Tk 439.83) or total Tk 1,200 on new mobile phone connection of above categories as per the Provisional Collection of Taxes Act 1931 (XVI of 1931).

A government handout said no payment of new tax of Tk 1,200 will have to be made for replacement of damaged or missing SIM card, RUIM card or CDMA in case the number of mobile phone remained unchanged.



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia talks to the outgoing army chief Lt Gen Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury when the latter pays a farewell call on her yesterday.

Exports support facilities under one roof planned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has planned to set up a National Export House (NEH) in the city in order to provide exporters with more sophisticated and quick services through bringing all the export-related services under a single roof.

The decision was taken at yes-

terday's board meeting of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) with its Vice-chairman Mir Sahabuddin Mohammad in the chair.

"Services such as banking, customs, freight forwarding, clearing and forwarding and buying will be accommodated at the house to make the export procedure in the

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15 die as truck bomb goes off in Kashmir

AP, Srinagar

A bomb hidden in a pickup truck exploded in a bustling town in Indian-controlled Kashmir yesterday, killing 15 people, including the suspected attacker and a 14-year-old boy, and injuring at least 60 others, police said.

The blast uprooted trees, shattered two cars and damaged a

dozen shops, a school and a post office near a security forces' camp in the town of Pulwama, Deputy Inspector General of Police Owais Ahmad said.

At least eight injured people were in critical condition, Ahmad said.

Eleven civilians, three paramilitary soldiers and the suspected

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PHOTO: STAR

A Jamaat-e-Islami gathering blocks one lane of the road in front of Baitul Mukarram mosque when rush-hour traffic clogs the other one yesterday afternoon.

3 murdered, 1 dies of injury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people were murdered in separate incidents in Mirpur and Keraniganj yesterday while another beaten up on June 4 succumbed to his injuries.

The dead were identified as Shahidul Islam, 19, Md Babu, 25, Mohammad Sentu, 25, and Md Alam, 20.

Shahidul's body was recovered from a field close to his house at

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JP leader held on charge of murder

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Jatiya Party (JP) leader has been arrested and remanded for three days in a murder case.

Police arrested Harun-ur-Rashid, secretary of Gulshan thana unit JP, from his Badda house on Sunday night in connection with the

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Tk 10 lakh looted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Armed robbers looted valuables worth Tk10 lakh in cash and kind in Khulshi residential area of the port city yesterday afternoon.

Some 15 armed robbers broke into Rangamati Timbers, the business establishment of timber merchant Hazi Nazrul Islam at Khulshi, about one hundred yards from the

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Prayer Timing		
June 14		
	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		