

Two outlaws killed in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two outlaw leaders were killed in separate incidents of "crossfire" in Kushtia and Rajshahi districts yesterday.

Rab-3 arrested Jamal Uddin alias Jamal Dakat from a house of Rampura in Dhaka on Sunday morning where he was staying to evade arrest.

394 killed by BSF, Indians in 5 years

Says Odhikar report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Border Security Force (BSF) and Indian assailants have killed 394 Bangladeshis, mostly innocent farmers, over the last five years and five months until May this year, according to a report by the Odhikar.

BDR recovers mortar shell

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel on Sunday afternoon recovered an Indian-made mortar shell left abandoned in a fountain near Dagbhanga village, some seven kilometres away from Borkol upazila headquarters.

Sources said a team led by Nayeab Subedar Kibria of the BDR 34 Battalion rushed to the fountain after receiving information from a local named Aurobindo Chakma and recovered the rusty two-inch mortar shell weighing about two pounds.

"Such mortars were used earlier by the Shantibahini and were supplied from India," sources said.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR BOOKS FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS

Hurried move to pay unqualified publishers

AKBAR HOSSAIN

After selecting more than 500 extra-curricular books for secondary level students, published mostly by little known publishers allegedly associated with the ruling BNP, the education ministry is now readying payments to those publishers defying objections from the professional publishers.

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education under the Ministry of Education is purchasing these books under its "Development project of selected secondary schools" for distribution

among the students of 2,317 selected secondary schools.

The project officials are allegedly taking bribes from the publishers assuring them of quick payment.

Sources in the directorate and publishing houses alleged that a section of the project officials in collusion with the obscure publishers has become active to get share of the money as the project is going to be over by June 30.

It is also alleged that the project officials are realising two percent bribe from the payment sums payable to each publisher promising

them payment before the project tenure is over.

At the Shikkha Bhaban, where the project office is located, the publishers were found lobbying with the project officials for payment against their selected books.

Sources in the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education said preparation is going on regarding the distribution of these books to the selected schools across the country from June 25.

Earlier, the Bangladesh Textbook Board

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India ups fuel prices

AFP, New Delhi

India's federal cabinet raised gasoline and diesel prices by as much as 7.0 percent yesterday to offset higher international oil prices since the last hike in November 2004, a federal minister said.

"The cabinet today decided to increase the price of petrol by 2.50

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Prayer Timing		
June 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	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		

CONTEMPT CHARGE

Judge, accused, PP, seek HC apology

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court judge, a public prosecutor (PP), and the sacked managing director (MD) of Inqilab TV appeared in person before the High Court yesterday to face contempt charges, and tendered unconditional apologies for the offence.

The court fixed July 4 as the date for passing the judgement in the contempt proceedings.

The HC division bench of Justices Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Emdadul Haq Azad issued a suo moto contempt rule on the three on May 16 after the sacked MD was granted bail in a sedition case in a lower court when the matter was still

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PHOTO: STAR

The Village Defence Party Employees' Union brings out a procession demanding salary under the national pay scale from Muktangon in the capital yesterday.

Court asks for report on Bidisha's health

Hearing resumes today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the director of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH) to submit by today a report on the health condition of Bidisha, estranged wife of former president HM Ershad.

Metropolitan Magistrate MA Salam passed the order following a lengthy hearing on the issue of Bidisha's interrogation at the prison cell and fixed today for next hearing on the issue.

Bidisha, now under treatment at the prison cell of BSMMUH, is

accused of funnelling abroad local and foreign currencies worth Tk 21 crore, in addition to three cases filed by Ershad.

On June 16, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Gulshan Police Station Kazi Nure Alam filed a money laundering case against Bidisha under Section 13 of the Money Laundering Control Act 2002.

The OC, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, prayed for showing Bidisha arrested in the case and allowing him to interrogate her at the prison cell.

Metropolitan Magistrate

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23 policemen killed in Iraq attacks

AP, AFP, Baghdad

A suicide car bomber killed 15 traffic policemen yesterday outside the unit's headquarters in the northern Kurdish city of Irbil while eight other policemen were killed in Baghdad fighting, police and hospital officials said.

Iraq's insurgency appeared unfazed by two massive US-Iraqi military offensives against militant smuggling routes and training centres west and north of Baghdad, mounting attacks that have killed at least 73 in the past two days including 28 people yesterday.

A roadside bomb also killed a US soldier on patrol near Tal Afar, 135km east of the Syrian border, the

military said. The soldier belonged to the 1st Corps Support Command and was not part of the two major offensives taking part in the western Anbar province.

Militants, meanwhile, claimed in a Web posting that they killed a foreign contractor working for a US company along with six of his Iraqi guards in an ambush west of Baghdad.

The bomber in Irbil wore a police uniform and slammed his car into a gathering of some 200 traffic police during roll call in a courtyard behind the headquarters Monday morning, police Lt. Sulaiman Mohammed said.

Dr. Mohammed Ali of Irbil

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