

Ctg mugger killed in Rab firing

UNB, Ctg

A mugger was killed and two of his accomplices were injured by bullets during a 'shootout' with the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) under Chandgaon Police Station in the port city yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab team waylaid a gang of seven at Mohra at about 1:00pm when they were fleeing by two CNC-run autorickshaws after snatching money and other valuables from pedestrians.

As the Rab men challenged the criminals, they opened fire on the elite force, prompting them to retaliate.

During the encounter, one of the criminals named Mohammad Halim, 28, was shot and died on the spot, police said.

The two other members of the gang—Zakir Hossain, 25 and Shahid 28—received bullet injuries during the shootout. They are now undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College and Hospital under police custody.

Ministries asked to clear gas bills by July 15

Pvt bodies have to pay in six months to avoid disconnection

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An inter-ministerial meeting yesterday asked various ministries and semi-government bodies to pay their outstanding gas bills by July 15.

The defaulting private organisations will, however, get six months' time to pay their unpaid gas bills in monthly instalments.

The authorities will start sending letters to the private organisations on Thursday asking them to pay their arrears. If they fail to clear their bills by the deadline, their gas connections will be cut off.

Various government and private organisations owe over Tk 1,530 crore as gas bills, including Tk 830 crore unpaid by government and

semi-government organisations under different ministries.

"Financial discipline breaks down if (gas) bills are not paid in time. It is a question of the whole fiscal accountability," Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman told reporters after presiding over the meeting.

Mahmudur Rahman, adviser to the energy ministry, said the ministry is failing to pay the international oil companies (IOC) regularly due to the huge amount of outstanding gas bills.

The finance minister at the meeting said each and every ministry gets its required amount of allocation in the annual budget. He wondered why the ministries are not

paying gas bills, a meeting source said.

Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan said if this tendency of not paying bills persists, the finance division would cut the bill amount in advance during the budget allocation for the ministries.

Senior officials of different ministries presenting their reports at the meeting complained of various flaws in gas billing, including incorrect bill amount.

The health ministry pointed out that Eden College's gas bill has been shown in their account while the education ministry said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital's

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

In the aftermath of the second Tengratala blow-out, gas bubbles throughout a vast expanse of an adjacent haor.



PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

The engines, equipment and seats of Biman's DC-10 aircraft that belly-landed are being removed yesterday before its salvage operation starts at Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport.

DOMESTIC HELP JOB 131 women ansars to go to S Arabia

MoU signed with 4 recruiting agencies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ansar authorities yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with four recruiting agencies for sending its female members to Saudi Arabia and other countries to do household jobs.

The auxiliary law-enforcement agency will send within a month 131 members, who have already completed necessary training, to Saudi Arabia in the first batch.

They will have at least three-year job contract at monthly pay of 400 rial.

If the venture proves successful, the government will send more

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

SUBMARINE CABLE SCAM Minister okays action against ex-BTTB chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Telecommunications Minister M Aminul Haq yesterday finally okayed departmental action against former BTTB chairman Nurul Islam, Project Director Monowar Ali and other officials for alleged irregularities in the submarine cable project.

The file containing recommended actions may be sent today for presidential approval, sources at the ministry said.

The former chairman of the state telecoms operator Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board was demoted to officer on special duty (OSD) on June 21 following a note from the Cabinet Division seeking action against the officials involved.

The Cabinet Division pressed the telecoms ministry for proper action against the officials in question, but the minister allegedly was sluggish to act and sat on the file for several weeks.

He eventually signed the file suggesting departmental action against Nurul and Monowar instead of suspending them, sources said.

The ministry did not pay heed to the Cabinet Division's letter despite repeated reminders.

In early May, the Cabinet Division after scrutinising the documents found that the chairman was responsible for manipulating the bidding for the Chittagong-Cox's Bazar optical fibre link project.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Govt plans cylinder gas for kitchens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering replacing the present system of gas supply through pipelines with gas cylinders for domestic use.

The matter may be incorporated in the National Energy Policy, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman told reporters after an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday.

"Nowhere in the world people cook rice in gas burners [with piped gas]. They widely use cylinder gas for domestic purposes," Saifur observed.

"A huge amount of gas is wasted by domestic users. Housewives do not switch off the burner after cooking to save a matchstick and often dry clothes using gas burners," the

minister said citing an example of gas wastage.

Mahmudur Rahman, advisor to the energy ministry, said, "Using piped gas for domestic purposes is a luxury, everywhere in the world cylinder gas is used in households."

Citing an instance of misuse of gas, he said people even use gas to dry rice in Brahmanbaria, Bhairab and Narayanganj areas.

To stop such wastage the government is going to change the energy policy to encourage use of gas cylinder for domestic purposes, he added.

Speaking at a roundtable at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday, Mahmudur Rahman urged the NGOs to create awareness among

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

DU classes resume today

Strike called off

DU CORRESPONDENT

The academic activities of Dhaka University (DU) resume today as the seven opposition-backed student organisations led by the Awami League's student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) called off their indefinite strike at the university yesterday.

"We have postponed the strike getting assurance from the university authorities that they would realise our demands and considering the general students' future,"

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

DC-10 FIASCO

Int'l flights might resume tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

International flight operations may resume at Shah Amanat International Airport tomorrow after Biman's DC-10 aircraft that crash-landed on Friday is salvaged, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin yesterday said.

"Our first priority now is to drag

the aircraft at least 150 feet away from the runway and resume flights on international routes immediately as we have been counting thousands of dollars in losses due to the suspension of international flights since Friday," the minister told reporters yesterday afternoon.

Earlier, Mir Nasir inspected the aircraft that crash-landed and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

SSC results likely next week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC), Dakhil and SSC Vocational examinations under nine education boards are likely to be published between July 9 and July 12.

The Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Dhaka, the coordinating body of all education boards, has sought a date from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to hand over the results.

"We've asked the education ministry for an appointment with the prime minister," Dhaka Board Chairperson Shaheda Obaed told The Daily Star.

The education ministry has already forwarded the request to the PMO, ministry officials said.

Examinees will be able to get results from the education board

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Nasa projectile smashes into comet

AFF, Pasadena

A US space projectile crashed head-on into a comet hurtling through the solar system yesterday in an unprecedented feat of technology that scientists hope will help reveal the secrets of the universe.

The probe rammed the heart of the Tempel 1 comet exactly as planned at 0552 GMT, 133 million kilometres (83 million miles) from Earth.

"That's awesome! That's awesome!" US flight control officials shouted after the impact was confirmed. "We hit just exactly where we wanted to."

A picture sent to Earth by a fly-by probe showed a bright flash of light as the projectile collided with the

comet, which is travelling through the solar system at approximately 37,100 kilometres (23,000 miles) per hour and is equal in size to half of Manhattan Island.

The copper-laden impactor was beaming back high-resolution pictures of the comet until just a few seconds before the collision.

They showed craters, ridges and presumed glaciers on the potato-shaped comet that was discovered in 1867 and named Tempel 1.

"We have put a new trail for other people to follow," said Charles Elachi, director of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a division of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration that was a key partner in the experiment.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



PHOTO: AFF

This Nasa image shows the initial ejecta after Deep Impact collided with a comet.

ACC agrees to take ADB assistance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday agreed to take technical assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its core functions and capacity building.

The anti-corruption watchdog took the decision at a meeting that discussed ADB's proposals for assistance and the appointment of four consultants for the ACC.

After discussing the proposal, the ACC asked the ADB representative at the meeting to change some minor points of the proposal, meeting sources said.

ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan chaired the meeting attended by commissioners Prof Maniruzzaman Miah and M Maniruddin Ahmed.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Mugger of Tk 9 lakh in Dhanmondi identified

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have identified one of the four criminals, who mugged Tk 9 lakh from two officials of a private firm, and dispatched two teams outside the capital to arrest him.

The four on two motorcycles mugged Lutfur Rahman, accounts officer of Bepco, and his colleague Hafizur Rahman on Road No. 6/A in Dhanmondi on Sunday afternoon.

The officials were returning to office by a rickshaw after withdrawing the sum from the Standard Chartered Bank's Dhanmondi branch.

Police said they have checked the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
July 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-57	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation