

3 killed in 'crossfire'

STAR REPORT

Three people including a student of Jagannath University were killed yesterday during police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) operations in Dhaka, Narayanganj, and Rajshahi.

Of the dead, Khondoker Iqbal Hossain, 22, a first year student of honours in management, was killed in Dhaka while Mokbul Hossain alias Mishu, 26, an alleged criminal, in Narayanganj and SM Golam Mortuza Chand, an outlawed party leader, in Rajshahi.

Police identified Iqbal as listed criminal Dipu alias Golakata Masum.

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UN reform to top PM's Tokyo talks

REZAUL KARIM

The issue of UN reform will come up as one of the main items on the agenda of talks during Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's four-day official visit to Japan beginning on Tuesday.

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SUNAMGANJ-3 BY-POLLS

HC order violated as EC fails to collect candidates' info

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) directive for the Election Commission (EC) to collect personal details of the candidates aspiring to parliament has not been followed properly in the upcoming Sunamganj-3 by-election, speakers told a discussion in the city yesterday.

The EC has failed to implement the HC directive of gathering information on the candidates' academic qualifications, source of income, description of assets and liabilities. Professor Muzaffer Ahmed told addressing the discussion arranged at the Jatiya Press Club by Shujan, a coalition dedicated to promoting good governance.

"Sunamganj by-election is very crucial as it is going to be the first election after the issuance of High

Court directive," he said adding that it is a test case ahead of the next general election.

The HC on May 24 this year issued the order.

Professor Ahmed said the directive is not mandatory for the EC, but the election order of 1973 empowers the RO to cancel the nomination papers of those who would submit incomplete information.

He described as incomplete and inadequate the information submitted to the commission by all nine candidates in the Sunamganj by-election along with nomination papers.

The EC, if necessary, should postpone the July 20 by-poll of Sunamganj and examine the personal information of all nine candidates, he added.

Prof Ahmed also alleged that the EC has yet to take steps to disseminate the information on the candidates as directed by the HC.

Citing from the candidates' personal information submitted to the RO, Prof Muzaffer Ahmed questioned, "Is it reliable that none of the nine candidates has any liabilities?"

He said the candidates also did not say anything about how much money they have in cash.

Only one candidate wrote about his bank loan, while another candidate in the space earmarked for educational qualification in the EC provided form wrote 'not applicable', he said.

Dr Badiul Alam Majumder told the meeting that the purpose of the

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RIISING ROBBERY

Cops to up patrolling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of rise in robbery, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) is going to increase motorbike patrolling, deploy additional teams and make a new list of criminals involved in such crimes.

Forty incidents of robbery took place in the capital from January to June this year against 29 during the period last year, DMP Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman told newsmen while exchanging views with them at the Rajarbagh Telecom auditorium yesterday.

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WRIT AGAINST CJ

Ex-judge allowed to file petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former additional High Court (HC) judge was yesterday allowed to file an application to the Supreme Court (SC) for restitution of his original writ petition that accused the chief justice (CJ) of violating the constitution and his oath to office.

Abdus Salam Mamun, the former judge, on Wednesday moved to swear an affidavit of his application but the affidavit commissioners refused to entertain his plea. Finally, he got the permission yesterday through High Court's intervention.

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EARTHQUAKE

9 to 14-storey buildings most vulnerable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nine to fourteen storeyed buildings standing on the lowland area in the capital are the most vulnerable to earthquake while the one to five storeyed buildings are relatively safe here, a research work revealed yesterday.

A building collapses when the vibration frequencies of the building

and the ground become the same during an earthquake and the possibility of the high rise buildings to collapse is high in Dhaka, said Dr Maksud Kamal, teacher of geology department at Dhaka University, while presenting his findings at a seminar.

Dr Maksud presented the findings of his research yesterday at the seminar organised by Shahosro

Gabeshona Kendra, an organisation to encourage research works, at the Curzon Hall auditorium of Dhaka University. Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, convener of the organisation, chaired the programme.

Maksud worked on 305 square kilometres (sq km) area in the capital and examined the vibration frequencies of the buildings and

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Tengratila fire shrinks further

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Intensity of fire at the main burning point of Tengratila gas field lessened further yesterday while leaking out of gas in bubbles continued in surrounding areas with flickers from more than 30 points.

With the exhaustion of the gas in the pocket within a few days, the situation will be fully under control, a Niko official said.

Niko has entrusted Australian company Century with drilling the second relief well at Tengratila. US company Parker was drilling

the first relief well that caught fire following a serious blow-out on 24 June.

Niko has fixed 25 July for starting the drilling of the second relief well.

Meanwhile, defying Niko's warning, people of the neighbouring villages have started returning homes.

'Sunamganj Banchoo Andolan', a citizens' forum of Sunamganj district, has called a daylong hartal in the district town today demanding compensation from Niko and scrapping contract with the Canadian company.

2 editors, publisher get bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Prothom Alo Editor Motiur Rahman and Publisher Mahfuz

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Prayer Timing

July 10		
	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



Iron rods, bamboo, cement and such construction materials stacked by callous developers of a multi-storeyed building on Purana Paltan Road and its footpath choke the busy city thoroughfare, forcing pedestrians and vehicles move dangerously in throngs yesterday.

4 muggers held at Kakrail bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four men were arrested after a mob beating yesterday for trying to mug a bank customer at Kakrail hours after armed robbers looted Tk 44 thousand in cash and kinds from a Sutrapur house in the city.

Witnesses said the staff and customers of Sonali Bank, Kakrail Branch caught the gang of four at

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AL, allies draft common reform agenda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League and its allies last night drafted a common agenda of reforms of the caretaker government and electoral systems.

A 7-member sub-committee of

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