

50 hurt as JCD, Shibir clash, Rajshahi health instt closed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi.

Sporadic clashes between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir yesterday left at least 50 people injured on the Institute of Health Technology (IHT) campus.

About 20 rooms belonging to both the groups were vandalised and several more looted during the clashes between 1:00am and 12:30pm.

IHT authorities closed the institute for an indefinite period and evacuated the 200-seat male students' hostel by 2:00pm. Women students have been asked to vacate their hostel by 9:00am today.

Sources said the clash ensued after Shibir cadres severely beat up Sajjad Hossain, vice-president of IHT unit JCD, over capturing a seat at Shameem Hostel.

There were several chases and counter chases between the JCD, student wing of ruling BNP, and

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Bail of four robber cops denied

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday denied bail to four cops and their three informers in an extortion case.

The accused are Assistant Sub-inspector (ASI) Khalil Ullah, Nayek (non-commissioned officer) Abdul Bari and constables Shamsuzzaman and Korban Ali, and the informers Shahadat Hossain, Mohammad Jasim and Mohammad Ripon.

They are accused of snatching silver ornaments and extortion of Tk

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Discovery lands safely

AFP, Edwards Air Force Base

The space shuttle Discovery touched down safely in California yesterday, marking the culmination of the first gut-wrenching shuttle flight since Columbia disintegrated in flames in 2003.

Commander Eileen Collins landed Discovery at Edwards Air

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Prayer Timing		
August 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-41	6-44
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Textile dyes in bakeries

Kwality fined for keeping ice cream without manufacturing and expiry date labels

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday recovered huge amounts of poisonous textile dye from two confectioneries in the Swarighat area of the city, suggesting that some food producers are still not aware of the court's continuing drive against adulterated food.

The court recovered 11 types of dying colours from a confectionery and five from another. These were used to make cakes, biscuit breads, and candy more attractive.

The court first raided the Jamal confectionery in Swarighat and found five types of textile dye and

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PHOTO: STAR

Member of a mobile court displays poisonous textile dye seized from two bakeries in Swarighat in the capital yesterday. They used the dye to colour food items.

66 die in rebel attack on Nepal army camp

76 troops still missing

AFP, Kathmandu

Maoists killed 40 Nepalese soldiers in an all-night battle after attacking an army camp in the country's northwest, the army said yesterday, bringing the death toll to 66 after the rebels said 26 of their fighters were killed.

"The terrorists inhumanely killed

40 security men ... by lining them up and shooting them in their heads," an army statement said, adding that some soldiers were mutilated.

"The security forces are continuing the search for the rebels in the areas from where they are most likely to escape," the statement said.

An army official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said 227

soldiers were at a camp near the town of Kalikot during the clash on Sunday night. Apart from the 40 confirmed killed, 111 had been traced and 76 were still unaccounted for.

The Maoists' western division commander, Prabhakar, said on Monday the clash lasted 11 hours

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98 fishermen kidnapped

UNB, Borguna

Pirates on Sunday kidnapped 98 fishermen with their trawlers from a canal of the Sundarbans and demanded ransom for their release.

Patharghata Trawler Owners' Association yesterday said the pirates demanded a Tk 5 lakh ransom for release of the fishermen.

It said seven trawlers with 98 fishermen aboard had taken shelter in Shala canal of the Sundarban during a storm in the Bay. Suddenly, a gang of pirates swooped on the fishermen, took them to their den at

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Tk 30, still too tempting for cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Officer-in-charge (OC) Abdus Salam of Rupsha Police Station in Khulna was closed to police lines and SI Manzur Hossain suspended yesterday on charges of receiving Tk 30 in bribes from a student.

Superintendent of Police Moinul Islam said Asaduzzaman, a student of Rupsha Bangabandhu College, went to the station at 11:30am yesterday to file a general diary in connection with his missing SSC examination certificate.

SI Manzur Hossain, who was on duty at that time, demanded Tk 100 as a bribe for the GD. But Asaduzzaman had only Tk 30 to pay the cop.

The matter was brought to the notice of Khulna Range DIG Noor Mohammad, who directed the SP to conduct an enquiry into the matter.

The SP found the allegation true following an investigation by an intelligence agency personnel.

SI Mamun Bashar is now temporarily posted as officer-in-charge.

EC plans to revise voter list annually

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) plans to revise the electoral roll every year to include in it those coming of voting age and the others that missed to be on the list during enumeration.

"We are seriously considering introducing annual revision system of the voter roll. We will go ahead with the plan after preparing a fresh roll for the next general election," EC Secretary SM Zakaria told The Daily Star.

If the system is introduced by amending the electoral laws, the standard of the voter list will mark a drastic improvement. The number of fake voters will drop while that of eligible voters will increase every year, the EC secretary observed.

Besides, it will do away with the need for preparing fresh lists hurriedly before every national polls. The list, if revised every year, will also be effective in elections to different local government bodies,

EC secretariat officials said.

In accordance with the EC's plan for preparing a fresh voter list for the next parliamentary election, about five lakh enumerators will start going from door to door to collect field level information on the prospective voters from November.

The EC in accordance with the Electoral Rolls Ordinance 1982 has fixed January 1, 2005 as the qualifying date for a person to be a voter. Those who are not less than 18 years of age on the qualifying date will be allowed to register as voters and the enumerators will collect information only from them.

In this process, the people who will become eligible after January 1 this year will not be listed as voters until publication of the final voter list in March/April next year. They can be registered as voters in the period between publication of the list and declaration of election schedule.

According to the EC documents,

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41 pirates nabbed in Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Bangladesh Coastguards yesterday arrested 41 pirates and seized five motorboats in the Bay of Bengal near the off-shore island of Kutubdia in Cox's Bazar.

The coastguard made the arrests and seizure when the pirates attacked a scrap vessel and a tugboat in the morning.

Sources said over 50 pirates in six engine boats attacked the scrap

vessel MT Radwan and tugboat Fair Play-14 at around 8:30am.

On information, 30 coast guards on board the patrol vessel Tauhid led by Lieutenant Commander Mahmud rushed to the scene and foiled the pirates' move. However, some pirates managed to escape with the sixth boat, the sources added.

The coastguards handed the pirates over to police.



PHOTO: STAR

Pirates arrested in the Bay are seen with the coastguards on a patrol vessel returning to shore. The coastguards arrested 41 pirates in a drive near the offshore island of Kutubdia in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

Tk 36 lakh cellphones looted from city shop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thieves heisted cash and cellphone sets worth Tk 36 lakh from a cellphone shop at Baitul Mokarram Market Monday night.

Sohrab Hossain, owner of Sayra Electronics, said he went home closing his shop Monday night and found the shutters broken yesterday morning.

The thieves took 622 cellphone

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China team sits today to convert \$31m suppliers' credit into soft loan

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A high profile delegation of the Chinese government sits with Economic Relations Division (ERD) officials in Dhaka today to convert the \$31 million suppliers' credit into a concessionary loan for the di-ammonium phosphate (DAP-I) project.

"China wants to complete the procedure before Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's visit to China this month," said a high official of the ERD.

Joint Secretary (Asia) of the ERD will lead the Bangladesh side at the negotiation.

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