

Mob lynches 2 'muggers' in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two alleged muggers were killed and another was critically injured in a mob beating in Nasirabad Housing Society area under Panchlaih of the port city yesterday evening.

Local people severely beat up the three for alleged mugging, police and witnesses said.

When police sent the three to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in critical conditions, the on-duty physicians declared two of them dead.

Identity of the killed and injured could be known till filing of this report.

Six alleged robbers were lynched in Patiya after a serial robbery at three villages of neighbouring Anowara upazila in the district early Saturday.

At least 20 people were lynched in the district this year.

Nurses stage wildcat strike at N'ganj Hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Medical services came to a halt for three hours at Narayanganj Hospital after nurses staged a wildcat strike to protest the assault of an on-duty nurse by an agent of a private clinic.

According to the hospital sources, a young woman named Bulu came to the hospital around 12:00pm to see Dr Nasima Akhtar. When she came out from the doctor's chamber, the agent, Halima forcibly took her to Nova Diagnostic Centre at Kazi Para to carry out an ultra-sonogram.

As Bulu came back to the hospital and showed her report to the doctor, she advised her to get admission in the hospital.

Halima then pressed her again to get admitted at nearby Rose Clinic, which she refused. As she started dragging Bulu out of the hospital, senior staff nurse Nurunnahar intervened. Being infuriated, Halima beat up Nurunnahar and snatched a gold chain from her neck.

As the news of the incident broke out, nurses and other staffs went on strike.

Ctg-Cox's Bazar optical fibre link awarded to Turkish firm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet purchase committee yesterday approved the Tk 28.74-crore bid of a Turkish company to install an optical fibre link between Cox's Bazar and Chittagong, which will connect the nation to the global information superhighway.

Turkish company Hesfibel will have to finish installation of the 160-km link by November. Hesfibel was the third lowest bidder in the second tender for the optical fibre link project.

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB), the project implementing authority, found the two other lowest bidders non-responsive, says Hasan Mansur, secretary of the telecoms ministry.

"We are already behind the

schedule to be able to use the submarine cable," Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, who is also the chairman of the purchase committee, told the press following a meeting that gave the Turkish firm the go-ahead for the bid.

The first tender was cancelled by the government following reports run by The Daily Star about a major corruption in which BTTB was about to award the contract to German company Siemens at a price Tk 17 crore higher than that of Canadian Alcatel, the lowest responsive bidder. Siemens had asked for Tk 47 crore to do the job.

Later, the government as a punishment made the BTTB chairman officer on special duty (OSD).

The re-tender for the project was floated a couple of months ago. The corruption attempt has delayed the

project by several months as the installation was supposed to be completed by July.

The optical fibre link will connect Bangladesh to the international submarine line, which will be available at Cox's Bazar within the next month. An international consortium is installing the half-billion dollar South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe-4 (SEA-ME-WE-4) submarine line.

The submarine system will span around 20,000 km across the eastern and western worlds to set an ultra fast terabit per second connectivity. Bangladesh will get 10 gigabytes of bandwidth, which is enough for the country's internet and telephony demands for the next 10 years.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Tk 60,000cr master plan for environment proposed

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The executive body of the National Environment Committee at a meeting yesterday emphasised formulating a 20-year master plan involving Tk 60,000 crore to save the capital from environmental pollution.

The meeting also recommended formation of a high-powered committee comprising officials from the ministries and departments concerned to monitor and recommend environment-related measures.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Four killed in road mishaps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people were killed in three road accidents in the capital in the early hours yesterday.

A speeding vehicle knocked down two people -- Sajeda Begum, 42, and her nephew Sirajul Islam, 30, -- when they were crossing the road in Uttara under Biman Bandar Police Station.

They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) and died there at around 4:45pm.

Md Jasim Uddin, 16, was found injured in North Jatrabari after being run over by a vehicle in the early

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Shrimp farmer killed in bomb attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A shrimp farmer was killed when unidentified assailants hurled a bomb at him on Sunday night in Khatia Beel area of Assassuni upazila.

The victim identified as Rafiqul Islam, 35, hailed from Manipur village of the same upazila.

Police said Rafiqul, who died on the spot, was attacked while he was sleeping inside his shrimp enclosure.

Officer in Charge (OC) Abdul Matin of Assassuni Police Station

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



PHOTO: STAR

A manhole remains uncovered for over one month on the busy road near the Janata Bank head office in Motijheel in the city, posing risk to vehicles and creating traffic jam during rush hours.

Two UK soldiers, 14 locals killed in Iraq

AFP, Baghdad

Two British soldiers and at least 14 Iraqis were killed in attacks in Iraq yesterday as US-led forces backed by fighter jets battled insurgents in a restive corner of the country.

The violence flared after a government announcement that ousted dictator Saddam Hussein will go on trial on October 19 over a 1982 massacre of Shias, a decision branded by his defence lawyers in Amman as political meddling.

The two British soldiers died in a roadside bombing near Basra in southern Iraq, an area relatively free of the deadly insurgency that has gripped much of the rest of the country since Saddam was deposed in April 2003.

Their deaths bring to 94 the overall number of British personnel who have died as a result of combat, accident or natural causes in Iraq, according to the ministry of defence in London.

In the deadliest attack Monday, a

suicide car bomber attacked a coalition base in the western town of Hit, killing 11 people and wounding 16, officials said.

In Baghdad, two policemen were killed and five wounded when rebels staged an audacious dawn raid on a checkpoint outside the interior ministry, a ministry official said.

Rebels arrived aboard four cars and sprayed machine-gun fire at police before fleeing, the official said.

Also in Baghdad, four US soldiers and three civilians were wounded in another suicide car bomb attack, US and Iraqi officials said. Three insurgents were killed in an ensuing exchange of gunfire.

The driver of a truck belonging to the North Oil Company was killed when a bomb exploded on a highway linking the northern town of Kirkuk to the oil refining centre of Baiji, security officials said.

Iraqi and US troops, backed by helicopters and fighter aircraft,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

AC trains to run on Ctg, Sylhet routes

UNB, Dhaka

Fully air conditioned (AC) trains will be introduced on Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet routes soon in a bid to offer better service to the passengers by Bangladesh Railway.

To implement the Tk 70.54 crore project, the government will import 30 AC railway carriages from China within the next few months, said an official release.

An agreement to this effect was signed between Bangladesh Railway and China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CNMIEC) at the Railway Bhaban yesterday.

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda was present at the agreement signing ceremony as chief guest. Additional Director General of Bangladesh Railway (Infrastructure) M Aabduallah and General Manager of CNMIEC Zaho Jun signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Moudud for law to make govt agencies accountable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed has pledged he will take an initiative to formulate a law requiring all government agencies involved in finance to publish annual reports on their earnings and expenditures.

"We could have progressed much in the question of the right to information if there was a printed report of all small and big government agencies starting from Union Parishad (UP)," he said, addressing as the chief guest a daylong seminar on the right to information in Bangladesh yesterday.

"So, I will take an initiative to make a law binding all the government agencies to generate their annual reports," he committed when a group of civil society members, NGO activists, journalists and academicians pressed the minister that general people are kept in the dark about the sources of income and expenditure of government

machinery. Manusher Jonno, a nonprofit organisation, organised the seminar at the Brac Centre conference room.

The speakers urged a law binding government and private organisations to share information about finances generated during their activities.

Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Information Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury, Information Secretary Mahubur Rahman, advocate Shahdeen Malik, economist Atiur Rahman, advocate Hameeda Hossain, advocate Salma Ali, Elna Khan, Editor of The Daily Star

Mahfuz Anam, General Secretary of Jatiya Press Club Shawkat Mahmud, Zarina Rahman Khan of Dhaka University, team leader of Manusher Jonno Shaheen Anam, Sanjeeb Drong, Quamrul Hasan Monju, and journalist Mahfuzullah, took part in the discussion.

Renowned economist Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya moderated the seminar.

The law minister observed that, except security related issues, all information should be open to the public. "To establish the right to information it would have to be taken as a movement," he said.

Ahmed said the right to information is a basic human right of the people and is not only for newspapers. Rather it is necessary for overall development of the country.

He added that the flow of information would have to be institutionalised in the country so that information is automatically disseminated.

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam said freedom of information is necessary for bringing transparency in the government activities and strengthening democracy in the country.

"If a government official knows

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

100 injured as villagers clash at Chhatak

UNB, Sylhet

At least 100 people were injured, 25 by bullets, in a clash between the inhabitants of two villages in Chhatak upazila over land dispute yesterday morning.

Police and villagers said the trouble began at 11:00am when a group of 50 people, led by one Ashik Miah of Kalyanpur village under Dularbazar Union, attacked the villagers of neighbouring Sharifpur under Chhaila Aizalabad Union with firearms in their bid to occupy a disputed land.

"In retaliation, some 60 people of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Nepal frees Koirala, 160 other protesters

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepal's royalist government freed more than 160 anti-king protesters detained during a pro-democracy rally which turned violent at the weekend, police said yesterday.

The activists, including former Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, were detained on Sunday during a rally criticising King Gyanendra's Feb. 1 power seizure and demanding the restoration of democracy.

"All those who were detained were released late on Sunday," a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Prayer Timing		
September 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation