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TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS

2 smugglers die in BDR shooting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

At least two smugglers were killed and three injured as Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) opened fire on them on Bashudevpur border in Hakimpur upazila in the early hours yesterday.



Bhutan king to abdicate, hold polls in 2008

REUTERS, Kolkata

Bhutan's king is to hand power to his son and stage the tiny Himalayan kingdom's first democratic elections in 2008, the state-run Kuensel newspaper reported yesterday.

Stampede in Indian relief camp kills 45

AFP, Chennai

At least 45 people, mostly women, were killed and more than 50 injured yesterday in a stampede for food coupons at a flood relief camp in the southern Indian city of Chennai, police said.

More than 3,000 people affected by floods had gathered at a government school in the Tamil Nadu state capital to collect food coupons early Sunday, an official said. "The toll has now risen to 45. Around 50 people are injured.

Around 30 people have been taken to the hospital, of which a few are very seriously injured," a police official, who declined to be named, told AFP.

"There may be more casualties." The relief centre was scheduled to open at 7:30 am (0200 GMT), but people gathered hours earlier fearing there would not be enough coupons to go round.

"Suddenly it started raining heavily and there was a mad scramble to get in. As the lock on the main door snapped, those in the front

got crushed by the jostling crowd behind them," said witness Dhanalakshmi, who uses only one name.

Most of the victims were women, police said. Heavy rain was hampering rescue work.

Two of the city's main hospitals, Government and Royapettah, where the injured have been taken, were swamped by policemen and angry relatives.

Women waited in the corridor of the Government General Hospital.

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Explosives supply comes from Naikkhongchhari

Fear intelligence agencies; probe starts

MONIRUL ISLAM MONU, Bandarban

Following repeated recoveries of huge explosives, arms and ammunition in the border areas near the hill district of Bandarban, the intelligence agencies are investigating if the explosives that still remain in the hands of terrorists are being supplied to militants.

According to a government

statistics, one bag and two cartons of highly powerful TNT explosives were recovered from Tengra Murong Para of Naikkhongchhari upazila on July 6 this year. Besides, 130kg plastic explosives, 16 containers of acid and other chemicals, five packets of gunpowder, two packets of white potash and low explosives, 1kg lead, two packets of lead balls, components of rocket

launcher, five electric wire coils, one safety fuse insulator coil and 40 battery connectors were also recovered from Lemujhiri Hills in Naikkhongchhari on October 20 last year.

Later, around 700 anti-personnel mines, other land mines, rocket launchers and 536 Arges grenades were seized from

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Ctg JMB chief to face Sunny, Awal in Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Four Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) militants arrested on December 13 were sent to Dhaka yesterday morning to produce them face-to-face with the organisation's military commander Ataur Rahman Sunny and Abdul Awal.

The four operatives-- Mohammad alias Aman Ullah, Naimuzzaman alias Zafar alias Shohag, Rafiqul Islam alias Javed alias Roman and Manirul Islam-- were arrested in connection with an arms case filed with the Pahartoli Police Station.

Sources said they were being

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PM's dialogue on militancy deceiving

Says 11-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left-leaning 11-party has said the prime minister's national dialogue on militancy is a deceit as the government is forcing participants not to put the blame of patronising militancy on any of the ruling coalition partners.

Leaders of the leftist alliance at a meeting yesterday said the crisis cannot be resolved without taking tougher actions against the section in the government that is harbouring militants.

Referring to the prime minister's dialogues with two political parties and some groups, they alleged the prime minister is

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Balaram Das, father of slain Faridpur journalist Goutam Das, puts his signature on a poster as he joins a national convention on repression of journalists organised by BFUJ at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Hasina laments lack of press freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday said journalists are facing obstacles due to absence of freedom of speech, rule of law and human rights.

She went on to label the ruling alliance ministers and its cadres as the perpetrators of repression on

journalists at a national convention against 'Repression on Journalists' at the National Press Club in Dhaka.

Hasina, also the Awami League (AL) president, said the journalists should identify and prepare a list of the ministers and members of the parliament who are patronising the

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Biswa Ijtema begins Jan 27

Tight security planned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stringent measures will be taken for foolproof security during the Biswa Ijtema, the second-largest congregation of Muslims, beginning on January 27 at Tongi on the outskirts of Dhaka.

Special teams of police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Bangladesh Ansar will be deployed in and around the Ijtema venue on the bank of the river Turag to check any untoward incident during the three-day congregation.

"Foolproof security will be arranged to ensure safety of the devotees, including those coming from other countries," State

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Hannan, Awal shown arrested in another blast case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Top militant leaders Mufti Abdul Hannan and Abdul Awal were shown arrested in another bomb blast case and were placed on fresh remands yesterday.

Hannan, operations commander of the banned Harkatul Jihad's (HuJI) Bangladesh chapter, was placed on a 10-day remand for the twelfth time since his arrest on October 1.

On the other hand Abdul Awal, son-in-law of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Sheikh Abdur Rahman, was

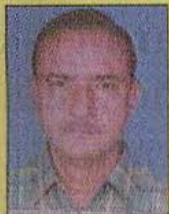
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BANGLADESH TERRY TOWEL & LINEN MANUFACTURERS' & EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

The following members have been elected as new EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS for the term of: 2005-2007



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M. Nasir
Member, EC



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Member, EC



Abu Taher Chowdhury
Member, EC



Akhter Ahmed Chowdhury
Member, EC



Sk. Hamid
Member, EC



Md. Tahmid Masum
Member, EC

A university on paper

Jagannath University does not have syndicate, academic council; yet to start admission

ASHIQR RAHMAN

Even after official declaration as a full-fledged university, the Jagannath University College (JUC) is yet to make any arrangement for taking admission test in time for its first batch students while many public universities of the country have already started the process.

Even the newly formed university's syndicate committee and academic council, that are essential for taking admission test, have

not been formed yet.

Besides, the teachers and employees of the institution are now apparently divided on the question of the present initiative to form the university's syndicate committee.

Many teachers and employees of the institution alleged that Ayesha Shirin Rahman, acting vice-chancellor of Jagannath University, who is also the principal of Jagannath University College, recently sent a proposal for the

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AUG 17 BLAST Islamic NGO director named in Jhalakati charge sheet

UNB, Jhalakati

Investigators submitted charge-sheet in the court yesterday accusing two people in one of the August 17 bombing cases in Jhalakati

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Prayer Timing		
December 19		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Meghrib	5-22	5-25
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



Dialogue with Donors On Urban Poverty Issues

Bangladesh Urban Round Table (BURT) is a group of leading national and international development organizations working with the urban poor. The urban poverty issue is not a cut off part of the national poverty situation but due attention of the proper authority is considerably absent. Poverty alleviation activities without appropriate attention to the urban part of the national poverty scenario can't achieve goal, rather the effort would continue as ineffective. In view of this, BURT has been doing policy advocacy and as a part of this dialogue with Donors on Urban Poverty issues to be held today from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Level-4, LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka. Ms. Christine Wallich, Country Director, The World Bank and Ms. Hua Du, Country Director, ADB would be the Chief and Special Guest respectively in the dialogue. BURT is hopeful that in light of MDG, WSSD and PRSP, expected outcome as donors attention to the issues would be better and supportive to the development process in the country.

Organizing Team:

CARE Bangladesh, CUP, DSK, Plan Bangladesh, NSDP, UNICEF, WaterAid, MSS & IPD



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