

PADMA BRIDGE Govt seeks Chinese help

UNB, Dhaka

The government has sought Chinese assistance for construction of the proposed Padma Bridge, LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said yesterday.

"We have requested the delegation of Chinese Communist Party to provide assistance for the proposed Padma Bridge and they will inform us about it after discussion with their authorities," he said.

Bhuiyan, also BNP secretary general, was talking to reporters after a bilateral meeting between the visiting delegation of Chinese Communist Party and BNP's senior

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Hasina urges govt to stop 'politics of killing'

UNB, Dhaka

Charging the government with killing innocent people, including opposition activists, Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the ruling alliance to stop the politics of killing.

"Killing people has become their habit. How many dead bodies do they want?" she questioned.

The opposition leader was talking to the family members of slain Keraniganj Jubo League leader Anwar Hossain at her Sudha Sadan residence.

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KARNAPHULI CAPSIZE 5 more bodies recovered

UNB, Ctg

Rescuers yesterday recovered five more bodies and five more trucks from the Karnaphuli following Sunday's ferry capsized in the river.

The victims were identified as truck driver Dilip Saha, 40, of Kaliganj upazila under Jhenidah district, Nurul Alam, 45, and his wife Hanufa Begum, 40, Noor Begum, 28, and her son Chhoton, 7, of Matarbari village in Mohekhali upazila.

A total of six bodies and eight trucks have so far been found in the river. A ferry of the Roads and Highways Department sank at Firingee Bazar point of the

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PROF TAHER KILLING

RU teacher held for 'planning' murder

ANWAR ALI and ABU KALAM,
Rajshahi

Police yesterday arrested BNP-aligned Rajshahi University teacher Prof Mia Muhammad Mohiuddin of geology and mining department at his teachers' quarters house in connection with the killing of his colleague Prof S Taher Ahmed.

Police sources said the arrest was made after a suspected killer confessed before a magistrate that Mohiuddin was directly involved in the murder.

Jahangir, one of the arrested suspects, in the confession said Prof Mohiuddin masterminded the killing to remove impediment to his promotion.

Mohiuddin was present during the murder along with his student and RU unit Islami Chhatra Shibir President Mahbub Alam Salehin, he added.

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) Commissioner Nayeem

Ahmed confirmed the arrest, which was made within the power of police provided by the law of the land.

"We have still a lot of things to do to complete the investigation," he said when asked if other teachers or beneficiaries are involved.

RMP Deputy Commissioner (East) Lokman Hakim explained all procedures including taking permissions from the head of the state and the home ministry for the arrest.

"Jahangir's confession under the section 164 was enough for arresting Prof Mohiuddin," said Lokman. He however did not elaborate on the confession for the sake of investigation.

The police had earlier kept watch on Mohiuddin's movement and his house since the arrest of Jahangir.

They mounted the watch yesterday morning and a number of plain-clothes policemen were seen following Mohiuddin.

In the evening, several platoons

of police from four police stations and RMP reserve forces laid siege around the campus. A team of eight policemen led by the Detective Branch assistant commissioner went to Mohiuddin's house and asked him to go with them around 6:00pm. They took Mohiuddin in a microbus to the RMP headquarters.

The RMP commissioner supervised the entire operation and held a closed-door meeting at his office to design the raid.

Earlier in the day, the police also recovered the missing travel bag and cellphone of Taher following the statement of Jahangir's brother Abdus Salam.

Police raided their cousin's house at Kadirganj and found the travel bag. They also recovered Taher's cellphone from Jahangir's house.

JAHANGIR'S CONFESSION
Metropolitan Magistrate

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US consortium starts talks on sky train service

UNB, Dhaka

A US based consortium of investors yesterday started negotiations with the government to introduce sky train service in Bangladesh.

The four-member delegation, led by Chairman of American Transport System Corporation (ATSC) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Norbert Von Boode, met Communications Minister Nazmul Huda and Dhaka City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in their offices.

During the meeting with the communications minister, the US delegation proposed to tie up the government with their project, but the minister turned down their proposal saying, "It's not our con

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AUGUST 17 BLASTS Awal, Sunny placed on fresh remands

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Top militant leaders, Abdul Awal and Ataur Rahman Sunny, were shown arrested in two other bomb blast cases and remanded yesterday.

This is for the 12th time Awal, son-in-law of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman, was placed on remand in the case filed with the New Market Police Station. He has been remanded for 73 days since his arrest on November 18 last year.

Meanwhile, Ataur Rahman Sunny, brother of the Shaikh and military commander of JMB, was placed on a 10-day remand in connection with another blast case filed with Kotwali Police Station.

The Detective Branch (DB) of

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USERS' FRESH REGISTRATION

Cellphone operators given 15 days to finish preparation

STAR REPORT

All the mobile phone operators have been asked to complete their preparations for fresh registration of 10 million subscribers within 15 days and start the process by February 27.

Mobile phone operators have also been asked to follow new guidelines in case of new subscribers from February 27, sources said, adding that Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC) will issue a directive on it this week.

Cell phone companies will get two months to complete the registration process, the first step of the controversial tele-tapping ordinance. Existing and new subscribers will have to provide their fingerprints on the prescribed forms.

The telecom regulator held a series of meetings with the top officials of mobile phone companies, home ministry, and intelligence agencies since January 19 on completion of the fresh registration process in a bid to chalk out a plan

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Blair warns Iran over global nuke concern

Tehran asks IAEA to remove surveillance cameras

AFP, AP, London/ Vienna

Iran will be making a "very, very serious mistake" if it ignores international concern over its feared development of nuclear weapons, British Prime Minister Tony Blair said yesterday.

In a question and answer session with senior members of parliament, Blair said the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) decision to report Iran to the UN Security Council was "an important first step".

"We have got to discuss with allies how we proceed. The answers are not easy," he said.

He reiterated that military action against the Islamic republic was

"not on our agenda" and that he hoped the simmering crisis can be resolved through diplomatic means.

"It is interesting that over the past few months there has been a change of mood in Europe as well as in the United States," Blair told the House of Commons liaison committee.

"Iran would make a very, very serious mistake if it thinks the international community is going to allow it to develop nuclear weapons capability."

Iran suspended voluntary cooperation with IAEA inspectors after the UN watchdog voted 27-3 last Friday to report its concerns

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AL MPs term tele-tapping bill unconstitutional

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) lawmakers yesterday strongly protested a bill allowing intelligence and law enforcement agencies to tap telephone conversations and said the bill is against the constitution and fundamental rights of people.

At a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on telecommunications ministry, AL lawmakers gave a note of dissent to the bill and said that the law will be misused.

The standing committee, with majority consent of the ruling party members, finalised the bill for passage. Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haque piloted the bill in the Jatiya Sangsad on Sunday.

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BSF kills 1

UNB, Thakurgaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi farmer on Ratnai border in Baliadanga upazila of the district yesterday.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said the BSF personnel of Natuatuli camp opened fire on Alamgir Kabir alias Alam Mia, 20, of Kashibari village while he was irrigating cropland in the morning. Alam died instantly. The Indian border guards then took the body to their camp.

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Prayer Timing		
February 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		



PHOTO: STAR

A group of fruit vendors illegally occupies the central reservation of a road near the Golapshah Mazar in Gulistan in the capital.

Gang kills 4 youths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miscreants hunted down and killed four youths and injured two others in South Badda in the capital yesterday.

The dead are Alauddin, 25, Tajul Islam, 32, Masud, 32 and Rubel 32, while the injured are Jalal Uddin Rumi, 30, and Kamrul, 23.

Locals and witnesses said a gang of 10 to 12 armed youths

entered the area around 5:30pm and killed the four at different spots of the area within five minutes.

The armed gang first went to a Video CD (VCD) rental shop, Al Mobin CD-VCD Corner owned by Kamrul, at South Badda where Rubel was sitting inside the shop with Kamrul. The criminals sprayed bullets on Rubel, which also hit Kamrul in the right thigh.

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