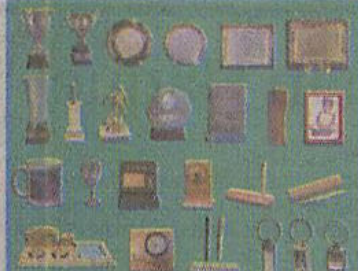


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PHILIPS

KILLING OF BSF Indian High Commission concerned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday again expressed concern over the 'killing' of a BSF personnel by the BDR on the river Ichhamati in Satkhira on Monday night.

Quoting investigations by the Indian authorities concerned, the High Commission in a press statement said a BSF patrol boat from border outpost Soladana while patrolling in the river seized 15 cattle-heads that were being smuggled into Bangladesh.

It claimed that the BSF patrol party was well inside the Indian territory and it came under "unprovoked fire from the BDR forces" from border outpost Padmashankar. "This resulted in the death of a BSF constable, Rajender Kumar Sharma."

It also expressed the High Commission's dismay at the "attempt by the BDR to provide protection to cattle smugglers while, at the same time, indulging in a disinformation campaign of shifting the blame on to the BSF for such incidents. That such actions by the BDR have led to the tragic loss of life of a BSF constable is particularly shocking."

The High Commission also emphasised the need for restraint and professional conduct by the BDR in order to ensure maintenance of peace and tranquility along the border.

Accused in Jamaluddin abduction case held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested an absconding accused in the sensational BNP leader Jamaluddin Ahmed Chowdhury abduction case at city's Kalurghat area early yesterday.

Tipped off, a team of Rab-7 raided Kalurghat under Chandgaon Police Station at around 2:30am and arrested Abul Mansur alias Boli Mansur.

During preliminary interrogations at Rab-7 headquarters at Patenga, Mansur admitted his involvement in the abduction of Jamaluddin, sources in Rab said.

They said Mansur identified himself as the close accomplice of Kala Mahub, Kashed chairman, an union parishad (UP) chairman of Kanchannagar in Fatikchhari upazila, and Shahid chairman, another UP chairman of Anwara Sadar upazila -- the prime accused in the abduction.

BNP leader Jamaluddin, also a prominent businessman, was kidnapped on July 24, 2003 from Chandgaon Residential Area while returning home from his business place at Chawkbazar and was murdered later.

The Rab and police recovered the skeleton of Jamaluddin on August 24 last year from a remote forest area at Satkanda Tilla in Fatikchhari, about 40 kilometres off the city.

Later a DNA test of the remains was conducted at a Singapore Hospital that confirmed the skeleton as of Jamal and after that he was buried at his family graveyard at Anwara upazila on March 11 this year.

Ctg sergeant sacked over extortion

UNB, Ctg

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) yesterday sacked a traffic sergeant on charge of extortion.

On April 29, CMP suspended sergeant Nirmal Debnath on a complaint by Chittagong Port Magistrate Munir Chowdhury.

The magistrate found the sergeant involved in extortion at Barik Building crossing in the port city.

After departmental inquiry, Debnath was found guilty and sacked.

Prison staff resent new rules for recruitment

SHAMIM ASHRAF

A new recruitment rule of the Prisons Directorate has created strong resentments among jail officers who think it will block the passage of their promotion and create vacuum in the posts of senior rank, ultimately weakening the whole administration.

The new rule that came this year after annulment of the 1984 rule has cut down the quota of promotion of jailers and deputy superintendents to jail superintendents from 75 per cent to 50.

It has imposed an impossible provision for filling up 50 per cent of the 58 posts of jail superintendent with 10 promotee deputy superintendents with at least three years' experience in the post.

"These 29 posts will never be

filled with promotee officers," said the inspector general (IG) (prisons).

The new rule has also introduced a provision for promoting non-administrative officials to administrative posts, which will weaken the jail administration, fear many senior jail officials.

The government circulated the Jail Directorate Recruitment Rule 2006 through a gazette notification on February 9.

"There are a lot many flaws in the new rule and it should be addressed immediately," IG Prisons Brigadier General Zakir Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday.

In the wake of growing resentment, he sent a letter to the government on May 16 asking for removal of the flaws in the new recruitment

policy. The new rule has cut the scope of field-level officers' promotion, he said.

The new rule specifies that a jailer has to serve in his post for at least four years and as deputy superintendent for three years before he is promoted as jail superintendent.

According to the Prisons Directorate, there are 66 jailers, 10 deputy superintendents and 58 jail superintendents presently.

Experts said the rule will reduce the opportunity of jailers' promotion as deputy superintendent and lengthen the process.

The deputy jailers will be the worst victims as their promotion to the posts of jailer will take a long time due to the slow promotion of their seniors.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Teacher shot dead in Pabna

UNB, Pabna

Unidentified assailants gunned down a headmaster of a primary school in the classroom in Ataikula upazila yesterday.

Local sources said Rabiul Islam Shahjahan, 50, headmaster of Goyeshbari Government Primary School, came under attack at about 11:00am.

A gang of seven entered the classroom, sprayed bullets on the teacher and left the scene, firing blankshots.

Schoolteachers and locals rushed the bullet-hit teacher to Dhaka, but he died on the way at about 3:00pm.

Witnessing such horrendous act, the students of the school started running helter-skelter and some of them were injured in the scramble.



Relatives carrying food and other items for near and dear ones held during mass arrest in the last few days gather at Dhaka Central Jail gate while staff list the items. The photo was taken yesterday.



Awami League lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor tries to evade police attack at Motijheel in the capital during hartal hours yesterday, left, ruling BNP activists force an opposition worker to come out from under the bed at his house at Kamrangirchar.

Bali blast convict freed from jail

REUTERS, Jakarta

Radical Indonesian cleric Abu Bakar Bashir walked out of a Jakarta jail yesterday after serving time for links to the 2002 Bali bombings, calling on jubilant supporters to join forces for the spread of Islamic law.

Australia's prime minister said millions of his citizens would be extremely disappointed because of the release and a US embassy spokesman said there was cause for concern.

Wearing his trademark white skullcap and red-and-white checked shawl as he emerged from

prison, a smiling Bashir said: "Let us strengthen Islamic brotherhood. We strengthen our unity for one aim -- that is Islamic sharia (law)."

Indonesia and other nations that "have been in darkness" could be saved by adherence to Islamist precepts, he said. Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Bashir was surrounded by supporters shouting "Allahu Akbar" before entering a black van for a long drive to his Islamic school, once dubbed the "Ivy League" of militants.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Truck damages Teesta Bridge, traffic halts

UNB, Lalmonirhat

Movement of train and other vehicles over the Teesta Railway Bridge came to a halt at 7:00pm yesterday as the bridge was partially damaged.

Railway officials said fish-plates of the rail line over the bridge were displaced when a loaded truck dashed the deck while it was crossing the bridge.

About 500 vehicles, including Dhaka bound night coach from Lalmonirhat and Kurigram, remained stranded on both sides of the bridge, causing sufferings to the passengers.

Workers started repairing the damage at 8:00pm. Railway officials said they are not certain when the bridge will be reopened to the vehicular traffic.

Coalition, Afghan forces kill 26 militants

AP, Musa Qala, Afghanistan

Coalition and Afghan forces killed 26 suspected militants yesterday in fighting in eastern mountains, while in southern Afghanistan, more than 11,000 troops prepared for their biggest offensive since the fall of the Taliban five years ago.

Suspected Taliban militants attacked a coalition logistics patrol in Helmand province in southern Afghanistan with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire, killing one American soldier and wounding two others, the US military said.

About 100 British troops were

quickly air-dropped in to support the patrol and coalition air fire killed or wounded 12 militants in the area, said coalition spokesman Maj. Quentin Innis. Another coalition soldier died in combat in the eastern Kunar region.

Coalition and Afghan forces killed 26 suspected Taliban militants in eastern mountains near the Pakistani border, said Pakista provincial Gov. Akram Khelwak. Helicopter gunships and artillery fire supported troops on the ground, Khelwak said. One Afghan police officer was wounded.

Four civilians were also killed when a rocket hit their home in a

separate rebel attack in Paktika, Khelwak said.

The major offensive that starts Thursday will involve 11,000 US, British, Canadian and Afghan troops. The push, which aims to squeeze Taliban fighters in four volatile provinces, will focus on southern Uruzgan and northeastern Helmand, where the military says most of the forces are massed.

Dubbed Operation Mountain Thrust, the offensive comes amid Afghan and coalition efforts to curb the fiercest Taliban-led violence since the hard-line Islamic government was toppled for harboring

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

3 killed as Tigers clash with troops

AFF, Colombo

Tamil Tigers clashed with Sri Lankan soldiers who were laying mines deep within rebel territory, killing at least one trooper but losing two of their own, a pro-rebel website said yesterday.

A unit of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) Tuesday confronted the military personnel who had infiltrated guerrilla-held territory in the island's north, Tamilnet said.

"Two Tamil auxiliaries and an Sri Lanka army soldier were killed when both exchanged gunfire," it reported. "At least one bag marked 'SLA' (Sri Lanka army) was recovered from the attackers."

Tamilnet said the soldiers were

members of the army's Deep Penetration Unit and had been laying three Claymore mines when they were surprised by the rebels.

The military denied the charge but said two of their officers had gone missing and were believed to have been abducted by the Tigers.

"The possibility of the body being that of a missing officer cannot be ruled out," a military statement said. "The Tamil Tigers have a long history of resorting to abduction of both military and civilians."

In other violence, military spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said a total of five people were killed in the embattled northern and eastern regions in the past 24

hours. The victims included a civilian, two police guards and a soldier allegedly killed by the Tigers while a guerrilla who tried to break through a military defence line was shot dead by troops, Samarasinghe said.

The deaths came as a team of LTTE leaders returned to the island Wednesday after abortive talks in Oslo with Sri Lankan government officials.

The rebels refused to sit at the table with a Sri Lankan delegation for what had been billed as two days of talks to discuss ways to ensure the safety of Scandinavians monitoring a troubled truce between the two sides.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Scientists urge G8 not to ignore global warming

REUTERS, London

World leaders must not allow concern for energy security to distract them from taking promised action on global warming, top world scientists said yesterday.

Climate change solutions agreed at the G8 summit in Scotland a year ago risked being pushed off the agenda at next month's G8 summit in Russia by worries about security of energy supply, they said.

"One year on from the UK G8 summit, where the G8 committed to taking action on climate change, this crucial issue must not be allowed to fall by the wayside," said Martin Rees, president of the UK's Royal Society.

Rees is a signatory to the statement from the science academies of the G8 and China, Brazil, India and South Africa.

"The G8 must demonstrate that this was a serious pledge by integrating climate concerns with their discussions regarding security of supply," he said.

Britain pushed global warming to the top of the agenda during its presidency of the G8 in 2005, eliciting promises of action from some of the world's major polluters.

But energy supply worries have

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

50 die in Indian road crash

AGENCIES, Lucknow

Fifty people were killed in the tiny northern Indian state of Uttarakhand when the truck they were in crashed on Tuesday, officials say.

The truck carrying wedding guests fell into a gorge when its driver lost control while negotiating a sharp curve in the hilly district of Almora, some 350 kilometres (217 miles) from the city of Lucknow, police said.

"Ten more people died in hospital overnight," district official Ruchi Tiwari told AFP by phone from Almora.

Forty people died on the spot and police were still recovering the bodies.

"Rescue operations were stopped at night as there was no arrangement for electricity," Tiwari said. "Thirty-seven bodies were pulled out Tuesday night. Efforts are on to recover remaining bodies."

The truck was ferrying 62 people to a wedding when it rolled into the 300-metre (990 feet) gorge, Tiwari said.

Twelve injured people remained in a state-run hospital, three of them in serious condition, Tiwari said.

Traffic accidents are common in India, many of them caused by rash driving and ageing vehicles.

It is the second major road accident in the area in recent months. In April 14 people were killed in a bus crash.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Prayer Timing

June 15		
	Azari	Jamaat
Fajr	4:05	4:40
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	5:00	5:15
Iqrib	6:50	6:55
Sha	8:15	8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation