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Prosecution claims Hasan had Shazneen murdered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution in the death reference hearing of Shazneen murder case yesterday said convicted Hasan had Shazneen murdered in cold blood to keep his image untarnished to Latifur Rahman as he had tried to rape her earlier.

Deputy Attorney General ABM Waliur Rahman in his argument before the Death Reference Bench of the High Court (HC) said the nature of the crime committed by Hasan is mean and heinous.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, a

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ADB to give \$230m for gas sector development

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Aiming to expand the country's natural gas infrastructure and delivery system, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Bangladesh yesterday signed agreements for \$230 million in loan.

Secretary to the Economic Relations Division (ERD) Mohammad Ismail Zabiullah signed for the government while Hua Du, country director of ADB's resident mission in Bangladesh, signed on behalf of ADB in a simple ceremony at ERD office, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

The total cost of the project is estimated \$413 million. A \$225 million loan from ADB's ordinary capital resources will help finance the construction of the pipelines and installation of compressors. A \$5 million loan from ADB's Asian Development Fund will help

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UP chairmen, members submit memo to Speaker

Demand strong local govt body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Elected representatives of union parishads (UP) yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Speaker of Parliament to press home their nine-point demand for making the local government 'strong and effective'.

Their demands included

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Boishakhi TV director faces yet another arrest warrant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yet another arrest warrant against Boishakhi television's 'director' MNH Bulu was issued yesterday in connection with a murder case filed with Anwara Police Station in Chittagong.

Earlier, an arrest warrant against Bulu was issued in connection with a murder case filed with Gournadi Police Station in Barisal.

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BNP men vandalise godown, loot firm

Haji Selim blames lawmaker Pintu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling party men vandalised a godown at the direction of BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Pintu and looted valuables of a construction firm on a piece of land owned by Awami League (AL) leader Haji Mohammad Selim at Kamalbagh yesterday, alleged Selim.

The locals of Kamalbagh under Lalbagh Police Station in the city chased Pintu and his accomplices when they tried to grab the land

Intra-party feud may cost AL polls results

Grassroots party men warn Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Intra-party feuds along with some top local leaders' stand against the party in the election may result in defeat for main opposition Awami League (AL) in the forthcoming parliamentary elections, grassroots level leaders told their party chief Sheikh Hasina at a view exchange meeting yesterday.

Increase of nomination aspirants, trend to establish supremacy at the local level and lack of coordination among the top local leaders have augmented the long-lasting conflicts among them, leaders of Comilla (north and south), Chandpur and Brahmanbaria said at a closed-door meeting at the party's Dhanmondi office in the

capital.

The local leaders urged Hasina to take effective measures to solve the internal problems, otherwise, they said it may lead to the defeat in the next elections in all the 24 constituencies in the three districts.

The AL won in only one out of six constituencies in Brahmanbaria district while the party failed to win in 12 constituencies in Comilla and six constituencies in Chandpur district in 2001 elections.

"In the meeting we have informed the party chief that there are at least five to eight candidates in each constituency that may serve to heighten dispute ahead of election," Abdul Halim, president of AL's Sarail upazila unit under

Brahmanbaria district, said.

They had also informed the party chief about the longstanding intra-party feud in the district committee, he added.

The AL president told the local leaders to work together to ensure victory in the next elections.

"The government earlier announced to nab militant kingpins fixing a time frame, and they are now promising to reduce prices of essentials within two months only to bamboozle people," the AL chief said referring to the BNP secretary general's announcement about reducing the prices of common goods.

"BNP itself nurtured militants and hiked up prices of everyday

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EX-DIG'S PARENTHOOD HC orders DNA test in S'pore

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday ordered the ex-deputy inspector general (DIG) of police, who became a 'disputed' father to send his wife and septuplets, to go to Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore for DNA test to prove the parentage of the seven babies.

The order came upon a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) writ filed by Bangladesh National Woman Lawyer's Association (BNWLA) seeking custody of the seven infants, airing doubt about parentage of the children and apprehending a racket for trafficking them out.

Passing the orders, a division bench of the HC issued a rule asking the government to explain why direction should not be given for handing over the seven children to the association's shelter home

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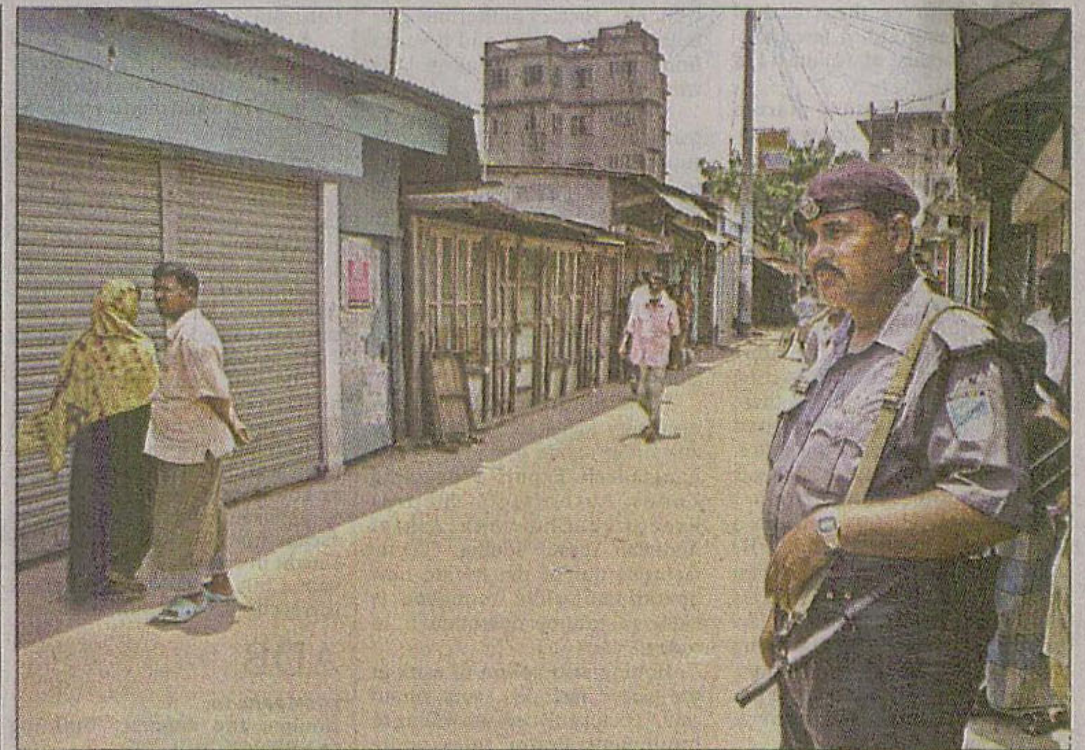


PHOTO: STAR

Policemen stand guard at Jinjira of Keraniganj on the outskirts of the city as CI-sheet traders shut down their shops yesterday protesting the killing of a fellow trader by criminals.

1 lakh marooned as 50 Moulvibazar villages flooded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

About one lakh people of 50 villages have been marooned as more areas of Kulaura upazila in Moulvibazar were inundated while the flood situation in Juri and Baralekha upazilas remained unchanged.

The water level of the Manu river, now flowing above the danger mark at Manu Railway Bridge-is increasing sharply.

All the 120 villages under 16 unions of the three upazilas are now under floodwater.

However, no relief reached the poor flood afflicted people as of yesterday.

The worsening flood situation caused untold troubles to the HSC examinees as many were seen going to the exam centres by boat to take the mathematics and social science exams yesterday.

All schools, colleges and madrasas in the three upazilas remained closed.

The Manu river flood control

embankment has become risky at 14 points, including Alinagar, Belertal, Sondraraj, Asroygram, Lalpur, Ranchap and Sadompur in Kulaura.

The worst affected unions are Paschim Juri, Sujannagar, Dokkhinbagh, Joyfarnagar, Hakaluki, Daserbazar, Talimpur, Gazirtek, Borni, Kulaura, Joychandi, Kadipur, Baranchal, Bhatera, Sagarnal and Kathaltoli.

The Baralekha-Changram highway has collapsed along 42 kilometres due to erosion, posing risk to vehicular movement.

Communication between Kulaura, Baralekha and Juri upazilas remained disrupted as Juri-Fultala, Juri-Latitila and Baralekha-Kulaura roads are still under water.

Most business establishments in the upazilas remained closed, resulting in a serious scarcity of food and other essentials.

A vast tract of cropland in these two upazilas is also under water.

16 RMG labour bodies declare 7-day agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixteen garments workers organisations jointly declared a week-long agitation programme beginning from Tuesday for realising their eight-point demand including 30 per cent dearness allowance until announcement of minimum wages by the recently formed wage board.

The leaders of the organisations at a joint press conference yesterday warned of tougher programmes including strike to come from a grand rally on June 30 in Dhaka if their demands are not met by this time.

The agitation programme includes workers rally at Muktangan on June 21, workers rally and demonstration all over the country including Dhaka, Chittagong, Narayanganj, Savar and Gazipur on June 23, demonstration and laying siege to the offices of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) on June 24.

After fixing Tk 930 minimum wage for a garment worker in 1994, there has been no review of it while a memorandum of understanding was recently signed among the government, owners, and workers

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Diarrhoea, pneumonia claim 15 lives in a week in Thakurgaon

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

An outbreak of diarrhoea and pneumonia claimed 15 lives, mostly children, in Thakurgaon district in last seven days while 500 more are suffering from the diseases.

A heat wave sweeping across Thakurgaon is helping spread viral diseases like diarrhoea and pneumonia and young children are the primary victims of these diseases, Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital sources confirmed.

All deaths were reported by Thakurgaon Sadar Hospital who were identified as Babu, 2 days, Ashique, 3, Mariam, 1 month, Alpina, 7, Ranzana, 12, Mamata, 1, Babu, 23, Baby, 2, Panna, 3, Marzina, 23, Babu, 1 day, Shameem, 2, Shafiqul, Joy and Anwar Hossain. All were from Baliadangi, Pirganj and Haripur upazila of Thakurgaon district.

Eight of the victims died of pneumonia, while the rest fell prey to diarrhoea. The age of the children who died ranged from one day

to twelve years.

The sadar hospital sources added that many people of different ages are rushing to the sadar hospital every day with heat-related diseases.

Five hundred patients, mostly infants, have been admitted so far to the hospital from four surrounding upazilas. Two hundred and fifty diarrhea-infected patients were also undergoing treatment at Baliadangi, Pirganj, Ranishankail and Haripur Health Complexes.

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2 die in Rab 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kustia

Two criminals were killed in incidents of 'crossfire' between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and the gangs accomplices in separate incidents in Alamdanga upazila in Chuadanga yesterday.

The dead were identified as Jamal Uddin, 37, of Srirampur and Asadul Haq Rana, 30, of Garchapra of Alamdanga upazila in Chuadanga.

According to Rab a statement, a team of Rab-6 arrested Rana at a house in Port Colony area in Chittagong on Friday while another Rab team arrested Jamal at his home in Srirampur on Saturday. Both were brought to Chuadanga Rab office for interrogation.

Rab sources said both of them made confessional statements about their involvement in Banglar

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Teenager confesses to have slit throats of three boys

COURT CORRESPONDENT

One of the three teenagers, who slit throats of three Monipur Cadet School students and looted valuables from one of the victim's house at Mirpur on June 15, confessed to the crime to a magistrate yesterday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Nani Gopal Biswas recorded the confessional statement of Jahan, a student of class VII of Monipur Cadet School, in which he said that he

along with his two friends, Rajib and Masud, made the attack on his three classmates Kazi Naimul Islam Badhon, Wadidul Kabir Tommoy and Kazi Nibrush Niluv.

In the statement, Jahan said that his friend Rajib promised to give him Tk 5,000 if he can manage to get a CPU of a PC.

"After school-hour, I used to go to Badhon's house to watch films on computer. Rajib gave me this idea of snatching the CPU from

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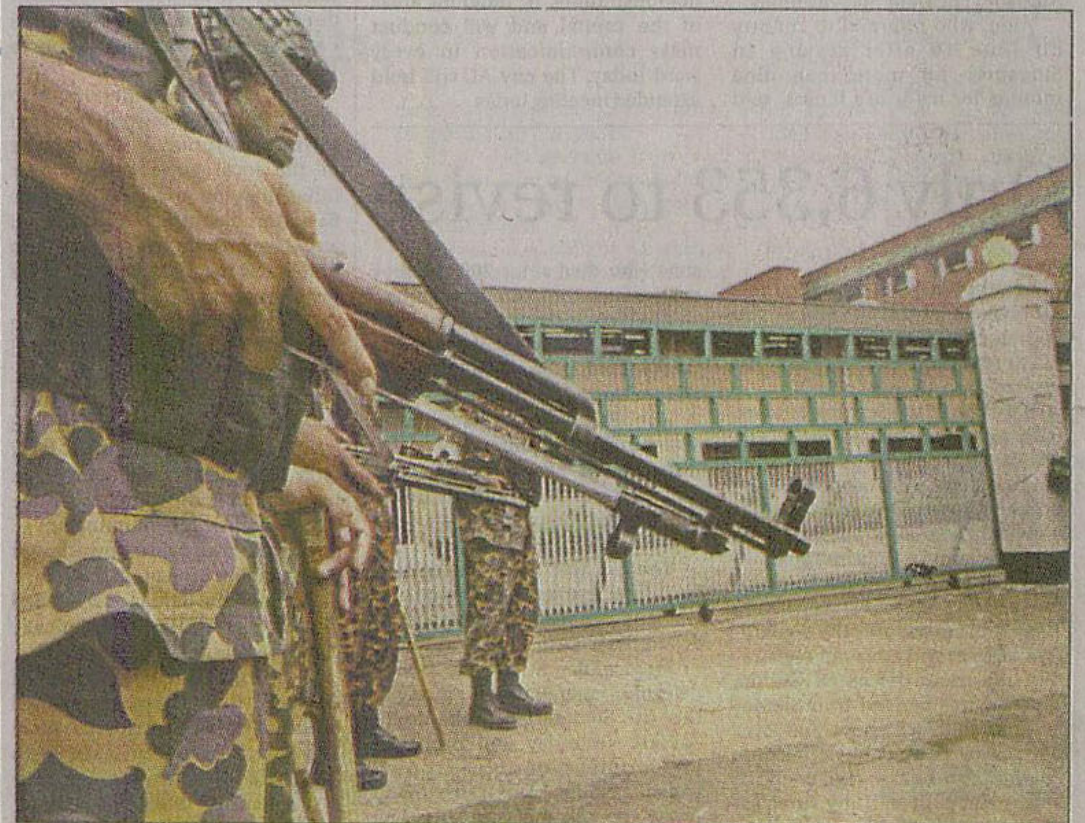


PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Rifles men remain vigilant in front of a factory in the Dhaka Export Processing Zone yesterday following violent clashes between law enforcement agencies and agitated garment workers.

Prayer Timing		
June 19		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

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