

Outlaw killed in 'shootout'

UNB, Chuadanga

An outlawed party activist was killed in an 'encounter' between his cohorts and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Bondbil in Alamdanga upazila early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Delwar Hossain Dilu alias Dilu Master, 42, a cadre of outlawed Biplabi Communist Party who was wanted in four murder cases, sources said.

Rab sources said they cordoned off the area on information that a group of criminals were holding a secret meeting behind a petrol pump near Bondbil rail gate at about 5:00am.

But sensing the presence of Rab members, the outlaws fired on them forcing the elite force to return fire. Delwar was killed on the spot during the shootout.

Rab recovered one shutter gun and two bullets from the spot.

City clean-up continues

Hawkers evicted from Karwan Bazar; Meena Bazar ground floor vacated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday evicted more than 300 hawkers from Karwan Bazar area.

Two teams of Rab-2 that had given an eviction notice to the market authority on Saturday went to Karwan Bazar yesterday and asked the hawkers to leave the market place. The hawkers followed the Rab directives.

Meanwhile, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday vacated the ground floor of the Dhanmondi branch of Meena Bazar,

a chain supermarket, for violating the building design approved by Rajuk in 2001.

Rajuk sources said under the original design, the owner of Meena Bazar had an approval for the multi-storey building on Sat Masjid Road with its ground floor and basement to be used for car parking.

But the Meena Bazar authorities violated the rule by setting up the supermarket on the ground floor and using the basement as the store, the sources said.

Locals alleged that the market authorities arranged the car parking

on the street, which would often cause traffic jam in the area.

They said Meena Bazar also had a sweetmeat shop on the walkway in front of it, creating obstacle to pedestrians.

A Meena Bazar staff said they removed all goods from the supermarket a couple of days ago following the Rajuk notice. The market also remained closed since then.

Rajuk Magistrate ASM Emdadul Dastagir also directed his men to demolish the concrete

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Judicial probe ordered into case against Jugantor editor

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered a judicial inquiry into a defamation case filed by Khamba Limited General Manager Mohammad Siraj on behalf of the company's managing director Giasuddin Al Mamun against editor, publisher and proprietor of the Bangla daily Jugantor.

The defendants are Editor Golam Sarwar, Publisher advocate Salma Islam and Proprietor Nurul Islam Babul.

Metropolitan Magistrate AJM Abdullahel Baqui passed the order after the complainant filed the case with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court seeking an arrest warrant against the accused.

In his complaint, Siraj mentioned that the daily on January 16 ran a news item titled 'Mamun is a

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PHOTO: STAR

An army man controls traffic near New Market in the capital yesterday as the armed force has been assigned to help ease traffic congestion in the city.



PHOTO: STAR

A relative takes the wailing daughter of BNP leader Abdul Kader Milon from Chittagong Medical College Hospital after doctors declared Milon dead. Milon died allegedly in the army custody yesterday.

Group active to create primary textbook crisis

Guardian forced to buy free books

SURANJITH DEABNATH with EMRAN HOSSAIN

A syndicate in connivance with some dishonest officers of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has created an artificial scarcity of fresh free primary textbooks, forcing the guardians to buy the books.

Academic activities of 2007 have already begun but at least 30 to 50 per cent books are yet to reach the schools while the primary textbooks meant for free distribution among students are selling on open markets.

The syndicate has purposefully

delayed reaching the books to the schools and arranged selling of the free primary textbooks, NCTB sources said.

Most of the dealers, who got tenders for printing NCTB textbooks and sending them to the district education offices by December 31, have printed higher number of books against the tender of allocated books.

The dealers with the help of NCTB officers have been marketing the fresh textbooks from the last week of December while dealers have delayed printing and distribution of the books for financial benefits, said an NCTB officer seeking

anonymity.

Denying the allegations, NCTB Chairman Dr Gazi Mohammad Ahsanul Kabir said education officers at the district level are responsible for the delay in sending the books to schools as NCTB provided books in due time.

"We permitted 160 publishers through 200 packages for printing the books and distributing them to the district education offices. One hundred ninety-six packages of books were distributed at the district education offices by December 31 and the rest four packages on January 15," he told

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Iran president vows to defy UN resolutions

AFP, Tehran

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad vowed yesterday that Iran will never bow to UN resolutions over its nuclear programme, as the military prepared for war games that will include short-range missile tests.

"Even if they adopt 10 other resolutions it will not have any effect," Ahmadinejad told parliament as he introduced a new budget for the Iranian year starting March 21.

The UN Security Council passed Resolution 1737 on December 23 imposing sanctions on Iran for its refusal to suspend uranium enrichment -- the process, which can not only make nuclear fuel, but also, in highly purified forms, produce the fissile core of an atomic bomb.

Reciting supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's emphatic rejection of the UN resolution on January 8, the president said: "No Iranian official has the right to back down on Iran's nuclear right."

Iranian state television revealed on its website that Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards would on Monday begin three days of military exercises, 140km southeast of Tehran.

"In these exercises we will assess the operational capabilities of Zelzal and Fajr 5 missiles," an artillery commander of the Revolutionary Guards, Majid Ayeneh, was quoted as saying.

Military sources say the Fajr 5 has a range of around 75km, SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

19 GIs killed as more troops arrive in Iraq

AFP, Baghdad

More than 3,000 US paratroopers have landed in Baghdad to help quell raging sectarian violence, the military announced yesterday, after US losses surged with 19 troops killed in a helicopter crash, a gunbattle and bomb attacks.

On the political front, lawmakers who back radical Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr said they were ending a nearly two-month-old parliamentary boycott, a move that could help shore up beleaguered Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's government.

Saturday's total US death toll of 19 was one of the highest since US-led forces invaded Iraq in March 2003 and underscored the scale of

the task faced by troops sent to reinforce Baghdad in a make-or-break bid to quell sectarian bloodshed.

As a new spearhead brigade of US troops began to deploy in the capital, five US soldiers were killed in a gunbattle in the shrine city of Karbala, where the Shia mourning period of Ashura began Sunday.

In the deadliest incident involving US troops in recent months, a Blackhawk helicopter crashed Saturday northeast of Baghdad, killing all 12 personnel on board, the military said, lowering an initial toll of 13.

It was one of the worst chopper accidents since the invasion that toppled the regime of Saddam Hussein.

The bloodshed came amid a heightened US and Iraqi crackdown on Shia militias blamed for much of the sectarian violence that has gripped Iraq and particularly Baghdad since February 2006.

The US military said the 3,200 paratroopers, in Baghdad as part of the new security plan announced by US President George W Bush, will be fully operational on or about February 1.

"The effort represents the first of several planned troop movements that will assist Iraqi security forces in reducing violence and protecting Iraqi citizens," it said.

In Karbala, five soldiers were killed and three wounded in a firefight that erupted Saturday at a

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Govt to ensure smooth supply of fertiliser

Says adviser Geeteara

UNB, Dhaka

The government is determined to accelerate the fertiliser supply across the country, as there is no scarcity of the agri-input, said industries Adviser Geeteara Safiya Choudhury.

"There is no scarcity of fertiliser in the country, it's rather a distribution problem caused by blockade programmes and siltation of river routes that disrupted the supply," she told reporters after an inter-ministerial meeting.

The meeting was held at the industries ministry conference room yesterday with the industries adviser in the chair.

Agriculture Adviser Dr Chowdhury Sajjadul Karim and

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PHOTO: STAR

A craftsman paints idols of Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of wisdom, in Tantibazar in Dhaka yesterday as the idols will be sold on the occasion of Saraswati Puja to be held tomorrow.

Mob kills mugger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mob beat a mugger to death and injured another after a gang of thugs tried to snatch valuables from a pedestrian at Shyampur in the capital early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Mamun, 22, and Masud, 25, was injured in the mob beating.

Police sources said the incident took place around 2:30am at Polashpur of Shanir Akhra in

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Prayer Timing		
January 22		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-43	5-47
Esha	7-15	7-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		