

Aminul Haque, 2 ex-BNP MPs sued for extortion

STAR REPORT

Separate extortion cases were filed against former BNP minister Aminul Haque and former BNP MPs Nasirul Huq Sabu and Golam Mohammad Siraj in the last two days.

In Rajshahi, Aminul and two others were accused in the case filed in the Tanore Police Station yesterday for extorting Tk 1.5 lakh, reports our staff correspondent there.

The other two are -- Rajshahi District BNP General Secretary and Mundamala Municipality Chairman Shis Mohammad and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

6 Rab men, cops injured as gang beats them up

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Three Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) men and three policemen were injured as a gang beat them up at Sonapatil village of Malanchi union under Pabna Sadar upazila on Sunday night.

Following information that criminals were looting paddy from Sonapatil Bil, a team of Rab and police raided the village at mid-night when they came under attack by the looters.

The assailants beat up the law enforcers, injuring Rab members Halim, Monir Hossain and Motiur Rahman and police constables Bidyut Kumar, Anisur Rahman and Shafiqul Islam, sources said.

Police arrested former chairman of Malanchi union Shakhawat Hossain and his son Alamgir Hossain from the spot for their alleged involvement in the attack.

The incident added to the tension in the village as two rival groups have been in dispute over harvesting paddy in Sonapatil Bil.

3 wounded as criminals spray bullets at hotel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals opened fire at the reception counter inside a residential hotel at Paltan in the capital yesterday afternoon that left three people bullet-hit.

Immediately after the incident, a police sub-inspector (SI) with the help of locals captured two of the criminals--Sumon, 32, and Amin, 25. They also recovered two revolvers loaded with seven bullets from them. Two other criminals of the gang managed to flee.

The injured were identified as Mohammad Polash, 25, and Yaqub Mir, 38, both staffs of Paltan Palace

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prayer Timing		
May 22		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Deal signed to protect workers' rights in UAE

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to ensure better working conditions and protect rights and interests of Bangladesh workers in the gulf state.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and visiting UAE Labour Minister Dr Ali Bin Abdullah Al Kaabi signed the MoU at state guesthouse Padma.

Both sides decided to form a joint committee comprising three representatives from each country to monitor the issues relating to manpower export.

"The MoU provides for a good working condition for Bangladeshi workers, protecting their rights and eliminating problems caused by

both recruiting and receiving agencies," the UAE labour minister told reporters after entering into the deal.

In reply to a question, the UAE minister said his government is open to have more workers from Bangladesh-skilled or unskilled. But, he said, the recruitment will depend on the private sector that will determine what kind of workers they need.

Kaabi said his government will only play a role of catalyst to facilitate the private sector in recruiting manpower from Bangladesh.

Asked about legalising undocumented workers from Bangladesh, Kaabi said not only the UAE government but all the GCC countries will impose a ban on illegal workers.

Presently, Bangladesh has

about 700,000 workers employed in the UAE, and about 16,000 of them are staying in that country without valid documents.

The foreign adviser said the visit of the UAE minister will open a new avenue for better economic cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

He said the MoU will help the Bangladeshi workers, UAE employers and the governments of the two countries set things in the right direction.

In the afternoon, the visiting UAE minister called on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office.

The minister said the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Bangladesh and the United Arab Emirates on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Heavy gunfight on Satkhira border

BDR, BSF exchange over 1,300 shots

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) traded over 1,300 rounds of gunfire across border areas in Sadar upazila in the district from 12:15am to 5:30am yesterday.

BSF men of Amudia Camp in Swarupnagar under North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal opposite to Taluigachha border in Sadar upazila fired 700 bullets targeting the BDR of Taluigachha camp and the BDR fired back 81 bullets.

In another incident, BSF of Khalsia camp in the same district fired 500 bullets at Kushkhali BDR camp, when the BDR retaliated with 59 shots.

Panic gripped the residents along the bordering villages during the nightlong exchange of gunshots.

The Indian border guards reinforced their strength at the border outposts and increased patrols while

the BDR was also put on alert to tackle the situation, BDR sources said.

Fearing further skirmishes between the two border forces, many locals are thinking of leaving their homesteads.

The previous night, BSF of Amudia, Khalsi and Syedpur camps in India fired over 176 bullets targeting the BDR of Taluigachha and Kushkhali camps in Sadar upazila and Bhatschala camp in Debhata upazila when the BDR retaliated with 242 shots.

Intact Egyptian tomb found

XINHUANET, Beijing

A tomb of an Egyptian courtier who lived about 4,000 years ago was discovered by Belgian archaeologists, Egyptian media reported on Sunday.

"The tomb is one of the best preserved of its time," said Harco Willems, leader of the team from Leuven Catholic University.

The tomb was found accidentally while excavating a later burial site at the Deir al-Barsha necropolis near the Nile Valley town of Minya, 225 km south of Cairo.

The tomb belonged to Henu, an estate manager and high-ranking official during the first intermediate period, which lasted from 2181 to 2050 BC and was a time of political chaos in ancient Egypt.

The archaeologists found

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

PHOTO: AFP

A Belgian excavation team in the Barsha Monastery, 200km south of Cairo, discovers clay figures depicting daily life dating back from 2,100 BC.

CA wants no traffic trouble for commuters on his way

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed has asked the authorities concerned to take measures so that people don't have to face any traffic inconveniences in their movement for the passage of the CA's motorcade.

The directive came as newspaper

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

ACC seeks files of Hosaf Group power projects

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has sought three files from the Power Division on power projects awarded to Hosaf Group by the immediate-past BNP-led alliance government.

The projects are 50MW Noapara plant, 20MW Feni Plant and 20MW Barabkunda Plant. All the three plants were supposed to be

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Kader Siddiqui files wealth report to ACC

Claimstowon Tk 1cr properties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former lawmaker and Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League President Kader Siddiqui yesterday submitted his wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Siddiqui submitted the statement

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



PHOTO: STAR

A mobile court during a drive finds fungus on food items in the kitchen of Yan Tai Chinese restaurant in Mirpur-11 in the capital yesterday.

Lebanon troops pound Palestinian refugee camp

Death toll rises to 55

AFP, Nahr Al-Bared

Lebanese troops pounded Islamist militiamen in a Palestinian refugee camp on Monday, the second day of the bloodiest internal fighting since the civil war that has now killed 55 people and raised deep concerns about Lebanon's fragile security.

Nine Palestinian civilians were killed in the shelling of the Nahr al-Bared camp in northern Lebanon where soldiers in tanks are battling militants from the shadowy Fatah al-Islam group, a camp medic said.

Plumes of thick black smoke rose from the camp, which has been turned into a war zone by ferocious gunbattles on Monday between soldiers and Fatah al-Islam, a group accused of links to al-Qaeda and Syrian intelligence services.

Representatives of the main

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Palestinian factions in Lebanon held talks with Prime Minister Fuad Siniora on Monday, offering their help to crush Islamic militants who triggered the bloodiest internal fighting since the civil war.

"We are open... to all the demands of the Lebanese state. We hope to cooperate in order to eliminate the Fatah Al-Islam phenomenon, on the condition innocent civilians do not pay a high price," said Abbas Ziki, Lebanon representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Lebanese leaders vowed they would take "all necessary measures" to restore order after the fighting that left 46 people on Sunday alone, while the international community appealed for an end to the violence.

As warships patrolled nearby coastal waters, troops were locked

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Bird flu 'huge challenge' in Bangladesh

Says FAO

AFP, Rome

Bangladesh needs to step up its fight against bird flu, which is posing a "huge challenge" in the densely populated country, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) said yesterday.

"The bird flu situation in Bangladesh remains serious and the country will have to engage in a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Rab captures 10 members of mall robbers' gang

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a series of raids yesterday arrested 10 members of an organised gang of robbers who confessed to having committed at least 15 big heists and robberies including those at Maskat Plaza in Uttara and Alam Market in Gulshan in the capital.

The Rab also seized over Tk 2.18

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1