

POVERTY ALLEVIATION
Dhaka to present success story at Geneva meet

UNB, Dhaka

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations has selected Bangladesh and Cambodia as models of poverty alleviation policies to present their success stories at its ministerial-level meeting in Geneva July 2-5.

"We will present a detailed report as to how we are well on track on the way towards achieving the UN set first MDG of poverty alleviation, through a mix political stability, social awareness and sound policies", said Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury while taking to the media.

The foreign adviser will lead the Bangladesh delegation to this high-level meeting of ECOSOC, said a press release.

He leaves Dhaka today on a five-day visit to Geneva. The team will

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10 hurt as train, truck collide in Habiganj

UNB, Habiganj

Train communications on Dhaka-Sylhet and Chittagong-Sylhet routes were disrupted for about six hours following a train-truck collision at Teliapara in the district yesterday, leaving at least 10 people injured.

Railway sources said the Sylhet-bound Surma Mail train from Dhaka hit a goods-laden truck on the level crossing at Teliapara at about 4:15am.

The engine of the mail train went off the track and the truck was also badly damaged after the collision.

A number of trains got stranded at different stations in the Akhaura-Sylhet section following the accident, causing immense sufferings to the passengers.

A relief train went to the spot, put the engine back on track and removed the damaged truck from the level crossing.

Shayestaganj railway junction sources said the train communications resumed on the routes at 10:35am.

Talukder Abdul Khaleque sent to Khulna jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna City Awami League (AL) president and former state minister for relief and disaster management Talukder Abdul Khaleque and seven others were sent to Khulna district jail early yesterday as they were shown arrested under the Gambling Act.

Khulna Sadar police picked them up on Thursday night from the Gagan Babu Road house of AL leader and former general secretary of Khulna District Sports Association Hasan Rumi.

Hearing on their bail petition will be held in the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Shefina Begum. She has directed Khulna

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11 Myanmar men arrested in Bandarban

UNB, Bandarban

Army personnel arrested 11 Myanmar nationals at Sualak Bazar under Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

Army sources said a patrol team picked up the Myanmar nationals from a passenger shade where they were holding a meeting. They were later handed over to police.

The arrestees are Ismail Hossain, M Monir Ahmed, Abul Hossain, Sona Ali, Jalil, Mohammed Alam, Nezamudin, Mohammed Ismail, Abdul Monaf, Abdur Rashid and Baru.

During interrogation, they told police that they had entered Bangladesh from Myanmar through the Teknaf border a few days ago in search of work.

In the afternoon, the arrestees were produced in a court that sent them to jail.

Prayer Timing		
June 30		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-17	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

London cops thwart terror attack

Police defuse car bomb

AFP, London

British police yesterday defused a car bomb composed of gas cylinders, petrol and nails in London's entertainment district, sparking a security probe into possible international links, including Iraq.

Amid widespread disruption in the capital, new Prime Minister Gordon Brown warned the alert was a fresh warning of the threat faced by Britain, which soon marks the second anniversary of suicide attacks, which killed 52 people.

The head of Scotland Yard's counter-terrorism unit Peter Clarke would not speculate on who was behind the bomb, found near a nightclub.

But he said: "Even at this stage it

is obvious that if this device had detonated, there could have been significant injury or loss of life."

Clarke said police had no warning of an attack but said there were some similarities with "previous plots".

"Nightclubs have been named by terrorists as potential targets," he said.

Members of an Islamist-inspired gang were jailed for life earlier this year after plotting to attack a number of high-profile British targets, including London's Ministry of Sound nightclub.

A security source quoted by Britain's Press Association news agency said it was "entirely possible" the incident had overseas links as insurgents in Iraq had used

similar methods.

"There are various things: it is outside a nightclub, it is a vehicle-borne device, it is close to the anniversary of the July 7 attacks. But we are keeping an open mind."

New Home Secretary Jacqui Smith -- less than 24 hours into the role -- said after meeting Brown in Downing Street: "We are currently facing the most serious and sustained threat to our security from international terrorism."

"This latest incident reinforces the need for the public to remain vigilant and alert to the threat that we face at all times."

Smith earlier chaired a meeting of the government's emergency contingencies committee

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PHOTO: STAR

Sophisticated MV OEL Singapore was launched to ply the Chittagong-Singapore route yesterday.

2 alleged outlaws beaten to death in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A mob beat two alleged outlaws to death at Hathkhal in Shujanagar upazila in Pabna Thursday night after the criminals attempted to rob a house.

The dead were identified as Lashkar, 28, son of Shaheb Ali of Kamalpur in Shujanagar and Sabuj, 26, of Pangsha in Rajbari district.

Police and the locals claimed a gang of outlaws, generally known as Sarbahara activists, attacked the home of Majeed Sheikh in Hathkhal around 8:30pm.

As the household cried out for help, villagers caught the two and beat them to death. The rest of the gang, however, managed to flee firing shots in the air.

Being informed, police and Rapid Action Battalion personnel rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies, a .303 rifle and some bullets.

CTG-SINGAPORE ROUTE
Modern vessel deployed for faster service

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A brand new container vessel equipped with modern facilities was deployed on the Chittagong-Singapore route yesterday with a view to providing faster and reliable shipping services to the country's trade.

The vessel MV OEL Singapore arrived at Chittagong Port on Thursday evening from Singapore, the first in 35 years.

Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Mokhesur Rahman formally commissioned the vessel at a ceremony held on its deck yesterday.

Mokhesur Rahman said the efficiency of Chittagong Port has increased remarkably. He hoped that launching of this speedy vessel will help improve business especially in the readymade garment sector.

Orient Express Lines (OEL)

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5 more US soldiers die in Iraqi attacks

AP, AFP, Baghdad

Five US soldiers were killed and seven wounded in an attack on their combat patrol in southern Baghdad, the US military said yesterday.

The complex attack Thursday began with a roadside bomb, the military said in a statement. Small arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades followed shortly after the blast, it said.

All seven wounded soldiers were evacuated to a military hospital, and one has since returned to duty, the military said.

The victims' names were withheld pending family notification.

The deaths brought to 99 the number of US troops who have died in Iraq this month. Last month, at least 126 US military personnel died, making May the

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Moitree Express ready to run to Kolkata

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

The Moitree Express, the first-ever international train service between Bangladesh and India, is now ready for operation as it will start running between Dhaka and Kolkata from the middle of next month.

Assembled in Saidpur railway workshop with passenger carriages imported from Indonesia, the 300-seat capacity train has already made several trial runs from Saidpur railway station to the other side of Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge, railway sources said.

It will run between Dhaka Cantonment rail station and Kolkata of West Bengal via Darshana without any break. Divisional Superintendent of Saidpur railway workshop Abdul Matin Chowdhury said.

The nicely decorated train is

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PHOTO: STAR

Kidney patient Arifun from Dinajpur leaves Dhaka Medical College Hospital as she fails to get any doctor to attend her yesterday.

DINAJPUR MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL

Patients suffer as doctors on strike

Interns allege attack on colleague

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Doctors at Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital went on an indefinite strike from Thursday night following an attack on an intern.

The interns of the hospital held a press conference at the Dinajpur Press Club yesterday protesting the attack on their colleague. They made a two-point demand including punishment of the culprits who attacked the doctor.

At the press conference the

doctors said a few relatives of a patient named Khurshida, 20, daughter of Ahad Ali of Balubari village in Dinajpur, engaged in a scuffle with intern Dipankar Chakrabarti on June 26 at the time of her admission.

A few unidentified persons again attacked Dipankar the next night and beat him indiscriminately, the doctors said.

Dr Irfan Ahmed told The Daily

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Accused snatched from police in Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Criminals snatched an accused in double-murder case from police at Ragunathpur under Futullah Police Station yesterday.

Sources said a gang of armed criminals swooped on the law enforcers in the morning and snatched the accused, Anu, 35, from their custody.

Police arrested Anu, 35, at Pagla last week for his involvement in the looting of a rod-laden truck in the area few weeks ago, killing the trucker and his helper.

On his confessional statement, the law enforcers along with Anu went to Ragunathpur yesterday morning to arrest his accomplices.

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PHOTO: FOCUSBANGLA

Loaded trucks stand in long queue as export and import through the Benapole land port remained postponed yesterday.

Benapole dead because of truck strike

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

All kinds of export and import with India through the Benapole land port in Jessore have remained suspended for the last couple of days as truck labourers on the Indian side called strike on importing goods from Bangladesh from Thursday.

The National Board of Revenue directed the port authorities to continue export-import activities on government holidays on Friday and Saturday. The port authorities also made repeated attempts to

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PHOTO: STAR

Moitree Express, the first-ever international train to run between Dhaka and Kolkata from mid-July, is now ready for operation at Saidpur railway workshop.