

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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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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2 alleged outlaws beaten to death in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

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

The dead were identified as Lashkar, 28, son of Shahab 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 Sarbaraha activists, attacked the home of Majed Sheikh in Hatchi 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.



PHOTO: STAR

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

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 to

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Senate derails Bush immigration bill

AFP, Washington

The US Senate piled more political woe on President George W Bush Thursday, derailing a landmark immigration bill he hoped would boost his legacy and likely killing reform efforts on an issue splitting American politics until at least 2009.

Senators voted 53 to 46 against keeping the bill alive, a stunning repudiation of the attempt to grant a path to citizenship to 12 million illegal immigrants.

Partisan backers of the measure fell well short of the 60 vote super-majority needed to move the bill, branded by opponents as an "amnesty" towards a final vote.

Bush, whose ebbing power hampered his bid to persuade more than 12 fellow Republicans to

support the measure, appeared to admit defeat.

"Congress's failure to act on it is a disappointment," said Bush, beset by rock bottom approval ratings and battling Congress on multiple fronts, including over Iraq and over fired federal prosecutors.

"A lot of us worked hard to see if we could find common ground. It didn't work. Congress really needs to prove to the American people that it can come together on hard issues," Bush said.

Hours before the vote, the US Capitol's telephone switchboard was jammed by thousands of calls from groups and individuals for and against the bill, reflecting its fiercely divisive impact on US politics.

Republican Senator David Vitter, who worked to thwart the bill, said

the message was "crystal clear" that Americans wanted action to secure borders before helping out illegal immigrants already in the country.

"They want action, they want results, they want proof, because they've heard all the promises before."

Fellow rebel Senator Jim DeMint added: "The Senate rejected this bill, and the heavy handed tactics used to ram it through."

Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell, said simply "it wasn't the people's will and they were heard."

But Senator Arlen Specter, a

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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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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.

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

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 via Darshana without any break, Divisional Superintendent of Saidpur railway workshop Abdul Matin Chowdhury said.

The nicely decorated train is

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Benapole dead because of truck strike

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

All kinds of export and import with India through the Benapole land port in Jharsuguda 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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Loaded trucks stand in long queue as export and import through the Benapole land port remained postponed yesterday.

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