6 killed in road crashes 7 get life for killing woman

STAR REPORT

AFP, Vientiane

regional integration.

ruled Myanmar.

largest river.

communications.

FROM PAGE 16

matter.

Selim needs to be interrogated and

his statement about corruption,

misuse of his power and his ill-

gotten wealth need to be recorded

for proper investigation into the

nection with an extortion case.

for extorting over Tk 2.99 crore.

CASES AGAINST FIROZ

Selim is shown arrested in con-

On June 13 last year, Azam J

Chowdhury, managing director of

Eastcoast Trading Private Ltd, filed

the other case with Gulshan Police

Station against Hasina and Selim

After scrutinising the case dock-

ets and other relevant documents,

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of

the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's

Court issued the arrest warrants

against Dr Firoz Mahmud Iqbal

and his wife, as the couple have

been absconding since the cases

Director Jahangir Alam, also the

investigation officer (IO) of the case,

submitted the charge sheet to the

were filed against them.

At least six people were killed and 20 others injured in separate road accidents in Jessore, Bhola and Manikganj yesterday.

Our correspondent from Ihenidah adds: Three people were killed in a road accident on Jessore-Benapole road near Sharsha Police Station in Jessore vesterday.

Sirazul Islam Gayen, 45, Hazrat Gaven, 42, and Moti Gaven, 40, of Kanya Dah village under Sharsha motorcycle driving.

upazila. They all are fish trader. Police and locals said the acci- was crushed under the wheels of a the spot.

The prime ministers of China and

five other Mekong River countries

yesterday kicked off a two-day

summit in the Lao capital on closer

gion involves six countries, there-

fore it is a win-win development,"

China's Wen Jiabao told a youth

forum ahead of the formal meet-

ing. "It is a cross-border develop-

ment featuring mutual assistance."

The Greater Mekong Subregion

(GMS) groups China's southern

Yunnan and Guangxi provinces

with Thailand and its poorer neigh-

bour Cambodia, communist

Vietnam and Laos, and military-

Development Bank (ADB), the

group was founded in 1992 to boost

economic growth and reduce

poverty in the countries that share

the Mekong, Southeast Asia's

focused on developing transna-

tional highways, working on a

common power grid, streamlining

trade agreements, and developing

fibre-optic links to enhance tele-

Regional cooperation has

Initiated by the Asian

"The development of this subre-

bound passenger bus rammed a Sadarupazila. Nasimon, a human haular, leaving two dead on the spot and another died on the way to hospi-

UNB from Bhola adds: Two people were killed and 20 others injured in separate road accidents in the district yesterday.

Police said Munia Begum, HSC yesterday. student of Dashmina College, was The dead were identified as run over by a truck at Shashib- about 45 could not be known immehusan village in Charfash-ion diately. upazila while she was learning

In another incident, Rashed, 12,

Wen said "the development of

should promote economic growth other, all talking through ADB

Also at the summit were economic growth in the region has

our subregion is also a development

balancing man and nature... We

and protect culture, pay attention to

environmental protection and

Thailand's premier Samak

Dung, Cambodia's Hun Sen,

Myanmar's Thein Sein, the Lao

host, Bouasone Bouphavanh, and

The Mekong region was for

ADB president Haruhiko Kuroda.

decades isolated and impover-

ished by post-colonial struggles

and the Vietnam war that in the

1960s and 1970s spilled into Laos as

well as Cambodia, which then fell

under the bloody reign of the

1992 "really marks the end of a

period of a series of conflicts, and a

yearning for prosperity," said Arjun

Thapan, director general of the

ADB's Southeast Asia Department.

early 90s there was a desire by all six

countries to come together and put

the past behind them and work

towards a common agenda of

economic prosperity," he told AFP.

At the first meetings, he said,

Journalists and employees of the daily Uttaranchal observe a token hunger strike at Bogra Press Club auditorium in

warrant against Dr Firoz and the

order to attach his properties, as

Hossain filed the case against Dr

Firoz with Tejgaon police station on

November 13 last year for wasting

the first information report (FIR)

that Firoz used three vehicles of the

Essential Drugs Company Limited

(EDCL) and two vehicles of the

Local Government Engineering

Department (LGED) for his per-

sonal use between June 2003 and

October 2006, causing a loss of Tk

CHARGE SHEET AGAINST

The same IO pressed charges

against Dr Firoz and his wife

another case filed against them for

amassing wealth illegally.

34.90 lakh to the state exchequer.

FIROZCOUPLE

On March 24, ACC Assistant Mosammat Imtiaz Begum in

Dhaka Chief Metropolitan warrants against the couple and the

government money through abuse

The complainant mentioned in

ACC allowed to interrogate

the case was filed.

"By the close of the 80s and the

The launch of the GMS group in

Khmer Rouge.

নিক্ **দ্রেরা প্রথা** পতিকার কর্মরত সাংবাদিক কর্মচারীদের বকেয়া বেতন ভাতা পরিশোধ করার দাবিতে

উত্তরাঞ্চলের সাংবাদিক কর্মচা

Bogra on Saturday demanding payment of salary arrears.

Sundaravej, Vietnam's Nguyen Tan

achieve sustainable development.

Mekong summit begins

dent occurred when a Benapole- truck in the Bhelu Miah area in

Besides, 20 people were injured when a bus plunged into a roadside pond at Udoypur crossing at about

Our Manikganj correspondent adds: A rickshaw puller was killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Jagir in Manikganj

The identity of the dead aged

Locals said the accident occurred when a speedy vehicle hit his rickshaw leaving him dead on

"we had very formal, stylised kind

of discussions -- flags up on the

table and nobody talking to each

Today, we are the bystanders, we

Over recent years, average

Exports, excluding China's,

have grown from 37 billion dollars

in 1992 to 179 billion dollars in

2006, said the ADB. Foreign direct

investment more than tripled to

are the observers.

at JNU

topped six percent per year.

seven billion dollars in 2005.

Sculpture on

liberation war

A sculpture styled "Genocide of 71

and preparation of Liberation War

will be inaugurated at Jagannath

University (JNU) today, says a press

chancellor of JNU, will inaugurate

the sculpture, which was built by

the country built on the theme

Sculptor Bhaskur Rasa.

liberation war.

Prof Sirajul Islam Khan, vice

It is the only cluster sculpture in

each. If they fail to pay, they will have to serve three more years in Of the convicts, Delwar Hossain

Samaddar.

in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

onment for killing a woman.

A Barisal court yesterday sen-

tenced seven people to life impris-

Shahidullah handed down the

verdict to Abdus Sattar Molla,

Sheikh Dulal, Sheikh Nazrul Islam,

Md Kamal Howladar, Babul

Howladar, Delwar Hossain

Talukder and Noni Gopal

They were also fined Tk 50,000

District and Sessions Judge Md

and Noni Gopal were tried in absentia. According to the prosecution,

the convicts led by Sattar Molla of Chuaripara in Banaripara attacked the house of one Abu Saleh Ahmed on the night of July 7, 2000 to kill his nephew Parvez Molla who married Sattar's daughter Tania against the wishes of her family.

Julekha, a married daughter of Abu Saleh, and Parvez were seriously injured during the attack.

FROM PAGE 1

Nur Mohammad.

advocate MR Hasan, advocate

Anisul Huq and Brigadier General

and conclude each case of volun-

tary disclosure within seven days

from its beginning "unless there is

a compelling reason for extension

of time". The extension however

three members including a chair-

man, all to be appointed by the

president in consultation with the

of the government," Anisul Huq

members are a former chief justice,

a retired judge of the Appellate

Division, a retired officer of the

armed forces not below the rank of

major general, a retired public

servant who held the post of secre-

tary other than a person who

served as chairman of National

Board of Revenue, chairman or

member of the Anti-Corruption

Commission, director general of

erstwhile Bureau of Anti-

Corruption, inspector general of

the High Court, a retired civil ser-

vant not below the rank and status

of additional secretary, a retired

officer of the armed forces not

below the rank of brigadier general,

and an eminent citizen can be

appointed to the sub-commission.

of the members as the chairman of

The president will appoint one

The commission may recom-

sub-commissions not more than

six, which will follow the commis-

sion's decision for receiving, record-

ing and processing voluntary dis-

The sub-commissions will not

Meanwhile, a retired judge of

police, and an eminent citizen.

told The Daily Star on Saturday.

"Here government means head

Those who are eligible to be

government, says the draft.

The commission will comprise

cannot be more than seven days.

The commission will complete

Local people rushed them to Banaripara Upazila Health Complex. Later, Julekha was shifted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital where she died in the morning.

'Indian cops covered up British girl's killing'

AFP, Panaji

An Indian government-run women's rights body yesterday accused police in the resort state of Goa of trying to cover up evidence in the controversial killing last month of a British teenager.

Local police initially said Scarlett Keeling, 15, had drowned after her body was found on a popular beach in Goa on February 18, but pressure from her mother and the media forced them to reopen the case.

Police this month arrested bartender for murder, and an alleged drug dealer for conspiracy to murder, alleging the two gave the girl a cocktail of illegal drugs before one of them repeatedly raped her and left her for dead. "It is not an act of two persons

Four to five people are involved in the act," Nirmala Venkatesh, a member of the National Commission for Women, told a news conference in the local capital Panaji. "She was brutally raped and

there is every possibility that her head was dipped in the water," she added, alleging that police had destroyed evidence. "Police are trying to hide or

closures to minimise the commisclose the case. We will never allow sion's workload, says the draft. this to happen.' Police have said that an uncon-

have the power to pass decision or scious Keeling was dumped in refuse any voluntary disclosure. shallow water, where she drowned, The government, on receiving but a forensics report released a recommendations of the commisweek ago suggested that she was sion, will immediately form three sub-commissions each having two

On independence of the commission, the draft says, "The commission shall function independ-

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, third from left, unveils the cover of a book titled 'Andhakarey Kalo Beral' by Anis Rahman

second from right, at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Manab Zamin Editor Matiur

Rahman and Advocate Chowdhury Raushan Jahan. Columnist Syed Abul Maksud, extreme right, is also seen.

No mercy scope if jailed

members including a chairman.

No member of the Truth

People who won't be entitled to

Commission or the sub-

commission will be above 72 years.

join the commission or sub-

commission include those having

victed of any criminal offence by

any court excepting any traffic

offence, member or ex-member of

political party (who has not passed 10

years since ceasing to be a member),

one against whom disciplinary pro-

ceeding is pending before any forum,

deal corruption and corrupt prac-

tices, it will not deal with a volun-

tary disclosure of offences involv-

ing arms, drugs, human trafficking,

prostitution, violence, murder,

rape, etc, the draft categorically

Though the commission will

and an un-discharged bankrupt.

reputation of being corrupt, con-

ently in discharge of its responsibilities and exercise of powers free from any interference from the government or any other person or

Fukuda urges opposition back to table

AFP, Tokyo

mentions.

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda reached out to the opposition in a live TV appearance yesterday in a bid to break a political the commission or subdeadlock that has sent public support for his cabinet plummetmend that the government form ing.

On the national network Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK), Fukuda complained that opponents had refused to even speak with the ruling bloc, stopping policy initiatives aimed at helping

the nation. "We want to talk. But now we are being turned away at the gate of their house," Fukuda said of the opposition bloc, which gained the control of the upper house in the

authority or body." On indemnity, the draft reads "No member or staff of the commission or a sub-commission or person performing any task on behalf of the commission or a subcommission shall be sued or prosecuted or be liable for anything done or caused to be done in course of performing his functions as member of the commission or sub-commission."

Talking on the bar to disclosure by persons convicted for a term not less than two years for corruption or corrupt practices, MR Hasan told The Daily Star yesterday: "There will be restriction on the Truth Commission to receive disclosure of such people for five years since completion of punishment."

A main principle for dealing with voluntary disclosure is to take measures to minimise the inconvenience to the persons making the disclosure and, when necessary, to protect their privacy to ensure the safety of them and their families and to protect them from intimidation.

There will be no scope of appealing against the Truth Commission's order. "This is a onestop place," observed Anisul Huq.

The government in consultation with the commission may make rules for the commission, which will get its necessary manpower and budget from the government. Saving that the commission will .. be independent, Anisul Huq said it would chiefly have association

with the home and law ministries.

US cardiologists target stress as key foe

AFP, Chicago

US cardiologists are targeting stress and anxiety as key factors contributing to cardiovascular diseases, according to studies made public at a scientific conference here.

People who cut their stress levels and keep them under control face a 60-percent lower chance of suffering a heart attack or stroke than constant worriers, said a report unveiled Saturday at the 57th annual conference of the American College of Cardiology.

Out of 516 heart patients examined during the three-to-four-year study, 44 suffered non-fatal heart attacks while 19 people died, said Yinong Young-Xu of the Lown Cardiovascular Research Foundation of Massachusetts, the lead author of the study.

The link between anxiety and the number of fatal and non-fatal heart attacks suffered by patients under observation has remained unchanged compared to other factors affecting the heart such as age, marital status, blood pressure and smoking.

"Psychological stress, be it depression or anxiety, has been linked to the progression of atherosclerosis, development of atherothrombosis, and increased risk of arrhythmias," he said.

"These findings should reinforce to cardiologists a need to attend to the whole patient by paying attention to psychological problems in addition to cardiovascular disease," he argued.

In the course of the study, patients were divided into three groups according to their baseline level of anxiety -- high, intermediate and low.

Heart conditions in the study

included irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia), atherosclerosis (the hardening of arteries), and atherothrombosis (blood accumulation leading to clotting). Researchers asked patients

about their feelings and moods, sleep patterns, irregularity in bowel or stomach functions and other stress markers.

In addition to anxiety, the questionnaire also measured depression, hostility and physical com-

Scientists have concluded that constant stress and anxiety can even affect the rhythm of the heartbeat, heightening the risk of heart

forcibly drowned. last elections in July. German parliamentary team stresses

organisations.

leadership.

be," he said.

and impeded."

for reasons."

Wrapping up the four-day visit of the delegation of the Committee Firoz has been absconding since, amassed wealth worth Tk for Economic Cooperation and Development of the German Bundestag.

Hoppe said democracy can

within the parties so that candi-

dates are not nominated by party

held and leadership and candi-

dates should be elected by the

grassroots level. "To be frank, this

was not the case in the past where

the leadership determined from

above who the candidates should

parties would be helpful to make

parties willing to contest elections

register and meet some standards

to be lifted or relaxed "so that the

parties can elect their candidates

democratically, candidates can

come up and mobilise for an elec-

tion campaign", Hoppe said, add-

ing, "Democratic structure cannot

work if the work of a party is locked

to election not being held in

Bangladesh as promised, Hoppe

expressed optimism that the polls

we are to speculate what if not,

Asked about German response

The state of emergency will have

for registration, he noted.

Introducing a law for political

Party convention should be

ting her husband. The delegation flew in on March VERDICT AGAINST PABAN 26 and met the foreign affairs Judge Mohammad Shafiul adviser, Economic Relations Azam of the Metropolitan Special Division secretary, senior leaders of Tribunal-12 will deliver the judge-Awami League and the reformist ment in the case against Paban and group of BNP, donors of bilateral four others at 2:00pm today, court and multilateral development sources said. cooperation, NGOs and rights On October 29 last year, Rapid

Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Paban after raiding a Japan Garden only work if the parties intending City apartment in city's to run for elections have internal Mohammadpur area following information gathered from three of democratic structure. He stressed his associates arrested earlier. the need for having the will to Later, Rab seized two illegal allow internal democratic reforms

Station on November 13 last year.

The complainant said Dr Firoz

14,770,236 illegally. Imtiaz Begum

foreign made firearms -- a pistol and a revolver -- along with nine bullets and a motorbike from Dhaka Flood Protection Embankment at Panchabati near Pallabi.

Paban's associates -- Anwar

The IO prayed for issuing arrest Hossain, Masud Ali alias Apu and Delwar Hossain alias Ratan -- were Magistrate's Court showing 24 people order to attach their properties, as also arrested while his cousin Nahid as prosecution witnesses in the case. they have been on the run since the alias Mota Nahid remain at large.

He said, "If, for instance, parties were to be the reasons--if they did not wish to pursue internal democratic reform or if there was a danger of falling back into a situation the way it was before the state of emergency was declared--then we would show some sort of understanding why the elections would

have to be postponed." When his attention was drawn to a foreign office request to foreign diplomats not to talk on internal affairs, Hoppe said, "We are democratically elected representatives from Germany. Being able to express one's opinion freely and openly is also part of a dialogue. This is part of democracy."

Asked how long Germany will continue its support to an unelected government, he said, "We cooperate with our project partners on the ground that they support the poorest of the poor. If the government makes a mistake and does not go by the rule, it would be a mistake for us to stop our cooperation.

"We did not get any impression that the government is trying to practise some sort of dictatorship; they rather wish to undertake reforms and pursue democracy, have an election by the end of the

Deeply impressed with a strongly committed civil society and NGOs fighting for the rights of women, the poor and victims of acid violence, Hoppe urged the caretaker government and future governments to hold dialogues with NGOs so that they can make positive contribution to the soci-

and economic growth, he said, "What is particularly important to us is that this economic growth also

would be held in time, but said, "If Germany would have to enter into critical dialogue (with the utmost importance for Bangladesh government] and ask Bangladesh, he said.

farmers and people from their land for shrimp cultivation and major coal projects without resettlement and compensation, Hoppe said, "There cannot be infringement of rights of people in the name of economic progress."

German Ambassador to Bangladesh Frank Meyeke was present at the press conference.

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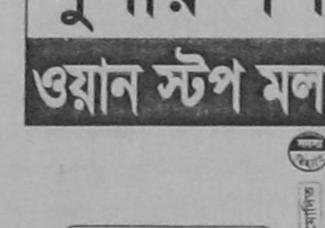
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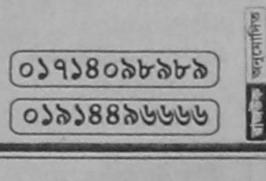
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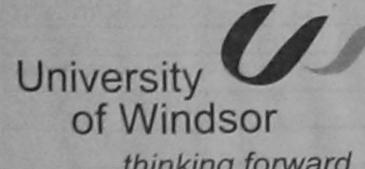


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The IO prayed for issuing arrest case was filed with Ramna Police

ACC Deputy Director Iqbal was indicted in the case for abet-

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