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PDP leader gunned down
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A businessman and convenor of Mirpur zone Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) led by Ferdous Ahmed Quarishi was gunned down last night at Pallabi in the capital.

The victim is identified as Nazrul Islam Chowdhury alias Montu, 48, a trader of jhut (fabric clippings from garment factories).

Police with the help of locals captured two of the fleeing assailants after a gunfight.

One of the captured criminals, Javed, suffered serious injuries in mob beating while the other, yet to be identified, suffered bullet wounds to his leg, said police.

Abdul Momin, officer in charge of Pallabi Police Station, said police rescued the unidentified criminal

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

WB to consider \$320m loans to Bangladesh

May invest in power sector first time in 15 years

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The World Bank is going to consider two proposals for \$320 million loan to Bangladesh in its next board meeting on June 17 as the government has fulfilled a number of conditions set by it.

A loan of \$200 million is likely to be provided under the transitional support credit and another \$120 million as policy support in the power sector development, sources in the Economic Relations Division (ERD) said. These loans will be given as budgetary supports.

Besides, the WB has showed interest in investing in the power sector of the country for the first time in the last 15 years, the sources said.

Process is underway for the WB loan of \$330 million for the Siddhirganj Power project, they added.

About the \$200 million transitional support credit, sources said the World Bank will provide the loan as the government had implemented a number of reform programmes.

The reforms are turning Biman

Bangladesh Airlines Ltd, Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board and state-owned banks into public limited companies.

Besides, the government also separated judiciary from the executive, formed regulatory reform commission and has agreed in principle to enact fiscal responsibility act. Legalisation of the right to information is also under process.

ERD sources said the government made a commitment to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

TK 21CR BRIBERY HC stays charge framing against Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday asked the authorities not to take steps towards framing charges against BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman in the Tk 21 crore bribery case against him, until June 2.

An HC bench comprising Justice Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad fixed June 2 for a further hearing on the case after hearing a petition filed by Tarique Rahman.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the bribery case against Tarique involving the murder of Humayun Kabir Sabbir, a director of Bashundhara Group.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Govt officials oppose EC plan to hold JS, UZ polls simultaneously

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The divisional commissioners yesterday opposed the Election Commission's (EC) plans for holding upazila parishad polls together with the ninth parliamentary election.

They aired their views at a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda at the EC Secretariat.

Coming out of the meeting, attended also by divisional deputy election commissioners, Huda said if not held together upazila election would precede the parliamentary polls.

Heads of the divisional administration cited a number of difficulties in holding the national and local government elections simultaneously. They said it will require a huge number of polling officials, ballot boxes and other logistic supports.

Besides, they added, the voting process and counting will be slow and it all might lead to untoward situation.

The CEC said they would soon seek opinions of the deputy commissioners and superintendents of the police on the issue as they will be the ones playing a crucial role in polls.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

5 killed in Narsinghdi road accident
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five people were killed and six others injured yesterday as a bus crashed into a roadside sweetmeat shop at Narayanpur Bus stand of Belabo upazila in Narsinghdi.

Four of the deceased were identified as Gadon Mia, 35, Sadek, 35, Abdul Karim, 43, Idris Mia, 25. The identity of the other deceased

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

2 killed during shootouts in Shyampur, Joydevpur
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were killed in separate crossfire incidents between criminals and members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police at Shyampur in the city and Gazipur yesterday.

The men killed were identified

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

ASSAULT ON JOURNO No action yet against jailer
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The authorities concerned are yet to take any punitive actions against Tangail District Jail Jailer Nazrul Islam who had allegedly ordered jail guards to beat up Mirza Shakil, The Daily Star correspondent in Tangail.

Shakil was beaten up by at least 12 jail guards inside the Tangail District Jail compound Saturday as

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



A section of the Kakrail-Shantinagar road along with the pavement subsides during yesterday's heavy rain in the capital. A large hole has been dug on the other side of the tin fence to construct the foundation of a building.

Three roads in capital cave in during downpour
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two roads in the capital's Azimpur caved in yesterday as the protection pillars and boundary walls of an under construction high-rise building got displaced.

Meanwhile, in a similar incident, another road at Kakrail caved in after heavy downpour.

Vehicular movement on Etimkhana Road and Chhapra Masjid road at Azimpur was suspended since 2:00pm following the incident.

The displacement of pillars and walls of the under construction building on Gora Shahid Mazar Road has posed severe risk to three

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

HC VERDICT ON URDU-SPEAKING PEOPLE Many still consider Pakistan homeland
MAHBUBA ZANNAT

The High Court (HC) verdict of awarding Bangladeshi citizenship to stranded Urdu-speaking people could not settle the long-standing debate as many of them still want to return to Pakistan.

These people, totalling around three lakh, living in different designated housing camps across the country, are now divided into two groups -- one group wants to be rehabilitated in Bangladesh while the other still wants to go back to Pakistan after being deprived of their rights in the last 37 years.

A number of camp residents interviewed by this correspondent appealed to the government to

make arrangements for repatriating the willing stranded Pakistanis to their homeland in Pakistan.

They argued that the Urdu speakers would never be able to live in this country with honour as there is no assurance that the ongoing humiliation and discrimination against them would cease to exist in future.

Opponents of this view, on the other hand, say the stranded Urdu speakers, who were born and raised in Bangladesh, have every right to enjoy their birthrights to live like a regular citizen of this country where they would not be forced to live in housing camps.

Accommodations in the camps

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Prayer Timing
May 27

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-43	6-47
Esha	8-05	8-35

Source: Islamic Foundation

Khulna mayor gets 10 years in another extortion case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Khulna court yesterday sentenced Khulna City Corporation (KCC) Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman and KCC Public Relations Officer (PRO) Sarder Abu Taher to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) in a Tk 2.9 lakh extortion case.

They were also fined Tk 1 lakh each, in default of which they have to suffer one more year in prison.

Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Nazrul Islam delivered the verdict in presence of Tayebur. The other convict Abu Taher has been absconding since the case was filed.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

BARAPUKURIA CASE Mojahid's bail petition not accepted by HC
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court (HC) bench yesterday refused to take up the bail petition of Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid in the Barapukuria coal-mine graft case.

However, the bench comprising Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Ataur Rahman Khan permitted the Jamaat leader to move the petition to any other bench of the HC.

On February 26, the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and 15 others, including Jamaat-e-Islami

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

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Anniversary Bumper Issue

Star Weekend Magazine is about to celebrate its 12th anniversary. Look out for this special issue on Friday May 30, coming out with an entirely new and exciting format and even a new name -

theSTAR

This 116-page bumper issue will contain in-depth stories on the ever changing face of the media in all its different forms - print, electronic, radio, film and advertising - as well as special columns from our regular columnists (such as everybody's favourite, Chintito) and contributors plus a whole new section on living and entertainment with features on fashion trends, art, theatre, music, documentary, and books. That's not all. Readers will be happy to know that their favourite column Mita will be making a grand comeback through this special issue. Exclusive interviews, political analysis, fiction and much more are included. This is one issue you just cannot miss!

7 killed in Lankan train bombing
Ground battles kill 22

AFP, Colombo

At least seven people were killed and scores more wounded yesterday in the bombing of a packed commuter train in the suburbs of the Sri Lankan capital by suspected Tamil rebels, officials said.

The island's military spokesman, Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, said seven people, including a pregnant woman, were killed and another 62 wounded.

He blamed the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the attack, which occurred during evening rush hour at Dehiwala railway station in the southern suburbs of Colombo.

An AFP photographer at the scene saw five bodies inside the wreckage of a carriage ripped open by the blast.

Colombo has been hit by a string of bombings against both civilian and security targets in recent months, with authorities pointing the finger at Tamil Tiger rebels.

Meanwhile ground battles between Sri Lankan troops and separatist rebels killed 21 guerrillas and one soldier in the nation's north, the defence ministry said Monday.

Eight soldiers were also wounded in Sunday's fighting, the ministry said in a statement.

The latest reported deaths brought to 3,873 the number of rebels the government says it has killed since January, when it pulled out of a truce with the Liberation Tigers of Eelam.

The ministry has said 298 soldiers have died over the same period.

There was no immediate comment from the rebels, who are fighting to carve out a separate Tamil homeland in the north and east of the ethnic Sinhalese-majority island.

Fighting has escalated in Sri Lanka since the start of the year, when the government pulled out of a Norwegian-brokered truce with the Tamil Tigers.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

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