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MEETING IN JAIL

Delwar denies underhand deal with govt

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said they did not make any underhand deal with the caretaker government and the recent meeting with party chief at the makeshift jail was not wrong.

"We are not a party of entente," Delwar told reporters after a joint meeting at his Nam flat where members of the party's standing and executive committees and secretaries and presidents of the front organisations were present.

He said the meeting with Khaleda, which triggered controversy among the political rivals, was not a meeting of the four-party alliance.

"The chairperson wanted to

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4 killed in bus crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least four people were killed and 15 others injured yesterday as a bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Shripur village in Pabna.

The dead are Abdul Aziz, 65, son of late Yasin Ali of Hemrajpur village, Kawar Uddin, 13, son of Jalal Uddin of Ulat village, Md Yunus Ali, 24, son of Abdul Hamid of Badai village and Jahanara Khatun, 65, wife of Moyer Ali of Kamalpur village.

Sources said a Najirganj-bound bus from Kashinathpur fell into a roadside ditch at Shripur village at about 1:30pm when its driver lost control over the vehicle trying to allow passage for a human hauler, locally known as 'Nasiman'.

On information, fire fighters from Pabna and policemen from Sujanagar Police Station rushed to the spot.

The rescuers with the help of locals recovered the dead bodies. The injured were released after receiving first aid.

Sub-inspector of Sujanagar Police Station Md Julfikar Ali said about 26 or 27 passengers were on-board the bus when it plunged into the ditch.

The driver of the bus managed to escape.

A case was filed with Sujanagar Police Station.

10 injured as police, students clash in Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Clashes between law enforcers and students of Mirpur Bangla College in the city's Mirpur area last night left at least 10 students injured.

According to eyewitnesses, some students began vandalising vehicles on Darussalam Road in front of the college at around 9:00pm after one of them was thrown out of a running bus and injured following an argument with bus staff over fare.

A team of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-4 on patrol in the area at that time caught two students and beat them up.

As the news reached the college hostel, several hundred students came out to protest Rab action. They blocked the road and vandalised several vehicles.

As Rab and police charged baton to disperse them, the students responded by throwing brickbats.

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Zardari faces triangular battle for Pak presidency

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's presidential election next week to choose a successor to Pervez Musharraf will be a triangular fight after the Election Commission announced its final list of candidates yesterday.

Pakistan People's Party leader Asif Ali Zardari is well poised to win the race against two other candidates, ex-chief judge Saeed uz Zaman Siddiqui and Mushahid Hussain.

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Prayer Timing		
August 31		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-23	6-26
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Call for saving hills

The Daily Star roundtable urges govt for policy, political commitment, law enforcement to stop landslide tragedies in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hillside settlements in Chittagong have to be protected from recurrent landslides through immediate implementation of the protective measures recommended by experts at different times, speakers at a roundtable in the port city yesterday said.

They said a legal structure and planning policy are needed for proper management of the hills and called for assigning a body to take care of its implementation.

The Daily Star Chittagong office organised the discussion

on Challenges of Development: Hill-Cutting and Landslide, at the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong.

Engineers, architects, academics, government officials, journalists and NGO representatives took part in the discussion, moderated by The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam.

The speakers said stopping hill-cutting and preventing killer landslides are the two major development challenges for Chittagong and called for political commitment, proper enforcement of the law and good governance in this regard.

Large-scale levelling of hills,

mostly for economic gains and unplanned housing, cause mudslides which claimed more than 200 lives in Chittagong in the last one decade, said Prof M Shahidul Islam of geography and environment department at Jagannath University.

The city has witnessed the disappearance of over 100 hills since the liberation war, he said in his keynote paper.

As an immediate solution, he called for stopping hill-cutting and housing in the hills. He said risky hills need to be identified and vulnerable settlements relocated.

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Participants at a roundtable on 'Challenges of Development: Hill Cutting and Landslide' organised by The Daily Star at the Engineers' Institution auditorium in Chittagong yesterday.

FLIGHT DELAY FOR A WEEK

Biman passengers stage angry protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 250 Dubai-bound passengers of Biman yesterday staged demonstrations at Zia International Airport (ZIA), protesting at a week's delay in their flight.

Mostly migrant workers from Bangladesh, they were scheduled to fly on August 23.

They chanted slogans against the airline authorities, and damaged a computer, a table and chairs at the boarding gate (No. 4) at around 3:00pm.

The demonstrations reflect the

sorry state of Biman whose flight schedules have been severely disrupted in recent days, said an official of Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

Currently, the national flag carrier has only four aircraft at its disposal to operate on 17 international routes.

Many of the demonstrators said they are afraid they might lose their jobs for failure to join work in time.

Passengers of other Biman flights, who too were waiting for several hours at the airport, said up to 24 hours' delay has become quite usual for Biman flights.

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PHOTO: STAR

Wasa authorities destroy fish caught yesterday from Pagla lagoon in Narayanganj, water of which has become toxic due to dumping of waste.

China earthquake kills 22

AFP, Beijing

Twenty-two people were killed and more than a hundred were injured after an earthquake measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale struck southwest China yesterday, state media reported.

The tremor struck Panzhihua City in Sichuan province at 4:30pm (0880 GMT), according to Xinhua news agency.

It said 17 people had died and about 100 injured in Sichuan, while five were killed and 26 hurt in neighbouring Yunnan province.

In Sichuan a man aged 54 died in Miyi County, while in Zhongchang Township of Lihui County, another was confirmed to have died when a house collapsed in.

The US Geological Survey measured the quake at 5.7.

The epicentre of the quake, which struck at 4:30 p.m. (0830 GMT), was around 30 kilometres (18 miles) southeast of Panzhihua, 161 kilometres northwest of Kunming, Yunnan's provincial capital, the USGS said.

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ODI AGAINST AUSTRALIA Tigers crash to 180-run defeat

AFP, Darwin

An under-strength Australia crushed Bangladesh by 180 runs in their one-day international at the TIO Stadium here on Saturday.

The home side, rocked on the eve of the game by star all-rounder Andrew Symonds being banished from the squad for a disciplinary breach, made 254 for eight from 50 overs after being sent in to bat.

The match is the first of three in what was to be a warm-up for the Champions Trophy in Pakistan before that tournament was postponed due to security concerns.

In reply, Bangladesh mustered just 74 and were all out in the 28th over.

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Delwar's son re-arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khandaker Akhter Hamid Paban, younger son of BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, was re-arrested soon after his release from Dhaka Central Jail yesterday morning.

Motijheel police said they arrested Paban around 9:00am on the premises of Abuzar Gifari College at Malibagh on charges of violating Emergency Powers Rules.

Some sources however said he was re-arrested just outside the jail gate.

Paban was later produced before a Dhaka court that ordered sending him to jail.

Contacted, Deputy Inspector

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Bogra Medical College closed sine die after BCL-Shibir clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College in Bogra was closed sine die yesterday following a clash between Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Islami Chhatra Shibir on Friday night.

Resident students of the college also left their hostels as the college academic council at a meeting asked them to vacate their dormitories by 5:30 pm yesterday after the clash which injured at least 19 students from both the sides.

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