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Shocking display of greetings at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University (DU) yesterday witnessed an ignoble rat race among teachers to get to the newly appointed university officials to pay their admiration and adulation depriving students of their precious classes.

Over 200 teachers rushed in a hustle and bustle towards the Registrar Building to congratulate pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Harun-or Rashid and Treasurer Professor Mizanur Rahman on their appointment.

With flowers, bouquets in their hands and hardly caring about their professional duties, they spent hours to welcome the two, who assumed their offices yesterday after taking over from their predecessors.

As the old senate room was crammed with teachers many were seen waiting outside in the corridor to show off their loyalty to the second and third most important persons of the country's premier university.

"I have never seen such an enthusiasm among teachers," a teacher told The Daily Star.

With teachers spending hours for the 'unofficial' greeting

ceremony, students of different faculties under arts, social science and business studies did not find their teachers in the classrooms. They expressed resentments over such negligence from the part of their teachers.

"Which one goes first --- attending classes or congratulating officials?" asked a student, who came from Gazipur for his class adding, "Our teachers could congratulate pro-VC after classes or he could notify students that he/she would not be able to take the class."

Students alleged that many of their teachers left their classes before the classes ended up.

"I had a two-hour class but I curtailed it by one hour to join the ceremony," said a teacher at the Social Science Faculty expressing disappointment over the growing nasty culture of the university.

Split into two different colours, Awami League-backed Blue Panel and BNP-backed White Panel, the DU teachers are widely blamed for not imparting lessons regularly, delaying completion of examinations and announcement of results.

"This is an utter negligence to the duty," said Prof Syed

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Villagers beat leopard to death
7 injured

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kurigram

Villagers beat a leopard to death yesterday after it attacked seven people at Bagdanga village in Kurigram.

Police said the wild cat attacked Serajul Islam, 45, while he was working at a paddy field in the morning.

When he screamed for help, villagers rushed to the spot and chased the leopard that later jumped into a nearby waterbody.

On information, policemen from Nageswari Police Station rushed to the spot.

The villagers asked the policemen to shoot the wild cat but they refused to do so.

Later, the villagers beat the

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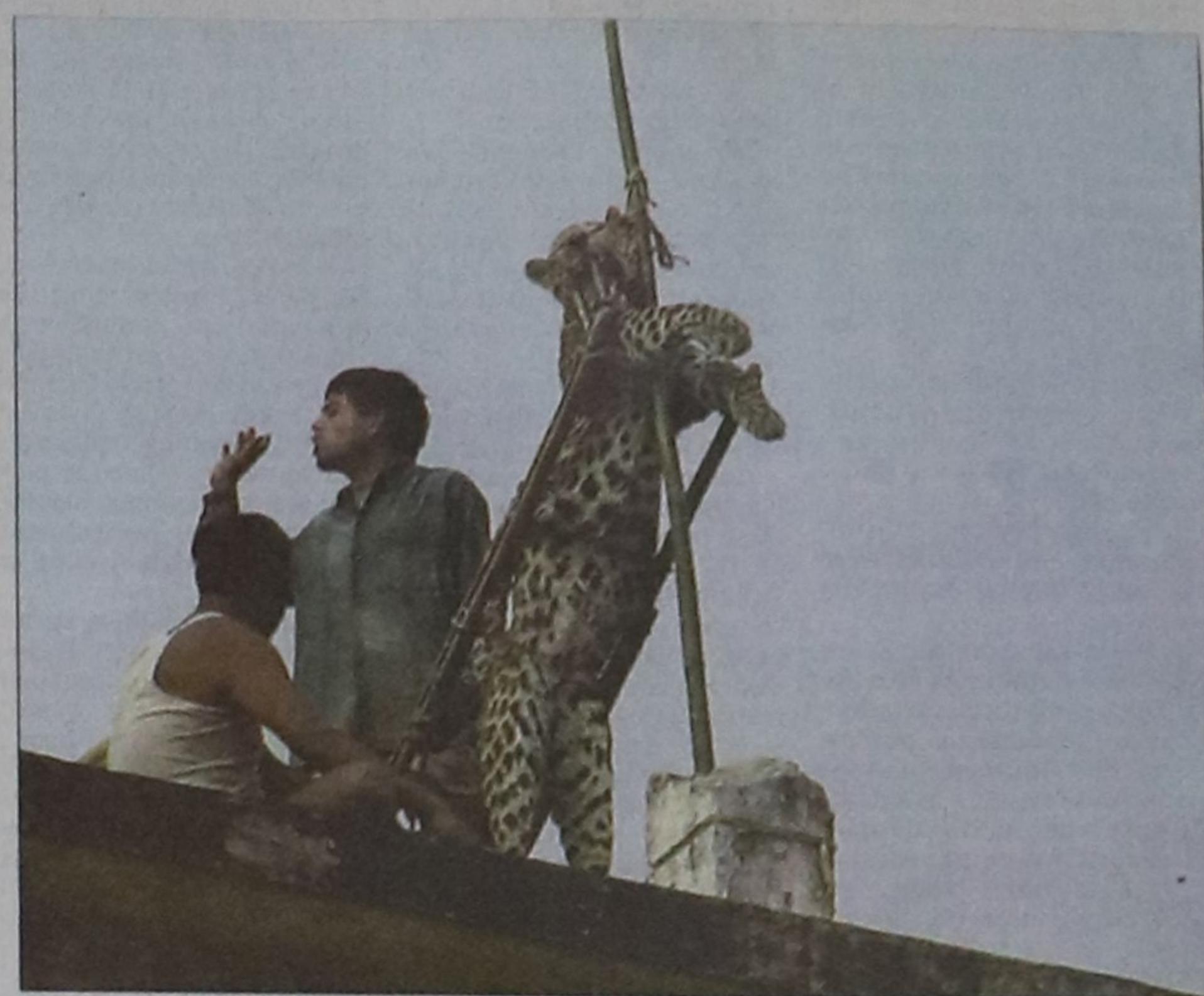


PHOTO: STAR

Villagers of Bagdanga of Nageswari upazila in Kurigram tied the dead leopard to a stick on the roof of a building. Capturing it yesterday the villagers beat the animal to death.

Madrasa students clash with jail guards: 46 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 46 people, including 21 jail guards and 20 madrasa students were injured yesterday in a clash between the two sides over control of a playground in the capital's Lalbagh area.

Authorities of Govt Madrasa-e-Alia alleged that the jail guards ransacked six rooms at one of its dormitories near the playground and took away a computer and eight mobile phones.

Witnesses said a group of madrasa students were playing cricket on the playground at Bakshi Bazar while several jail guards were cycling and playing volleyball there at about 8:30am.

At one stage, a jail guard riding a cycle hit Zakir Hossain, an

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30 hurt as RMG workers clash with cops

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

At least 30 people, including a police officer, were injured in a clash between garment workers and police in front of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute on Dhaka-Gazipur highway yesterday following injury of a worker in an accident.

Police said unruly garment workers locked in a clash with police at about 8:00am over the rumour of death of a fellow worker, disrupting traffic for over two hours on the highway.

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200 pirates active in Buriganga

They rob 15-20 vessels a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over 200 pirates of six to seven gangs rob 15-20 vessels a day in the Buriganga between Fatullah in Narayanganj and Postogola, a number of detained pirates said yesterday.

Detective Branch (DB) of Police arrested three pirates and brought them before journalists in a press conference at the DB office in the capital.

The DB arrested them at Kamrangirchar in connection with the killing of a truck driver and his helper on January 19 at Patharghatta of Baraitala in the city's Kadamtali area. The DB also recovered five knives, a cellphone and the trawler used in the robbery and the killings.

The detainees are Bhutto, Ripon and Halim. All of them hail from Kamrangirchar.

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Jail guards and students of a madrasa clash on a playground at Bakshibazar of Lalbagh in the capital yesterday over a trivial matter.

Jagannath students confine VC

Demand halls be freed from outsiders

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Jagannath University yesterday confined its Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Abu Hossain Siddique in front of his office for half an hour demanding steps to free university dormitories from illegal occupants.

In support of their demand about one thousand students went over to the VC office at around 11:20am and surrounded Prof Hossain as soon as he reached there, campus sources said.

Students, later, let him go as university proctor Kazi Asaduzzaman assured students of taking immediate steps to meet their demand.

Politically influential people have grabbed a total of 12

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Obama's green agenda to impact global climate

Say international environmental groups

AFP, Geneva

"from being a laggard and even pariah on some issues to being a leader."

"This election is a turning point, not only in the United States and its actions on the environment, but also because it will have a ripple effect around the world," he said by phone during a meeting of WWF International in Switzerland.

Colleagues were deeply impressed by Obama's inaugural speech, citing especially a "multicultural outlook" that promised bridge-building with emerging and developing countries on the environment, they added.

Roberts expected the ripple effect to have an impact on China first.

Although it has set domestic targets, Beijing has been wary about Obama's campaign promises and is reluctant to commit to new international cuts in carbon emissions unless industrialised economies do more.

"I believe China is ready to take the right steps to a lower carbon economy, they want

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Fog disrupts flights, ferry services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dense fog disrupted road and river communications across the country and caused the suspension of flight operations at Zia International Airport (ZIA) for hours yesterday.

Ferry services between Paturia and Daulatdia, Paturia and Kazirhat and Mawa and Kawrakandi were disrupted for around 12 hours that left hundreds of vehicles and thousands of passengers stranded on highways.

Ferry movement on Paturia-Daulatdia and Paturia-Kazirhat routes was suspended at about 10:30pm yesterday because of dense fog.

The Met office said this inclement weather might continue for another two days

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2 killed, 58 hurt in post-polls violence

STAR REPORT

Two people were killed and 58 others injured, including nine women, and five houses were ransacked in post-upazila poll violence in seven districts Friday night and yesterday.

A BNP supporter was killed allegedly by Awami League (AL) activists in post-upazila election violence at Joardarpura village in Daulatpur upazila yesterday, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Rezaul, 35, son Tasim Mondol of the village.

Witnesses said some local AL activists attacked the house of Rezaul at 6:30 am as he had campaigned for Shaheed Sarker Mongol, BNP secretary general and chairman candidate in the upazila polls.

The AL activists took Rezaul to another place and cut tendons of his hands and legs, leaving him seriously injured.

He was first admitted to upazila health complex and later shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where he died at about 2pm.

Another UNB report says assailants killed a BNP activist Abdul Zabbar, 31, of Kashipur village, and injured four others in Jhikargacha upazila headquarters Friday night.

Local BNP leaders alleged that the assailants, led by UP member Polash, abducted Hafizur at night and police recovered his body from a mustered field yesterday morning.

The assailants also ransacked Zia Smriti Sangsad at night and

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Dido arrives to coach footballers

SPORTS REPORTER

Brazilian coach Edson 'Dido' Silva arrived yesterday to take charge of the national football team and he was impressed after watching his first match in Dhaka.

Dido, a former Flamengo and Santos defender in the top division Brazilian league in the 90s, witnessed Abahani's 2-1 win against Mohammadan in the B. League at the

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Clarification

The National Heart Foundation Hospital & Research Institute refuted a part of the report headlined 'Illegal Blood Bank-busted in City' published in The Daily Star on January 15.

In a clarification, Hospital Director Col (retd) Dr Md Shamsul Alam said the report mentioned that the institute is one of the hospitals involved in illegal blood transfusion, but it is not true.

He said the institute has its own authorised blood bank where blood is collected from the relatives of patient and reserved only for the use of

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10 power plants on govt's priority list

Projects undertaken by past 2 govt to be implemented

UNB, Dhaka

As part of its efforts to resolve the country's chronic power crisis, the new government is set to implement 10 power plant projects initiated by previous governments.

According to official sources, agreements had been signed by the previous governments with a number of donor agencies to implement the projects. Eight of the projects will be implemented in the public sector while two in the private sector.

The proposed projects to be implemented in the public sector are 300 MW Siddhiganj peaking plant, 360 MW Haripur, 150 MW Sirajganj, 150 MW Khulna, 150 MW Bholia, 150 MW Sylhet and the 210 MW Khulna power plants.

The private sector plants are 450 MW Bibiyana and 450 MW Sirajganj power plants.

Among the projects, loan agreements were signed by the previous governments for 300 MW Siddhiganj, 150 MW Sirajganj, 150 MW Khulna and 150 MW Bholia power plants.

As per the agreements, the World Bank is supposed to finance the 300 MW Siddhiganj plant while Japanese JBIC will finance the 360 MW Haripur project, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) 150 MW Sirajganj project and 150 MW Khulna project.

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City dwellers head to work in the dense fog that covered the capital yesterday morning. The photo was taken on Mirpur Road at Kalabagan.

4 die after taking spirit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four drunken people died while two others fell sick yesterday in the city's Ramna area after they took rectified spirit Friday night.

The dead were identified as car trader Ashraful Islam Jinna alias Gagarin, 52, contractor Joynal Abedin Dablu, 35, vegetable trader Billal Hossain, 50 and rectified spirit seller Badal Khan, 38.

All the victims were residents of the city's Mirbagh in Ramna.

Officer-in-charge (OC) of Ramna thana Daulat Akbar said Jinna, Joynal, Billal, and two others together took rectified spirit Friday night at Madhubagh Jheel area and fell sick after they returned to their respective homes at Mirbagh.

Of them, Billal died at his house while Jinna, Joynal and Billal died at the Dhaka

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