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Death toll in Ctg crash rises to 9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The body of a missing student of Chittagong Government College in Thursday's road accident in Bandanban was recovered yesterday after 44 hours of the tragic crash.

Fire fighters with the help of locals retrieved the body of Priyashi Mutsuddy, a 3rd year student of economics department, from a ditch at Kasaipara in Bandarban at about 2:10pm.

With the recovery of the body, the death toll rose to nine in the road crash. The accident occurred Thursday evening when a bus carrying 45 people of economics department of the college

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Fishing in 16 sewerage lagoons goes unabated

HELEMUL ALAM

As the Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority failed to kill fish of all the 16 lagoons around Pagla Sewerage Treatment Plant in Narayanganj last year, fishing at the lagoons are still going on posing a serious threat to public health.

About 15 to 20 people of surrounding areas including Rasulpur and Kadamtali are involved in catching fish from the lagoons especially at night and the fishes are sold at different kitchen markets in the city to the very risk of the consumers' health, sources of the treatment plant said.

WASA on August 30 and September 6, 2008 conducted two separate drives and

killed fishes of four lagoons out of 16 using poison and was supposed to kill the fishes of rest of the lagoons within a short time but the drive was not carried out, they said.

Executive engineer of the plant, Kamrul Hossain Bhuiyan who was in charge of the lagoons at that time said, as the WASA decided to conduct the drive in all the lagoons in 2009 they did not conduct it in the rest of the lagoons then.

A huge quantity of fish is still in the lagoons and illegal fishing is still going on allegedly at night taking help of ansars who are responsible to check it on the lagoons, said a source of the plant.

During a visit at the lagoons on Friday, it was found two men at 1:30 pm were

catching fish with push net and caught around 12 Telapia and 20 Taki fish.

Ratan, one of the two, just after catching the fish sold the Telapia to a passer-by at Tk 100 who was just happy to afford it.

Ratan said the number of fish in the lagoons was now poor and he did not catch fish everyday but about 15 people catch fish every night using current net.

The fishermen sell the fishes to the wholesalers just beside the lagoons in the early morning soon after catching the fish, he said.

Prof ABM Faroque of the department of pharmaceutical technology of Dhaka University said "Heavy metals are very harmful for human body and if we eat the

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These lagoons of Dhaka Wasa's Sewerage Treatment Plant in Pagla, Narayanganj, have plenty of fish in them which criminals catch and sell in nearby markets caring little about the buyers' health.



Children from a local English-medium school perform a dance item at a cultural programme organised by The Daily Star at the National Theatre auditorium at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. More pictures on page 3.

Star connects English schools to Bengali culture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of renowned English-medium schools of the country took part in a cultural programme at Jatiya Natyashala of Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday.

It was the first such programme organised by The Daily Star aimed at creating a path for English-medium students to show their talent and grip on Bangla culture and heritage.

In his welcome speech, Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said through this type of events the students of English-medium schools would be able to practice Bangla culture and improve their skills through more public performances.

"We need to provide the students not only the opportunity for academic excellence but also to practice Bangla

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

BNP to recast upazila bodies next month

Plans selection where election fails

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP, the main opposition in parliament, is set to start reconstituting its upazila level committees through elections next month, in a bid to revitalise the party from bottom up, said party insiders.

But if it becomes impossible to hold the council of any upazila unit, the party high-ups may select a new committee for that unit, the sources added.

They also hinted that changes might come to the central committees of the party's associate organisations as well.

According to party leaders first most of the upazila and municipality units will be reconstituted, and then new district committees will be formed through secret ballots of upazila level leaders.

"The party high command will decide which unit committees will be formed through selections and which will be elected, after reviewing relevant recommendations of grassroots level leaders," a senior leader of the party told The Daily Star yesterday, adding that it might be difficult to hold councils in every upazila.

"If it is not possible to hold a council in an area then the high command might summon the leaders of that area to the capital to select a new committee," he said adding that the process might start in the second week of March.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Lanka bus carrying refugees attacked
Artillery shells kill 4 more civilians in 'safe zone'

AFP, Colombo

Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels lobbed a grenade and opened fire at a bus transporting civilians out of Sri Lanka's war zone yesterday, killing one woman and wounding 13, the defence ministry said.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attacked the bus at Puliyankulam in the island's north while it headed to the government-held town of Vavuniya, the ministry said.

It said four women and two girls were among those shot by the gunmen in the pre-dawn attack.

Airforce fighter jets kept up attacks on rebel positions Saturday and bombed the northern beach strip of Mullaitivu where suspected guerrilla boats were anchored, the military said.

The bombings come as artillery shells Friday killed four

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Fight against Taliban for Pak survival

Says Zardari; suspected US missile kills 27

AFP, AP, Washington/ Islamabad

Pakistan's President Ali Zardari has acknowledged in a television interview the Taliban is present "in huge amounts" of the country and Pakistani forces are "fighting for the survival of Pakistan."

Suspected US missile strike destroyed a major Taliban training camp in Pakistan yesterday, killing at least 27 mainly al-Qaeda foreign operatives, security officials said.

In an interview to be aired Sunday on CBS television's "60 Minutes" news show, Zardari said the Taliban had been dismissed as a threat by the Pakistanis for a long time.

The Taliban "do have a presence in huge amounts of land in our side. Yes, that is the

fact," CBS quoted Zardari as saying.

"It's been happening over time and it's happened out of denial. Everybody was in denial," he said. "And our forces weren't increased... We have weaknesses and they are taking advantage of that weakness."

But he said the Pakistani military and intelligence services are behind the fight against the Taliban.

"If that wasn't the case, then Islamabad would have fallen because obviously if the army doesn't do its job, these men are not restricted," CBS quoted him as saying.

"They've blown up the Marriott Hotel before. They've attacked us inland before. They would be all around us, wouldn't they?" he asked.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Demand up for little magazine

DURDANA GHIAS

Amar Ekushey Book Fair became lively yesterday as a huge number of visitors thronged the venue where book-enthusiasts were looking for the books written on the liberation war of Bangladesh and the war criminals.

The sale of Liberation War related books is comparatively high than that of previous years, publishers said.

In the fair, people are looking for books written on war criminals or trial of war criminals as they are interested

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Attorney office won't get right to recruit

Lower court hiring to stay under govt control

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Awami League-led alliance government will not ratify the Attorney Service Ordinance 2008 promulgated by the immediate past caretaker government.

The new Government Attorney Department was set up under the ordinance which allows it to recruit government attorneys for lower courts.

The caretaker government also had decided to recruit 976 attorneys for lower courts through the Government Attorney Department, sources in the department said.

Some legal experts also hailed the ordinance saying that appointments of government law officers would be transparent and impartial through the department.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shafique Ahmed recently told The Daily Star that the Attorney Service Ordinance 2008 is in contradiction to the Bangladesh Bar Council Act, since the ordinance allows lawyers to become government attorneys without bar council issued enrolment certificates.

Such an ordinance is not acceptable, he said adding that government attorneys will again be appointed to lower courts according to the previous rules, requiring the bar council's certificates.

Until the ordinance was promulgated, government attorneys used to be recruited for the lower judiciary through the law

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



A potato field at Denti village under Pargachcha upazila in Rangpur is in tatters as it is infected with late blight.

Blight blow for potato target

PORIMOL PALMA

A fungal disease -- late blight -- has badly affected potato crop in different areas of the country raising fears that the government-fixed target of producing 80 lakh tonnes of potato this season might not be achieved.

Field reports received from more than 10 districts quoted farmers as saying the disease has damaged their potato crop causing them massive losses.

The Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) however is yet to make an assessment of the damage.

Agriculturists blamed outbreak of late blight on dense fog and cloudy weather on and off in January and sowing of low quality seeds in some areas.

"There may be fungi in potato seeds or soil but they attack plants when there is thick fog and cloudy weather," said an agriculturist at the DAE.

The districts where late blight attacked potato crop include Munshiganj, Bogra, Rangpur, Joypurhat, Kurigram, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Police yet to nab ntv staff killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are yet to arrest the two killers of Atiqul Islam, a video editor of private television channel ntv, and recover his motorbike the criminals had snatched.

Criminals killed Atiqul Friday night at Moghbazar rail crossing as he was returning home.

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Prayer Timing		
February 15		
	Azhan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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