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PABNA EDWARD COLLEGE BCL, JCD partners in 'admission business'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Some 330 students failed to take admission into Pabna Edward College this academic year because of illegal 'admission business' by some student organisations and a section of teachers.

Sources said leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and a section of teachers of the college allegedly took money from the admission seekers to ensure their admission to the college.

According to an understanding, BCL managed 210 seats and JCD got 80 for their party supporters under the so-called

'political admission' while the teachers also kept 40 seats for their desired candidates in 1st year honours courses.

Meanwhile, an investigation committee formed to probe into the allegations of 'admission business' has found involvement of teachers there and recommended for departmental punishment to them. The committee submitted its report to the deputy commissioner of Pabna on Thursday.

College sources said JCD and section of teachers finalised the names of admission seekers for the seats but BCL could not finalise the list of their candidates due to dispute between two factions.

Even the two BCL groups--one led by Pabna district unit president Mostafizur Rahman Sweet and another by Pabna district unit secretary Mostak Ahmed Azad--locked in a clash on Tuesday night over preparing the list of admission seekers, injuring at least 10 BCL and Juba League men.

The deadline for admission to the college ended on Wednesday, the day after the clash. As BCL could not prepare their list, college authorities did not dare to admit students, sources said.

"The date of admission in the first year honours courses ended officially on April

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Hasina offers Juma prayers in Madina

BSS, Madina, Saudi Arabia

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offered Juma prayers at Masjid-e-Nabawi in Madina yesterday.

She also visited the Rawza Mubarak of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) where she prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of the country as well as the Muslim Ummah.

After offering Juma prayers, Sheikh Hasina left for Jeddah by a Saudi Royal aircraft.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offering special prayers at the Rawza Mubarak of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (PBUH) in Madina.

Wasa ups vigilance at pumps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) yesterday took a number of measures, including increased vigilance at pumps under different zones, to reduce the water crises in the city.

Sources said it also decided to work in a coordinated way with the Dhaka Power Distribution Company and DESCO about the time schedule of load shedding for running the Wasa pumps.

The decisions were taken at an emergency meeting held at the Wasa Bhaban with its chairman Dr Golam Mostafa in chair.

The meeting decided to give scope to buy diesel from nearby oil pumps during any urgency by taking permission of the zonal executive engineer. The diesel price will later be adjusted to the voucher,

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3 injured in gun attack over city slum's control

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three people including two local Awami League (AL) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders were injured yesterday as unidentified criminals opened fire on them at the AL office in the city's Fulbaria Railway Colony centring an internal feud over control of a slum.

Wounded Ruhul Amin, 56, joint convener of Ward-56 AL unit, his nephew Mohammad Jasim, 26, joint secretary of Ward-56 BCL unit, and Jahanara begum, 42, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Ruhul's son Mohammad Suman said three armed criminals riding a motorbike opened fire on them in front of the AL office at around 3:00pm and sped away quickly.

Suman said they did not know the reason for the attack.

BNP cadres held sway over the slum during the tenure of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Army officer found buried in Sherpur

UNB, Sherpur

Army Warrant Officer Batan Barua, 35, missing since April 14, was found buried in a remote border village of Sreebordi upazila in Sherpur yesterday.

Batan's body was discovered in the house of his friend Habibul of Tatihati village.

Riton Barua, brother of the victim, told UNB that Baton, who was on seven-day official leave, went to Habibul's house on invitation to celebrate Pahela Baishakh and he had been missing since then.

Police with the assistance of RAB-6 raided the house of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Bopara powers Punjab

AFP, Durban

Ravi Bopara scored 84 as Kings XI Punjab defeated Bangalore Royal Challengers by seven wickets Friday to claim their first Indian Premier League victory this season.

Former England captain Kevin Pietersen was out for a duck as Bangalore made 168-9 in their 20 overs at Kingsmead and Punjab reached 173-3 with an over to spare in perfect conditions.

England right-hander Bopara struck five sixes and four fours during a 59-ball spell at the crease and skipper Yuvraj Singh (30 not out) and Sri Lankan Kumar Sangakkara

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Nearly 6,500 civilians killed in Lanka: UN

LTTE chief Prabhakaran trapped as India presses Rajapaksa for truce

AP, AFP, Colombo

Two top Indian officials met with Sri Lanka's president yesterday to demand an immediate ceasefire in the bloody civil war as the UN reported that nearly 6,500 ethnic Tamil civilians were killed in the last three months of fighting.

The leader of Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers is trapped in a small strip of jungle and intends to make a final stand with his surviving forces, an army commander said yesterday.

The commander said a rebel spokesman who surrendered to government troops earlier in the week had reported that Velupillai

Prabhakaran, 54, was still in charge of his cornered and depleted separatist army in the island's northeast.

The Tamil Tiger spokesman "says that Prabhakaran was living inside and that he will be there until the last moment," Brigadier Shavendra Silva told reporters.

"But, even at the last minute, he will try to escape," said the commander, who is spearheading the offensive against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Prabhakaran has not been seen for 18 months, and speculation has been rife that he may have been killed or already fled the island.

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One killed in gunfight over char land

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

One person was killed and 30 others were injured yesterday in a gunfight between two groups over the control of an alluvial land from the Padma River at Sultanpur in Natore.

The deceased could not be identified. The injured were admitted to the Rajshahi Medical college Hospital, Bagha Hospital and nearby clinics.

The clash erupted on Friday morning between Lachand group and Panna group.

Lalpur police station sources said Lachand group of Philipnagar Char under

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BARISAL 22 arrestees sent to jail, safe custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal Chief Judicial Magistrate court sent a male and 21 female suspects to jail and safe custody yesterday.

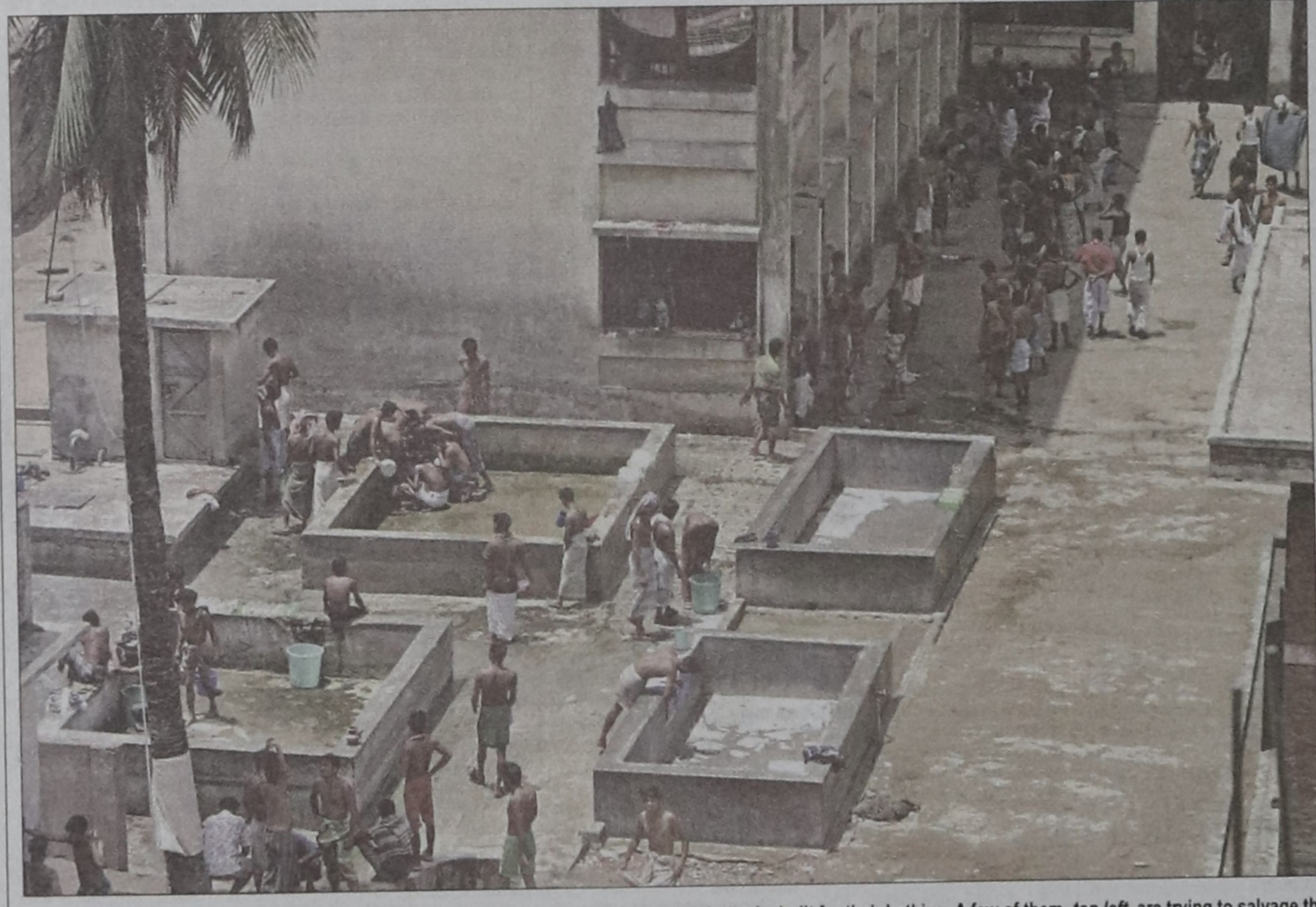
Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel arrested the 22 for their suspicious movements in the city at the early hours of Thursday. They handed the suspects over to Barisal Kotwali police in the evening after a daylong interrogation at the Rab-8 headquarters.

The investigation officer produced the arrestees before the court yesterday morning

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Prayer Timing		
April 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-27	6-31
Esna	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



In the unbearable heat yesterday inmates of Dhaka Central Jail wait for water around the tanks built for their bathing. A few of them, top left, are trying to salvage the seepage of one of the taps.

PHOTO: SHAIQUL ALAM

Green Crescent's foreign funds received illegally

RAFIQUL ISLAM, Barisal

Bangladeshi-born British citizen Faisal Mostafa's NGO in Bhola has been regularly receiving foreign funds for its operation though it has no legal permit to receive so.

The NGO, Green Crescent, is only registered with the department of social services in Doulatkhan upazila of Bhola, which does not permit it to receive foreign funds for its operation on a regular basis.

In order to do so, the organisation would need to obtain a registration from the NGO Bureau.

"No one can receive or collect foreign funds without having registered with the NGO Bureau after satisfying the bureau's requirements through the submission of specified docu-

ments," the Bhola district social welfare officer told The Daily Star.

In a span of just 28 days between November 19 and December 17 in 2007, a total Tk 25 lakh was deposited in the NGO's account (no 6267) with Uttara Bank's Daulatkhan Branch through three pay orders through Sonali Bank.

On November 19 of 2007, Tk 3.03 lakh was deposited in the account through pay order no 6767918, Tk 5.60 lakh through pay order no 6767947 on November 29 and Tk 17.45 lakh through pay order no 6767978 on December 17.

According to rules, it is mandatory that all branches of commercial and scheduled banks submit Cash Transaction Report (CTR report) of any transaction over Tk 5 lakh to the anti-money laundering department (HO) of

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Symonds stars in Aussies win

AFP, Dubai

Comeback boy Andrew Symonds starred in Australia's much improved performance with both bat and ball as they beat Pakistan by six wickets in the second day-night international here on Friday.

The 33-year-old, on a comeback trail after being dropped due to discipline problems, took two wickets in an over to help Australia restrict Pakistan to 207 before scoring 58 to anchor the run-chase at the packed Dubai Stadium.

The victory help Australia level the five-match series 1-1

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Pak Taliban pull back to Swat stronghold

AP, Peshawar

Taliban militants who had seized a district just 100km from Pakistan's capital began pulling out yesterday after the government warned that it would use force to evict them.

The withdrawal from Buner, if completed, eliminates the most immediate threat to a peace agreement in the neighbouring militant-held Swat Valley that the US government worries has created a haven for allies of al-Qaeda.

But is unlikely to quell fears that Islamabad is failing to deal forcefully with Islamist militants slowly expanding into the heart of the nuclear-armed country from lawless areas close to the Afghan border.

TV images showed dozens of militants

emerging on Friday from a high-walled villa that served as their headquarters in Buner, a rural area in the foothills of the Karakoram mountains. The men, most of them masked with black scarves and carrying automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades, clambered into several pickup trucks and minibuses before driving away.

Syed Mohammed Javed, the top government administrator in the region, said a hard-line cleric who helped mediate the disputed peace deal persuaded the Taliban to return to Swat in a meeting on Friday.

"We told them that we have a deal, we have a peace agreement. We told them not to become a tool in the hands of someone aiming at sabotaging the peace in the region," Javed told The

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