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BDR CARNAGE
National probe report likely in a day or two
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The national probe committee on BDR carnage is likely to submit its report in the next few days.

Sources close to the probe committee told The Daily Star that the report is prepared to submit any time but some other formalities including binding the copies of the report has not yet been done.

"It will take a day or two to finish the work and the chairman of the committee would then submit the report to the home minister," said a source.

The government formed an 11-member national probe committee headed by former bureaucrat Anisuzzaman to investigate the bloody mutiny at Pilkhana BDR headquarters on February 25-26.

The committee is comprised of serving bureaucrats and high-ranking officers from the army, navy and air force.

Besides, a 20-member army probe committee submitted its report to the chief of army staff on May 11.

Buet team wins int'l architectural design competition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) has brought great honour to the country by winning the first prize of an international architectural design competition titled 'Design for the Children', held in USA.

Sheikh Ahsan Ullah Mojumder, assistant professor of Buet, led his team that won the race of world class architects and designers from different parts of the globe to develop an adaptable, sustainable and culturally responsive pediatric clinic which can be modified to fit different sites in East Africa.

Prof Ahsan's teammates are: Dilruba Ferdous Shuvra, SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

3 drown in Buriganga capsizes

UNB, Keraniganj

Three members of a family drowned as a motorboat capsized in the Buriganga following a collision with another vessel near Jajira in South Keraniganj upazila on Friday night.

Mohammad Hossain, 35, his wife Kajal Rekha, 25, and son Sabbir, 5, drowned in the mid river. They hailed from Dashmina of Patuakhali district.

However, the four other

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Ershad urges govt to scrap caretaker system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad yesterday urged the government to promulgate a law to abolish the provision of caretaker government for establishing human rights in the country.

"The caretaker government system is a black spot for the country, as the immediate caretaker government during its two-year rule had severely violated people's rights including that of some politicians. I hope that the present government will enact a law for establishing representative government in place of caretaker government during

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PURBACHAL, UTTARA PROJECTS

Rajuk set to falter on timeline, again

HELEMUL ALAM

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakha (Rajuk) may miss the deadline for allotment of plots at Purbachal New Town Project and Uttara Model Town (3rd Phase) by June due to non-completion of scrutiny of around 1.65 lakh applications submitted against over 7,000 plots.

Besides, Rajuk has missed the deadline (January this year) again for starting handing over the plots, which were allotted in 2001-2005 under the two projects. It will take another six months for Uttara to start even the process while three months for Purbachal project, officials at Rajuk said.

Although State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan earlier told The Daily Star that it would take two months to complete the total process of plot allotment since the last

date of application, the minister changed his stance due to huge submission of applications.

"Around 1.65 lakh applications were submitted under the two projects and two months is not enough to scrutinise and complete other process. But we are trying to do this as early as possible," said the minister.

An official at Rajuk said they received 1,64,644 applications under the two projects till April 30. Of them, 42,600 plot seekers are expatriate Bangladeshi. Around two lakh application forms were sold against around 6383 plots under Purbachal project and around 870 plots under Uttara (3rd phase), he said.

Rajuk sources said now 100 officials are working to scrutinise the applications though only 30 officials were assigned initially.

An uncertainty about allotting the

plots in a transparent way is still looming, as the authorities concerned are yet to fix any criterion for allotting the plots, sources said.

The state minister said they are yet to finalise the criteria of plot allotment but working to find out the best way to make it transparent.

On November 25, 2008, Rajuk sought application in 12 categories including MP, justice, journalist, government service holder, autonomous body, Armed Forces, artist/sportsman, businessman and private service holder. The authorities later extended the time twice which ended on April 30.

Chairman of Rajuk Md Nurul Huda said they would engage the experts of Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology to complete the job as early as possible.

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Even though rules say that every rickshaw must have a lantern while plying streets at night, it is largely ignored. However, it is strictly followed in and around the Dhaka Cantonment area. Taking advantage of this situation, rickshaw owners rent rickshaw pullers lanterns adding Tk seven to every rickshaw's rental. The photo was taken at a rickshaw garage in Mohakhali.

Govt pledges action against extra-judicial killings

UNB, Dhaka

Commerce Minister Lt Col (retd) Faruk Khan yesterday said the government would investigate all the extrajudicial killings taken place in the past, as it does not favour such incidents.

"The government is completely against extrajudicial killings and it is determined to prevent such incidents," he told a function marking the first anniversary of Saptahik, a Bangla weekly.

He said the government is aware about extrajudicial killings and it would take measures whether such incidents are taking place now. "If it is found, the government will investigate it and take proper steps."

Replying to a question, he

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Bombing, US strike kill 36 in Pakistan

AP, Islamabad

A car bomb destroyed an Internet cafe and tore through a bus carrying handicapped children in northwestern Pakistan yesterday, killing at least 11 people and wounding many more, police said.

Elsewhere in the troubled region, an apparent US missile strike destroyed a Taliban training camp, killing 25 militants, while Pakistani troops killed dozens of Taliban in their bid to reconquer the Swat Valley, officials said.

Violence is engulfing Pakistani territory along the Afghan border as American and allied forces crank up the pressure on al-Qaeda and Taliban militants entrenched in the forbidding and barely governed mountains and valleys.

Washington and other nations are pouring in billions of dollars in aid and military assistance to prop up the pro-Western government in Islamabad, which on Saturday sought to allay concerns that its nuclear weapons could fall into extremist hands.

The car bomb devastated a street in the main northwestern city of Peshawar on Saturday afternoon as it was busy with shoppers and traffic.

Television images showed several vehicles burning fiercely and a stricken white-and-green bus that had been dropping handi-

capped children at their homes around the city.

The eight students still on board were injured, one seriously, medics and police said. Four other children and seven adults were killed, and dozens more were injured, they said.

Safwat Ghayur, a senior police official, said one of a string of shops wrecked by the blast was an Internet cafe, a favorite target for violent Islamist extremists in Pakistan who consider the Web a source of moral corruption.

Ghayur said the cafe had received several threats and even been attacked recently by gunmen. He said police were holding suspects in the shooting, but refused to elaborate.

It was unclear if any of the victims had been in the cafe or if it was the intended target. No group immediately claimed responsibility.

Militants have threatened more attacks in Pakistan in retaliation for dozens of American missile attacks on their strongholds in Pakistan's tribal areas.

In the latest strike, Pakistani officials said several missiles hit a religious school and a nearby vehicle on Saturday morning in Mir Ali, a town in the North Waziristan tribal region.

Two intelligence officials, citing reports from agents in the field, said at least 25 people were killed, including two foreign militants, and dozens more were wounded.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

India confirms first swine flu case

AFP, Geneva

The number of confirmed swine flu cases has soared again to top 8,000, the World Health Organisation said yesterday as India and Turkey reported their first infections.

Japan also confirmed its first three infections among teenage students who had not picked up the virus abroad, and officials voiced fears that it would spread in the country.

The number of people killed by the influenza A(H1N1) virus rose to 72, compared with 65 on Friday, with six more in Mexico and one in the United States, the WHO said.

Over the past week the number of people infected by the virus has risen sharply, going up by around 1,000 a day since Monday to reach 8,451 on Saturday.

The United States, followed by Mexico, where the epidemic began some three weeks ago, have recorded the highest number of cases. Two new countries, Ecuador and Peru, have been added to the WHO's official list.

India confirmed its first swine flu case after a 23-year-old man who had flown to Hyderabad from New York tested positive for the virus.

He had returned to India on Wednesday and was quarantined

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Police raid CU halls, pick up 16

CU CORRESPONDENT

Police in a raid early yesterday detained 16 people from six dormitories and two cottages of the Chittagong University (CU).

Police said the detainees might be outsiders and most of them belong to Islami Chhatra Shibir and they failed to produce any university identity cards.

Hathazari Police Station Officer in-Charge (OC) Mohammad Ismail said they

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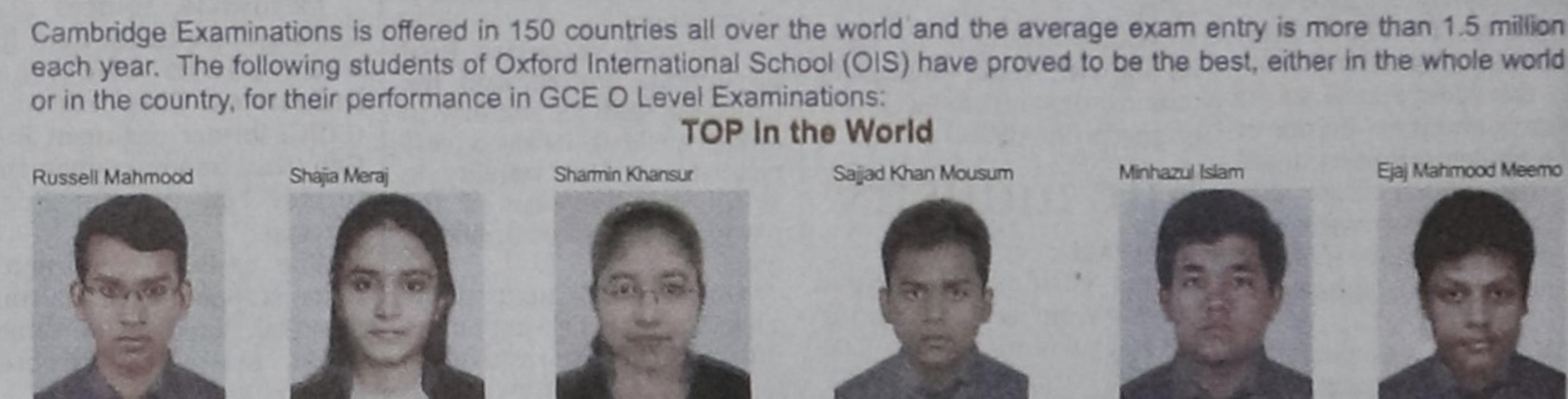
Prayer Timing		
May 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Magrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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