

Gunmen kill 3

FROM PAGE 1
the Institute of Chest Diseases and Hospital in Mohakhali. His condition was critical as of filing this report at 8:00pm.

The business community of Karwan Bazar have expressed deep concern about their safety.

Security guard Zakir Hossain, who was at the office during the incident, told The Daily Star, "I was sleeping on a bench in far corner of the room, and woke up to the sound of gunshots."

"I saw four youths getting onto a white microbus near the TCB building, some 100 metres off the scene."

Sprinting towards the vehicle, they fired a few rounds into the sky to scare off the locals after them, Zakir continued.

"I don't know who attacked the office and who else were there at the time because I was deep asleep after night shift."

Local businessmen said Faruque, Ashraf and Rahim had lately been campaigning against extortion and other crimes in the area.

Of them, Ashraf and Rahim used to frequent the office as shop owners and former leaders of the market. But for Faruque it was quite rare to spend time there.

Fellow traders took bodies of Faruque and Ashraf to DMCH, while police recovered that of Jewel from 25/30 yards off the scene.

The bullet-hit bodyguard scuttled out of the office, but fell flat on his face on the road and died.

Faruque's brother Mobarak Mollah told The Daily Star, "My brother was the target, while the other two might have been in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Talking to this correspondent at DMCH, he said, "We

know who were behind the killings. Wait for the dust to settle, you'll know everything you need to know."

Tofael Hossain, Ashraf's brother-in-law, said they have no clues to the identity of the killers.

Hailing from Karimganj upazila of Kishoreganj, Faruque was a four-time president of the fruit traders association.

Though he had no links to organised crime, he had good relations with top terror 'Pichhi' Hannan, who was killed in Rab crossfire in 2004.

Since then, he had his attention totally focussed on business.

Meanwhile, persons close to Faruque suspect his slaying might be linked to that of Juba League leader Mamun two months back.

Mamun's men, who believe Faruque had a hand in their boss's death, might have committed the murders yesterday, the sources added.

Mamun, office secretary of city Juba League, would coordinate the extortion activities against Karwan Bazar traders.

After his murder that is still unresolved, extortion declined considerably, said local shopkeepers.

Deputy Commissioner Chowdhury Manzurul Kabir of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Tejgaon zone) told The Daily Star, "For now we know little about the motive. We are however working to know if extortion had anything to do with the triple murder."

The businessmen at Karwan Bazar however are convinced that extortionists had carried out the killings.

Police recovered a magazine with three bullets from the spot.

Dredger

FROM PAGE 16
every year during monsoon and 3,800 kms during lean season.

Of the seven dredgers, two were procured in 1972 and the rest five in 1975. The normal life span of a dredger is 20 to 25 years.

While capacity of the seven rundown dredgers is to excavate 30 lakh cubic metres of silt per year, the sedimentation rate estimated in 1998 was 90 lakh cubic metres in the country's rivers, said Howlader, adding that more than 20 lakh cubic metres have been added to the estimate by now.

Once the three dredgers are procured, the volume of dredging will be increased by 15 lakh cubic metres.

BIWTA has already earmarked river routes that are economically potential and viable for dredging.

"Coordination among the agencies concerned is vital for river dredging," he said. "It is important to designate a particular river to dredge a river."

Drying rivers in northern part of the country have to be dredged by the Water Development Board (WDB), as those rivers are used for irrigation and not for commercial transportation, said BIWTA chairman.

WDB has 20 dredgers of various capacities and BIWTA and WDB are two agencies that carry out river dredging for different purposes.

On World Environment Day (June 5), Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced that the rivers would be restored to their original feature through dredging.

The PM said the government has already started discussion with the World Bank, the Netherlands and other donor agencies for assistance.

On June 14, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen said during a question-answer session in the parliament that the government would implement two projects at a cost of Tk 1,159 crore to carry out river dredging including the Buriganga.

A hub

FROM PAGE 1
Around 700 vegetable depots are there in the area, most of which are illegal. Tolls are collected from these through agents.

According to sources, several hundred trucks and pickups loaded with vegetables, fish and other commodities arrive at Karwan Bazar every day from across the country.

Criminals also extort the garment factories in the area, the hotels known for 24-hour sex trade, and the biggest cannabis market with over 200 dealers. Also there are over 50 centres that sell liquor illegally.

The DMP commissioner said police often conduct drives against sex crimes at hotels.

He, however, refused the allegation of extortion by police.

Extortion and other crimes had declined during the rule of the last caretaker government but as soon as the Awami League government came to power, control over the depots on the footpaths shifted while the rates and limits of extortion changed.

A staff of a hotel told The Daily Star that the hotels in the area earn around Tk 1-3 lakh a day each through sex trade and almost 50 percent of the earning is distributed among law enforcers and top criminals in the city.

Killings and gun attacks have often taken place whenever business owners have refused to pay tolls. Police also conduct drives at hotels whenever they do not get their share, sources said.

Earlier, criminal Alamgir, his brother and owner of a depot Jahangir, and Hotel West-inn manager SK Kuddus were shot dead in separate incidents in February following a feud over extortion.

Family members of Alamgir and Jahangir alleged that cadres of Sweden Aslam killed them.

In another incident, police recovered the body of Mamun, office secretary of the Juba League city unit committee who was made the head of a committee for collecting tolls from Karwan Bazar, from Gazipur two months ago.

Star-Aktel

FROM PAGE 16
Under the programme, The Daily Star and Aktel will distribute three copies of The Daily Star each to around 1,000 schools—equal number of boys and girls' school across the country.

Iran polls dispute

FROM PAGE 16
The authorities responded to the worst crisis since the 1979 Islamic revolution with a fierce crackdown that has intensified despite an international outcry.

State-run English-language Press TV said on Thursday that 20 people have been killed in the protests, including eight members of Iran's Basij militia. Other state media have reported that 17 civilians have been killed.

Foreign ministers of the Group of Eight most industrialised nations were expected to condemn the post-election violence at a meeting in Italy on Friday.

But they were also expected to keep the door open to dialogue after Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov warned that isolating Iran was the "wrong approach."

US senators bluntly charged on Thursday that the June 12 election was rigged and vowed to help the opposition defeat curbs on news and the social networking Internet sites it has used to organise demonstrations.

But since an address to the nation last week by the Iranian supreme leader in which he warned that the defeated candidates would be held responsible for any "blood, violence and chaos" on the streets of Tehran, the protests have nearly stopped.

A massive deployment of police armed with batons, along with hundreds of Basij militiamen, has ensured that the few spontaneous demonstrations that have been held have been swiftly dispersed.

On Wednesday, an attempt by a few hundred demonstrators to gather near parliament was quashed by police and militiamen, witnesses told AFP.

The arrest of hundreds of political activists and academics, the blocking of several Internet websites and restrictions on foreign media have

BDR jawan

FROM PAGE 16
carnage.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, police said.

Strong guidelines

FROM PAGE 1
haors but also the river basins. He said a caucus involving the lawmakers from Dhaka would help save the rivers around the capital.

The housing sector is developing in the flood flow zones and sub-flood flow zones which are needed to be preserved for retention of water, he said.

Demanding proper steps to stop initiatives to construct the Tipaimukh dam, Muzaffer said the dam would destroy ecology of both Bangladesh and Indian sides and affect the river system of Bangladesh.

On parks and open spaces of the city, he said these should also be freed from the encroachments.

Muzaffer went on to say that the prime minister has announced increasing the total forest to 20 percent from 10 percent and asked whether there is enough space to increase the forest.

"We don't want social forestry; rather we want recovery of natural forests," he said.

The proposed budget is not a properly green budget, he said, adding it is relatively green compared to the earlier years when the environment issue was ignored.

13 killed

FROM PAGE 16
string of attacks to hit the conflict-torn nation in the run-up to the June 30 withdrawal of American troops from Iraq's urban areas.

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki moved to reassure Iraqis on Thursday that his security forces were able to protect the population after a massive bomb killed dozens.

Wednesday's attack in a market in the overwhelmingly Shia neighbourhood of Sadr City in northeast Baghdad was one of the deadliest this year, killing at least 62 people and wounding about 150.

1 killed

FROM PAGE 1
At one stage, the PCP activists started fleeing the scene by firing gunshots at army. The security men also retaliated by firing bullets, leaving Tarun dead on the spot.

Army personnel arrested PCP activist Elen Chakma from the spot while other PCP men managed to escape during the gunfight. No case was filed till 5:30pm yesterday.

further stifled the protest movement.

The authorities have denied the opposition permission to hold any rallies or even mourning ceremonies for demonstrators killed over the past two weeks.

Foreign media have been banned from covering any street protests.

Iran expelled the BBC's Tehran correspondent on Sunday, accusing him of "supporting the rioters," and has also arrested a British-Greek and an Iranian-Canadian journalist working for US publications.

Despite the restrictions, images of police brutality have still spread worldwide via amateur video over the Internet. One clip in particular of the fatal shooting of young woman demonstrator Neda Agha-Soltan has come to symbolise the regime's iron-fisted response to the protests.

Arash Hejazi, a doctor who tried to save her, told the BBC the shooter was identified by the crowd as a Basij militiaman.

Kafco official

FROM PAGE 16
Police and family members suspect that Aurangajeb, son of late Delwar Hossain of Dharmapur of Fatikchhari upazila in Chittagong, might have been stabbed to death on Wednesday night.

Sources said Aurangajeb and his wife Shahnoor Akhter used to live separately for one and a half years following conjugal crisis which they overcame later and started living together again from early May this year.

Shahnoor along with their two children left the flat on Tuesday night for her paternal house and returned the next morning to take some clothes when her husband was at office.

Failing to get Aurangajeb on his mobile phone, the victim's relatives lodged a general diary with the Panchlaish Police Station yesterday afternoon.

Police recovered his body around 8:00pm yesterday. They were collecting fingerprints from the flat, Deputy Commissioner (North) Banaj Kumar Mazumder told The Daily Star at 9:00pm.

Govt trying

FROM PAGE 1
her remark," Farroque said at a press briefing at his Namflat in the city.

He said the prime minister doesn't want to see the opposition in the parliament. "We demand the government stops hatching conspiracy against us; we want a better environment so that we can join the parliament."

In response to a query the opposition Chief Whip said, "Tipaimukh Dam is a national issue. There is no need to divide the nation on the issue."

BNP will announce names of its representatives only if the neutral experts are included in the parliamentary delegation to visit the dam area, he said.

When asked about the PM's proposal to the opposition to send BNP's own delegation to Tipaimukh site he said posing a question, "Would the Indian government allow us (BNP) to visit the dam separately?"

Border forces have been ruined and the army suffered irreversible losses. Now the armed force is being weakened through dismissal of its officers, he blasted the government for recent dismissal of some army officers.

BNP lawmakers Abdul Momin Talukder, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anni, Abul Khayer Bhuiyan, Rehana Akhter Ranu, among others, were present at the briefing.

Bogra plant

FROM PAGE 16
But the German company representative refused to honour the agreement, said the official of Energy Prima Ltd, adding that they have decided to file a cheating case against the German company for this reason.

Official sources of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) in Bogra said that it would take at least one year more for the rental power plant to generate power if the company imports machinery right now.

Sources in Paschimanchal Gas Company Limited (PGCL) said that the BPDB completed work of gas line under the supervision of PGCL at a cost of Tk 3.18 crore in November to ensure gas supply for the 20-MW power plant.

PM's adviser

FROM PAGE 1
at the CIRDP auditorium in the city.

He said it is not clear why he raised the question of advisers' appointment now. The system of recruiting advisers had been in practice since Zia's regime.

"It's up to the prime minister; if she wants to appoint a hundred advisers she can do that. She appointed me as her adviser and I am doing my job according to the terms of reference," he said.

"Secretaries sit at the cabinet meeting and they do not take any oath of secrecy; how do they sit there?" he posed a question.

The reception was presided over by Emdad Hossain Matin, Co-chairman of the Freedom Fighters Naval Commando Association. Convener of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad Central Command Council Maj Gen (ret'd) Helal Morshed Khan and Commodore (ret'd) AW Chowdhury spoke, among others.

Professor Alauddin is the chairman of the Naval Commando Association.

Professor Alauddin is the chairman of the Naval Commando Association.

Dhaka Wasa

FROM PAGE 1
who are facing water crisis in the capital.

Due to increase in the tariff, people will have to buy every one thousand litre of water at Tk 6.05, which was Tk 5.75 earlier, said an official of Wasa.

The industrial and commercial tariff will be Tk 20.11 for every one thousand litre of water, which was Tk 19.15 earlier.

Managing Director of Wasa Md Shahjahan Ali Molla said Dhaka Wasa has been supplying water to the city dwellers at the cheapest rate in the world.

"Although it [Wasa] was supposed to increase the tariff by 30 percent, we have only increased it by 5 percent," he said.

He also urged everyone to be aware of the need to cut water wastage.

Shahjahan emphasised the need for decentralising different offices and industries outside Dhaka to ensure normal water supply in the city in future.

Shahjahan along with Wasa Board chairman later talked with the residents of Dhanmondi Road-14 (new) and Indira Road regarding water crisis.

They also directed the authorities concerned to supply water by lorry in the area.

UK minister

FROM PAGE 16
strengthen Bangladesh-British counter-terrorism cooperation.

According to a British government announcement, Lord West is visiting Bangladesh to attend a UK-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting that will enhance counter terrorism cooperation between the two countries.

The visit follows the announcement by former British home secretary Jacqui Smith, during her visit to Bangladesh April last year, that the UK and Bangladesh would form a "Joint Working Group" to implement closer anti-terrorism operations.

Home ministry officials said Bangladesh is also looking forward to set up such JWG's with the United States, Australia and Russia for tackling terrorism, money laundering, and human trafficking through sharing information and counter-terrorism training.

They said currently Britain provides counter-terror training, and finances and organises counter-terror research by local think tanks. The proposal for setting up a JWG came from the UK side during the immediate past caretaker government regime.

During his first official visit, Lord West will call on the prime minister, other high officials of the government, the leader of the opposition and civil society representatives.

Lord West will also visit a school that is part of the British Council's Connecting Classrooms programme. Linking schools in the UK with schools in Bangladesh Connecting Classrooms helps

young people prepare for life and work in a globally interconnected world and encourage them to play an active role in their communities.

Lord West has had a distinguished naval and governmental career stretching back decades.

Awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) for commanding the frigate HMS Ardent in the Falkland Islands conflict, he later held several naval appointments and played prominent roles in the re-organisation of the Ministry of Defence.

Promoted to rear admiral in 1994, he rose to commander of the United Kingdom Task Group in 1996. In 1997 he was promoted to vice admiral and chief of defence intelligence.

He was promoted to full admiral in 2000 when he took up position as fleet commander-in-chief. In this role, he was responsible for organising the fleet response on 11 September 2001, which involved major maritime deployments in the northern Indian Ocean and moving the Royal Marines into Afghanistan.

He was appointed First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff in September 2002. West was also the first and principal naval aide-de-camp to Her Majesty the Queen.

He was made a knight grand cross (GCB), Order of the Bath, in 2004, and served as first sea lord until 2006, when he became chancellor of Southampton Solent University. He was appointed home office minister in June 2007.

Lord West, GCB, DSC, is scheduled to leave Dhaka Monday, June 29.

Michael Jackson

FROM PAGE 1
please respect our privacy during this tough time," Jermaine Jackson said. "May Allah be with you, Michael, always."

As the sun began to sink over Los Angeles, a coroner's office helicopter bearing Jackson's body took off from the UCLA Medical Centre, where hundreds of media and fans had gathered throughout the day.

Meanwhile police motorcycle riders surrounded Jackson's gated mansion as crowds of tourists and fans congregated.

Pop diva Madonna was among dozens of celebrities who struggled to cope. "I can't stop crying over the sad news," the singer said in a statement. "The world has lost one of the greats, but his music will live on forever!"

The star's first wife Lisa Marie Presley, the daughter of Elvis Presley, said his death had left her speechless.

"I am so very sad and confused with every emotion possible. I am heartbroken for his children, who I know were everything to him, and for his family," Presley told MTV News in a statement.

Political figures also paid their tributes.

California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger lamented the loss of "one of the most influential and iconic figures in the music industry."

But the most visible emotion came in spontaneous gatherings of fans here and across the world.

In Los Angeles Lana Brown, a 49-year-old tourist from Dallas, broke down in tears as she digested the news. "I can't believe we might have lost the best entertainer this world has ever seen," she told AFP.

In New York's Times Square, Chantal de Roy van Zuydewijn watched a giant screen broadcasting the news of Jackson's death with tears running down her cheeks.

"He is a legend. He is a genius," said the 28-year-old Dutch tourist, who had a ticket to the pop legend's scheduled comeback tour in July.

Jackson's death came as the singer prepared to make a keenly anticipated concert comeback in London, his first series of shows in more than a decade.

Jackson family attorney Brian Oxman said he had harboured concerns over the singer's condition, revealing that he had been taking prescription medication as he prepared for his comeback.

Oxman compared Jackson's fate to the overdose death of Playboy centrefold Anna-Nicole Smith, voicing concern over "enablers" in his entourage.

"The people who have surrounded him have been enabling him...if you think that the case of Anna-Nicole Smith was an abuse, it was nothing to what we have seen in Michael Jackson's life," Oxman told CNN.

While Jackson ruled the charts and dazzled audiences with electric dance moves like the backwards "moonwalk" in the 1980s, his once-stellar

career was overshadowed by his colourful public behaviour, his startling physical transformation and multiple allegations of child abuse.

He lived as a virtual recluse following his 2005 acquittal on charges including child molestation and plotting to kidnap his young accuser.

Despite his acquittal, the trial was a body blow from which the pop music superstar, who named his ranch after Peter Pan's "Neverland" of perpetual childhood and furnished it with Disney-inspired rides, struggled to recover.

Born on August 29, 1958, Jackson made his show business debut with four of his elder brothers in the Jackson Five pop group, and went on to lead the stage clan with a piping soprano and dazzling dance moves.

In 1979, Quincy Jones produced Jackson's first solo album for Epic, "Off the Wall," a huge disco-oriented success that sold 10 million copies.

They teamed up again in 1982 for what would be Jackson's breakthrough album as a composer and co-producer, "Thriller," which became the top-selling album of all time, with sales exceeding 41 million.

Jones reacted with shock after being informed of Jackson's death Thursday.

"I'm absolutely devastated at this news," he said. "I just don't have the words. Divinity brought our souls together and allowed us to do what we could do through the '80s," Jones said.

Tommy Mottola, the former head of Sony Music who released Jackson's records for 16 years, said the singer had a place in the pantheon of American music icons, alongside Elvis and Frank Sinatra.

"It's one of the greatest losses," Mottola told the Los Angeles Times.

Crowds continued to throng near the UCLA Medical Centre and Jackson's home late Thursday, while street vendors selling hastily designed commemorative T-shirts for 25 dollars sought to cash in.

Mainul denies

FROM PAGE 16
owner and the time of allotment.

Criticising lawmakers, Mainul said, "If MPs remain busy to investigate corruption of politicians, keeping the Anti-Corruption Commission aside, it will disgrace parliament."

He said, "I did not invent the idea of minus-two formula. Rather I emphasised on the reformation of political parties. Political parties will have to decide who will be in the party or who will not."

He regretted not getting any credit for demolishing the Rangs Bhaban, saying a few political figures were rather trying to raise questions regarding this.

He confessed that the top floor of Musafir Tower at Kairail had been constructed without approval.

Mainul alleged that an ill-motivated section is trying to misguide the parliamentary standing committee.

Over 70pc city areas

FROM PAGE 1
of the city people, only 20 percent of the septic tanks are linked to soak wells to treat sewage and 25 percent do not have those.

Mujibur also said Wasa is allowing linking sewerage lines with storm wastewater drainage network, worsening pollution of the rivers.

Wasa officials said a large number of house owners in the city link their sewage discharge system directly to the storm water drainage, instead of sewerage network, to evade service charge, and also for lack of sewerage system.

There will be an environmental disaster in the near future if drastic measures are not taken to improve the city's sewerage management system, experts warned.

Wasa has a sewerage network of 890 km with 60,277 sewerage connections to houses while the number of water supply connections to houses is 2,72,575, said an official.

Prof Mujibur suggested setting up sewerage treatment plants in different areas including Uttara and Mirpur, and upgrading the existing one to cover the entire city.

He mentioned that untreated sewage from the area within DND embankment goes into the river Shitalakkhya through different canals adding to its pollution.

Mujibur stressed bringing this area under Wasa sewerage network by upgrading the Pagla treatment plant.

He also suggested setting up a diversion sewerage line along northern bank of the Buriganga from Hazaribagh to Pagla treatment plant.