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REGD. NO. DA 781 • VOL. XIX No. 210 • DHAKA SATURDAY AUGUST 15, 2009 • SRABAN 31, 1416 BS • SABAN 23, 1430 HIJRI • 24 PAGES PLUS STAR INSIGHT PRICE: Tk 10.00

1975 put US, India on same wavelength

Soon after the bloodbath of Bangabandhu, family, both countries feared Islamic extremism to rise in many folds

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Islamic radicalism, menacing the nation for years now, was something India and the United States learnt to dread soon after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Documents lately declassified by the US Office of the Historian show

the apprehension had its roots in the perception that Bangabandhu's killers--all military officers--were "pro-US, anti-Soviet Union, Islamic, and less pro-Indian than the past leadership".

The August 15 bloodbath in 1975 left Mujib and most of his family butchered and his party in total

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Import duty on sugar, dates lifted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday withdrew duty on unrefined sugar and dates in a bid to keep prices of the essential commodities within people's reach during the month of holy Ramadan.

According to a press release of National Board of Revenue (NBR), the government also reduced duty from Tk 7,000 to Tk 3,000 on import of per tonne refined sugar.

The present import duty of Tk 4,000 on per tonne unrefined sugar has been withdrawn totally, says the press release.

It says both the import duty (25 percent) and regulatory duty (five percent) on import of dates have also been withdrawn.

The order, which was issued in the face of increased prices

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14 die in Feni bus plunge

Four of a family killed in Comilla car crash

STAR REPORT

At least 14 people lost their lives after a bus heading for Noakhali from Dhaka plunged into a ditch after smashing into a tree at Mohammad Ali Bazar in Feni early yesterday. Eleven people were also injured in the accident.

In Comilla, four members of a family were killed and seven others were injured when a bus crushed a microbus at Nankara in Choudhagram upazila Friday.

Witnesses of the Feni bus crash said the bus of Choudhagram Transport Paribahan rammed a tree and fell into a ditch filled with water around 1:45am that left 13 dead on the spot, reports a correspondent in Feni.

Eleven of the dead were identified as Sadiya, 2, daughter of Md Hasan, Nasrin, 42, grandmother of Sadiya from Dhainya Chowdhury in Tangail, Jelakad, 22, of Ghatail in Tangail, Bibi Hanufa, 50, wife of Abdul Gafur of Hashimpur Senbagh in Noakhali, Rafiqul Islam, 35, son of Abdul Karim of Gobindapur in Feni, Md Imran, 22, son of Kazi Nazrul Islam of Rangpur, Raju,

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Muggers kill factory worker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers stabbed a man to death in the city's Kadamtoli area early yesterday.

The deceased Md Alamgir, 27, was a worker of a shoe factory at Siddique Bazar. He was attacked with sharp weapons while he was returning home at Shyampur from work.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Nur Hossain of Kadamtoli Police Station told The Daily Star that a gang of two muggers halted the victim's rickshaw near Shyampur High School, looted his belongings and left the scene injuring the man fatally.

Victim Alamgir succumbed on the way to the hospital. His body was later sent to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

As for the motive of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

August 15 still haunts Ayub, Halim

A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

After all these years, August 15 still haunts Ayub Ali Sheikh, and it haunts him like a ghost.

On this day back in 1975, he had to go through the most macabre experience of his life.

Then a 34-year-old carpenter, Ayub along with his father, Abdul Halim Sheikh was called by the police for a job they were not told about.

The father and son were taken to Bangabandhu's house, which was a little distance off their house in Tungipara of Gopalganj.

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Nation mourns for Bangabandhu today

Call for justice in father of the nation's killing case on National Mourning Day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country today observes National Mourning Day on the 34th death anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, with a vow to implement the longstanding High Court verdict in the case in connection with his murder.

The day is a public holiday. The government chalked out nationwide programmes to observe the day at the state level. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, one of the surviving

daughters of Bangabandhu, will visit her father's grave at Tungipara today.

Along with ruling Awami League (AL), different political parties, and student and socio-cultural organisations also planned programmes to mourn the killings of the architect of the country's independence and most of his family members, by some disgruntled army men on this day in 1975.

Three separate attacks on this day 34 years ago left 24 people killed. Bangabandhu's two

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Internet disrupted for 15 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The internet and telecommunications across the country remained snapped for nearly 15 hours yesterday as the optical fibre line at Patiya was disconnected in the early hours.

The connection was restored at 6:23pm.

Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited sources said the express line of optical fibre that links Dhaka and other parts of the country with the outside world through Chittagong and Cox's Bazar

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Jailed 'militant' in govt payroll

Salary drawn, attendance cleared for him

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Teacher-turned-militant Monwar Hossain, who has been in jail since February, had no difficulty in getting his salary for the month of June as the acting headmaster of his school and a section of education officials approved his salary bill showing him present at the school.

It is alleged that acting headmaster of Jaldhaka Pilot Girls' High School Tofaelur Rahman prepared the salary bills of teachers and employees for the month of June, showing jailed Monwar Hossain present on all 24 working days.

District Education Officer (DEO) Enayet Hossain approved the bills without having the upazila education officer certifying the teachers' attendance report.

Monwar, an ehsar (full-time member) of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh and a senior teacher of the school, drew his salary for the month of June through a bearer cheque on August 4.

Rapid Action Battalion arrested Monwar at a remote char of the Teesta on February 20 this year. He was initially kept in Nilphamari jail and later shifted to Rangpur jail on June 11.

The JMB operative confessed to having training in firearms including sophisticated AK47 rifle.

Acting headmaster Tofaelur Rahman submitted the salary bills of the teachers and employees of the school to the DEO on August 2. The DEO forwarded it to the bank the same day although the teachers' attendance report was not certified by the upazila education officer.

Documents show that Jaldhaka Upazila Education Officer Azemul Haque certified the attendance report on August 3.

When contacted, Azemul told The Daily Star that he signed the report on verbal orders of the DEO.

While talking to The Daily Star, DEO Enayet Hossain held the acting headmaster responsible for any mistake in preparing the bills.

He, however, could not answer what prompted him to approve the salary bills without having the upazila education officer's certification.

The office of the school's headmaster was found closed during repeated visits on Sunday and Monday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



Traffic police keep seized illegal rickshaws and other vehicles without proper documents inside this pound at Agargaon in the capital.

PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

Faridpur gang makes money from porn trade

IO changed as gang rape probe on

SHARIFUL ISLAM and REZAUL KARIM from Faridpur

An organised gang involved in anti-social activities with a common interest to make money by pornographic videos and its trade could have been involved in the gang rape of the 14-year-old in Faridpur, locals say.

They said the gang could be of around 15 people, mostly youths who are also involved in different other criminal activities including drug peddling and mugging.

A group of local computer and CD shop owners might also be involved as those shops sold CDs of the incident, they added.

"Several hundred copies of the CD were sold

from those shops for Tk 50 each while youths also got the footage in their cellphones for Tk 20 from those shops," said an owner of such a shop at Charbhadrashan Bazar seeking anonymity.

Police and locals say the handling of the cellphone with which the incident was shot suggests that it was done by an expert hand.

"We arrested Shourav who edited the footage and we are hopeful of getting all information once we interrogate him in remand," said Superintendent of Police of Faridpur Mizanur Rahman.

Meanwhile, the authorities have given the charge of investigation into the gang rape case to the officer-in-charge of Charbhadrashan

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Zimbabwe keep series alive

Tigers beaten by 69 runs in 3rd ODI

SPORTS REPORTER

Zimbabwe brought high-flying Bangladesh down to earth and made sure the series stay alive with a 69-run victory in the third one-dayer of the five-match series at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday.

After emphatic victories in the first two games, the Tigers went into the match with a hope to wrap up the series, but the home side bounced back strongly in the must-win situation riding on Hamilton Masakadza's maiden ton, Brendon Taylor's sensible 94 and a late cameo from Elton Chigumbura, who was merciless against the Tigers bowlers during his 33-ball 61.

Mahbubul Alam gave Bangladesh a perfect start by removing both Zimbabwe openers with the scoreboard reading only 17, but the three batsmen ultimately proved Shakib Al Hasan's surprise decision to bowl first on a tailor-made wicket wrong by

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