

Moitree man killed

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building around 12:00 noon and stabbed them indiscriminately.
On-duty policemen on campus rushed to the spot and constables Shahidul Islam and Ashraf received mild cut injuries to their hands while they were trying to resist the attackers.

Police rescued Sunny and Bulbul from a pool of blood and took them to RMCH.

Soon afterwards Sunny was declared dead at RMCH, Zedu Sarker, the city BCL unit general secretary, claimed that Sunny's parents are leaders of AL and Sunny was also the city unit BCL member.

But the city unit Chhatra Moitree claimed that Sunny was a vice-president of its Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute unit.

However, denying Sunny's involvement in any political parties, his father Monwarul Islam said he was the friend of two other victims—Jewel and Bulbul. He along with his two friends was going to the administration building to fill in the examination forms.

To establish the claim, a group of armed BCL and Jubo League men entered into the hospital when some Moitree workers were holding agitation protesting the killing.

At one stage, a clash ensued between the two groups and it lasted for half an hour, leaving at least 10 people injured. Later, BCL men took control of the hospital and drove out the Moitree workers.

Police said yesterday's attack was carried out in retaliation for the attack of Moitree workers on BCL lead-

ers including Nizam several months back over establishing supremacy on the campus.

Confirming the closure of the institute, its principal Joyal Abedin told The Daily Star in the evening that the students were asked to vacate their dormitories by 5:00pm yesterday.

Kazi Abdul Motalab Jewel, the Polytechnic Institute unit Moitree president and a final year student of Computer department, was undergoing treatment at RMCH while its executive member Bulbul was sent to Dhaka in an unconscious state.

Police arrested four BCL men — Shamsul Huda, Shariful Islam, Zahidul Islam Manik, and Nahid Sarwar — from the spot.

The city unit Chhatra Moitree president Matiuur Rahman Matin blamed BCL activists who are the followers of the institute unit BCL president for the attack.

Kafil Uddin, an assistant commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, said the attack was pre-planned and police have started investigation.

Lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha, also a politburo member of Workers' Party, said, "The incident occurred as authorities concerned did not take any step against the miscreants earlier."

BCL leader Zedu Sarker claimed that some Chhatra Shibir men somehow joined the BCL and made the attack.

Chhatra Moitree staged a demonstration in the city yesterday evening and demanded arrest of the attackers.

No Teesta deal

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She said the PM will raise her concerns about proposed construction of the controversial Tipaimukh dam with her Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh.

India has undertaken a project for construction of a dam over the Barak river which is known as the Surma river in Bangladesh. Environmentalists in both Bangladesh and India fear the proposed project, if implemented, will cause environmental catastrophe in both countries.

Dipu Moni said Hasina will also discuss with Manmohan the issue of third country trade by Bhutan and Nepal.

"Dhaka will demand that the Indian authorities allow Nepal and Bhutan passage to Mongla port for their export-import activities."

Dhaka has been requesting Delhi to allow the two landlocked countries to use Indian territories to reach Bangladesh's Mongla port.

Replying to a question, Dipu Moni said the deal on Teesta water sharing will not be possible during Hasina's India visit since JRC's ministerial level meeting, the authorised forum for finalising such deals, is yet to take place.

"Dhaka has already sought a date for the minister-level meeting from India," she added, hoping the meeting will take place soon.

Bangladesh has long been urging India for signing an agreement on sharing the water of the Teesta, considered as the

Circus

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number of classes being taught.

Following a Daily Star report on December 28, the Ministry of Education issued a circular prohibiting fairs and shows being held on school premises without the ministry's permission.

The RCCI temporarily closed the circus and fair on January 2, allowing over 2,000 students to start their new academic year on time.

However the school's headmaster, Abu Noor Md Anisur Rahman Choudhury said that the circus and fair reopened three days later, despite a verbal assurance from the Deputy Commissioner to the contrary.

RCCI President Shahnewaz Bablu claims that the circular does not apply to this circus and fair because it was organised with the consent of Deputy Commissioner BM Enamul Haque.

Rangpur DC said that the circus and trade fair will run until January 10.

He said, "I verbally requested the Chamber authorities to stop the fair. But they did not pay heed."

"Because RCCI was given permission to continue the trade fair and circus show until January 10, they [RCCI] might go to court to obtain a stay order if I attempt to stop it with a written order."

lifeline of agriculture in greater Rangpur region.

The foreign minister said the Indian authorities several times in the past assured Bangladesh of not doing anything harmful to the latter. "As per diplomatic norms, promises of 'no harm to other' are well accepted. So, we accept the Indian assurance of not harming Bangladesh," Dipu Moni said.

The foreign minister also said during the PM's visit to India, the two countries however will sign three agreements on criminal matters, and two memorandums of understanding.

The expected deals on criminal matters are Agreement for Mutual Legal Assistance on Criminal Matters, Agreement on Transfer of Sentenced Persons, and Agreement on Combating International Terrorism, Organised Crime and Illegal Drug Trafficking.

One of the expected memorandums of understanding is on power sector cooperation, and the other is on road and railway infrastructure development projects, Dipu Moni said.

The prime minister will fly to New Delhi on Jan 10 for a three-day tour. She will be accompanied by the foreign minister, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen, PM's advisers HT Imam, Moshirur Rahman and Gowher Rizvi, and secretaries to different ministries.

Gunman kills 1 at Missouri power firm

AFP, ST LOUIS, Missouri

A gunman was on the run in Missouri yesterday after storming a power company's office killing one person and injuring four others, the authorities said.

Fire brigade officials said five people were shot when a gunman went on the rampage at the offices of ABB Power. Two people were said to be in a critical condition and one was said to be serious, as police hunted for the shooter.

Police SWAT teams entered the offices of ABB Power after reports of the shooting spree at the busy factory of 270 workers, located near the center of St. Louis.

The authorities shut down interstate highway 70 in the hunt for 51-year-old Timothy Hendron, whom they named as their main suspect.

Police said the attack took place on Semple Avenue, an industrial area that is home to the local offices of the Swiss-Swedish engineering giant ABB.

"There is a large business at this location with numerous employees inside of the building," a police spokeswoman said. "The shooter is thought to be at this location, but he is currently unaccounted for."

Local media reported some employees had sought refuge on the roof of the building to escape the gunman, and were talking to police.

Opinion poll

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covering 44 districts using probability random sampling. The survey was conducted during the last part of the 12th month of the current government.

It was found that the people think the political culture has seen a positive change over the year and confrontational politics will not return.

But the survey found that the people are unhappy about rising commodity prices, although they acknowledge that the government took steps to curb the trend. They also think there is room for improvement regarding the economy.

The survey found people to be mostly critical of the role of opposition parties and mostly in disagreement with the opposition's decision to boycott the parliament.

River

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present at the meeting.

Lawmakers Sarah Begum Kabari and Sanzida Khanam will be working as the joint conveners of the committee that will look after the awareness building and the BIWTA chairman will be the member secretary.

The taskforce asked the deputy commissioners to start building the pillars on the riverbanks, leases of which had been either cancelled or lifted in a bid to initiate tree plantation.

The meeting also decided to strengthen the current drive to remove garbage from the bed of the Buriganga river.

However, the committee could not decide how they would recycle the garbage the BIWTA is removing from the riverbed of the Buriganga.

"We'll decide about it soon," said State Minister Hasan Mahmud.

The meeting also decided to remove all the earth filled up in the Ramnabad and the Rano Gopaldi river under Golachip, Patuakhal by the encroachers themselves.

"We came to know about the incident through media and the government probed it. So we have instructed the local administration to take actions against the encroachment," Mahmud said.

The next meeting of the taskforce will be held in Chittagong to take similar action about rivers and canals in the port city, the shipping minister said.

Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry Nur e Alam Chowdhury, MP, Mostafa Jalal Mahiduddin, MP, Nasim Osman, MP, Sarah Begum Kabari, MP and Sanzida Khanam, MP, Mannan Hawlader, acting secretary, Abdul Malek, chairman, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), deputy commissioners of the four districts and others civil society members of the taskforce were also present.

2,600MW power

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quantify the exact figure the Indian government would invest in the proposed power plants, which in total entail a cost of Rs6,000 crore.

With the use of high technology, the coal-fired power stations are expected to have near 45 percent energy efficiency, he said.

The pact, Kabir said, would be mutually beneficial.

Asked whether Bangladesh wants to be a minority stakeholder in power projects in India, he said, "It would depend on the negotiations between the countries. We are eager to hold a majority stake as well."

The agreement would also help start power exchange programmes in which a transmission line would be set up between the two countries which would cost around half a billion dollars, Kabir said.

Referring to the terms of investment for the transmission line, he said, "Both the countries would bear the expenditure for the portion of the line falling in their territories."

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will provide the terms of import and export of electricity clearly. Exchange of electricity of over 900 million units per annum is likely depending on availability, need and price.

Price and other modalities for the power exchange programme would be worked out later for the MoU. An exchange of 250 MW power is expected to take place initially, which eventually reach a target of 1,000 MW.

Once the transmission link becomes operational, Bangladesh would be able to draw power from Indian grids in West Bengal and Tripura, which would help the country combat electricity deficit.

Pilkhana Carnage

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to the ministry by the BDR authorities in September last year.

Sahara told reporters after the meeting that they held elaborate discussion as to how they can observe the day in a befitting manner.

The proposals that BDR authorities sent to the ministry include observing February 25 as the Pilkhana Carnage Day, setting up a memorial plaque at the Pilkhana headquarters and allocating a separate section at BDR Museum at Pilkhana to preserve memories of the slain army officers.

"Some corrections in our proposal have been suggested and we'll send a fresh one soon after making those corrections," BDR Director General Maj Gen Md Mainul Islam told The Daily Star.

As per the decision, the Pilkhana Carnage Day will be observed at all BDR installations across the country on February 25 with due fervour by holding Doa Mahfil and discussion meetings and bringing out special supplements on the significance of the day.

The meeting also discussed how respects could be shown to those slain in the carnage and sympathies conveyed to the bereaved families.

Replying to a query the home minister said trial of BDR mutiny has already started in different parts of the country and the trial in Dhaka will also start soon after receiving charge

Rice price

FROM PAGE 16
office for Food for Work and Test Relief.

Meanwhile, economist Dr Mahabub Hossain said present price of rice is acceptable provided that farmers get benefit from it, but traders' syndication may manipulate it in line with international prices.

He said rice situation now in domestic market is good and so there is no reason for any further price hike.

Domestic annual rice demand is 2.7 crore tonnes, while this fiscal year's production is projected at 3.2 crore tonnes, including 1.9 crore tonnes boro next season, Dr Hossain said.

On wheat price hike, Shahidul Islam, former director of the Department of Agriculture Extension, said wheat prices now depend largely on international market, as domestic wheat production declined to only 7 lakh metric tonnes from some 20 lakh tonnes a decade back.

Last year, the wheat prices increased by 20 percent late in November compared to September, mainly because of price developments in other markets, especially maize and rice, says Food Outlook -- a monthly Internet based newsletter of the Food and

Tourism in Hills

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Congratulating the Awami League-led alliance government on completing its first year in office, the letter said the commission had learned that the parliamentary standing committee (PSC) on the planning ministry on 23 December 2009 decided to develop tourism in the CHT region.

It is contrary to the CHT Peace Accord, 1997 since the Hill District Council (HDC) was not present during the decision-making and had not been consulted.

The letter signed by co-chairs of the CHT Commission Eric Aveybury, Sultana Kamal and Ida Nicolaisen also pleaded with the premier not to implement the ministry decision to develop tourism in CHT without doing three more things.

These are -- to assess the environmental impact independently, make sure any new developments are not harmful to the environment and prevent further illegal land grabbing from indigenous communities in the name of development.

Citing media reports the CHTC alleged in the letter, "The upazila administration in Bandarban is illegally grabbing land belonging to Marma and Bawm communities in the name of tourism development centres. Forty-acres of land have allegedly been marked off with red flags by surveyors to build the tourist spots."

The letter said, "The PSC met, irregularly, under the CHT Development Board in Rangamati with Committee Chairman Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed in the chair. To facilitate tourism, the PSC also

sheet on the Pilkhana carnage.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder, DG of BDR and senior officials from the ministry and BDR attended the meeting.

A total of 74 people including 57 army officers were killed in a bloody mutiny at the Pilkhana headquarters of Bangladesh Rifles in the capital on February 25-26 last year.

Judicial body

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Former District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Shahabuddin will lead the probe body.

Two other members are Deputy Secretary of Home Ministry AKM Monwar Hossain Akhand and SS (CID) of Bangladesh Police Mir Shahidul Islam.

The commission has been given four months to submit its report to the government.

Following the national elections in 2001 that brought the BNP-led four-party alliance in power, members of the minority community alleged they came under violent attacks that also left their property damaged in the outbreaks in different parts of the country.

The present Awami League-led Grand Alliance government decided to conduct inquiry into the acts of violence.

Agriculture Organization (FAO) released in December.

In November, the price of United States' wheat averaged \$228 per tonne, up 14 percent from September.

Under such realities, experts suggested efficient supply chain management and to ensure good Boro production this season.

"As wheat price is low compared to rice in the international market, the government can import in bulk and use them for social safety net programmes," Mahabub Hossain said.

Shahidul Islam said the government already announced subsidies in fertilizers and diesel, which was good, but a declaration of the rice procurement now -- to check any crisis -- can encourage farmers to grow more rice.

Food minister said his office was intensively monitoring the price spiral and intervened the market in any need.

"But, we also have to remember better prices work as incentives for farmers to grow more crops," he said.

About wheat import in bulk, the minister said the government is importing three lakh tonnes. Besides at private level, around 16-17 tonnes of wheat was imported, Razzaque noted.

Delwar

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Hasina in her address to the nation on Wednesday pledged to establish a positive political culture in the country.

Delwar said the premier must understand the reason behind the opposition's abstention from parliament. It is the government's responsibility to create a congenial atmosphere there to bring back the opposition to the House.

"They [the government] are withdrawing cases against ruling party men misusing power while charge sheets are submitted against the leader of the opposition and her sons," he said.

The BNP leader said the premier blamed the BNP-led four-party alliance for all things including the 1/11 changeover. But everyone knows that such a situation had been created to foil the January 22 election and destroy the democratic system.

The BNP secretary general said Sheikh Hasina made many electoral pledges but people have witnessed how much she has delivered.

"Everyone knows about the corruption, extortion and criminal activities committed by ruling party activists. The ruling party is also politicising the administration," Delwar said.

The government has failed to fulfil its pledges and people will give their verdict on them, he said.

"We shall be happy if her pledge of building a utopian Bangladesh is fulfilled," Delwar added.

Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 16
Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Bazul Huda, AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed and Mohiuddin Ahmed.

Meanwhile, Abdullah Al Mamun, counsel for Bazul Huda and AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, told The Daily Star that lawyers for the five condemned prisoners have officially informed the authorities that review petitions would be filed with the Supreme Court.

"We sent notice to the registrar of Supreme Court and superintendent, jailer and deputy jailer of Dhaka Central Jail twice -- on November 19 and December 22 last year -- informing them about filing of review petitions," he said.

The counsel also said they have collected written receipt of the notices.

And they would file review petitions by January 20.

The trial court on January 3 issued death warrants against the five condemned prisoners.

On November 19 last year, the SC confirmed the death sentence to a dozen convicts in the case, handed down by the trial court and upheld by the High Court. They include the five in condemned cells.

Of the others, one is dead and six are on the run.

Cherie Blair

FROM PAGE 16
meet the education minister and the state minister for environment on issues relating to the university, says an Asian University for Women press release.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni will host a dinner in her honour at a state guesthouse where many eminent citizens of the city are expected. The British high commissioner to Bangladesh will also host a dinner in her honour.

In Chittagong, Blair will visit the Asian University for Women campus and speak to the 300 students of the university, of which she is a patron, and confer Cherie Blair Fellowships to 10 outstanding students. She will then have lunch with the Cherie Blair Fellows.

The mayor of Chittagong City will be hosting a public reception in her honour and a dinner where the mayor will present her a key to the port city.

Blair will give a public lecture at the Supreme Court Auditorium in Dhaka on the Human Rights Imperative of Law under the joint sponsorship of the Asian University for Women and the Supreme Court Bar Council.

Cherie Blair has been an ardent campaigner for the Asian University for Women globally. Last year she was in Hong Kong, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Brunei to rally support for the university. She is the featured speaker at a special event in support of the university that will be held in Kuwait on January 31 under the sponsorship of Asian University for Women Kuwait Support Committee.

Dhoni dashes

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Smartering from two consecutive defeats Bangladesh will now meet Sri Lanka today at the same venue.

Chasing a stiff target of 297, the favourites India lost three early wickets at 53 runs including two danger men Virender Sehwag and Yuvraj Singh but Dhoni led from the front during his unbeaten 107-ball 101 that contained nine boundaries. It allowed India to bounce back in the tournament after a five-wicket defeat against Sri Lanka.

The strong India batting line-up chased down the total with 15 balls to spare.

As has been usual, the spinners failed to dictate the terms in the second session as they struggled to grip the ball, which helped Dhoni and Virat Kohli to make the rescue act keeping the scoreboard running. The pair steadied the ship adding 152-run for the fourth wicket stand before Kohli offered a simple return catch to Shakib for 91 runs.

Dhoni just reminded everybody of his heroic knock of an unbeaten 91 at the same venue in 2007, which helped India to turn the table on the Tigers. Suresh Rana was the other notable scorer with an unbeaten 51 off 43 deliveries that included five fours and a massive six.

Earlier, "Are you sure?" was the surprise query from everyone entering into the ground after completion of the toss as Shakib decided to bat first even though it was hyped up to be an obvious choice to bowl first drawing on the experiences of the previous two games.

The discussion over the surprise decision however took a backseat once Tamim Iqbal sent the Indians on leather hunt much to the delight of electrifying crowd in a chilly afternoon. The left-hander went dancing down the wicket a couple of times to clear the fence and thus brought back the bitter memory for the Indian pace bowlers of the 2007 World Cup.

On a flat track and in front of a 20,000-strong jubilant crowd, the dashing left-hander put the opposition bowlers to the sword no matter how frequently India skipper Dhoni changed his bowlers. His stroke-filled knock virtually set the tone for the Bangladesh innings.

The disciplined and professional approach of the Tigers batsmen, thanks to Imrul Kayes (70), Mohammad Ashraful (29), Rokibul Hasan

Primary students

FROM PAGE 16
Abu Alam Mohammad Shahid Khan said they had aimed at giving textbooks to all the students by January 1 but they could not do so due to some obstacles.

Asked how they would know the number of kindergartens in the country since there is no official number, he said the ministry officials have already started the process for getting the exact number.

"We will ask all institutions to place their demand for books at the district or upazila primary education office concerned before next Sunday," he said.

Shahid Khan said with 10 percent buffer stock, they have no problem of book shortage.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said the government would distribute free textbooks to the secondary-level students who study the English version of the NCTB curriculum.

These students so far used to buy the books.

"Between two and 2.5 lakh English-version books are required and we have around 1.42 lakh books in stock," he told the reporters at a briefing at the Secretariat. Distributing the books immediately would clear the stock. More books would be printed and distributed soon to meet the demand, he said.

He said the books could also be downloaded from the NCTB website.

However, many parents alleged that they could not log on to the website.

The government also decided to give every teacher the book they would be teaching at school.

A number of teachers, students and guardians under the banner of Bangladesh Kindergarten Education Society formed a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding free textbooks for students of kindergartens.

AKM Fazul Haque, chairman of the society, told The Daily Star that they have not received any textbooks even though they follow the national curriculum. There are around 40,000 kindergartens across the country, he claimed.

He said, "We do not know why we have not been given the books. The government did allow us to take part in the last primary terminal examinations."

(32) and last but not least Mahmudullah Riyad (60 not out), enabled Bangladesh to put up their best score of 296-6 against India.

Coach Jamie Siddons must be the happiest man to see the application of his charges in the middle. If Tamim took charges during his dazzling 42-ball 60 to ease the pressure then his opening partner Imrul Kayes showed patience in the other end during his 100-ball 70 that contained five fours and a six hit over long-off against Virender Sehwag.

Tamim's blistering knock that featured ten boundaries and a huge six over mid-wicket came to an end when the Indian strategy of supplying short balls worked but before the dismissal he gave the team a solid foundation as the opening stand amassed 80 runs, their best effort against India.

Ashraful, along with Kayes who must thank Harbhajan Singh for spilling an easy catch when he was on three and Indian skipper Dhoni who dropped him on 67, consolidated the innings further during their 68-run association in the second wicket before Ashraful was bowled by spinner Ravindra Jadeja, a soft dismissal as the right-hander looked to run it down to third man when the ball was pitched within the stumps.

The Bangladesh innings could have been much better had Shakib not continued his bad form, this time it was a foolish run out which caused him to return with a first-ball duck while Musfiquur Rahim also returned to pavilion cheaply but Riyad's third half-century gave the side a strong position to defend under light.

Riyad continued his good form when the right-hander smashed eight boundaries to score an unbeaten 60 off 45 balls.

At one stage, a score of over three hundred seemed more than a probability but 296 was not at all that bad to create an opportunity for the bowlers.

But in the end the bold decision to bat first, came back to haunt them.

Wild elephants kill mother, daughter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A woman and her two-year-old daughter were trampled to death by a wild elephant at Muslimpara in Lama upazila of Bandarban early Thursday.

The deceased were identified as Sabera, 35, and her daughter Yasmin Akter Jui.

Locals said the elephant attacked the house of Sabera at about 4:00