

KIBRIA MURDER CASE

Grenade 'hurler' held

Rab arrests Huji operative in Habiganj

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

A significant headway in the former finance minister SAMS Kibria killing case is likely as law enforcers on Sunday arrested suspected grenade thrower Mizanur Rahman Mithu of banned Islamist outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami. The other suspected grenade thrower, Badrul Alam Mizan, who is in Habiganj jail, however claims he only "accompanied Mithu, who hurled a grenade at Kibria".

Following Mithu's arrest by Rapid Action Battalion on Sunday midnight in Habiganj, the investigation officer of the case started interrogating him yesterday evening.

During interrogation, Mithu however

claimed Mizan threw the grenade on Kibria and he only accompanied him.

Soon after Mithu's arrest, Rab officials however told journalists that he admitted to hurling the grenade, reports our Staff Correspondent in Sylhet.

Rab said 24-year-old Mithu was caught in a raid on his relative's house in Chhota Ail in Nabiganj upazila. He is the son of late Golam Mostafa of Sikondarpur village in Baniachang upazila.

He was a student at a local madrasa when he came in contact with Huji in 2005, Rab added.

Assistant Superintendent of Police



Mizanur Rahman

Rafiqul Islam of the Criminal Investigation Department, who is investigating the case, told The Daily Star last night that Mizan and Mithu went to the spot by a motorcycle and hurled the grenade at Kibria.

"We are in the primary stage of quizzing Mithu. It will take time to squeeze true information out of him. If he sticks to deny his role as a grenade thrower, we'll interrogate him in front of Mizan to detect who actually threw the grenade," the IO said.

The Rab however described Mithu as the "grenade thrower" in their press

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SYLHET BOMB BLAST

Mufti Hannan, 5 others indicted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A trial court here yesterday framed charges against Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan and five others in the case filed for the city's bomb blast hours ahead of a pre-poll rally of Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina on September 26, 2001.

Two young men were killed in the incident when they were making bombs.

Additional District and Sessions Judge-III of Sylhet Md Belayet Ullah yesterday framed charges against the accused persons and fixed April 12 for recording deposition of the prosecution

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83pc salary hike for high-ups proposed

Cabinet okays six proposals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved six proposals to increase salaries and privileges of the president, the prime minister, the speaker and the chief justice up to 83 percent, consistent with the payhike of civil servants.

The salaries and benefits of the Supreme Court judges of the Appellate and the High Court divisions, deputy speaker, ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers and legislators will also be raised.

SALARY hike	
PRESIDENT	
TK33,400 Current	TK 61,200 Proposed
PRIME MINISTER	
TK32,000 Current	TK 58,600 Proposed
SPEAKER	
TK31,000 Current	TK 56,200 Proposed

The weekly cabinet meeting presided over by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, approved proposal to amend the President's (Remuneration and Privileges) Act, 1975, the Prime Minister's (Remuneration and Privileges) Act, 1975 and the Ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers (Remuneration and Privileges) Act, 1973 to raise their salaries and perks.

Presently, a minister staying in a government

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Dalit miseries told in drama

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Dalit girls described their tales of suffering in their everyday lives by staging a drama at Sarak Deep at Dhaka University campus yesterday.

The girls used the occasion of International Women's Day to highlight how Dalit girls and women are being deprived of opportunities in various sectors, including education and work.

After the play concluded, the Dalits made an eight-point demand to have their economic, civil, and human rights recognised.

The play was arranged by the Dhoritri Foundation, which is run by members of Dalit community.

The foundation also hosted fair with hand-made products on display, including eye-catching clay ornaments.

Former adviser to caretaker government Rokia Afzal Rahman formally inaugurated the programme.

Chief guest Rokia said she was delighted to attend the function and promised to work with the community to strengthen their rights-based movement.

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PHOTO ON PAGE 5



The two fingers tell the price of each flower. Hasina, who lives in a shanty with her mother and four siblings in Kamrangirchar, sells flowers to schoolgirls who went to the Central Shaheed Minar to celebrate International Women's Day yesterday. All her siblings earn living by selling flowers on the Dhaka University campus. PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Gender unfair laws to go

PM pledges to get women policy effective soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government would repeal the laws discriminatory to women and soon make the National Women Development Policy effective.

Addressing a programme marking the 100th International Women's Day at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city, the premier said the BNP-Jamaat government silently brought changes in the women development policy.

The policy was formulated during the last Awami League rule between 1996 and 2001.

"We will undo the changes and make the policy more up-to-date," she said, adding that Awami League in its election manifesto promised to ensure women rights in every sphere of life and it would do so.

Pointing out that Islam is the only religion where women's share in property has been ensured, Hasina said she thinks women should have equal right to property.

She said political empowerment is very important to increase women's social dignity. Their contribution to economy should also be ensured.

To ensure dignity of women, the premier highlighted two issues -- education and employment. In this regard she reiterated the government's plan to make education up to graduation-level free for all.

The AL president observed that involving more women in national development process could significantly curb corruption.

Referring to the leader, deputy leader and the opposition

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Indians fish again in Bangladesh territory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Around 25 Indians under the protection of Indian Border Security Force intruded into Bangladesh territory twice and caught fish from Dibir haor on Jaintapur border for the second consecutive day yesterday.

At first, they crossed the border on 10 boats around 9:30am and returned back after about two hours.

They again crossed the border at about 1:00pm and returned back around 3:00pm. Meanwhile, the BSF strengthened their deployment on the Hawaitila.

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No more killing of 'innocent' by BSF

Assures India at talks of 2 border forces in Delhi

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India yesterday assured Bangladesh of "zero tolerance" towards killing of innocent Bangladeshi civilians along the border and border guards of the two countries decided to exercise restraint in adverse possession of enclaves.

The assurance came at the four-hour talks held between BDR and BSF at the latter's headquarters at the Central Government Offices complex here.

It is understood that India would address Bangladesh's serious concerns over alleged intrusion by BSF and setting up of a post in Bangladesh territory near Jaintia Hills in Sylhet region.

Later, BDR Director General Maj Gen Mainul Islam told the Daily Star that he flagged three main concerns of Bangladesh not only during the BDR-BSF talks but also during his separate meetings with Indian Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram and Home Secretary Gopal Krishna Pillai in the afternoon.

The three concerns, he said, are-- "killing of innocent Bangladeshis at the border, phensydyll manufacturing units on Indian side near Bangladesh border and tension between border security forces of the two countries in adverse possession of enclaves."

Mainul, who headed the Bangladeshi team at the talks, said the Indian side "clearly conveyed to us that they would maintain zero

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Shibir man links top Jamaat leaders

Mojahid trashes the claim in custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A top Rajshahi University Shibir leader, accused of murdering Chhatra League leader Faruk Hossain, linked key central leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami and Shibir with the killing upon his arrest and interrogation by Rab.

Arrested Ekram Hossain, president of Amir Ali Hall unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir and a masters' student of Islamic studies department at RU, it is 100 percent untrue. "We'd never think of doing such activities," he said, adding that such propaganda by Rab will tarnish the force's image.

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Ekram Hossain

with the key Jamaat leaders and Shibir central president Rezaul Karim.

The key Jamaat leaders involved include Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid and Maulana Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, he claimed. Jamaat refuted his claim.

Mojahid said what Ekram said in Rab custody cannot be credible and

JS session to run up to April 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The current session of parliament will continue till April 6, the Business Advisory Committee (Bac) decided yesterday.

"Discussion on thanksgiving motion on the president's speech is likely to end on March 11," Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali told The Daily Star after the Bac meeting.

Chaired by Speaker Abdul Hamid, the meeting also empowered the speaker to extend the House session, if necessary.

Shawkat said the session will remain adjourned from March 17 to 20 and from

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COVERAGE
গৃহ ঋণ

সত্যি হোক আপনার স্বপ্নের বাড়ি

বিশেষ সুবিধাসহ গৃহঋণ

ব্যাংক এশিয়া

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