

2 bodies found

FROM PAGE 1
The motive behind the killings was yet to be ascertained as neither the bus company staff nor relatives of the two victims could say why the trader had gone there and why both were killed.

In the other incident, the body of advocate Abdullah Al Faruk, 40, of Shyampur was recovered from Dayaganj railway bridge area around 10:00pm on Monday.

Contacted, Officer-in-charge of Jatrabari Police Station Md Moniruzzaman said the lawyer's body bore several marks.

Muggers might have stabbed him to death and made off with valuables, he suspected.

Wahiduzzaman, a relative of Faruk, said he had left his chamber at Motijheel around 7:00pm, and later found his body at Dhaka Medical College Hospital Morgue.

Quoting some local people, he also said Faruk was stabbed by muggers in Jatrabari area.

Asked about the murders at Arambagh, Emdad Hossain, a senior employee at the ticketing office, said, "We left office at about 1:30am yesterday leaving back Illias, who stays there every night. But we do not know why another person came there and who killed them."

Mobile phones of both went missing, he added.

Sufian hailed from Senbagh upazila in Noakhali and Illias from Motlab upazila in Chandpur.

Sufian's nephew Ismail Hossain Rajeb said his uncle had suffered huge losses in business, sent his family to his father-in-law's house and then he himself left his rented house in Fulbaria three months ago. He lost interest in business and often used to spend time elsewhere.

BCL men

FROM PAGE 16
Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Contacted, Officer-in-charge of New Market Police Station MA Kamrul Islam said they picked up 15 activists from the college campus.

80pc billboards

FROM PAGE 16
on the roofs of private buildings.

The DCC did not authorise any hoardings that even though thousands of hoardings had been set up illegally at different points of the city, said an official of the DCC. It, however, failed to take any effective measure against them citing various reasons.

Earlier, the DCC conducted a drive against unauthorised hoardings following a number of hoarding-related accidents that killed three people in the city in 2006 and 2007.

The DCC in July, 2007, decided not to allow any hoardings and signboards on rooftops and asked building owners, through ads in a number of national dailies, to pull them down immediately.

On September 9, 2007, Rajuk published a notice in several national dailies also asking building owners to pull down hoardings on their rooftops by September 16, 2007.

The initiatives of the DCC and Rajuk to pull down hoardings from rooftops came to a halt on December 10, 2007 when the High Court issued a stay order against the move, said a DCC official.

Taking advantage of this

"But we do not know why he went to the ticketing office," he added.

Sufian's cousin Shahad Hossain said he had to remain in hiding following feuds over financial matters concerning his business.

OC of Motijheel Police Station Tofazzal Hossain said they were probing the double murder but none was arrested as yet.

Franco-German spat fuels EU economic debate

AFP, Frankfurt

An economic policy dispute between France and Germany threatens to distract the eurozone as it faces fierce competition from Asian rivals, analysts and German media warned yesterday.

Barbed comments have been voiced in recent days over how eurozone economies should tackle global competition and internal trade, with Germany defending its drive for labour reform and exports against charges it neglects consumption.

French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde got the ball rolling Monday when she questioned German economic policy, suggesting its hefty trade surplus was a burden for eurozone partners.

German Economy Minister Rainer Bruederle hit back on Tuesday.

"For countries, which in the past have lived off entitlements and neglected their competitiveness, to point their finger at others is politically... understandable, but still unfair," he told the Frankfurter Allgemeine daily.

Berlin's finance minister later sought to defuse the latent spat between the top eurozone economies.

Wolfgang Schaueble professed a "friendly and trusting" working relationship with Lagarde and said he had expressed his viewpoint with a football metaphor.

310 BDR rebels

FROM PAGE 1
around the Darbar Hall. Elite Rapid Action Battalion and police personnel were also deployed.

Complainant of the case Nayeb Subeder Giasuddin on Monday filed his complaints accusing the alleged rebels of their involvement in the mutiny.

The prosecutor's allegation against them was identical to the complaint of the complainant.

Four soldiers were allegedly involved in the killing of Col Mujib, Lt Col Enayet and Maj Moqbul, a member of the prosecution told reporters.

Prosecutor Tarik during his submission specifically mentioned the roles of the accused which are punishable offences according to the BDR Act.

He added many of the accused directly took part in the mutiny, while others helped the rebels.

Some of them were also involved in killings, looting arms and ammunition from

armoury and armaments of victims' families, arson, instigating others to take part in the mutiny and tried to destroy evidence by hiding slain officers' bodies in mass grave, he said.

The prosecutor further said during the mutiny Lance Nyack Abdul Hannan said, "We don't need army officers [in BDR]. Go back, your days are over."

Habilder Yusuf Ali instigated others to take part in the mutiny by saying, "Army killed Bangabandhu (president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman) and Zia (president Ziaur Rahman), so they would not be spared," he added.

Forty-seven witnesses are likely to deposit their statements before the court on May 9 if the court frames charges against the accused.

The other members of the court are Lt Col AKM Golam Rabbani and Maj Saied Hasan Taposh. A representative of the attorney general was also present in the court.

OPENING BANK A/C 5 farmers

hurt in cop beating

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

At least five farmers were injured as police charged baton on them when waiting for opening bank accounts for agricultural input assistance card on Razozi upazila parishad premises of the district yesterday noon.

Witnesses said a chaotic situation arose when some 11,288 farmers from four unions of the upazila gathered at the upazila premises to open bank account, as the crowd went out of control four policemen charged baton on the farmers.

One of the injured Shadananda Sarkar said police charged baton while thousands of farmers trying to queue up for opening the accounts.

Officer-in-charge Mashiur Rahman of the police station said a team of four policemen led by Sub-Inspector Hemayet was deployed on the premises to tackle the farmers.

Accountant of Upazila Agricultural office Mohammad Selim said police charged baton as the situation went out of control.

However, all the farmers opened their bank accounts after the incident, he added.

Among the injured farmers are Sharat Chandra Modal, 28, Kulin Bairagi, 35, Kanai Baroi, 27 and Shadananda Sarkar, 55.

Kulin Bairagi was admitted to Razozi upazila Health Complex with serious injuries while others were given first aid.

Blast blows

FROM PAGE 1
the building to find the engineer with two others trying to seal a leak.

He added, within seconds the house was filled with fire following a huge bang and the roofs tossed onto the ground in front of the building.

Manager Mohammad Babul Mia told The Daily Star other structures at the compound remained intact as Habib could manage to stop gas supply to the booster pipe after hearing the hissing.

Babul said they stored around 100 CNG cylinders, which remained intact.

He added Inspector Abdur Rob of the Directorate of Explosives visited the spot yesterday afternoon and he also suspects the booster pipe leak might have caused the explosion.

The refuelling station sources say there are two booster pipes in the CNG station and those need frequent repair due to mechanical faults.

The victims along with seven others during the accident were on night duty, which was scheduled to end at 8:00am.

A team of engineers from Rahim Afroz, which installed the booster pipes and other instruments, was testing the instruments to detect the cause of the blast.

Ecneec okays

FROM PAGE 16
The capacity of the 10 power plants are Gopalganj 100 MW, Faridpur 50 MW, Bera 80 MW, Baghabari 50 MW, Katakhal 50 MW, Santahar 50 MW, Hathazari 100 MW, Dohazari 100 MW, Daudkandi 50 MW and Ghorashal 200 MW.

The other projects approved in the meeting are Comprehensive Village Development Programme-2nd phase under the Rural Development and Cooperatives Division; production and development of high quality seeds of paddy, wheat and maize under the Agriculture Ministry; participatory small scale water resources sector project-3rd phase under the Local Government Division; primary education stipend project-2nd phase under the Primary and Mass Education Ministry; construction of Bangladesh Film Archive building under the Information Ministry; and modernisation and rehabilitation project for the units no 3, 4 and 5 of Ashuganj Power Plant Complex.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam and advisers to the premier, among others, were present in the meeting.

The president will place wreath at Bangabandhu's grave there.

AL leaders, being led by party president Sheikh Hasina, will also place floral wreath at the grave of Bangabandhu at 10:00am and then attend a milad mahfil there.

On return, the president will inaugurate the Children's Day programme to be arranged by Bangabandhu Shishu Kishore Mela at Bangabhaban.

The programmes include hoisting of the national and party flags at Bangabandhu Bhawan in the capital and AL offices across the country at 6:30am, placing of floral wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu in front of Bangabandhu Bhawan at 7:30am.

A discussion will be held at the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh in the capital with AL Presidium member Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser in the chair.

The president and the prime minister gave separate

Passengers suffer

FROM PAGE 1
Yesterday in Sadarghat, only one steamer-launch run by BIWTA bound for Barisal was running.

There are usually over 100 vessels carrying over 50,000 passengers to and from the capital each day.

Speaking from Sadarghat, Nargis Begum, a garment worker, said, "I planned to go home to Lalmoheon in Bhola to visit my ailing son-in-law."

"I came all the way from Mohakhali and now I have to go to Gabtali to take a bus."

Shah Alam, senior vice-president of the workers' association Noujan Shramik Federation said, "Workers remain on a pay scale announced in 2004, which was supposed to expire in 2009."

"We were forced to call the strike as we have been waiting for a new pay scale for 14 months."

"We've made repeated efforts for talks."

For general workers, the basic pay is Tk 1300 per month, while masters get Tk 2,400.

Workers also receive an allowance of Tk 600 for medical expenses and rent.

Other demands from the workers include security, cancellation of the tenure certificates for masters and drivers of vessels, proper implementation of the marine law, dredging of all rivers to ensure navigability and preventing robberies on waterways.

Senior Vice-president of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport (Passenger Carriers) Owners' Association Badiuzzaman Badal said, "The workers are being stubborn."

"They want a 200 percent raise and they also want the dearness allowance, which is unreasonable."

An official from the Directorate of Labour who spoke on condition of anonymity said that two committees are working to resolve the issues.

In Narayanganj, three launches were attacked by workers, causing injuries to three people.

Workers also receive an allowance of Tk 600 for medical expenses and rent.

Other demands from the workers include security, cancellation of the tenure certificates for masters and drivers of vessels, proper implementation of the marine law, dredging of all rivers to ensure navigability and preventing robberies on waterways.

Senior Vice-president of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport (Passenger Carriers) Owners' Association Badiuzzaman Badal said, "The workers are being stubborn."

"They want a 200 percent raise and they also want the dearness allowance, which is unreasonable."

An official from the Directorate of Labour who spoke on condition of anonymity said that two committees are working to resolve the issues.

In Narayanganj, three launches were attacked by workers, causing injuries to three people.

Workers also receive an allowance of Tk 600 for medical expenses and rent.

Other demands from the workers include security, cancellation of the tenure certificates for masters and drivers of vessels, proper implementation of the marine law, dredging of all rivers to ensure navigability and preventing robberies on waterways.

Senior Vice-president of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport (Passenger Carriers) Owners' Association Badiuzzaman Badal said, "The workers are being stubborn."

"They want a 200 percent raise and they also want the dearness allowance, which is unreasonable."

An official from the Directorate of Labour who spoke on condition of anonymity said that two committees are working to resolve the issues.

In Narayanganj, three launches were attacked by workers, causing injuries to three people.

Workers also receive an allowance of Tk 600 for medical expenses and rent.

Other demands from the workers include security, cancellation of the tenure certificates for masters and drivers of vessels, proper implementation of the marine law, dredging of all rivers to ensure navigability and preventing robberies on waterways.

Senior Vice-president of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport (Passenger Carriers) Owners' Association Badiuzzaman Badal said, "The workers are being stubborn."

"They want a 200 percent raise and they also want the dearness allowance, which is unreasonable."

An official from the Directorate of Labour who spoke on condition of anonymity said that two committees are working to resolve the issues.

In Narayanganj, three launches were attacked by workers, causing injuries to three people.

Workers also receive an allowance of Tk 600 for medical expenses and rent.

Other demands from the workers include security, cancellation of the tenure certificates for masters and drivers of vessels, proper implementation of the marine law, dredging of all rivers to ensure navigability and preventing robberies on waterways.

Senior Vice-president of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport (Passenger Carriers) Owners' Association Badiuzzaman Badal said, "The workers are being stubborn."

"They want a 200 percent raise and they also want the dearness allowance, which is unreasonable."

An official from the Directorate of Labour who spoke on condition of anonymity said that two committees are working to resolve the issues.

Workers also receive an allowance of Tk 600 for medical expenses and rent.

Other demands from the workers include security, cancellation of the tenure certificates for masters and drivers of vessels, proper implementation of the marine law, dredging of all rivers to ensure navigability and preventing robberies on waterways.

Senior Vice-president of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport (Passenger Carriers) Owners' Association Badiuzzaman Badal said, "The workers are being stubborn."

"They want a 200 percent raise and they also want the dearness allowance, which is unreasonable."

An official from the Directorate of Labour who spoke on condition of anonymity said that two committees are working to resolve the issues.

In Narayanganj, three launches were attacked by workers, causing injuries to three people.

Chittagong Test

FROM PAGE 16
and Mushfiqur's valiant batting that the Tigers could put up a spirited display chasing an improbable target of 513 runs.

The two batsmen shared a 167-run partnership for the sixth wicket, but wicketkeeper-batsman Mushfiqur missed a well-deserved hundred only by five runs.

Off-spinner Graeme Swann finally broke through Bangladesh's resistance when he put an end to Junaed's marathon 292-ball effort of 106 runs in the second over after lunch.

The lanky left-hander offered a catch to Paul Collingwood in the slips but before that he reached the three-digit mark magnificently.

Junaed struck two superb boundaries against paceman Steven Finn on way to completing his hundred in 262 balls. It was an outstanding effort from the Rajshahi man as he occupied the crease for more than six hours and hit 17 boundaries in the process.

Mushfiqur, who hit 79 in the first innings, was quick to follow his partner and this time also the bowler was Swann. It

was an aberration from Mushfiqur as the right-hander went down to charge the spinner but misjudged the length and was yoked.

The Bogra man might have missed his second Test hundred at the same venue but it was an innings to cheer about. And his determination also encouraged his partner to bat through the first session to go for a happy lunch on 277 for five after resuming the day on 191 for five. During his 232-ball 95, Mushfiqur smashed twelve boundaries.

Nayeem Islam entertained the small crowd with a big-hitting display as the right-hander smote three fours and as many sixes during his 45-ball 36 before becoming Swann's victim. And with the wicket, Swann became the first English off-spinner to take ten wickets in a match on the subcontinent and the first to take a 10-wicket haul after Jim Laker, who took 19 wickets against Australia in 1956.

The second and final Test starts on March 20 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

3 local firms

FROM PAGE 16
On March 10, the ministry in a letter asked the BMD to issue the licences with certain conditions.

As per the conditions, the companies would explore peat coal in the blocks at their own expense. They would not conduct any activities that can affect the environment, biodiversity, fishery, plants, important structures, relics, cultural or religious structures.

The companies would not explore radio-active minerals but if they find any, they would have to inform the BMD and the Atomic Energy Commission about the discovery.

This licence does not ensure issuance of mining licence in the future.

Since the 50's, the Geological Survey of Pakistan

and then the Geological Survey of Bangladesh discovered considerable quantities of peat deposits in various localities of Bangladesh. Amongst these discoveries, the deposits of Baghia-Chanda Beel in Madaripur, Kola Mauza in Khulna, Chatal Beel in Moulvibazar, Pagla and Salla in Sunamganj are notable.

Discovered in the early 50's, the Geological Survey of Pakistan found peat in 500sqkm of Baghia-Chanda Beel. The average thickness of this peat is two metres and situated near the surface.

The reserve of the dry peat is calculated to be 150 million tonnes. In two separate studies in the 80's, it was found that the peat could be mined for the production of electricity in small power plants (10-20MW) and consumption in

Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 1
The day will also be observed as National Children's Day at state level.

Ruling Awami League, its different associated bodies, socio-cultural and political organisations and ministries designed programmes to mark the day.

Tight security measures have been taken centring the VIPs arrival at Tungipara.

The president will place wreath at Bangabandhu's grave there.

AL leaders, being led by party president Sheikh Hasina, will also place floral wreath at the grave of Bangabandhu at 10:00am and then attend a milad mahfil there.

On return, the president will inaugurate the Children's Day programme to be arranged by Bangabandhu Shishu Kishore Mela at Bangabhaban.

The programmes include hoisting of the national and party flags at Bangabandhu Bhawan in the capital and AL offices across the country at 6:30am, placing of floral wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu in front of Bangabandhu Bhawan at 7:30am.

A discussion will be held at the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh in the capital with AL Presidium member Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser in the chair.

The president and the prime minister gave separate

messages on the occasion.

In his message, the president conveyed his heartfelt felicitations to the children of the country and urged the young generation to be inspired with the deep sense of patriotism.

The prime minister urged the children to know real history of the country and long struggling life of Bangabandhu.

Save Modhupur

FROM PAGE 1
cultivation of bananas, papayas, pineapples on the forest land.

An HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice ATM Fazle Kabir issued the rule following a writ petition jointly filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA) and the Joyenshahi Adivasi Unnayan Parishad.

The additional deputy commissioner (revenue) of Tangail and upazila revenue officer of Modhupur have been made respondents to the rule.

The petitioners urged the HC to direct the respondents to correctly identify the borders of Modhupur salban under the forest act, evict illegal constructions in the forest, frame rules on village forestry and stop illegal collection of revenue from the forest people.

Advocate Prodir Neogi assisted by Iqbal Kabir moved the petition.

No arrest

FROM PAGE 16
others, including his son and another employee of his shop.

Talking to The Daily Star, Salam said he filed the murder case against the building owners as they built the hoardings that caused the deaths and injuries.

"The building owners built the hoardings despite repeated protests from shop owners," Salam said, adding, "After the construction of the hoardings, we again requested the building owners in writing to remove them from the roof top. But the owners did not respond to our requests."

Gulshan Police Station Officer-in-Charge Kamal Uddin said they did not arrest anyone as of 8:30pm.

Gulshan division Deputy Commissioner AKM Hafiz Akhter said police filed a general diary in this connection but did not file any case.

When asked why the police did not file a case in this connection, the DC said when family members of victims file a case it makes it easier for the police to proceed and easier for the family to get compensation.

Hafiz said, "The building authorities must be punished for their illegal business, causing deaths and injuries."

He also rebuked the authorities concerned at Dhaka City Corporation, Rajdhanis Unnayan Kartripakkha and the Fire Service who did not come forward to help police remove the collapsed structure that obstructed vehicular movement that night.

Gulshan police said they took one car, the driver of which was killed, into their custody as evidence.

Abubakar

FROM PAGE 1
his target, the cruelty of student politics took away his life," Abbas said.

Overwhelmed by the great loss, he went on that his brother who was a student of Islamic History had not been visiting home since Eid-ul-Azha last year saying that he needed more time to study.

Abbas said, "We are yet to know how my brother was killed and who were behind it."

Among 136 examinees in his batch of Islamic History, Abubakar secured 3.58 out of 4.00 in the fourth semester.

On March 13, the results were published and examinations of the semester were held in September last year.

On February 2, Abubakar who was staying at Sir AF Rahman Hall received severe head injuries during the clashes between BCL factions at the hall and succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital the next day.

Following his death, the DU authorities formed a nine-member probe committee.

The committee in its report named 10 BCL persons responsible for the violent incident.

The report, however, could not clarify as to how Abubakar was injured and who were behind it.

Based on the report, DU syndicate temporarily suspended the accused.

BNP demands

FROM PAGE 1
party's central office at Nayapaltan in the capital.

Delwar, earlier in several occasions, demanded "mid-term election" terming the government absolutely failed to run the country.

He protested a threat by State Minister Kamrul Islam who warned to take legal action if anyone terms Ziaur Rahman the proclaimer of independence.

He also said people know Zia declared independence on March 26-27, 1971 as Sheikh Mujib was arrested on March 25.

"Zia's proclamation of Independence is historically proven," he claimed.

Delwar also condemned filing cases against opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farroque for raising allegation against prime minister's son Sajib Wazed Joy, saying that ruling party has exposed their autocratic and indecent attitude.

Earlier, in a joint meeting the party has finalised the programmes to observe Independence Day.

Party leaders Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Amanullah Aman, Mizanur Rahman Minu, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, Zainul Abidin Farroque, Moazzem Hossain Alal, Ilyas Ali, among others, were present at the meeting with Delwar in the chair.

Uproar in JS

FROM PAGE 1
"I expect fair conduct and decent language from all of you—both treasury and opposition," Hamid continued.

Earlier, the speaker decried the unruly behaviour of some lawmakers and use of indecent language on the floor on March 3. He said the way some lawmakers conduct themselves is shameful.

But again on March 10, treasury and opposition lawmakers wrangled bitterly, leaving the House in disorder for over five minutes.

Yesterday it all began during the question-answer session.

As Jute Minister Abdul Latif Siddiqui said the BNP-led government had closed the Adamji and other jute mills at the expense of national interests, the opposition lawmakers broke into noisy protests.

In response, the jute minister said, "Honourable speaker, even if they all shout together their voice won't be able to drown mine."

Without mentioning any names, he said, "They shut down Adamji. Who are they? They are the confederates of the defeated force. They are the beneficiaries of Bangabandhu murder. They are the inheritors of the killers."

Soon the opposition members stood on their seats and protested the minister's remarks.

Immediately after the question-answer hour ended at 7:00pm, the speaker gave floor to opposition chief whip Zainul Abidin Farroque to speak on a point of order.

But the opposition deputies were still on their feet yelling.