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39 canals meet 1,000 grabbers

JS body asks DCs to serve notice on encroachers

RASHIDUL HASAN

In a major development, a parliamentary body yesterday asked Dhaka deputy commissioner's office to serve notices immediately on more than 1,000 individuals, organisations and establishments to dismantle the structures they had built encroaching on the city's 39 canals.

The parliamentary standing committee on land ministry also asked the land survey office to identify within seven days others who had grabbed the rest four canals -- Kalyanpur Khal, Baunia Khal, Ramchandrapur Khal and Begunbari Khal -- and serve them with notices as well.

"If the grabbers don't comply with the order within one and a half months, Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Dhaka City Corporation, Water Supply and Sewerage Authority, Deputy Commissioner's Office and other bodies concerned will launch a joint canal recovery operation," AKM Mozammel Huq, chief of the committee, told The Daily Star after a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

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Hazaribagh Canal that had been partially reclaimed during the immediate past caretaker government, has been being encroached upon again since then, wiping out any sign of the earlier reclamation attempt.

PHOTO: STAR



Five killed as storm lashes Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

At least five people were killed and 50 others injured as a devastating thunderstorm raged through different areas under Sadar upazila of the district Monday night.

The deceased were identified as Rushna, 35, her son Jewel, 10, of Oloha village, Amiruddin, 30, of Karimpur village, Nehar Begum, 42, of Halimpur village and Rakhal Debnath of Shairpur village of the district.

Of the five, three were killed when trees fell down on their tin-shed roofs and the rest were killed in thunderbolt.

More than 600 houses were damaged and 1,500 families affected by the storm.

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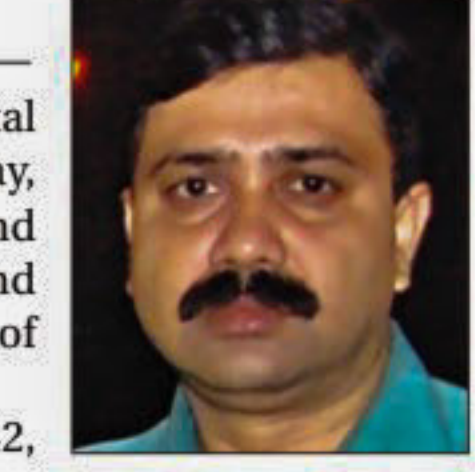
Policeman shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unabated violent crime in the capital claimed the life of a policeman yesterday, as unidentified gunmen killed the second officer of Bangshal police station, and wounded his friend in Dholaikhal of Sutrapur.

Police Sub-inspector Gautam Roy, 42, died on the spot, and his hotelier friend Mohammad Shamim, 45, was wounded, after being shot near Mohiuddin Market in Dholaikhal around 2:30am.

Shamim told The Daily Star that Gautam and their common friend Azam drove to Mohiuddin Market on Lalmohan Shah



Gautam Roy

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MORE PHOTO ON PAGE 2

British firm to generate 200MW power by July

Contract after purchase body approval

SHARIER KHAN

The Power Development Board (PDB) yesterday initialled an unsolicited rental power contract with a British company to generate 200 megawatts of power.

According to the deal, 100MW of power would be generated within June 22 and the full-capacity production would be reached within July 28, sources said.

British company Aggreko, one of the world leaders in rental power, will install

its diesel-fired power generation equipment in Ghorashal and Khulna or any other site designated by the government.

Meanwhile, the cabinet committee on economic affairs headed by the finance minister yesterday approved a proposal giving waiver from the Public Procurement Regulation (PPR) and Public Procurement Act (PPA) to procure urgent rental power of 1,000MW to 1,500MW without any tender.

Both PPR and PPA bar public procure-

ment without open tenders.

The deal with Aggreko was achieved following the country's fastest ever negotiation spearheaded by a high-powered committee led by Power Secretary AK Azad. Other members of the committee includes representatives of PDB, the National Board of Revenue, law ministry, power ministry and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

The high-powered committee has also

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Tahrir chief held Remanded in 2 anti-terror cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After six months of banning Islamist outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh for its anti-state activities, police arrested its chief coordinator Mahiuddin Ahmed yesterday from the capital on charges of plotting subversive and terrorist activities.

Mahiuddin, an associate professor of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) of Dhaka University, was virtually under house arrest since October 22 when the government put a ban on his organisation.

But police rounded him up yesterday following some significant information from recently arrested Tahrir operatives.

Police said they arrested Mahiuddin following information extracted from three Tahrir activists arrested on Saturday from



Mahiuddin Ahmed

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Bhola-3 BY-POLLS EC to deploy 36 'silent observers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will deploy at least three dozens of "silent observers" to monitor the April 24 by-election to Bhola-3 constituency.

"Our own officials will work as silent observers in and outside of polling stations and will inform the commission and the returning officer

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Bhola off limits to all outsiders

EC won't allow anyone after Thursday

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN from Bhola

No outsiders even lawmakers and central leaders of political parties will be allowed to stay at Bhola-3 constituency after Thursday night, the last day of electoral campaign.

The decision, which is first its kind in country's electoral history, came at a meeting between the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda and two vital

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

CJ approved all of 17 judge appointments

Law minister says no question of cancelling recruitment of 2 now

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The chief justice, who did not swear in two of the 17 newly appointed additional High Court judges, had approved all the 17 to be appointed by the president.

A few legal experts said it is the CJ's constitu-

tional responsibility to swear in any judge appointed by the president.

"There is no question of cancelling the appointments of the two judges as appointments of all the 17 judges were made in consultation with the chief justice as per existing

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



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