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Clash over control of city school

Headmaster, 4 others hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five persons including the headmaster of a junior high school at Kafrul in the capital were injured yesterday in a clash between supporters of Awami League lawmaker from the area Kamal Ahmed Majumder, and local ward councillor of the city corporation.

The clash between the two rival groups supporting Kamal Majumder, and Ward-14 Councillor Abdul Kader was a sequel to longstanding disputes centring control over Purba Sheorapara Haji Ashraf Ali Junior High School, locals said.

The injured include Headmaster of the school Faruk Khan, assistant teacher

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Walking not wanted

Mindless dumping of construction materials, sewage on footpaths offer nightmare to pedestrians every day; city fathers could not care less

SHAHNAZ PARVEEN

Md Selim Miah of Paikpara, Mirpur never imagined what lay ahead for him on his way to work. He was minding his own business walking along the footpath, the next thing he knew he was struggling to escape an encounter with ghastly sewer elements.

"I was halfway into an open manhole on the footpath," said Selim squeezing his nostril, recalling the dreadful stench.

"I escaped the encounter with only a sprained knee but that is not the end of the story," added Selim.

"Before I could finish tending my bruises, another gentleman followed my lead. He reappeared with sewer sludge in lower part of his body a few minutes later," Selim went on describing his recent experience.

Many other pedestrians like Selim say walking on Dhaka footpath is becoming extremely adventurous day by day with danger lurking around in every step.

They portrayed that routine adventures on

Dhaka footpath involves wrestling with vendors, squeezing through parked cars, elbowing through the crowd, dodging manhole openings, potholes, construction materials, urinated pavements and so on.

Footpaths around New Market area, Nilkhet, Dhaka College Gate, Farmgate, Green Road, Science Laboratory, Karwan Bazar, Moghbazar intersection, majority of Motijheel area, Baitul Mukarram, Gulistan, Paltan, Mirpur-1 and Mirpur-10 have been rated as the worst in shape by most pedestrians.

Majibar Rahman from Circular Road, Hatirpool said, "Walking down the streets of Dhaka is no longer an easy task."

"It is rather an ordeal."

Majibar mentioned, among all of the obstructions on Dhaka footpath he dislikes most is being shoved over to the road by illegal vendors and parked cars as they take up most of the space.

According to Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka Metropolitan City has about 2290 km of

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Construction materials occupying almost half the Motijheel Club Road in the capital yesterday. These supplies have been piled up here for over a month, obstructing every-day traffic.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

BANGABANDHU ASSASSINATION

Govt to recover money spent on 7 killers

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

The foreign ministry has moved to recover Tk 21 crore from the people, who spent it on the salaries and allowances of seven convicted killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman after August 15, 1975.

"Directives were already given [to the authorities concerned] to take necessary administrative measures to this effect," Foreign Minister Dipu Moni told the House recently in a written statement.

She said the seven killers received nearly Tk 3 crore each in salaries and allowances after getting appointed to Bangladesh missions abroad.

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VIQARUNNISA
Menon for probe into trade over admission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An independent investigation into the allegations of admission trade at Viqarunnisa Noon School and College can be conducted, said president of the institution's governing body Rashed Khan Menon yesterday.

"The Department of Inspection and Audit (DIA) of Directorate General of Secondary and Higher Education can launch an

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Student councils mulled for primary students

Target is to create democratic culture among students

WASIM BIN HABIB

The government is going to launch student councils in public primary schools to inculcate democratic norms in the children's minds.

The student councils would be formed through elections by the students and primarily be involved in some school activities, said officials of primary and mass education ministry.

The councils would be launched in 100 primary schools in 20 upazilas of seven divisions under a pilot project, they

added. The elections at the selected schools except a few under Chittagong City Corporation will be held on June 15.

"We are going to introduce student councils in some selected primary schools with the aim to help the children learn democratic practices, become tolerant of opposing views and learn how to work in a team," said Abu Alam Mohammad Shahid Khan, secretary in-charge of the ministry.

The idea is new in our country though it exists in many parts of the world, he said, adding that if successful, it will be

introduced in all schools across the country gradually.

Shahid Khan believes the new initiative would help develop the overall standard of primary education.

The councils would be formed through elections for one year. The headmasters of the institutions would publish a voter list 10 days before the election, say officials of the ministry and directorate of primary education.

They add each council will have seven elected representatives. Students from

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MAHMUDUR'S WEALTH ACC asked to report on case by July 15

COURT CORRESPONDENT

ADhaka court yesterday asked the Anti-Corruption Commission to submit by July 15 the probe report of a case filed against acting editor of the daily Amar Desh Mahmudur Rahman for not submitting his wealth statement.

Metropolitan Magistrate Syeda Minhz-um Munira passed the order after Gulshan police sent the case file to the court for taking next steps.

On June 13, ACC Deputy Director Nur Ahmed filed the case against former chairman

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Indian Khasias intrude into Tamabil border

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A tension prevailed on Tamabil and Sripur borders yesterday as a few dozen Indian Khasias backed by its Border Security Force (BSF) intruded into the Bangladesh territory and forcibly ploughed three hectares of land.

Border sources said at about 1:30pm some 30-40 Khasias with bows and arrows and 20 BSF men intruded 200 yards inside the zero line in between Tamabil and Sripur border outposts and started ploughing farmland at Naljuri.

On information, BDR men from the two border outposts

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PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Officials at the auditorium of Chittagong gymnasium yesterday sort out materials for the June 17 CCC elections to send to polling centres tomorrow.

2 'robbers' beaten to death in Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Boatmen beat to death two persons and injured another on the Buriganga when the three allegedly attempted to rob a couple late Sunday night.

Meanwhile early yesterday, a man was killed on suspicion of mugging at Paina Nagaraon of South Keraniganj.

The dead could not be identified immediately but the injured was identified as Mizan, 25, while the suspected mugger was identified as Nurul Islam Minu, 24. Police arrested Mizan.

Among the unidentified pirates, one aged around 27 died at Mitford Hospital yesterday around 1:30pm while the other, 30, at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) around 2:30pm. Mizan with severe injuries was undergoing treatment at DMCH.

The police and witnesses said a gang of three pirates swooped on a young couple who were crossing the river on a small boat at around 11:00pm on Sunday from Zinzira in South Keraniganj.

BSF kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Indian Border security force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi cattle trader early yesterday along Fatehpur borders in Shinganj upazila of Chapainawabganj.

The victim was identified as Shafiqul Islam, 30, son of Belal Uddin of Shyampur in the upazila.

Maj Nazrul Islam, operation officer of 39 Rifle Battalion, said around 2:00am BSF of Subghati camp, West Bengal opened fire on a group of cattle traders when they were returning from India with cattle.

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US discovers huge mineral deposits

Experts say Afghanistan can become 'Saudi Arabia of lithium' with that resource alone

AFP, Washington

US geologists have discovered nearly one trillion dollars' worth of untapped mineral deposits in Afghanistan, including vast reserves of copper and lithium, the New York Times reported yesterday.

The deposits, which also include huge veins of iron, gold, niobium and cobalt, are enough to turn the battle-scarred country into one of the world's leading mining exporters, senior US

government officials told the Times.

Afghanistan's potential lithium deposits are large of those of Bolivia, which currently has the world's largest known lithium reserves, the Times said.

Lithium is a key mineral used in rechargeable batteries, as well as everything from cell phones and laptops to electric cars.

Afghanistan has so much of it that it could become the "Saudi Arabia of lithium," according

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Online Poll

Do you think the proposal for raising duty on cars ranging from 1,001 to 1,500cc on the plea of easing traffic congestion is justified?

- Yes (42.53%)
- No (56.37%)
- No Comments (1.10%)

Total votes: 910

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with land developers' demand for allowing them to continue their projects in the areas that have been declared as water bodies in the detailed area plan of Dhaka City?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net