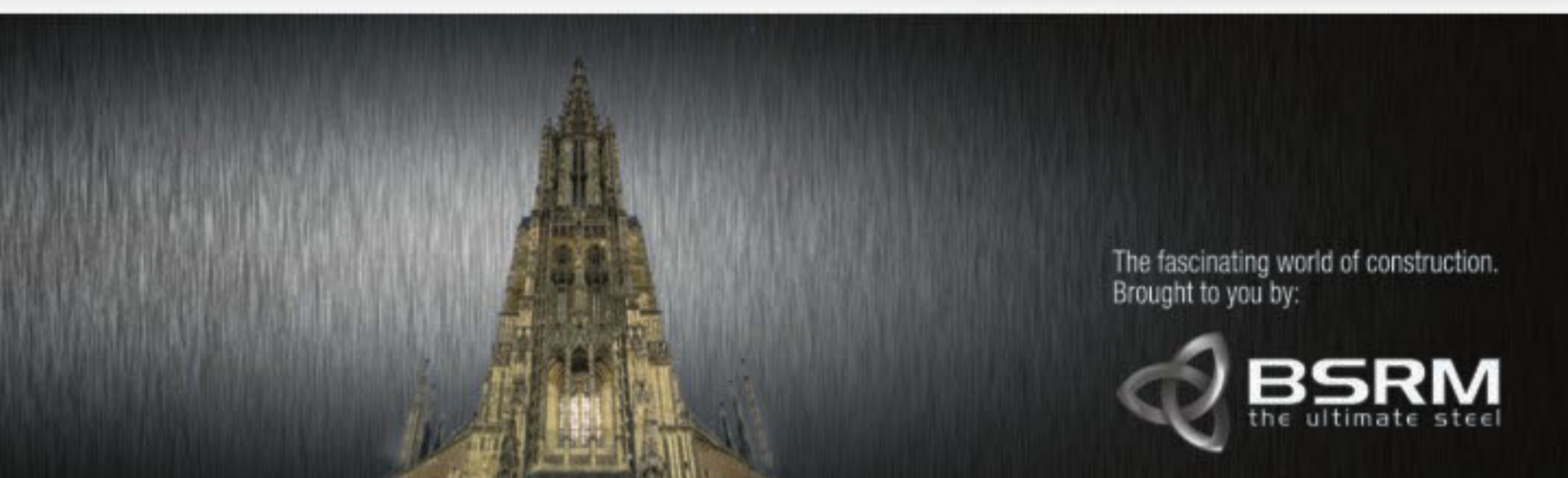


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1 killed, 2 bullet-hit in robbery incidents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An ex-army personnel was stabbed to death and two boys were bullet injured in robberies in Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital and Munshiganj yesterday.

The dead was identified as Captain (Retd) Mozammel Haque, 65, while the injured are madrasa students Himel, 12, and Ridoy, 14.

In Ashulia, a gang of 20 to 25 robbers broke into the houses of Mokter Hossain and his neighbour Ruhul Amin at South Gazir char at about 2:00am and looted three tolas of gold ornaments, Tk 15,000 and other valuables, police said. The gang members also beat up dwellers of the houses.

When the victims cried out, locals including Mozammel came to their help and chased the robbers.

The robbers stabbed Mozammel leaving him

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Another low in the Bay

Thousands still marooned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another low formed in the northwest Bay yesterday, only hours after a depression-triggered inclement weather for three days across the country improved.

Weather experts said last night they were yet to ascertain how far was the low from the country's coastal region.

It will take another 24 to 48 hours to exactly locate the low and predict if it will turn into a depression as was the case with the previous low, said Shamsuddin Ahmed, assistant director of Meteorological Department.

"It is uncertain whether the low will hit Bangladesh coast or not. It may weaken while still in the northwest Bay or may move towards West Bengal and Orissa in India," he said.

Termining it a monsoon low, he however said in case it moves towards Bangladesh, it will cause heavy rain and tidal surge as in the last few days.

Meanwhile, thousands of people remained marooned as tidal surge coupled with rain submerged vast areas in coastal districts, destroyed standing crops, houses and washed away shrimp enclosures and flood protection embankments. The depression that triggered the calamity weakened from Friday evening.

A government yesterday said 12 people were killed in the calamity during the last few days while many fishermen in the coastal areas were missing. About 2,500 thatched houses were completely destroyed.

About 75km of embankment was completely damaged and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Thousands remain marooned in vast areas of coastal districts. People of Bashbaria village under Dasminar upazila of Patuakhali are seen leaving their submerged houses for shelter on a bridge. Met office says another low has formed in the north-west Bay.

PHOTO: STAR

Lashkar's explosives expert captured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yet another Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative, this time an explosives expert, and his local aide were arrested by Rab in the city's Uttara early yesterday with a huge amount of explosives and bomb making materials.



Abu Bakkar



Wazed Khan

However, it couldn't be learnt whether the Pakistan-based militant outfit is plotting any bomb attack in Bangladesh or neighbouring country.

The LeT man, Wazed Khan alias Zafar alias Salman, 27, is a Pakistani national.

His aide Abu Bakkar Siddique, 49, is a stranded Pakistani and a resident of Turag Housing in the city's Mohammadpur area.

The Rab arrested LeT members first on February 28, said Sohail. So far nine operatives of the internationally banned organisation have been caught by the battalion and of them,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Specify duties by Nov 30, or face agitation

Upazila chairmen warn government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Upazila chairmen and vice-chairmen yesterday threatened to wage a tough movement against the government if their duties are not specified by November 30.

As many as 200 chairmen and vice-chairmen under the banner of Bangladesh Upazila Chairman and Vice-Chairman Oikya Parishad gave the warning from their national convention at the Engineers' Institute in the capital.

"We have nothing to do except taking tea, sitting idle in the office and drawing salary since taking office through the

January 2009 elections," lamented Showkot Hossain, vice-chairman of Doshmina upazila.

At present, upazila executive officers, who are secretaries to the parishads, are running this important local government body with advice from MPs.

"More than a year has passed, but the government has yet to outline our duties. It is frustrating us.

"Now we have no alternative to waging a tough movement against the government," announced Abdul Mazid Photo, convener of the parishad.

He also announced holding of rallies in

seven divisional districts soon to press home their demand.

Ataur Rahman Ata, chairman of Manikganj upazila, said people are demanding so much from them but they are undone, as they have no power.

"Lawmakers' interference in upazila parishads has disabled these bodies to function," he added.

According to the constitutional provisions, MPs are responsible to formulate laws while the local government representatives are to carry out development programmes.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Veteran AL leader Kaiser passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Awami League presidium member Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser passed away in the city yesterday.

He was 71.

After fighting for life for over a month, he let out his last breath at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) around 2:55pm yesterday. He left three daughters and a host

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

2 UPDF men shot dead in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Two activists of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) were shot dead allegedly by cadres of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) at Madhyam Pabalkhali under Baghaichhari upazila in the district yesterday afternoon.

The deceased are Mihir Baran Chakma, 50, of village Pabalkhali under Baghaichhari upazila, and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Rash driving kills 1 in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A recklessly driven private car killed a motorbike rider and injured another on Khilgaon flyover in the city last night.

The deceased is Nasir Sarder, 30, son of Abdul Jalil of South Manda, and the injured is Ismail Hossain, 26.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital officials said one Delwar Hossain rushed Nasir and Ismail to the hospital. The two were identified by the ID cards found in their pockets.

Mohammad Asaduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Sabujbagh Police Station, said the accident occurred when both the vehicles were getting down from the flyover towards Basabo end around 8:00pm.

Prayer Timing		
October 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-45	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

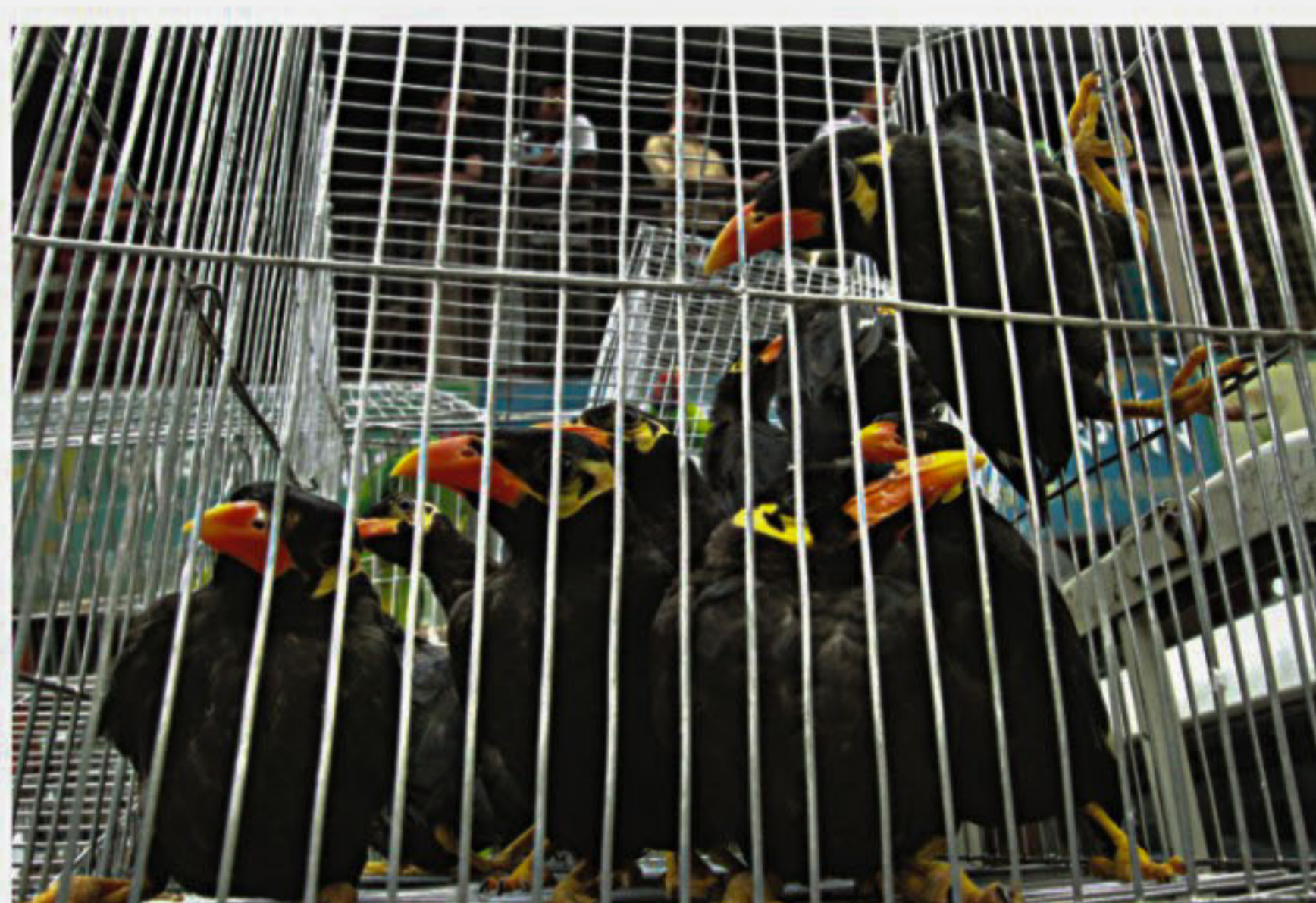


PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Kataban illegal wildlife trade busted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Wildlife officials and nature lovers yesterday busted the long-time illegal trade in wildlife at the Kataban pet shops.

The ugly face of the covert illegal trade in wildlife surfaced when forest department officials and wildlife lovers under police protection raided the shops in the afternoon. About a thousand birds, some of them critically endangered, and monkeys were rescued.

As soon as the rescue squad reached the spot, the traders started sneaking out their illicit booties. The Daily Star correspondent saw them quickly taking away at least one endangered slow loris and several mynas.

The traders slipped two rare eagles--one gray-headed fishing eagle and a



Bonelli's eagle--into a gunnysack and passed it to a street boy who started walking away.

But the forest officials caught the boy and rescued the eagles, one of which later flew away.

There were at least 300 parakeets of different species like slatyals and plum-headed and red-breasted parakeets, about 500 munias, 50-60 endangered hill mynas and some purple swamphens.

Prof Anwarul Islam of the zoology department in Dhaka University, and Tapan Dey, conservator of forests who took part in the raid later took the birds to Dhaka University and showed them to the vice chancellor. As the Kataban pet shops belong to the university, the nature lovers demanded that these shops be evicted.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Officials from the Department of Forest, with the help of law enforcement agency, busted the illegal trade of wildlife and recovered huge number of Myna, Munia, Eagle and Monkey from the traders of Kataban pet shops in the capital yesterday.

China fumes over Nobel prize choice

AFP, AP, Beijing

Chinese authorities, who called Nobel Peace prizewinner Liu Xiaobo a criminal shortly after his award Friday and said his winning "desecrates the prize", sank yesterday into official silence.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao didn't answer a question about the prize that was submitted Friday for a joint news conference in Turkey with that country's premier.

A Hong Kong-based rights group said the laureate's wife, Liu Xia, had arrived in the

northeastern province of Liaoning, where her husband is imprisoned.

The couple were expected to meet today but it was unclear where, the Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy said in a statement citing Liu Xia's brother.

AFP made several attempts to contact Liu Xia on her mobile phone to confirm her whereabouts but the calls were not answered.

One of her husband's lawyers, Shang Baojun, who defended the Nobel laureate in his subversion trial, said he hadn't been able to

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CHEMICAL DEATH TRAP

15,000 units found risky in Old Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fire, coming in contact with a petrol container, flared up abruptly in a Lalbagh metal factory on Friday noon all of a sudden. The flame dumfounded the 12-year-old boy working by it, and he looked around for help. The fire was swelling by the second.

Panicked, he picked up a can lying nearby and emptied its content to quench the fire, but the flame lifted higher. The container had

kerosene, not water inside, he recalled.

"I rushed and poured some water from a drum onto the fire," said the minor boy's colleague Faruk, "There is no telling what could have happened if I had not put out the fire in time."

Mohammad Faruq Ahmed, a little older than the small boy, was narrating the incident before the press saying they were lucky to get away with the fire that could be as dangerous as

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

OnlinePoll ✓
Do you agree with Indian ex-celebrity cop Kiran Bedi that Police worship power instead of serving common people in the countries like Bangladesh?
 Yes (93.9%)
 No (4.3%)
 No Comments (1.8%)
Total votes: 559
TODAY'S POLL
 Do you think the government will be able to end the power crisis by 2012?
 Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net