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Dacoity case too politically motivated

Govt to drop lawsuit against 9

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

The government has decided to withdraw a dacoity and murder case against nine persons considering it "politically motivated" and meant for "harassment".

Abdul Hamid, an engineer and a resident of Dakkhin Khan in the capital, was shot dead allegedly by the accused dacoits on January 29, 2005.

They also shot his daughter Farah Hamid, 14, and looted about Tk 25,000, around 15 tolas of gold ornaments and other valuables from the house, according to the case filed with Uttara Police Station.

The victim's wife
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SHYAMPUR RE-ROLLING MILL

Fine slapped on air polluter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In its maiden instance of fining a factory for polluting air, the Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday penalised a steel and re-rolling mill in Shyampur area Tk 10.28 lakh for releasing toxic fumes and ignoring its instructions.

A team of monitoring and enforcement wing of DoE, led by Muhammed Munir Chowdhury, conducted a drive in the area and fined Baset Steel and Re-rolling Mills, said a release of the department.

The team asked its owner to install fume extraction device immediately. Failing to do so, its utility connections would be snapped, warned the team.

Earlier, the DoE instructed the factory authority to install fume extraction device in its chimney and submit air quality report. But they never paid heed to the instructions.

The factory has been in operation since 2001, but they never took any environment

clearance certificate, added the release.

Shyampur has an unplanned industrial area, 29 kilometres off the capital, where many steel and re-rolling mills have been set up in a scattered way. The dense smog of steel and re-rolling mills turns the entire neighbourhood into a foggy zone during the first half of the day, when the mills set fire to their furnaces.

The smog containing carbon dioxide and carbon mono oxide causes serious health hazards to locals who breathe in the air.

The Daily Star has published several reports about the toxic fumes discharged from the re-rolling mills of the area. The stories portrayed immense sufferings of the local residents, students and commuters.

On November 12, 2007, a report headlined 'School of Poison' was published about the sufferings of the local school children. It revealed how the air pollution caused by industrial fume made many students unwilling to attend schools.

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Billows of smoke coming out of a steel and re-rolling mill at Shyampur in the capital. The Department of Environment fined a factory in the city yesterday for causing similar air pollution.
PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

10-TRUCK ARMS CASE 'Sick' Babar remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday placed former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar on a five-day remand in cases linked to the sensational 10-truck arms haul in Chittagong in 2004.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman passed the order after a 15-minute hearing amid huge chaos by the defendant lawyers as Babar was seen bleeding from nose when he was produced before the court.

Later, pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum staged a demonstration with Chittagong city unit General
SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar being taken to a Chittagong court yesterday with a bleeding nose. Chittagong city BNP leader Shahadat Hossain, also a physician, said Babar was suffering from severe gastro intestinal diseases that might have caused the bleeding.

Mother jumps under train Dies along with her baby

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mother with her three-month old daughter allegedly committed suicide early yesterday by jumping under a running train at the city's Kamalapur Railway Station.

The deceased were identified as Shahana Islam, 35, a resident of Goran in Khilgaon, and her daughter Nishat.

Alamgir Hossain, assistant sub-inspector of Kamalapur Railway Police Station, said Shahana was feeding her child on the rail-tracks at platform no-5 when a Khulna bound intercity train Sundarban Express was crossing platform no-6.

"Without any preamble she
SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

HARIPUR 360MW POWER PROJECT Japanese company to get contract

Question raised as qualified bidder ignored

SHARIER KHAN

The Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh (EGCB) is set to award a contract to a Japanese company to build the Haripur 360 megawatt combined cycle power plant by disqualifying another Japanese bidder.

A well-placed EGCB source says the EGCB board at a meeting on Sunday disqualified the technical offer of Japanese Sumitomo and recommended that of Marubeni.

Both the companies had submitted their technical offers along with financial offers after winning a technical qualification process.

The EGCB would now recommend to the Tk 1,665 crore project's Japanese financier Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) to open the financial offer of Marubeni.

Sources say allegations have been raised with Jica about
SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

PABNA ASSAULT Five more BCL men out on bail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Pabna court yesterday granted bail to five Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jubo League men in one of the two cases filed for the attack on government officials during a recruitment test under the deputy
SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Prayer Timing		
November 2		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-55	5-30
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-34
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think the government should accept the private company's proposal to set up an amusement park on one-third of the zoo land?

Yes (32.0%)
No (67.3%)
No Comments (0.7%)

Total votes: 441

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think actions will be taken against lawmaker Aslamul Haq for obstructing Dhaka Wasa and district administration's joint drive to reclaim the Kalyanpur canal?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Iraq church siege leaves 52 dead

BBC ONLINE

At least 52 people were killed as security forces stormed a Catholic church in Baghdad to free dozens of hostages, said Deputy Interior Minister Maj Gen Hussein Kamal.

He suggested six attackers had also died in the fighting, though other sources have said the overall death toll was lower. Pope Benedict XVI has condemned the "absurd... ferocious violence".

The gunmen had reportedly demanded the release of jailed al-Qaeda militants.

A statement was posted on a militant website allegedly run by the Islamic State of Iraq, a Sunni militant umbrella group to which al-Qaeda in Iraq belongs, claiming responsibility for the attack.

The statement reportedly said Iraqi Christians would be "exterminated" if Muslim women in Egypt were not freed. It
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কোরবানী ঈদে সুস্থ, সবল, সকল অটবি ফার্নিচার এর ওপর ৩০% পর্যন্ত ছাড়

<p>বর্তমান মূল্য ৩,৫৮০ টাকা ছাড়ের পর ২,৫০৬ টাকা</p>	<p>বর্তমান মূল্য ৪,২৯০ টাকা ছাড়ের পর ৩,৪৭৫ টাকা</p>	<p>বর্তমান মূল্য ৪,৬৭০ টাকা ছাড়ের পর ৩,৭৮৩ টাকা</p>	<p>বর্তমান মূল্য ৫,০৬০ টাকা ছাড়ের পর ৪,০৯৯ টাকা</p>	<p>বর্তমান মূল্য ১৪,২৫০ টাকা ছাড়ের পর ১০,৬৮৮ টাকা</p>
<p>কার্টের ডেস্কিং টেবিল বর্তমান মূল্য ১৮,৯৪০ টাকা ছাড়ের পর ১৩,২৫৮ টাকা</p>	<p>কার্টের খাট বর্তমান মূল্য ২৬,৯৯০ টাকা ছাড়ের পর ২২,৯৪২ টাকা</p>	<p>কার্টের আলমারি বর্তমান মূল্য ২৭,৪৮০ টাকা ছাড়ের পর ২৩,৩৫৮ টাকা</p>	<p>কার্টের খাট বর্তমান মূল্য ৩০,২৪০ টাকা ছাড়ের পর ২৫,৭০৪ টাকা</p>	<p>কার্টের আলমারি বর্তমান মূল্য ৪২,২৭০ টাকা ছাড়ের পর ৩৫,৯৩০ টাকা</p>

শর্ত প্রযোজ্য। স্টক সীমিত।
এ সুযোগ সারাদেশে সকল অটবি শো-রুমে কোরবানী ঈদের আগের দিন পর্যন্ত।

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