

It was a bid to 'avenge' BDR carnage

Army finds Major Helal chose on his own Taposh as target, tagged along 4 juniors, collected explosives from Pilkhana

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The five army officers dismissed recently for the bomb attack on Fazole Noor Taposh had done so, believing that the Awami League lawmaker had a hand in the BDR mutiny.

Major Helal, one of the five, was the mastermind behind the blast, which took place on October 21 last year, army sources said.

The officers--one major and four captains--have been sentenced to five years in prison by a court-martial. They began serving their term at Dhaka Central Jail on Thursday.

The convicted servicemen had collected the explosives used in the blast from the BDR Pilkhana headquarters while on duty there after the bloody mutiny, the sources told The Daily Star, citing findings of the probe into the attack on Taposh.

During their trial at Dhaka cantonment, they pleaded guilty to the charges brought against them.

The evidence produced before the court too proved they planned and executed the blast all by themselves.

Taposh, also nephew of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, came under the attack in front of his law chamber at Motijheel. He escaped unscathed, but at least 13 people were injured.

The army sources said Helal and the four captains--Rezaul Karim, Rajib, Fuad and Subayel Ibne Rafique--had been "confined to the line (officers' mess in Dhaka cantonment)" soon after their links to the blast surfaced.

For their conviction, the five will not be allowed to use their ranks as former army officers. They will also not get any benefits from the force.

Describing the background, the sources said Helal was

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Fazole Noor Taposh



Dhaka Wasa removed illegal structures on the Kalyanpur Canal at Kazi Office Road-2 in Shyamoli earlier this year but as seen in most such cases, the banks have been encroached upon again. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Reclaim grabbed canals

Govt asked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different NGO activists and politicians yesterday demanded government's effective measures to recover the illegally occupied canals and wetlands in the city to maintain ecological balance and to make the city liveable.

There were around 50 canals in and around the capital. But with increasing population, the canals and wetlands have been filled up for housing, creating a threat to the ecosystem.

It is necessary to recover illegally occupied canals for survival of the city-dwellers, speakers said.

They placed the demands while speaking at a human chain organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (BAPA) in front of Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Obama wins India business; criticised

REUTERS, Mumbai

US President Barack Obama announced \$10 billion in business deals yesterday as he arrived in India to boost US exports and jobs after a mauling in mid-term polls, but he ran into immediate controversy over Pakistan.

Obama flew into Mumbai, India's financial hub, and announced the United States would also relax export controls over sensitive technology, a demand of India's that will help deepen US ties with the emerging global power and its trillion dollar economy.

While most of the announced deals had been pending for months, Obama's visit, the first leg of a 10-day Asian tour, has been hailed

as moving the United States closer to India as Washington tries to revive a weak economy and gather support to pressure China on its currency.

"The United States sees Asia, especially India, as the market of the future," Obama told a meeting of US and Indian business leaders. "There still exists a caricature of India as a land of call centres and back-offices that cost American jobs. But these old stereotypes, these old concerns, ignore today's realities."

Obama's first act was to pay tribute to victims of the 2008 Mumbai attacks, but he was criticised for making no reference to India's traditional foe Pakistan, which New Delhi

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

League leader shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A leader of Swetchhasebak League was shot dead at Gandaria in Old Dhaka early yesterday.

Family members claimed that the victim, Deen Islam Dela, 45, the party's general secretary of ward no-82, was killed by his rival within the party over previous enmity.

However, locals said he was murdered to establish supremacy in the area.

Gandaria police arrested Shariful Islam, president of ward-82 Swetchhasebak League, and his close aide Jewel yesterday morning in this connection.



Deen Islam Dela

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Beximco buys into Singer

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Beximco Group has paired up with other investors to buy a 55 percent stake in home appliances giant Singer Bangladesh.

The deal was signed on Thursday, Salman F Rahman, Beximco's vice-chairman, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Rahman has declined to give financial details on the deal, as he said the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

IUB is now at Bashundhara



Our New Address

Plot 16
Block B
Aftabuddin Ahmed Road
Bashundhara R/A
Dhaka- 1229
Phone : 880-2-840 1645-52,
840 1790, 840 1991
Fax : 880-2-840 1653
E-mail : info@iub.edu.bd,
Web : www.iub.edu.bd

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH
17 Years of Progressive Higher Education

Sweater workers go on rampage

50 hurt as they block road, clash with cops

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

At least 50 people including an assistant superintendent of police and 14 other policemen were injured as garment workers clashed with law enforcers at Naojore in Gazipur yesterday.

Several thousand workers of Diganta Sweater Factory took to the streets at about 8:30am protesting low pay. They were paid Tk 42 per piece of sweater instead of Tk 45 settled earlier.

Vehicular movement on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway remained suspended for nearly six hours, as the workers put blockade on the motorway and vandalised at least eight vehicles.

They also damaged two covered vans and a bus of the factory, and set fire to a motorbike of an employee.

The clash ensued as police attempted to disperse the agitating workers and clear the road. The two sides got involved in chase and counter chase from 9:30am to 12:00 noon with an

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Cyclone Jal on the horizon

UNB, Dhaka

Country's three maritime ports have been asked to hoist warning signal No 2 as the severe cyclonic storm 'Jal' over southwest Bay and adjoining southeast Bay moved slightly northwestwards over the same area.

It was centred at 3:00pm yesterday about 1,480km southwest of Chittagong port, 1,410km southwest of Cox's Bazar port and 1,390km of south-southwest of Mongla port.

It is likely to intensify further and move in a west-north-westerly direction, said a special bulletin of Met office.

Maximum sustained wind

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



Your dream of sweet home is now a reality with our Home Loan

At Prime Bank, we offer you an easy-to-avail Home Loan with convenient repayment options. With maximum limit on loan amount, you also have unlimited options of choosing your home. Drop in anytime, let us help you realise your long cherished dream.

29 Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000, Mobile: 01714 088931-2, 01714 133281-2

Prime Bank Limited
a bank with a difference

www.primebank.com.bd

We've become the premier global life insurance company overnight,

but we've been working on it for 200 years.



MetLife and Alico have teamed up to become the premier global life insurance company. Now, we're not just a leading insurer in the Middle East and South Asia, but one of the largest in the world. However, big is only better, if it's better for you. Our collective heritage brings over 200 years of integrity and financial strength. And we're going to continue to offer more protection with even better products and services. That leaves one question. What can we do for you?

MetLife Alico

www.metlifealico.com.bd