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Triple murder suspect held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested a suspect in connection with the murder of three youths in the capital on Monday. They, however, could not yet ascertain the motive behind the killings. Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Gazi Mozammel Huq said they arrested Imran, 22, on suspicion of being involved in the

1 killed in 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged criminal was killed in a 'shootout' with Rapid Action Battalion at Khejurbag in South Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital yesterday. The dead, Minu Parvez alias Tonu alias Dadabhai, 27, was accused in a number of cases, including murder, said police. South Keraniganj Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abul Bashar said a patrol team of Rab-10, while passing

BGB jawan hurt in CHT gunfight

A CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A member of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) received bullet injury during a gunfight between Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti (PCJSS) and United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) in Dighinala upazila of Khagrachhari Tuesday. Police said the gunfight started around 7:45am between the two indigenous groups at



50 buses in a mess

Expensive double-decker Volvo buses lost to poor maintenance

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Double-decker Volvo buses that gained popularity for efficient services have almost disappeared from the streets of the capital, gathering rust and dust at depots of state-run Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation. BRTC imported 50 buses from Sweden in 2001, at a cost of Tk 60 crore, to provide comfortable service to commuters. It did not take long for

the off-white-yellow buses to win hearts of many Dhaka commuters. The good news was short-lived. In just 6-7 years the buses started developing faults needing repairs, largely due to poor maintenance. The 50-bus fleet has now come down to seven only. Those went out of order in 6-7 years even though such vehicles usually stay fit and roadworthy for at least 15 years, said Tareq Rahman, marketing director of Swedish

Motors, the maker of the vehicles. Similar double-decker buses are running up to 18 years in London, Singapore, and Hong Kong with proper maintenance, Rahman said. He said BRTC has a practice of taking spares from one running bus to repair another, causing damage to the good ones too. Sub-standard spares are also used, he said. During a recent visit to BRTC's Mirpur depot, The Daily Star found



Volvo double-deckers awaiting repairs at the BRTC bus depot in Mirpur-12, Dhaka.

PROJECT REVIEW

Poor utilisation of foreign funds irks Muhith

UNB, Dhaka

Expressing concern over poor utilisation of project assistance in some 37 foreign-funded projects, Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday pointed an accusing finger at both the government and the donors for sluggish implementation. "The government will have to enhance utilisation of foreign aid in the development projects. There is also a need for internal reforms," he said while briefing reporters after a review meeting with the Economic Relations Division at the ministry's conference room. The meeting was held to discuss utilisation of project assistance in the revised Annual Development Programme (ADP) of the current fiscal year. The finance minister expressed concerns, especially over the progress of projects under five ministries - power, health, local government, communications and education. "After discussing with ministries concerned, we found

1971 WAR CRIMES
Probe agency to visit 1,000 mass graves

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The investigation agency of International Crimes Tribunal is collecting evidence from over 1,000 mass graves and genocide sites across the country for the long-awaited trial of war criminals. Two detectives of the agency, Additional Superintendent of Police Matiuur Rahman and Inspector Shyamol Chowdhury, said this after completing a three-day visit to Rajshahi on Sunday. "The home ministry last week asked the police department to assign 10 inspectors and 10 sub-inspectors to the agency by the middle of this

BERC for 'rational hike' in CNG price

Public hearing on govt proposal held

STAR REPORT

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission is likely to give the go-ahead to Petrobangla's proposal to increase the prices of CNG at both consumer and dealer levels. But the hike in prices of CNG (compressed natural gas) may not be as much as 48 percent as sought by the state-run Petrobangla. "A ground for hike in prices of CNG has been established. But we will allow a rational increase in prices considering the economic interests of all and also in the context of reality," said BERC Chairman Syed Yusuf Hossain. His comments came during a six-hour-long public hearing at BERC office on the Petrobangla bid to hike CNG prices. Officials of Petrobangla and CNG stations, bus-truck owners, consumers and environmental activists attended the

BNP to join JS session

Says opposition chief whip

UNB, Dhaka
Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque yesterday said BNP will join the current parliament session. Replying to a question, Zainul made the remarks when he along with new committee of Narshingdi district Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal went to place wreaths at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman. He said the matter will be finalised within a couple of days. Asked whether they are joining the session to protect their parliament membership, the opposition chief whip said they will go to the House to talk

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BNP chief Khaleda Zia that the debate created by the government centering Grameen Bank and Dr Yunus is nothing but a blatant exhibition of its partisan views and mean mindedness?

Yes (80.8%)
No (16.9%)
No Comments (2.3%)

TOTAL VOTES : 699

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the High Court rule ends the controversy over Prof Muhammad Yunus' removal from the Grameen Bank's managing director post?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net



Payment-in-advance has motivated farmers of Bandarban district in tobacco farming. Around 90 percent arable land is under tobacco cultivation. This is a recent snap of Matamuhuri riverbanks at Alikadam.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Building owners fined for lack of fire safety

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Fire Service and Civil Defence in a drive yesterday penalised the city's four commercial establishments, including Navana Tower Shopping Complex, for not having necessary fire safety measures and fire department's clearance. The court led by executive magistrate Muhammad Kamruzzaman of Dhaka district administration penalised three different owners' associations of Navana Tower Tk 2 lakh each. All the business organisations penalised were given three months time to get the clearance and install all the required fire fighting tools including extinguishers, hose reel and underground and overhead water reservoirs in compliance with the fire prevention act. The offenders will face stricter punishment if they miss the deadline, Kamruzzaman told The Daily Star. Fazlul Haq Pathan and Masudur Rahman, respectively president and general secretary of Navana Tower Shop Owner's Association that occupy first four floors, confessed to the court that they did not obtain licence from the fire department. They were not aware of the legal requirement for

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