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in Short



Woman killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the slaughtered body of a septuagenarian woman from her Mirpur residence in the capital early yesterday.

The deceased, Nurjahan Begum, 75, lived alone in her

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Rebels claim key oil town

Regime rejects truce offer; Nato air strikes kill civilians

AFP, Brega

Libyan rebels were claiming victory yesterday in the battle for Brega as heavy fighting ensued around the oil town amid reports four civilians were among the dead in a Nato air strike nearby.

Although there was no immediate confirmation of the claim Brega had fallen to the rebels, a correspondent at the scene saw seven bodies of pro-Gaddafi fighters and at least 10 burnt-out pick-up trucks along the road between Ajdabiya and Brega, 80 kilometres to the west.

A coalition air raid late on Friday killed 13 people, four of them civilians, some 15 kilometres east of the battleground town of Brega, a rebel civilian official told AFP.

The four civilians were an ambulance driver and three medical students from the second city of Benghazi, who were part of a rebel convoy of five or six vehicles, said Issa Khamis, liaison officer for the rebels' transitional

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 7



MOTHERING KIDS

Slum dweller and pet lover Amena Khatun of Kamrangirchar feeds kids as her kitten looks on. The nanny goat was stolen forcing Amena to bottle-feed the two.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Baby girl molested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A four-year-old girl was molested by her neighbour, a 30-year-old man, on Friday night in the city's Hatirpool area.

Mosleh Uddin, driver of a private car lured her to his residence after buying her an ice cream.

The victim is currently under treatment at One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) of

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OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS

Construction sites go unwatched

M RAHMAN

No government body is monitoring occupational hazards at construction sites even though hundreds die each year in Bangladesh.

The building rules of 2006 refer to Bangladesh National Building Code, 2006, for safer construction of buildings. The code still awaits enforcement.

On October 13, the High Court asked the government to establish National Building Code Enforcement Authority in accordance with the code but the copy of

the order is yet to reach the authorities concerned.

The order was issued after three rights NGOs, including Safety and Rights Society and Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust, filed a writ petition following Rangs Bhaban tragedy of 2007. The accident left a number of construction workers dead.

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) Chairman Nurul Huda said Rajuk is monitoring whether construction is being done in accordance with the Rajuk

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Withdraw hartal

Demand businesses; no BNP support yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry yesterday urged Islami Oikya Jote to withdraw the hartal called by it tomorrow.

A faction of the IOJ, a

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

AL sees bad days ahead

Wants right strategy ready to steer country out of economic challenges

HASAN JAHI TUSHER

The ruling Awami League apprehends economic crisis in the country due to the ongoing Middle-East uprising, rise in food prices and looming energy crisis.

The recent tsunami in Japan has also made the government nervous, as the biggest bilateral donor and development partner of the country would not be in a position to fund several major infrastruc-

ture projects soon. The party leaders and ministers believe that it is high time the government figured out new strategies to steer the country out of the hard time.

"Instability in manpower market with declining flow of remittance, price hike of commodities, share market situation, return of over 33,000 workers from Libya,

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PHOTO: AFP

Libyan rebels flash V-sign close to the strategic oil town of Brega, some 800 kilometres east of the capital Tripoli, the control of which they claim to have seized from fighters loyal to Gaddafi yesterday.

'800 killed' in Ivory Coast

AGENCIES

Soldiers backing Alassane Ouattara met stiff resistance from incumbent Laurent Gbagbo's fighters in Ivory Coast's main city of Abidjan yesterday as the two sides fought for control of the West African country.

In a sign of how bloody the conflict has become, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said at least 800 people were killed in intercommunal violence in the western Ivorian town of Duekoue this week.

That would bring the confirmed death toll from violence since the presidential election, in which Ouattara was the internationally recognised winner, to 1,300 people.

The actual toll is likely to be much higher because the fighting has been so heavy and because Gbagbo's forces rarely disclose their own losses or civilians they kill.

There was fighting around the Presidential Palace, state broadcaster RTI and military bases between forces loyal to the two presidential rivals, and a Reuters reporter heard gunfire and explosions from heavy shelling near

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Help find the corrupt in judiciary

Says CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque yesterday said he is working to purge the judiciary of corruption and urged the victims to make specific allegations.

He was speaking at a workshop as chief guest at the capital's Cirdap

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think amendment to the article 70 of the constitution that bars MPs from going against their party decisions in the House will serve its purpose?

Yes (48.0%)
No (47.2%)
No Comments (4.8%)

TOTAL VOTES : 269

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Attorney General that pro-BNP-Jamaat panel's win in the Supreme Court Bar Association poll will help BNP-Jamaat alliance to fight against govt's move to hold trial of war criminals?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING April 3

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40 5-15
Zohr	12-45 1-15
Asr	4-45 5-00
Maghrib	6-21 6-24
Esha	7-45 8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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WRITERS: Hameeda Hossain, Pramita Paul Majumder, Professor Masuda M. Rashid Chowdhury, Mahmuda Imam, Monalisa Mita, Hana Shams Ahmed, Md. Khairul Islam, Mahbuba Zannat, Alpha Arzu, A. K. M. Nurun Nabi, Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Abu Ahmed

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