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Padma work underway

As part of the Padma bridge project, work continues under the supervision of army at Mawa in Munshiganj for building an approach road, police station and other facilities and knocking down structures on the land acquired for the scheme. The photos were taken last week.



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BCL men attack police station

Reason trivial altercation

DU CORRESPONDENT

Two lawmen including a sub-inspector of the capital's New Market Police Station were injured yesterday in an attack by around 100 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League's Sir AF Rahman Hall unit. The attack was carried out around 2:45pm after an altercation broke out between a BCL activist and a police official at a restaurant in Nilkhet Book Market. Sources said Mukit Hasan of Dhaka University's AF Rahman Hall and SI Saifullah were having lunch at the restaurant sitting next to each other. The walkie-talkie of Saifullah was turned on at that time. Getting annoyed, Mukit, also a student of English department, asked the SI to turn off his walkie-talkie, but Saifullah refused, saying that the device was meant for internal communication.

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Pak minister attacks Modi, Congress fires back

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India's ruling party Congress may be a strong critic of Narendra Modi on a range of issues but it joined its main political rival Bharatiya Janata Party in slamming Pakistan Interior Minister Choudhary Nasir Ali Khan's remarks suggesting that if Modi is elected as prime minister he would "destabilise" regional peace. Both the BJP and Congress said on Wednesday that Pakistan should stay within its limits and not interfere in India's internal matters. BJP spokesperson Meenakshi Lekhi termed Khan's comments "an over-reaction in a matter that is not his subject" and suggested Pakistan mend its ways and the manner of dealing with India. She said the Pakistani minister should understand that "individual leaders in sovereign nations are elected by the people and no one from any other nation has the right to interfere in our national affairs".



Congress leader and India's Information and Broadcasting Minister Manish Tewari termed Khan's statement as unfortunate and said the Pakistani government must introspect on it. Congress general secretary Shakeel Ahmed said "Pakistan must definitely stay within limits and not interfere in our internal affairs. We are capable of handling our affairs. Our people are capable enough to decide whom to elect and whom not to elect and it is the people's decision. We don't need any advice from any Pakistani minister". The Pakistani minister had also reacted to Modi's comments on Indian Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde's statements that India would seek FBI's help to nab Dawood Ibrahim, one of India's most wanted men. The statement came against the backdrop of assertions by Modi that he will bring back Dawood

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2 Hindu leaders to campaign against Modi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Two key Hindu religious leaders have announced they will campaign against Bharatiya Janata Party's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi in the temple town of Varanasi from where he is contesting the parliamentary election. Puri Shankaracharya Swami Adhokshjanand Devtirath blamed Modi for the 2002 Gujarat riots and Dwarka Shankaracharya Swami Swaroopnand Saraswati has also been his critic since long. "I will go to Varanasi and expose Modi," Swami Adhokshjanand told the

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'GUNFIGHT' IN COX'S BAZAR

Four policemen among six hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Six people, including four policemen, were injured in a "gunfight" between law enforcers and alleged criminals in the district's Maheshkhali upazila early yesterday. Abul Kalam, a sub-inspector of Maheshkhali Police Station, was among the injured policemen, said Alamgir Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station. The three other injured cops are Tapan Dey, Nayan Chakma and Kilu Aung Marma. They all took first aid. As part of the ongoing anti-crime move, police conducted a drive at Nonachhari village and picked up one Helal Uddin from his home around 2:00am for his alleged involvement in criminal activities. Locals said Helal is a member of Khalil Bahini that runs various criminal activities, including snatching, land grabbing and arms trading, in the area. Following Helal's confessional statement, police detained his close aide Sana Ullah from Sana's house at

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It's a phablet

MAIL ONLINE

Phablets -- a cross between a phone and tablet -- have typically divided gadget fans, either they are too big, too small or not powerful enough. A team of researchers in Canada have created a potential solution with a device that changes from a phone to a tablet and a notebook, using a set of screens and hinges. The foldable gadget can be made smaller for texting, or larger for reading maps, and can even create a makeshift laptop with a keyboard.

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JAMAAT'S REGISTRATION

Appeal loses pace at SC

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Uncertainty looms large over the quick disposal of Jamaat-e-Islami's registration case, as neither side seems to be eager for a hearing of the case. The High Court on August 1 last year declared Jamaat's registration with the Election Commission illegal, making it unfit for contesting the national polls. The HC verdict came following a writ petition collectively filed by 25 petitioners, including several Islamist parties, organisations and individuals challenging the EC's 2008 decision to allow Jamaat's registration. On December 12, Jamaat filed an appeal with the Supreme Court challenging the HC verdict.

A reliable source in Jamaat told The Daily Star on April 8 that the party was not thinking about its registration and that other government pressures on the party were keeping it preoccupied. The party was busy trying to protect its leaders and activists and their properties and contesting elections took a back seat, the source added. Belayet Hossain, a lawyer of Jamaat, told The Daily Star on March 28 that senior counsel Abdur Razzaq was supposed to move the appeal at the Appellate Division. But Razzaq was abroad and it was uncertain when he would return, he added. Petitioners' lawyer Tania Amir on the same day said Jamaat was sup-

posed to take initiative for early hearing of the appeal, as the party had filed the appeal with the SC. "Jamaat-e-Islami's lawyers are apparently not sincere in getting the hearing. If they do not take any step for the hearing soon, we will make a move to that end," she added. On March 23, Law Minister Anisul Huq told reporters at a "Meet the Press" programme at Dhaka Reporters Unity that the government would decide on banning Jamaat after the SC delivered a verdict on its registration with the EC. Since the case was pending with the SC, the government would not do anything before it was disposed of, he added.

The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the Human Rights Watch that Bangladesh should prosecute members of law enforcement agencies found responsible for unlawful killings, torture, and other human rights abuses?

Yes (94%)

No (6%)

TOTAL VOTES: 416

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the law enforcers would be able to arrest the people behind the recent abductions and killings in Narayanganj?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

Afghan landslides kill 350; thousands missing

Toll could reach 2,500, says local governor

AFP, Mazar-i-sharif

Landslides buried a village in northern Afghanistan yesterday, killing at least 350 people and leaving thousands of others feared dead, as rescuers searched desperately for survivors trapped under the mud. Villagers at the disaster site in Badakhshan province used shovels to dig through rocks and dirt, with local authorities, the United Nations and the Nato military force all racing to assess the damage and provide help. "Two successive landslides within one hour hit Aab Bareek village today," Gul Mohammad Baidaar, deputy governor of Badakhshan, told AFP. "A hill collapsed on the village. Most of those missing had gathered in two mosques to offer Friday prayers. The second landslide hit locals who came to help." Badakhshan governor Shah Waliullah Adeb told AFP by telephone that the death

toll be as high as 2,500. "Our initial findings based on local people's reports show around 2,500 people including women and children might be dead," he said. "It is difficult to get confirmed information from the scene and we are seeking to determine the facts." Badakhshan is a remote, mountainous province in northeast Afghanistan bordering Tajikistan, China and Pakistan. It has been relatively peaceful since the US-led military intervention began in 2001, but has seen increasing Taliban activity in recent years. "The number of deceased has increased to 350," the UN mission in Afghanistan said in a statement. "A response is being mobilised for those who survived but were displaced, with some partners already on the ground."

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Meena Media Award 2014

Introduced in 2005, Meena Media Award has stepped the ten year in 2014. The award recognizes excellence in promoting children's issues in the media. Submission are solicited from Bangladeshi citizens working with both print and broadcast media in two different age groups: Under-18 and 18 & above. News, articles, features published in print media and programmes broadcast by radio and television that investigate and explore children's issues to improve the lives of children in Bangladesh, or provide healthy entertainment for children are eligible to compete for the award. Entries are invited in the following six categories:

- Print Media - Reports (news reports, investigative reports, post editorials)
- Print Media - Creative (articles, features, stories, poems)
- Television - Reports (news reports, investigative reports)
- Television - Creative (features, documentaries, short film, plays, songs)
- Radio - Report (news reports, investigative reports)
- Radio - Creative (features, documentaries, radio dramas, songs)

For all categories prizes are:

- First Prize : A Crest, certificate and Taka 50,000
- Second Prize : A Crest, certificate and Taka 25,000
- Third Prize : A Crest, certificate and Taka 15,000

Entries should be published/broadcast between May 1, 2013 and April 30, 2014.

Deadline: By June 1, 2014

To download the details of the submission and eligibility criteria for the award, please visit www.unicef.org.bd or collect from the Reception Desk, UNICEF Bangladesh at BSL Office Complex, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka 1000

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