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# A city of fear

Brutal 7-murder sends a wave of panic among N'ganj dwellers

WASIM BIN HABIB, back from Narayanganj

If you take a walk along the streets of Narayanganj city, you can't help noticing numerous posters with gory images on the walls on both sides. Severed hands and legs, battered heads, bullet-ridden or bloodstained bodies -- such gruesome pictures would send shudders down your spine.

And all the posters have the same words inscribed: "We demand arrest. Hang the killers".

These terrifying posters clearly demonstrate the horror the people of the port city live in.

"Every day I come out of my house wondering whether I would be able to return home safely. It seems unsafe everywhere. We have been robbed of our peace and serenity," said Sheikh Abu Raihan, who works at a private organisation in Narayanganj.

Previously called the "Dandee of the East", the port city is now known for abduction, killings, drug trade and all sorts of illegal activities one can imagine. The recent incident in which Narayanganj city panel mayor Nazrul Islam and six others were abducted and brutally killed has only made the situation worse.

With all fingers pointing at a particular law enforcement agency for the incident, the only question that now buzzes among the panic-stricken inhabitants of the city is: "Are we safe?"

"We feel scared to send our kids to schools. It's a suffocating situation here," said Raihan, father of two children.

Many alleged that crimes spread in the city under the aegis of the law enforcers, who often turn a blind eye to the complaints of victims.

"Every businessman has to pay extortion money. Otherwise they are harassed in one way or another. Narayanganj has become a city of terror," said a small trader at Chashara intersection, wishing not to be named.

City dwellers blame the years-long order of impunity of known criminals in the area for the current situation. With the prime accused of the

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Posters demanding punishment to the killers of Narayanganj panel mayor Nazrul Islam and lawyer Chandan Sarker on a wall on the Narayanganj court premises. The duo along with five others were abducted and murdered, and their bodies were dumped in the Shitalakkhya late last month. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# End of Manmohan era

Architect of India's economic reform leaving after 10yrs

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The ten-year tenure of Congress-led United Progressive Alliance government comes to an end today when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh calls on President Pranab Mukherjee and submits resignation.

"The prime minister sought time and the president has given time for 12:45pm tomorrow," Rashtrapati Bhavan Press Secretary Venu Rajamony said yesterday.

Ahead of the meeting, official sources said 81-year-old Singh will hold a customary meeting of his cabinet.

Manmohan Singh, the architect of India's economic reforms in early 1990s,

today steps down as India's 13th prime minister after a decade in the top post leaving a mixed legacy of achievements and failures.

If the Indo-US civil nuclear deal was the high point in India's foreign policy during his tenure from May 2004 when he became the PM for the first time, the failure to deliver on getting the India-Bangladesh land boundary accord ratified in parliament and signing the Teesta water-sharing agreement are the failures.

On the economic front, Manmohan, a leading economist, delivered an 8.5 percent

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Manmohan Singh



Summer is adored as the season of fruits in Bangladesh. It is when people get to feast on fruits like mangoes, jackfruits, litchis and black berries. In this photo, a vendor shows bunches of litchis, one of the favourites, on the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday. He was selling a hundred litchis for Tk 300 to 400, as the supply of litchis from different districts to the capital is yet to reach its peak.

PHOTO: STAR

## Gazi TV wins BCB media rights

SPORTS REPORTER

Local satellite channel Gazi TV has won a \$20.025 million contract with Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) for the worldwide media rights over the period from May 2014 to April 2020.

Gazi Satellite Television Limited faced no challenge in the open bid to acquire BCB's media rights by paying little more than the floor price of 20 million dollars and becoming the first local company to be awarded the long-term deal.

The first five-year TV deal was with WorldTel which was finally taken over by ESPN-STAR for 11.75 million dollars and then the second and last long-term deal was made with Nimbus for 56.88 million dollars.

The 'ground-breaking' deal with Nimbus proved ill-fated as the board reportedly received less than 20 million dollars from the Singapore-based company.

The BCB, in a meeting yesterday at a local hotel, decided to award its worldwide media rights to Gazi

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## CHT COUNCIL LEGALITY

# No move yet for disposal of appeals

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Uncertainty looms large over a ruling from the Supreme Court on the fate of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, as the lawyers concerned are yet to take steps to dispose of pending appeals on its legality.

Following two separate writ petitions, the High Court in April 2010 declared the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council illegal and unconstitutional.

The court said the unitary character of the state, which is the basic feature of the constitution, has been hampered due to its formation.

The council can now run since the HC verdict has been halted following a stay order from the Supreme Court.

The government and the CHT Regional Council have filed two separate appeals with the SC challenging the HC verdict, saying that the CHT Regional Council is a statutory authority to facilitate the functions of three hill district councils and was formed in line with the constitution.

The provisions of the CHT Regional Council Act 1998, which have been declared unconstitutional by the HC, are actually protected by the constitution, as it provides for affirmative action in favour of a backward section of the population.

Sara Hossain, the council's lawyer, told The Daily Star recently that the attorney general's office had to take the initiative for hearing on the appeal, as the government was the main party in the case.

She said the council legal team was ready to place

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Students use text smileys in exams

MAIL ONLINE

Pupils are losing marks in their exams because standards of handwriting are declining and emoticons are creeping into answers, a survey revealed Thursday.

More than a third of teachers in UK complained they had seen emoticons -- facial expressions formed of punctuation marks used in emails and social media messages -- written in exam answers.

Tablets and smartphones are being blamed for poor handwriting and growing use of text message shorthand including smiley, sad or winking faces.

Nearly two-thirds of teachers admitted docking marks in tests



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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with TIB report that the judiciary has been increasingly subjected to political manipulation under successive governments?

Yes (95%)

No (5%)

TOTAL VOTES: 210

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Bangladesh would be able to continue good relationship with the new government of India?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

PRAYER TIMING May 17

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-34	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## GIDARI RIVER

# India 'to stop' work on barrage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) has told the BGB that India will stop the construction of a barrage on the Gidari river, just 400 metres upstream from the no-mans' land at Kutibari border in the district's Aditmari upazila.

The BSF came up with the decision at a battalion-level flag meeting between the two forces in Dinhatra Police Station of India's Cooch Behar BSF Battalion, opposite to Kutibari border, yesterday.

Lt Col Shafiq Alam Khan, commanding officer of Lalmonirhat 15 BGB Battalion, led the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) team and Baby Joseph, commandant of 124 Cooch Behar BSF Battalion, led the BSF team.

Joseph said, "India refrains from building the barrage on the river in Daribash village of Dinhatra Police Station until the Indo-Bangla Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) makes any decision in this regard."

The BSF would take all necessary steps to stop constructing the barrage, the BSF commandant said, adding that he would convey the flag meeting's decision to the authorities concerned of the JRC, India.

Shafiq said, "I will communicate the meeting's decision to the authorities concerned of the JRC immediately, and it will make the final decision about the barrage on the river."

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## SSC results today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and its equivalent examinations will be published simultaneously today across the country.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will formally announce the results through a press briefing at the secretariat around 1:00pm.

Prior to that, he will hand over a copy of the results to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at 10:00am.

From 2:30pm, examinees can get their results from their respective centres, websites of their respective boards or from mobile phones through SMS.

Around 14.32 lakh candidates took part in this year's SSC and its equivalent examinations at 2,942 centres held under 10 education boards.

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