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Upazila chairman shot, burnt alive

Brutal daylight murder in Feni; motive unknown; BGB deployed in troubled area

STAR REPORT

An upazila chairman was shot and then burned alive in his car by unidentified assailants in broad daylight in Feni yesterday.

Ekramul Haque, 45, chairman of Phulgazi upazila and also president of the upazila Awami League, died on the spot.

Four of his associates, including a local journalist, were injured when the attackers set Ekramul's car on fire near Bilashi cinema hall in the town around 11:00am.

The motive behind the murder remains unknown, but the district AL President Abdul Rahman said rivalry over the recent upazila election or personal enmity might be the reason.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ordered the law enforcement agencies to arrest the culprits, reports UNB.

The injured are Moin Uddin Shambhu, 60, former chairman of Phulgazi Sadar union; Mohibullah Farhad, 32, editor of local weekly magazine Feni Samachar; AL activist Abul Hossain, 45; and Ekramul's driver Abdullah Al Mamun, 30.

They were taken to Feni Sadar Hospital from where Mamun and Abul were brought to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for better treatment.

Feni Superintendent of Police Paritosh Ghosh told The Daily Star that 35-40 people, who came in several groups, carried out the attack.



Ekramul Haque

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The car of Phulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haque burns after an arson attack in Feni yesterday. The easy bike used by the attackers is also in flames.

PHOTO: STAR

Thai army declares martial law

ADP gets even bigger

Urges rivals to talk; new polls date declared; anti-govt protesters remain defiant

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's army chief imposed martial law yesterday after months of deadly anti-government protests caused political paralysis, but insisted the intervention did not amount to yet another military coup.

The early-hours announcement on military-run television said martial law had been invoked "to restore peace and order for people from all sides" after nearly seven

months of protests that have left 28 people dead and hundreds wounded.

"This is not a coup," it said. "The public do not need to panic but can still live their lives as normal."

Amid coup clamour, Interim Prime Minister Niwattumrong Boonsongpaisan yesterday called for fresh polls to be held on August 3. But the anti-government protesters said they will not stomach new polls

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Concern remains over timely implementation

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The size of the Annual Development Programme for the next fiscal year gets even bigger as the National Economic Council yesterday approved the ADP of Tk 80,315 crore.

The NEC raised the ADP by Tk 1,284 crore from Tk 79,031 crore, proposed by the planning ministry, despite growing concern over project implementation and availability of resources.

The approved ADP is about Tk 20,000 crore more than the revised ADP for the current fiscal year.

Considering the demands from different ministries, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina decided to increase the size of next year's ADP at the NEC meeting, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal

told reporters after the meeting.

Kamal said the ministries had pressed for an ADP of Tk 100,000 crore, but the allocations were finally made on the basis of their capability.

In the revised ADP for this fiscal year, the finance division allocated Tk 55,000 crore, considering the availability of resources and implementation capacity of the ministries. The NEC then increased the ADP by Tk 5,000 crore.

But the government could implement only 43 percent of the ADP in the first nine months of the current fiscal year, which was 6 percentage point lower than that in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year.

Zahid Hussain, lead economist at World Bank's Dhaka office, told The Daily Star that Tk 800

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ADP
(FY 2014-15)

Total size Tk **80,315**cr

34% bigger this time

1,993 projects

65% to be implemented with local funds

43% of current ADP implemented in 9 months



When the capital swelters in the summer heat, a labourer toils and sweats to pull this heavily-loaded pushcart under Babubazar bridge in Old Dhaka around 2:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN

Modi becomes Indian PM

To be sworn in on May 26

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Hindu nationalist leader Narendra Modi, who led his Bharatiya Janata Party to a decisive victory in parliamentary elections, will be sworn in as the 14th prime minister of India on May 26.

Armed with the support of 336 lawmakers of his party and its allies, Modi, 63, met President Pranab Mukherjee, who appointed him as the prime minister, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan yesterday.

Emerging from the meeting with Mukherjee, Modi told waiting media in the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan perched on Raisina Hills, "The president has appointed



me as PM by law and the swearing-in will take place at the same place on May 26 at 6:00pm (Indian time).

At the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the president and Modi exchanged bouquets and Mukherjee congratulated Modi on his and his party's grand election victory.

Modi's meeting with the president came soon after the former was elected leader of the

parliamentary party of the Bharatiya Janata Party at its meeting followed by another of BJP lawmakers and its 29 allies at the central hall of parliament, paving the way to his becoming prime minister of the world's

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18 Rab men reinstated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion has reinstated 18 of its members who were "withdrawn" over allegations of embezzling money seized during a swoop in the capital's Mugda.

The 18 include the commander of Crime Prevention Company (CPC)-3.

Rab Media Wing Director Habibur Rahman yesterday told The Daily Star that the personnel, all posted at Rab-3, were attached to the headquarters following some allegations, but after official procedures, they were sent back on Monday.

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MURDER OF BOY IN 2006

Nur Hossain sued

STAR REPORT

Another case has been filed against Nur Hossain, prime accused in the sensational seven-murder case in Narayanganj, and five of his aides for allegedly killing a schoolboy eight years ago.

Kazi Aktaruzzaman, father of victim Tipu Sultan, filed the case with the court of Narayanganj Chief Judicial Magistrate Shafiqul Islam yesterday.

The other accused are Rafiqul Islam Ratan, Aminul, Rostam Ali, Zakir and Sundar Ali Zaman.



In the case details, Aktaruzzaman, a businessman, alleged that Hossain demanded Tk 5 lakh as extortion money on August 20, 2006.

When he refused to pay them, Hossain and his aides called his fifth-grader son Tipu Sultan out of his Siddhirganj house on August 26, strangled him to death and dumped the body in the Shitalakkhya river.

Aktaruzzaman also alleged that he had gone to Siddhirganj police following the murder but they refused to document the case against Nur Hossain. Rather they

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MK Rahman quits ICT job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A day after being relieved of the additional attorney general post, MK Rahman resigned as the chief coordinator of the prosecution team of the war crimes tribunal yesterday.

Rahman confirmed his resignation to The Daily Star. He submitted his resignation letter to the law ministry without mentioning any reason.

Replying to a query, he said there was no pressure

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CRIMINALS FIRE INDISCRIMINATELY Two workers shot dead in Noakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Two transport workers were killed in indiscriminate firing by unidentified criminals early yesterday in Chatkhil upazila of the district.

Two masked men riding on a motorbike fired shots indiscriminately at Chatkhil sadar upazila around 5:30am, said Aminul Islam, officer-in-charge of Chatkhil Police Station. Struck by bullets, Dulal, 30, a van puller of Chatkhil municipal area, died on the spot, said the OC who had heard about the incident from witnesses.

The criminals then drove to Dashgaria bazaar and again shot bullets at people. Kamal Hossain, a staff of Al Baraka Paribahan, died in the firing. Two other people, Monir Hossain and Abdul Mannan, were injured this time.

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