



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Workers repairing potholes on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway on orders of Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, who visited the highway yesterday. The photo was taken in Kumira bypass area.

Germany in fourth heaven

FROM PAGE 1
The 22-year-old took the ball on his chest and then volleyed past Sergio Romero to spark delirium amongst the largely pro-German crowd.

Messi was largely anonymous for most of the evening and his miserable evening was summed up when a late free-kick to equalise sailed over the bar.

The victory was celebrated raucously by Brazilians in the crowd, who had dreaded the prospect of sworn South American rivals Argentina lifting the title in their backyard.

An absorbing first half saw Germany forced into a reshuffle moments before kick-off with inexperienced Christoph Kramer replacing Sami Khedira after the Real Madrid star injured a calf in the warm up.

With Bastian Schweinsteiger running midfield the Germans laid siege to Argentinian territory, passing smoothly and denying Messi a route into the game.

Yet for all Germany's early dominance they created little in the way of clear chances.

And it was Argentina who were presented with a glorious chance to open the scoring.

Toni Kroos misdirected a header back to Manuel Neuer to send Gonzalo Higuain racing through on goal.

But with only Neuer to beat the Napoli striker dragged his shot wide to disbelief from fans and teammates.

Germany continued to probe for openings, and a Lahm pass almost put Thomas Mueller clear.

The pace of Argentina on the counter-attack continued to unsettle Germany however.

Schweinsteiger picked up a yellow card for bringing down Ezequiel Lavezzi just after the half hour mark.

Moments later, Higuain had the ball in the net for Argentina only to see the goal disallowed for offside.

Germany's personnel problems deepened when Kramer himself went off, prompting the introduction of Schuerlle.

The Germans remained unfazed by the setback however, and quickly set about reimposing their control of the game.

Schuerlle drew a fine near-post save from Romero on 37 minutes with a rasping shot after Mueller's cutback.

But the latent threat of Messi meant Germany could never entirely relax.

Messi burst away down the right and raced into the box, toe-poked past Neuer only for Jerome Boateng to clear.

On the stroke of half-time Benedikt Hoewedes came within inches of scoring, crashing a header from a Kroos corner against the post.

The second half followed a similar pattern, Germany controlling possession but Argentina often threatening on the break.

Messi squandered another golden Argentinian chance shortly after the restart, latching onto a pass from Lucas Biglia but scuffing his shot wide of Neuer.

The hard-fought nature of the con-

test led to a flurry of cards from referee Nicola Rizzoli, who cautioned Javier Mascherano and Sergio Aguero in quick succession for fouls on Miroslav Klose and Schweinsteiger.

The remainder of the half saw neither side able to get on top.

Germany controlled possession without really testing Romero, while Argentina were unable to pass a German defence superbly marshalled by Mats Hummels and Boateng.

Schuerlle came closest to breaking the deadlock in the first period of extra-time, forcing Romero into a desperate block.

Penalties looked to be the likeliest outcome, but Goetze had other ideas.

TEAMS

GERMANY: Manuel Neuer - Philipp Lahm (captain), Jerome Boateng, Mats Hummels, Benedikt Howedes - Christoph Kramer (Andre Schuerlle 32), Bastian Schweinsteiger, Toni Kroos - Thomas Mueller, Miroslav Klose (Mario Goetze 88), Mesut Ozil (Per Mertesacker 120)

Yellow card: Bastian Schweinsteiger (29), Benedikt Howedes (34)

ARGENTINA: Sergio Romero - Pablo Zabaleta, Martin Demichelis, Ezequiel Garay, Marcos Rojo - Ezequiel Lavezzi (Sergio Aguero 46), Lucas Biglia, Javier Mascherano, Enzo Pérez (Fernando Gago 86) - Lionel Messi (captain), Gonzalo Higuain (Rodrigo Palacio 78)

Yellow card: Javier Mascherano (64), Sergio Aguero (65)

Referee: Nicola Rizzoli (Italy)

Gunman attack diving resort on Malaysia's Borneo island

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

A policeman was killed and a second kidnapped after heavily armed gunmen opened fire at a Malaysian diving resort off Borneo island, a fresh escalation of violence in the tourist hotspot, a security official said yesterday.

The shooting on Mabul island is the latest in a spate of abductions in Malaysia's remote Sabah state, home to some of the world's top diving sites, with travel agents saying the violence has already hurt visits to the area.

A major hunt has been launched to track down the criminals believed to have come "from a neighbouring country", Abdul Rashid Harun, head of Sabah state eastern security zone, told AFP.

One security official said on condition of anonymity that the criminals are believed to be gunmen from the Sulu islands in the Philippines.

Describing the deadly incident that happened late Saturday, Abdul Rashid said a police outpost guarding a resort in Mabul island was ambushed by at least six to eight masked gunmen wearing black t-shirts and military trousers.

"The group of heavily armed gunmen shot and killed a 32-year-old policeman and kidnapped another personnel member. They escaped in a boat into neighbouring waters. We have launched a security operation to track down the criminals," he said.

Tan Kok Liang, vice president of the Malaysian Association of Tour & Travel Agents for inbound tourism, told AFP the latest incident was a "blatant challenge" to Malaysia's security.

"I urge the government to take firm measures to upgrade security.

Messi wins Golden Ball

FROM PAGE 1

Colombia's young striker James Rodriguez claimed the Golden Boot with six goals. Despite his country going out at the quarterfinal stage the 23-year-old's haul was never matched. Among his half dozen goals was the magical chest and volley against Uruguay.

The Monaco forward, who stepped in manfully to fill the void left by Colombia's injured Radamel Falcao, also scored in the 2-1 quarterfinal loss to Brazil. He got a second against Uruguay in the last 16 game, and one in each of Colombia's first-round matches against Ivory Coast, Greece and Japan.

Germany's Thomas Mueller ended up in second place with five goals.

Messi, injured Brazil star Neymar and Dutch striker Robin van Persie, shared third spot with four each.

Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer won the Golden Glove award for the tournament's best goalkeeper.

The 28-year-old Bayern Munich beat off competition from Argentine opposite number Sergio Romero and Keylor Navas of surprise package Costa Rica. Neuer was beaten only four times in the tournament and kept clean sheets in the 1-0 quarter-final win over France and the victory over Argentina in the final.

He succeeds Spain's Iker Casillas, who was voted outstanding goalkeeper at the 2010 tournament in South Africa.

Putin seeks 'multipolarity' in Latin America visit

AFP, Buenos Aires

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Argentine counterpart Cristina Kirchner called Saturday for a multipolar world order as Moscow sought to boost ties with Latin America amid heightened East-West tensions.

Putin is on a six-day tour seeking to increase Moscow's influence in the region at a time when the Ukraine crisis has eroded Russia's relations with the United States and Europe to their lowest point since the Cold War.

His itinerary includes meetings with a string of leftist leaders critical of the United States and a summit of the BRICS group of emerging countries -- an agenda that neatly aligns with his push for a multipolar world less dominated by the West.

Kirchner is meanwhile waging her own fight against Washington, battling a US court ruling that Argentina must pay more than \$1.3 billion by the end of the month to hedge funds refusing to accept the restructuring of the country's defaulted debt.

Putin said Russia shared "a very similar, very close view of international relations" with Argentina.

He also voiced his support for

Argentina's long-standing territorial claim to the Falkland Islands, the British territory it calls the Malvinas, which sparked a 1982 war between the two countries.

"We favor the principles of a multipolar world, which are equality, indivisibility and security. Russia continues to support the need to find a solution to the dispute over the Malvinas Islands at direct negotiations between Great Britain and Argentina," he said at a dinner in his honor.

The Argentine leader for her part insisted that global institutions must be overhauled and made more multi-lateral.

"We firmly believe in multipolarity, in multilateralism, in a world where countries don't have a double standard," Kirchner said after the pair toured the presidential palace in Buenos Aires.

"We need to globally regulate the flow of capital that has turned the world into a financial casino where many countries are drowning in huge debts."

She called for the next meeting of G20 major economies to set a broader agenda that also targets global economic and financial regulation.

France ends Mali offensive, redeploys troops to restive Sahel

AFP, Paris

France yesterday said its military offensive that freed northern Mali from the grip of Islamists would be replaced by an operation spanning the wider, largely lawless Sahel region to combat extremist violence.

The so-called Serval offensive kicked off in January last year when French troops came to the help of Malian soldiers to rid the country's vast desert north from Islamists and Tuareg rebels who seized control after a coup.

France had initially planned to put an end to Serval and redeploy troops to the Sahel region in May but a fresh bout of clashes between rebels and the army in the flashpoint northern town of Kidal forced Paris to delay the pull-out.

"The president wanted a reorganisation of our troops in the (Sahel) zone," Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Sunday in a television interview.

He said French-led Serval had been successful. "Now there is a concern for us and for the countries in the area to make sure there is no upsurge (in terrorism) as there are still major risks that jihadists will develop in the zone that goes from the Horn of Africa to Guinea-Bissau."

The new operation, codenamed Barkhan, will kick off in the coming days and is being implemented in partnership with five countries in the Sahel-Sahara region, Le Drian said, without detailing which nations these were.

He added the operation would consist of around 3,000 soldiers, and drones, helicopters and fighter jets would be used.

Le Drian did not mention what nationality the troops would be, but he had said in May that this "counter-terrorism" operation would consist of 3,000 French soldiers who would be present in northern Mali, the north of Niger and in Chad.

"The aim is to prevent what I call the highway of all forms of traffic to become a place of permanent passage, where jihadist groups between Libya and the Atlantic Ocean can rebuild themselves, which would lead to serious consequences for our security," Le Drain said.

"It's our security which is at stake."

Thousands in France march against Israel's Gaza offensive

AFP, Paris

Thousands of people in France yesterday protested against Israel and in support of residents in the Gaza Strip, where a six-day conflict has left 166 Palestinians dead.

Several thousand demonstrators marched calmly through the streets of Paris behind a large banner that read "Total Support for the Struggle of the Palestinian People".

In the northern city of Lille, between 2,300 and 6,000 people protested, according to differing figures provided by the police and organisers.

The latest descent into violence began on June 12 when three Israeli teenagers were kidnapped and later murdered, triggering a major military crackdown on Hamas in the West Bank and an escalation of rocket fire from Gaza.

The brutal revenge killing of a Palestinian teenager by Jewish extremists on July 2 added further fuel to the fire, becoming an all-out conflict on July 8 when Israel launched an air campaign against Gaza militants.

Hearing today

FROM PAGE 2

Apu, among the companions of Tarique, is believed to have made a huge amount of illegal wealth by misusing Hawa Bhaban, the so-called alternative power house of the then BNP-led government.

He had gone into hiding after the arrests of Khaleda and Tarique in 2007. It is believed he used to stay in Malaysia and London before his surrender.

Apu made the surrender before the Dhaka court with the hope to get bailed as advised by Tarique, sources said.

Israel launches

FROM PAGE 1

Most of the injured were returning home from a mosque when they were caught by shrapnel from the blast.

Meanwhile, militants in the Islamist-ruled Gaza Strip kept up rocket salvos deep into Israel.

On Sunday Israel appeared poised to escalate its military campaign still further, leafleting a large area of northern Gaza and sending text messages ordering residents to leave their homes by midday in advance of a large-scale bombing campaign against what it said were rocket-launching sites in Beit Lahiya and Attatra.

As the ultimatum drew near, hundreds fled Beit Lahiya, many heading to UN-run schools which were taking in refugees.

"They are sending warning messages," said Mohammad Abu Halemah, a local resident. "Once we received the message, we felt scared to stay in our homes. We want to leave."

A leaflet dropped by the Israeli military in Beit Lahiya read: "Those who fail to comply with the instructions will endanger their lives and the lives of their families. Beware."

The 2am commando raid was the first time Israeli forces have set foot in Gaza since the beginning of the current campaign.

Hours earlier, Hamas tried to hit Tel Aviv with long-range rockets in an attack it had flagged up widely in advance on social media.

According to the Israel Defence Forces the raid, which set out to destroy nearby launchers, was "accomplished" and unconfirmed reports suggested three members of Hamas had been killed in the ensuing gun battle.

Four Israelis were reported injured during the raid after apparently being spotted approaching and being engaged by waiting Palestinian fighters.

Saad al-Dawla, the night watchman of al-Mathaf hotel, said he was sleeping when the commandos came to the beach a few hundred metres away.

"At the beginning we heard shooting from the Palestinian side. I got up and looked out the window and saw that there were people shooting from the water. Almost immediately an [Israeli] helicopter came and started shooting at the water as well," he said. "Later I heard shelling from the sea

and the sounded of a warship's siren. The whole thing lasted about two hours."

Another local resident, who would only give his nickname, Abu Adam, said he had been woken by the sound of fighting coming from the beach. "I was lying on the floor with my children. We could hear the sounds of shelling and gunfire and see the windows lit up by the explosions and the flares."

Earlier in the evening 22 members of the same family were killed when two bombs demolished a house belonging to Majid Batsh, a cousin of the Hamas chief of police Tayseer, with whom he was sheltering.

All that remained of the substantial building on Sunday morning were a few concrete stumps of the pillars that had supported it. A girl aged three was among those killed in the bombing.

"They were my cousins," said Mohammad al-Batsh, 20, a civil engineering student. "I was coming home from mosque when I heard a huge explosion. At first I didn't know where the sound was coming from. The air was full of dust and smoke. It felt like an earthquake."

"When I got here, I saw destruction everywhere. The bodies were so badly burned I could not recognise anyone. Thirteen of the dead came from my cousin Majid's family. He was just a driver. There are five still missing including a pregnant woman."

On Sunday, Palestinians with foreign passports began leaving Gaza through the Erez border crossing. Israel, which is cooperating in the evacuation, said 800 Palestinians living in Gaza had passports from countries including the UK, US and Australia.

Ahmed Mohana, a US citizen, said he had mixed feelings about leaving friends and family behind in the Gaza Strip. "It is very hard. It is very tough," he said. "We are leaving our family, our relatives and brothers and sisters in this horrible situation. We have to do what we have to do."

Israel has launched more than 1,300 air strikes since the offensive began, the military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Peter Lerner said on Sunday. Palestinian militants have launched more than 800 rockets at Israel, including 130 in the past 24 hours, the Israeli military said. Several Israelis have been wounded.

Israeli-Palestinian conflict



Tailbacks all along

FROM PAGE 16

signal to clear for about 10 minutes.

"I use this [Hatirjheel] road to go to Gabtoli from Rampura quickly, but sometimes I have to wait even for 20 minutes to cross the intersection," he said.

Traffic constable Khalilur Rahman, who was on duty at the intersection at that time, said, "Usually traffic movement on each road is allowed for about 2 to 2.5 minutes. But it mostly depends on traffic pressure."

Khalil said that they work in two shifts, each of which has four constables and a sergeant at the intersection. However, at 2:30pm yesterday only two constables were seen trying frantically to manage trafficswarmingfromallaround.

He said that the others would come soon.

Traffic Inspector Maksud Ur Rahman of Mohakhali zone told The Daily Star that the main reason for the snarl-ups is the dilapidated condition of roads due to the construction of the flyover along the Tongi Diversion Road.

"The decrepit road slows down vehicles ... Moreover, when trains pass through the two level crossings -- one near the FDC and the other on Tongi Diversion Road -- the red signal has to be kept longer."

"Construction equipment kept on the roads has narrowed them down further, making it difficult for vehicles to pass," he said.

A source in the traffic department said the area between Saatrasta and Moghbazar falls under three traffic zones -- Mohakhali, Sabujbag and Ramna.

"Lack of coordination among traffic police of these three zones also causes tailbacks," the source told The Daily Star, wishinganonymity.

According to Maksud, if the road through Saatrasta truck stand was kept clear, vehicles could use it to go to Farmgate instead of using the Hotel Sonargaon road which would largely reduce the traffic pressure at the intersection.