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LOAN FROM CHINA
Government plans to take big amount but urges China to soften terms and condition
PAGE B1

HOW PREPARED ARE WE?
Fire service chief talks to the Star about earthquake preparedness in the country
PAGE 7

THE 'HISTORIC' TALKS
The leaders of China and Taiwan hold talks for first time in over 60 years
PAGE 8

PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

Reeling from terror blow

TAMANNA KHAN

The recent attacks on two young publishers have further shrunk the space for the country's creative book publishing industry, which is already struggling to survive against the advent of digital technology.

Publishers and writers say that despite the vacuum created by the death of popular writer Humayun Ahmed, who had attracted a huge pool of young readers since the late 1980s, the publishing scene has been vibrant with young publishers setting a new trend to bring out books on science, philosophy and humanism.

"Over the past eight to 10 years, young men and women have joined the publishing industry. They have tried to broaden its horizon by publishing different kinds of books which represent Bangladesh's intellectual practices and basic values," said Mofidul Hoque, publisher of Sahitya Prakash.

Hassan Zaidi of Pearl Publication told The Daily Star, "We had been focusing on science writing because there has been a demand for this genre in the market."

But the attacks on Faisal Arefin Dipan and Ahmedur Rashid Tutul, who have published many books by free-thinking writers, have sent a clear message to all publishers with a progressive bent of mind.

Dipan was brutally killed by suspected religious extremists on October 31 and Tutul, along with two writer-bloggers Ranadipam Basu and Tareq Rahim, were brutally injured around the same time on the same day. The injured three are undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Champion Bangladesh batsman Mushfiqur Rahim returned to his sublime best in Mirpur yesterday. Here, the right-hander cuts the ball to the point boundary on way to scoring 107, his fourth hundred, in the first ODI against Zimbabwe. His ton, followed by Shakib Al Hasan's maiden five-for, propelled the Tigers to a massive 145-run win.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

CHECKPOINT ATTACK

3 suspended for not aiding fellow cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The police yesterday suspended three constables of Industrial Police-1 for "not helping their colleagues" when they were attacked at a checkpoint in Ashulia on Wednesday.

Unknown assailants hacked constable Mukul Hossain to death and constable Nur-e-Alam severely at Baroipara checkpoint on the Dhaka-Tangail highway. While leaving the scene, the criminals fired two bullets.

Ape l M a h m u d , Pinaruzzaman and Imran Aziz will be off duties until an investigation into the attack completes, said Kawsar Sikdar, deputy director of Industrial Police-1 in Ashulia.

Allegations have come up that the trio did not go to the rescue of the victims, rather they fled the scene.

If they are found guilty, they will be punished, Kawsar said, adding the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Eyes on two verdicts today

STAR REPORT

Two courts in Sylhet and Khulna are set to deliver verdicts today in the cases filed over the barbaric killings of two teenage boys that stirred a massive outcry at home and abroad.

Having completed the trial procedures in the 13-year-old Sheikh Md Samiul Alam Rajon killing case on October 27, the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court of Sylhet fixed November 8 for the verdict.

And Khulna Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court that finished trial proceedings on November 1 will give its judgment in sensational Rakib murder case.

On July 8, Rajon was beaten to death by

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Strike stalkers

S DILIP ROY with ANDREW EAGLE

Any young man, or even an older one, who fancies himself a womaniser is hereby put on notice: harass any young girl in Lalmonirhat and you might just get more than you bargained for.

"If any stalker thinks he can harass me or the other girls," says schoolgirl Bipsha Khatun of Barabari village of Lalmonirhat. "I must use my karate. Our karate training will ensure a successful journey into the future."

"The local troublemakers know about my karate training," says Champa Akter from remote Mogolhat village. "In the past, I often would have to deal with stalkers on my way to school. Now they don't even dare."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Teenage girls taking karate training in Lalmonirhat to defend themselves against stalkers.

PHOTO: STAR

7 JMB MEN HELD

Four Pakistanis among them

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives claimed to have arrested seven Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) members, including four Pakistanis, in the capital's airport area on Friday night.

The arrested Pakistani citizens are Idris Ali, Mohammad Shakil, Khalilur Rahman and Mohammad Iqbal. The Bangladeshis are Babul Khan, Mohammad Farman and Shahid.

Around 27,000 Pakistani rupees, seven Pakistani and Bangladeshi passports, seven mobile phone sets and several jihadi books were seized from their possession, detectives said.

Joint Commissioner of Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Monirul Islam yesterday at a press briefing said the arrestees were involved in militant and subversive activities in the country.

They were also involved in fake currency business, he told the briefing at the DMP media centre.

The police official claimed that the arrestees funded religious extremism with the earnings through the fake currency business.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



TRICK GONE WRONG

Instead of studying properly, Habibur Rahman of Lalmonirhat Govt College wanted to take a shortcut to success. During an exam yesterday, the undergraduate student of philosophy tied a small mobile phone to his left arm, hid it under the sleeve, inserted a tiny headphone in a ear and glued the extra-thin wire to his skin. He did it quite skilfully but still was caught and sent to jail for 15 days.

PHOTO: DILIP ROY



RAHIMAFROOZ launches GLOBATT battery

RAHIMAFROOZ formally launches GLOBATT sealed maintenance-free battery in Bangladesh market. Made using German technology, GLOBATT never requires water top up. It is also durable, robust and has a magic eye indicator which helps to understand battery health. GLOBATT offers a wide range of sealed

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