

Police claim 'robber killed in gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Police yesterday claimed that a robber was killed during a "gunfight" when a gang of 15 to 20 used a tree stump to block the Dhaka-Sylhet highway and stop their marked van before opening fire in Brahmanbaria's Kasba upazila early yesterday.

There were four policemen of Akhaura Police Station inside the vehicle, which was allegedly patrolling the Tanmandail area and came under attack at a spot called Baily Bridge around 2:00am.

Kasba has its own police station and is situated some 22 kilometres away from Akhaura upazila.

Kasba Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mahiuddin Ahammed alleged that they had five cases against the deceased, Saiful Miah, 38, son of Idrish Miah of Kasba's Jangal village.

The body was sent to the Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy. A "pipe gun" and sharp weapons were recovered from the scene, he added.

Akhaura Police Station

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



What looks like a dumping zone is actually Goali Chara canal – one of the nine canals running through Sylhet city. Regular dumping of household waste along with garbage from commercial businesses including plastic bottles and bags has filled up the once 30-35 feet wide canal, causing severe waterlogging. The stagnant water also provides ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

HC denies BNP leader Aslam bail in sedition case

CTG court places him on 3-day remand in another STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court bench yesterday rejected the bail petition of detained BNP leader Aslam Chowdhury in a sedition case.

Meanwhile, a Chittagong court placed Aslam on a three-day remand in an explosive case the same day.

The sedition case was filed on May 26 against Aslam allegedly for hatching a conspiracy with Israel's Likud Party and its intelligence agency Mossad to oust the government.

The HC bench rejected the petition since it was not moved properly, said Deputy Attorney General Shaikh AKM Moniruzzaman Kabir.

Meantime, a court of Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate gave the order of placing Aslam on a three-day remand after police sought for seven-day, said Additional Deputy Commissioner (prosecution) Nirmalendu Bikash Chakraborty.

On July 11, the court also gave the police permission to quiz Aslam in front of the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 8

When a bamboo pole is the saviour

HELEMUL ALAM

A bamboo pole with a torn plastic sheet wrapped around its top has been doing the commuters of Sutrapur's Katherpool in the capital a huge favour for the last one month: it warns people about a deep lidless manhole. Local people helped themselves because the authorities "did not notice" it yet.

A shopkeeper in the area, Md Milton, said, "It is a very dangerous place. If anyone falls into the manhole, he will die because it is 15 to 20 feet deep."

It is not easy even for an adult to survive in the depth, he said. Milton has put four bamboo poles into the manhole so far to save people from dangers.

He said vehicles like CNG-run auto-rickshaws often got stuck in the manhole, adding that a police van also was stuck in it during Ramadan. Auto-rickshaw driver Mohammad Ali said the road was very risky due to the open manhole, especially at night. The street lights remaining out of order for the last one month have multiplied the risk, he added.

Ali thinks motorcycle riders are most at risk. The Sutrapur resident fears a fatal accident may happen anytime because he said a huge number of students walked past the manhole every day.

Only 100 feet away, another manhole lid is partially

SEE PAGE 5 COL 8

No bar on females' migration to KSA

Expatriates' Minister Nurul Islam tells parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Since females enjoy the same rights as males, the government has no plan to stop the former from migrating to Saudi Arabia, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam told parliament yesterday.

Of the complaints made by female workers against Saudi employers, one was over being provided bread and other food instead of rice, he said, adding that some of the complaints were false, made by homesick ones seeking to return home.

He said some 20,952 female workers went to Saudi Arabia in 2015 and a memorandum of understanding was signed for sending workers in 10 categories of jobs.

In reply to a query, the minister said

19,546 dead bodies of non-resident Bangladeshis, including 15,611 workers, were brought back from abroad in the six and a half years since 2010.

Replying to a supplementary question from treasury bench member Dipu Moni, Nurul Islam said the government usually provides support to legal migrants for bringing them back as they receive a "smart card" while going abroad.

He said the government has a policy to provide the smart cards to legal migrants for a fee and Bangladesh's missions abroad maintain contact with legal migrants so that they can be traced easily.

Replying to another query, the minister said the government scrapped licenses of 91 recruiting agencies in six years till 2015

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

CORRUPTION CASE HC asks ACC to finish probe against BNP's Mosharraf soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Anti-Corruption Commission to complete investigation into a corruption case against former BNP health minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and his son as soon as possible.

The commission filed the case with Gulshan Police Station on September 1, 2008 against Khandaker Mosharraf, his son Khandaker Mahub Hossain and the then health ministry official Mahubur Rahman on charge of damaging Tk 48 lakh of the state through anomalies in running a travel agency—Sajan Travels, ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star.

Following two separate writ petitions filed by the accused, the HC on September 16, 2008 had stayed the case's investigation, granted bail to them and issued a separate rule asking the ACC and government to explain as to why the case proceedings should not be declared illegal.

The HC bench of Justice Md Ruhul Quddus and Justice Bishmadev Chakraborty yesterday rejected the writ petitions, the ACC lawyer said.

Maya rules out likelihood of mega-quake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Relief and Disaster Management Minister Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya yesterday in parliament ruled out the possibility of a high magnitude earthquake in Bangladesh considering its 200 years history.

The minister also called upon all to not to get panicked in this regard.

Dhaka, one of the most densely populated cities in the world, sits on top of a fault buried under thick sediments, which could trigger a massive earthquake, a new study suggests.

The magnitude of the earthquake could be 8.2 to 9 and cause severe damage. At least 140 million people living in the region -- Bangladesh, eastern India and parts of Myanmar -- could be affected, according to the study.

The researchers, however, could not say when the earthquake would occur -- whether it is imminent or would occur after 100 years.

The findings were published in the journal Nature Geoscience on Monday and are making international headlines.

A ruling Awami League MP during the question hour asked the minister about his ministry's preparation if a high magnitude earthquake as concerned in the recent study takes place.

In reply, Maya said by the grace of Allah, there is no possibility of a high magnitude earthquake, like 9 on the Richter Scale, striking the country as mentioned in the study.

Bangladesh did not see any earthquake at a magnitude of more than eight in the last 200 years, he said.

"And if any 9 magnitude earthquake finally takes place, it will also destroy the entire world," added the minister.

He also said there is no equipment or technology that has been invented so far by which the possibility of an earthquake can be detected in advance. "I will therefore urge all to not to panic. The government has the capability of tackling a situation which might be created by an earthquake."

In reply to another query, Maya said 192 people died so far this year in lightning across the country.

The minister also said the government has recently announced lightning as a natural disaster and has been giving

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

192 people died in lightning in last 6 months



A manhole without its lid for the last one month in Katherpool area of the capital's Sutrapur yesterday. As the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) "did not notice" it, local people have put a bamboo pole there to warn people against dangers.

AL wins by-polls in Mymensingh

Three candidates boycott in constituency-3

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Awami League candidates Jewel Areng and Nazim Uddin Ahmed were elected lawmakers through the by-election in Mymensingh-1 (Haluaghat and Dhobaura) and Mymensingh-3 (Gouripur) constituencies respectively.

Jewel, son of immediate past lawmaker of that constituency Promod Mankin and member of Haluaghat upazila AL, got 1,70,234 votes out of the total 3,62,694, while Nazim bagged 1,19,438 votes out of 2,26,235. Nazim is a vice president of the district AL and a freedom fighter.

In the by-polls, no major incidents of violence and irregularities were reported.

However, three candidates of Mymensingh-3 boycotted the poll halfway into the voting brining allegations of electoral irregularities and ballot box stuffing by AL men.

Three candidates contested in Mymensingh-1 -- one

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

BCL forms CU committee

'Deprived' section padlocks university's main entrance, giving central leaders 48 hours to dissolve the committee

CU CORRESPONDENT

A section of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists of the Chittagong University unit, who were deprived of posts in the newly formed committee, yesterday padlocked the university's main entrance from 2:20pm to 2:50pm, demanding an immediate dissolution of the committee.

Around 50 leaders and activists gathered in the CU Zero Point area around 2:00pm and chanted slogans, protesting the formation of the committee.

At one stage, the agitated leaders and activities led by CU BCL leader Md Rezaul Karim padlocked the university's main entrance and gave its central committee a 48-hour ultimatum to dissolve it; otherwise they threatened to go on a tougher demonstration, according to Karim.

Later, the university's proctorial team accompanied by police unlocked the gate.

However, after five months of suspension of its all activities at the university, BCL announced a 201-member full-fledged committee of the unit the same day through a press release signed by its central committee president Saifur Rahman Sohag and general secretary Jakir Hossain.

Now the committee has 26 vice presidents, nine joint

SEE PAGE 5 COL 8

CTG COCAINE HAUL SC extends stay on bail of importer Nur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday extended its stay on a High Court order that granted bail to Khan Jahan Ali Ltd's Chairman Nur Mohammad in a case filed over seizure of liquid cocaine from a container carrying sunflower oil at Chittagong port in May last year.

The apex court also asked the HC to hear and dispose of its rule over granting regular bail to him in the case in the next four weeks.

Nur cannot get released from jail following the SC order until the HC disposes of the rule, Attorney General Mahubey Alam told The Daily Star.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

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