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SHAH CEMENT

India foils two more attacks in Kashmir

Seven suspected militants killed amid more LoC skirmishes

REUTERS, Srinagar

Indian soldiers shot dead seven suspected militants who tried to attack two army bases in northern Kashmir yesterday, police said, prompting anger from Pakistan as a crisis between the two neighbours over the disputed region grows.

The attacks came after India and Pakistan exchanged more gunfire across the frontier in Kashmir overnight, the Indian army said, despite a 2003 ceasefire. The latest round of tensions started in July when protests erupted after Indian forces killed a separatist leader.

Three suspected militants were shot in an orchard near the army base in Kupwara district near the Line of Control, the de facto border that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan, which both claim the Himalayan, Muslim-majority region.

Another four suspected militants were killed after they fired at the Indian troops in Nowgam sector of North Kashmir, said police superintendent Ghulam Jeelani.

India accuses Muslim Pakistan of backing the separatists and helping them infiltrate Indian-ruled Kashmir. Pakistan denies this, saying it only offers moral and diplomatic support to the Kashmiri people in their campaign for self-determination.

Last week India announced its special forces had carried out a strike against militants camped on the Pakistan side of Kashmir and inflicted significant casualties.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



An employee of Natore UNO office carrying herons rescued during a mobile court drive on Wednesday. The birds were later released, inset, by the court at Shibdurgram.

PHOTO: BULBUL AHMED



The rescuer of Herons

Natore mobile court acts against poachers

BULBUL AHMED with ANDREW EAGLE

Saving Indian pond herons is dirty work. But it isn't going to dissuade the upazila nirbahi officer of Natore sadar upazila, Mohammed Nairuzzaman, or accompanying local police, from conducting a mobile court drive against heron hunters.

At 6:30am in the morning, the administrative team sets out through fog for the wetland called Shibdurgram Beel, where hunters are known to be active.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

Woman turns herself in after 'killing' husband

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A woman turned herself in at a police station on Wednesday after allegedly killing her husband at Bhatiari in Chittagong's Sitakunda upazila earlier in that day.

Thirty-five-year old Khodeza Begum allegedly hit her "drunk" husband Jahangir Alam in the neck with a *sheel* (a granite pestle used for grinding spices) while he was asleep, said Iftekhar Hasan, officer-in-charge of Sitakunda Police Station, quoting Khodeza.

Jahangir, 45, a lorry driver from Feni's Daganbhuiyan, used to torture Khodeza regularly. Fed up with his torture, Khodeza killed her husband, he added.

The couple has two sons -- one is 13 and another four.

They lived in a two-room rented flat on the fourth floor of a building at Khadempara in Bhatiari union.

Around 10:00pm on Tuesday, Jahangir returned home drunk and fought with Khodeza. Minutes later, he started beating his wife and their elder son up, said Sub-Inspector Anwar Hossain of the police station.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Matthew claims 140 lives in 4 countries

US southeast coast braces for hurricane; Obama declares state of emergency in Florida

REUTERS, Jupiter/Jordan

Hurricane Matthew, the fiercest Caribbean storm in nearly a decade, blasted the Bahamas yesterday as it headed for the southeastern United States after killing at least 140 people, mostly in Haiti, on its deadly northward march.

Matthew, carrying winds of 140 mph (220 kph), was "relentlessly pounding" the northwestern part of the island chain en route to Florida's Atlantic coast, the US National Hurricane Center said.

The hurricane was likely to remain a Category 4 storm on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale as it approached the United States, where it could either take direct aim at Florida or brush along the state's coast through Friday night, the center said, warning of "potentially disastrous impacts."

Hurricane conditions were expected in parts of Florida by later yesterday.

Some 136 people were killed in Haiti, local officials said, and thousands were displaced after the storm flattened homes, uprooted trees and inundated neighborhoods earlier in the week. Four people were killed in the Dominican Republic, which neighbors Haiti.

As the storm passed about 25 miles (40 km) from the Bahamas capital of Nassau, howling gusts of wind brought down palms and other trees and flipped shingles off the rooftops of many houses. Bahamas Power and Light disconnected much of Nassau as Matthew bore down on the town.

No structural damage was immediately visible, a Reuters witness said, and rain was fairly light.

Local media reports from southern New Providence indicated that the communities of Yamacraw, Coral Harbour and Pinewood were hit hard by floods after a storm surge of some 10 to 15 feet (3 to 4.5 meters). There had been no reports of casualties.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2

RAMPAL PLANT Campaigners to write to Indian PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports will write an "open letter" to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to take initiatives to scrap the Rampal power project near the world's largest mangrove forest -- the Sundarbans.

On behalf of the people of Bangladesh, it will hand over the "open letter" to the Indian high commissioner in Dhaka after marching in a procession from the Jatiya Press Club on October 18.

Prof Anu Muhammad, member-secretary of the committee, a major platform campaigning against the 1,320-megawatt coal-fired plant, announced the programme at a press conference at the capital's Mukti Bhaban yesterday.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Children inherit intelligence from mothers, not fathers

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



A mother's genetics determines how clever her children are, according to researchers, and the father makes no difference.

Women are more likely to transmit intelligence genes to their children because they are carried on the X chromosome and women have two of these, while men only have one.

But in addition to this, scientists now believe genes for advanced cognitive functions which are inherited from the father may be automatically deactivated.

A category of genes known as "conditioned" SEE PAGE 12 COL 2

Youth stabbed to death over game of cricket

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college student was stabbed to death when he tried to mediate a feud centring a game of cricket in the capital's Green Road area yesterday evening.

Deceased Rakibul Islam Munna, 19, was a student of University Laboratory School and College.

Zobair Hossain Jhony, an uncle of Munna, said two days ago, Munna's younger SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

SIBL
Social Islami Bank Limited
Prayer Timing October 7

Fazr Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-45	12-30	4-15	5-53
JAMAAT 5-20	1-15	4-30	5-56
			8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Durga Puja begins

BSS, Dhaka

The Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindus, begins with the incarnation (Bodhon) of the goddess Durga at temples across the country today.

Preparations for celebrating the five-day festival have nearly been completed.

In separate messages, President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina conveyed greetings to the members of the Hindu community on the occasion of the festival.

The festival starts with "Bodhon" of Durga, marking Sashthi while it will come to an end with the immersion of the goddess' idols in water bodies on October 11. SEE PAGE 12 COL 3



A view shows destruction in Aleppo's rebel-held Bustan al-Basha neighbourhood yesterday. "Syrian regime forces advanced from the city centre north into (rebel-held) Bustan al-Basha, and seized a large athletic complex there," the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. This was the first time the regime had entered the district since 2013 and there had been fierce clashes, they added. PHOTO: AFP

East Aleppo faces total destruction

Warns UN envoy; Syria army seizes rebel territory in heart of Aleppo

AFP, Beirut

The UN's Syria envoy yesterday warned east Aleppo faces total destruction, as government forces made their biggest gains in years against rebels inside the opposition-held part of the battleground city.

Staffan de Mistura said eastern Aleppo could be "totally destroyed" by year's end, and called on the government to halt strikes if jihadist fighters left the city, even offering to escort them out himself.

The envoy warned eastern Aleppo risked joining the ranks of the 20th century's worst tragedies, making comparisons to the Srebrenica massacre and the Rwandan genocide.

His plea comes two weeks into an all-out government assault on opposition parts of Aleppo following the collapse of a short-lived truce negotiated by Russia and the United States.

Loyalist fighters have made significant advances in the Bustan al-Basha district near the centre of Aleppo, divided between government fighters in the west and rebels in the east, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman said it was the biggest and most significant advance inside the city since 2013.

The offensive by President Bashar al-Assad's forces has seen rebel-held areas pounded relentlessly with air strikes, barrel bombs and artillery fire that the Observatory says have killed more than 270 people. SEE PAGE 12 COL 5