



## 2 killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

A drug and arms peddler and a robber were killed in "shootouts" with the law enforcers in Jhenidah and Comilla districts Friday night and early yesterday.

The dead were identified as Bidhan Kumar Paramanik, 26, son of Sadhan Kumar Paramanik of Purandapur village in Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah, and Ali Ahmed of Chandina upazila of Comilla.

Officer-in-charge of Moheshpur Police Station told our correspondent that the gunfight played out at a jute field near Birshreshtha Hamidur Rahman College at Hat Khadishpur Bazaar of Purandapur village at about 9:00pm on Friday as drug peddlers opened fire on a DB team posing as buyers after their identity was betrayed.

Police later found Bidhan lying dead at a distance. They also recovered two light guns (LG), four rounds of bullet and 190 bottles of contraband phensidyl syrup from the spot.

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## Release Khaleda to create talks atmosphere

Delwar asks govt

UNB, Dhaka

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# Quality science education a must for prosperity

Scientists, educationists tell The Daily Star roundtable

TAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country has no alternative to giving science education as a tool for improving the living standards of the people and for dealing with economic and environmental challenges it faces, experts said.

Alarmed at the decline of the quality of science education and student enrolment for it, key scientists and educationists of the country yesterday stressed the need for sensitising the government to allocating a larger budget for the

sector to enhance teachers' capacities and update the curricula.

Science textbooks need to be simplified, teachers' salaries need to be raised, and science graduates need to be motivated to become teachers, said speakers at a roundtable titled 'State of Science Education in Bangladesh', jointly organised by The Daily Star and Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (BAS), which was held in the conference room of the newspaper office in the capital.

The speakers also suggested

introducing a terrestrial television channel dedicated to broadcasting educational programmes, saying the move will help both teachers and students by reducing the latter's dependence on private coaching centres.

BAS President Prof M Shamsher Ali, who is also a renowned educationist, chaired the event where four keynote papers on related topics were presented.

Scientists at the discussion identified weak curriculum and textbooks, weak teaching and

assessment methods, lack of properly trained teachers and laboratory facilities, poor salaries of teachers, and students' sliding interest as some of the main reasons for qualitative and quantitative decline of science education.

They underscored the need for recruiting quality teachers and building capacities of the existing ones through tele-education using ICT based materials, for resuming the government's stalled PhD programmes, and for organising

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