

Lawyers throw shoes at Rahman in court

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Top leaders of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) Abdur Rahman, Bangla Bhai and others were produced yesterday before two trial courts in Jhalakathi for two separate cases.

The district judge court in the Jhalakathi judges killing case against eight JMB leaders and activists set the date for hearing on charge-framing on April 23.

Besides, the Jhalakathi sadar upazila magistrate court granted ten days' remand for Abdur Rahman and Siddiqui Islam Bangla Bhai, for interrogation about the August 17 blast cases.

Lawyers of the district brought out a procession on the court compound with brooms and threw shoes at JMB chief Abdur Rahman during the trial.

Rahman, Bangla Bhai, Abdul Awal and Ataur Rahman Sunny were brought from Dhaka and Mamun and Sultan from Barisal Central Jail to Jhalakathi District and Sessions Judge Court for the Jhalakathi judges killing case.

The judge, after reading out the allegations against the accused, set the date for hearing of framing charges against them on April 23.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Opposition plans anarchy thru' agitation: PM

UNB, Singra, Natore

Termining opposition's agitation programme as 'anti-people' and 'destructive', Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said their real motive is to unleash anarchy and unrest to obstruct the country's developments and foreign investment to serve the purpose of aliens.

Referring to her proposal for dialogue on electoral reforms, she blasted the opposition for their 'tricky stance' over the dialogue on reforms of caretaker government.

She pointed to the opposition's 'inconsistent talks', saying that they are speaking of the appointment of a person acceptable to all as caretaker government's chief while refusing to sit for discussion if Jamaat-e-Islami participates.

At a big public meeting on Singra upazila court ground, Khaleda said the opposition doesn't believe in democracy and public opinion and

wants to implement what they wish, 'in a Baksal style'.

They hurled bombs and pelted police with bricks to create chaos and anarchy during their recent Secretariat siege programme, the PM said.

"As people are not with their destructive programme, they now want to lay siege to the Prime Minister's Office with some people equipped with bombs and bricks to trigger anarchy and unrest," she said.

Khaleda, also chairperson of the ruling BNP, said no programme does succeed without people's support and so none of their (opposition) programmes had seen success.

Citing Awami League Sheikh Hasina's public statement pledging not to enforce hartal, whether in opposition or in power, the PM said they frequently enforce hartal without any reason to demolish public property, take public life, and

unleash arson attack aiming at creating an unstable situation to stop the country's forward march and foreign investment.

All this is being done to implement the blueprints of aliens who don't want welfare and progress of Bangladesh and its people, she said.

Listing her government's various 'pragmatic steps and successes' to lead the country into self-reliance in all fields, the PM said the opposition is involved in conspiracy and chaos so that the poverty-alleviation programme could not be implemented.

Termining the coming 2007 general elections very important, Khaleda Zia urged people to vote for BNP and its alliance if they want peace, progress and prosperity of the country and keep up the trend of massive development activities carried out by her coalition government.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Fine arts institute gets threat letter

DU CORRESPONDENT

An unsigned letter received by the Institute of Fine Arts (IFA) of Dhaka University (DU) on April 16 threatened to blow up the institution if it did not stop making replicas of Indian national bird peacock during the Pahela Baishakh celebrations.

The letter dated April 2, which was received two days after the Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla New Year 1413, said, "The institution makes replica of Indian national bird peacock, which is against the country's own heritage."

"If a bird is essential for the celebration, why the peacock and not Bangladesh national bird Doel?" the letter posed the question.

On the occasion, replicas of snakes with sketches of moon-star are made, which is against the Islamic spirit, it said, adding that the institute would be blown up if peacock and moon-star on snakes' head are seen in Baishakh 1413 celebrations.

On Monday, IFA Director Prof Dr Farida Jaman sent a letter along with a copy of threat letter to the DU Teachers Association General Secretary Prof Dr Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman, who accompanied by Prof Farida Jaman met Vice

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

A woman scavenges syringes and test tubes, some containing blood, at the park adjacent to English Road in Old Dhaka yesterday. These are sold again for reuse threatening spread of diseases.

ATTACK ON KHALEDA'S MOTORCADE  
Saber to face trial although exempted earlier

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina, is going to face trial in a case filed for attacking the then leader of the opposition Khaleda Zia's motorcade on June 17, 2001, even though he was earlier relieved of the charges.

Judge Mohammad Shamsul SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BSF kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushlia

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot a Bangladeshi dead at Goeshpur in Jibannagar upazila of Chuadanga early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Harunur Rashid, 32, son of Abdul Wahab of village Dhopakhal in the upazila.

According to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) 35-Battalion sources, BSF of Singhoria camp opened fire as he was taking two cows from Indian territory to Bangladeshi territory around 3:30am. Sources said Harun was a cattle trader and he had bought the cows from an

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

Minor house helps Al Amin, left, and Moni Akhter show their marks of torture.

Cops raid five DU halls

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police picked up 29 people, mostly outsiders, in raids on five dormitories of Dhaka University (DU) early yesterday, but later released them after having undertakings.

Some 200 policemen took part in the raids on Jagannath Hall, Salimullah Muslim Hall, Amar Ekushey Hall, Sergeant Zahurul Huq Hall and Jasimuddin Hall from 1:00am to 5:00pm.

Ramna police said the detainees were freed at about 2:30pm. Of them, 13 were hauled in from Jagannath Hall, seven from Salimullah Muslim, five from Amar Ekushey, and four from Jasimuddin Hall. None was picked up from Zahurul Huq Hall.

No firearms or ammunition were recovered during the raids.

Some students of the halls have expressed resentment over frequent overnight raids on DU halls.

They allege that policemen misbehave with the students and harass innocent people who come to halls for various reasons.

A hall provost said whenever the opposition calls a major programme police conduct such raids causing immense sufferings to the general students.

A police officer seeking anonymity said they raided the halls in view of yesterday's grand rally of Jubo League, opposition's laying siege to Prime Minister's Office today and hartal on April 20.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Corruption plagues Rangpur schools

Students pay for free education: TIB

RAFIQUE SARKER, from Rangpur

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) reported that the condition of primary and secondary education in Rangpur is deplorable as the authorities concerned let loose corruption and violation of rules.

TIB also reported that cent percent of the students of government and registered primary schools in the district have to pay different fees although primary

education has been declared free.

Only 66 percent students of the primary schools are given money receipts for the fees the school authorities are taking, the report said.

Most of the students of primary schools and their guardians complained that they are not satisfied with the performances of the teachers. They also complained that most of the teachers do not go to schools regularly and many do not go to classes on time.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Shutdown enforced in Rajshahi in demand for piped gas

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi city witnessed a complete shutdown during yesterday's dawn to dusk hartal called to press home the demand for supply of natural gas through pipeline.

Power subscribers observed a half-day hartal in Chatmohor upazila of Pabna district yesterday demanding uninterrupted power supply and reduction of charges.

Main opposition Awami League-led 14-party alliance and cultural organisations expressed solidarity with Rajshahi Gas Andolon Parishad, a professional body that called yesterday's hartal in Rajshahi.

Buses, trucks, cars, motorised and non-motorised three-wheelers did not ply and hotels, restaurants, shops, and kitchen

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Manikganj-4 by-polls today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

By-election in Manikganj-4 constituency, having 2,03,927 voters, will be held today.

Adequate measures have been taken to ensure a free and fair election in all the 93 poll centres of the constituency, said the district election officer. However a few candidates claim 53 poll centres are vulnerable to vote rigging.

SM Shamsur Zakaria, deputy commissioner of Manikganj, told The Daily Star 131 magistrates, 1428 policemen, 150 armoured battalion men, 175 army personnel, 160 BDR men and 1116 ansars have been deployed to maintain law and order during the election.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

SAFTA EXPERTS' MEET

Body to be set up to settle trade barrier issues

MD HASAN

Experts from Safta (South Asian Free Trade Area) countries decided to form a sub committee to settle disputes regarding non-tariff and para tariff barriers on trading among the member countries.

The experts also decided to formulate a 'road map' to liberalise trade in the Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) region under Safta agreement.

The decisions came yesterday at the first meeting of Safta committee of experts held at Sonargaon hotel in Dhaka. Experts from Safta countries - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka took part in the meeting.

"As non-tariff barrier is one of the vital issues in trading with each other among Safta members, we are trying to find a solution that will bring about real trade

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

A bridge is being constructed on the Dhaleswari river for improving communication between the capital and Munshiganj.

Ahab demands release of Galib

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

Ahle Hadith Andolan Bangladesh (Ahab) leaders at a public meeting on Monday night threatened to launch tougher programmes if its four top leaders, including its chief Asadullah Al Galib, were not released from jail before May 25.

They will announce their programmes at a public meeting in Paltan in the capital on May 26, if their demand was not met.

Ahab Sathkira unit and Ahle Hadith Jubo Sangstha jointly organised the meeting which was held at Banshadh Bazar with the district Ahab chief Abdul Mannan in the chair.

Speakers at the meeting said a partner of the ruling four-party alliance misguidedly the government into arresting Galib.

They said the party had Ahab chief and others arrested to cover up its links with militant outfits. They said the party would destroy BNP and that the party is gaining strength at the cost of BNP.

Prayer Timing		
April 19		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-24	6-28
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation