



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVI NO. 99

DHAKA TUESDAY APRIL 25, 2006

BAISHAKH 12, 1413 BS • RABIUL AWAL 26, 1427 HURI • 16 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00

www.thedailystar.net

CONTEMPT RULE FOR SKIPPING SC DIRECTIVES

3 secys apologise, one seeks exoneration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three of the four top bureaucrats facing contempt rule for non-compliance with the Supreme Court's (SC) 12-point directive on separation of the judiciary yesterday apologised to the apex court for their 'unintended mistakes'.

All the four bureaucrats--Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister (PM) Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, Law Secretary Alauddin Sarder, Finance Secretary Siddiqur Rahman and Establishment Secretary Dr Mahbubur Rahman--yesterday submitted their replies to the contempt rule.

Of the four, the establishment secretary appealed for exoneration

him, saying that he had nothing to do with what has been done for separation of the judiciary as he had joined the post afterwards. The rest three offered unreserved apology to the court.

On receipt of the replies, the five-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain fixed May 15 as the date for hearing on the rule.

The SC issued the rule on April 3, asking the four secretaries to explain in three weeks why a contempt charge should not be brought against them.

The court order followed an updated contempt petition filed by Chowdhury Munir Uddin Mahfuz,

a judge of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal, Kishoreganj, on February 22.

Barrister Rafiqul Haq submitted the finance secretary's reply while Advocate TH Khan placed that for establishment secretary, Advocate Habibul Islam Bhuiyan for principal secretary to the PM and Barrister Abdur Razzak for the law secretary.

In their replies, the bureaucrats claimed they had not done anything that might constitute contempt of court.

They said they hope the court would still be merciful if there was any unintentional lapses on their part.

In his reply, the principal secre-

tary to the PM said he never stood in any way whatsoever in the way of implementation of the 12-point SC directive since the court made those.

"...office record reveals that a file relating to two rules on judicial service, 2005 came to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in December 2004 and it was duly forwarded to the authorities concerned," reads his reply.

Mentioning that the PMO files are placed before the competent authorities by the secretary to the prime minister and her private secretaries, the reply says: "So, the respondent petitioner in no way obstructed the decision-making in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Cabinet approves new pay scale for govt workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved a new pay scale for the workers of state-owned industries, raising their basic salaries by maximum 85 percent.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia presided over the cabinet meeting. Among 16 different pay categories the highest basic salary has been raised from Tk 2,300 to Tk 4,250 per month and the lowest basic salary has been raised from Tk 1,550 to Tk 2,850 per month.

Besides other allowances and benefits have also been increased. 60 percent of the basic salaries of those living in Dhaka metropolitan area and 50 percent of those living in other areas have been settled as house rents. However if housing facilities are provided by the employer, then there will be no house rent allowance. At present workers are entitled to 35 percent of their basic pay as house rents.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



The wreckage of the training aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force that crashed into a field in Jhenidah, killing its pilot flight cadet Taniul Islam, inset.

BAF trainee pilot killed as aircraft nosedives

44 killed so far but 50pc cases remain clueless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inquiry committees formed by the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) headquarters failed to unearth reasons behind half of the deaths in BAF plane crashes due to lack of adequate evidence while yesterday's crash raised the death toll to 44 in the history of BAF.

The air force headquarters yesterday formed an inquiry committee to probe the crash of a BAF training plane (PT-6 fighter) in Kotchandpur in Jhenidah, in which the flight cadet was killed on the spot. The inquiry committee has been asked to submit report in 24 hours.

STAR REPORT

A trainee fighter pilot of Bangladesh Air Force died as his aircraft went out of control and crashed into a paddy field in Kotchandpur upazila of Jhenidah district yesterday.

Sources said the training aircraft PT-6 with its lone pilot flight cadet wing under officer Taniul Islam, 20, nosedived into the field in Baharampur village of Kotchandpur, 30 kilometres off Jhenidah district town, at about

11:35am.

Taniul died on the spot.

Our correspondent in Kushtia reports: Taniul's training fighter took off from the Jessore Air Force Academy at 10:45am.

At 11:05am, Taniul informed the ground control tower about some technical faults in the plane's engine, sources said.

After a while the control tower lost all communication with the aircraft.

The plane then circled a few

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Skid-mount plants too inadequate for huge power crisis

SHARIEF KHAN

The government's much-delayed move to add around 140 megawatt (MW) power to the national grid using costly skid-mount power plants is too futile to address the power crisis this year or in the coming years as the demand for it has exceeded 5,200 MW.

Interestingly, the government is still claiming that the present demand for power is not more than 4,100 MW. This is intended to give

an impression that the level of load shedding is not very high," said a well-placed source in Power Development Board (PDB).

The cabinet purchase committee yesterday approved the PDB's tenders for awarding contracts for three skid-mount power plants -- Shajibazar 80 MW, Bogra 40 MW and Fenchuganj 50 MW plants. This move was initiated about nine months ago to resolve power crisis on an 'urgent basis'.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Commerce minister Altaf loses portfolio

Adviser Bulu transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government last night removed Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury from his current post following his failure to control prices of essentials and for failure to deal with some key international trade issues properly.

Adviser to the Commerce Ministry Barkatullah Bulu has also been removed from the ministry and made adviser to the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

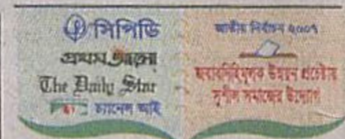
Altaf has been made a minister without portfolio.

The government gave Water Resources Minister Major (Retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed additional responsibility to look after the commerce ministry.

On March 25, 2004 the government made Altaf, the erstwhile home minister, the commerce minister replacing Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury.

The change has been attributed to the staggering failure of Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury and Adviser Bulu to rein in the price spiral of essentials and other commodities.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Nagorik Committee sets strategy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Nagorik Committee 2006 will meet key officials of the Election Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission and National Board of Revenue, keeping in view the issue of creating public awareness about competent candidates in the next general election.

The decision was taken at the second meeting of the committee yesterday at the CPD (Centre for Policy Dialogue) dialogue room.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

BUTENIS ON BANGLADESH POLITICS US has no 'recipe' for ending discord

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador in Dhaka Patricia A Butenis yesterday said her country has no remedy for the political discord in Bangladesh, rather the government and the opposition will have to work things out through dialogue.

"I don't have any recipe for success here. We encourage the government and the opposition to continue to work together to resolve their differences," she said, adding, "We are not promoting any particular reforms, we do not do that."

Addressing her first ever press conference as the US ambassador to Bangladesh at the American Club yesterday, Butenis declined to make any comment on the opposition's proposals for reforms in the caretaker government and electoral systems. She said it should be left to political leadership to resolve the issue through discussion.



Patricia A Butenis

She said the United States wants to see that every step is taken to prevent violence and to promote fairness for well-organised and violence-free peaceful elections.

Butenis, however, observed that the caretaker government system seems to have worked well. "I understand it's a unique system, which other countries do not have. There may be some glitches [in the issue through discussion]."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Fair polls, or Dhaka to miss a decade's dev

Says British envoy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury cautioned that if the next election does not turn out free, fair and acceptable, the country will lose a decade in development.

"The next election is very crucial for Bangladesh and if it goes wrong all the development objectives would be hindered," he told newsmen at a meet-the-press programme organised by the Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) at its auditorium yesterday.

"We want to see a stable, democratic and prosperous Bangladesh in the interest of relation between the two friendly countries," he said. Out of nine major areas of British foreign policy, seven are related to Bangladesh, he explained.

The British envoy underscored the necessity of holding direct talks--instead of exchanging letters--between the two major political parties of the country for easing the political deadlock. He also



Anwar Choudhury

talked about reducing corruption, combating terrorism and strengthening relations between Bangladesh and the United Kingdom (UK).

Choudhury lauded the recent government action to combat terrorism. "Though it took much time, we must recognise what the government has done," he said, urging people not to take the easy path of violence instead of solving the problems through discussion.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Now your money gives you more

Special savings	7%
Savings	8%
FDR 1 month	11%
FDR 3 months	12%
FDR 6 months	12.25%
FDR 1 year	12.5%

We make things simple for you.

Eastern Bank Ltd. Simple Math.

One Time Paint for Many Seasons

BERGER Weather Coat SMOOTH 100% ACRYLIC

- Anti-fungal
- Anti-fading
- Anti-flaking

THE SCIENCE OF WEATHERPROOFING

KDS GARMENT INDUSTRIES LTD. IS PROUD TO RECEIVE TWO COVETED AWARDS FROM WAL-MART CANADA & WAL-MART U. K. GEORGE FOR BEING ADJUDGED AS THE "SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR - 2005"

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. International Supplier of the Year 2005

KDS Garment Industries Ltd. Wal-Mart International Canada Department 35

Al-Haj Khalilur Rahman, Chairman & Managing Director is seen receiving the award from Mr. Ron Quesnel, Vice President of Sales, Wal-Mart Canada.

Al-Haj Khalilur Rahman, Chairman & Managing Director receiving the award from Mr. Cameron Geiger, Managing Director, Global George Supply Team U.K.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. International Supplier of the Year 2005

KDS Garment Industries Ltd. U.K. George