

Inu granted anticipatory bail

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail to Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Huq Inu in an arson attack case filed by the government.

After hearing a bail petition, a High Court division bench of Justice MA Rashid and Justice Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan also issued a rule nisi upon the government to show cause within two weeks as to why the petitioner should not be granted regular bail in this case.

The petitioner appeared in person before the High Court bench for bail.

Dhanmondi police filed the case against Hasanul Huq Inu and 22 leaders and workers of the opposition parties on charge of preventing the police from discharging their duties during 14-party's sit-in programme on April 19.

Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam moved the petition.

4,000 acres of govt land recovered in 15 months

UNB, Dhaka

Over 4,000 acres of government land worth about Tk 1,649.85 crore were recovered from illegal occupants across the country during the period from January 2005 to March this year.

This was disclosed yesterday at the 10th meeting of National Executive Committee formed to receive complaints on land grabbing.

Held at the Cabinet Division, the meeting asked the officials to determine the amount of all arable and other lands grabbed across the country and send a report to the authorities concerned.

It also directed the department concerned to hand over the respon-

sibility of conducting the land recovery drive to ADCs (Revenue) so that the drive can be conducted smoothly under the supervision of DCs.

Stressing the need for further strengthening the land recovery drive, the meeting said explanation has to be given if the drive cannot be conducted in any district in any month.

Land Secretary Lutfar Rahman Talukder, Information Secretary Barrister Haider Ali, IGP, additional attorney general and other officials of home, foreign affairs, law, housing and public works ministries attended the meeting presided over by Cabinet Secretary ASM Abdul Halim.

STACKPOLE VISITS BANSHKHALI Tributes paid to victims of 1991 cyclone

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

US Ambassador to Bangladesh Patricia A Butenis and Lt General (Retd.) Henry C Stackpole yesterday visited Banshkhali and paid tributes to people who had perished during the devastating cyclone on April 29, 1991.

Accompanied by the ambassador, Stackpole, then commander of much-talked-about 'Operation Sea Angel', placed wreath on a monument built at village Madhyam Dongra under Khankhanabad Union in memory of those killed in cyclone.

General Stackpole and Ambassador Butenis stood in silence for a while in front of the monument.

The General was emotionally choked as he talked to journalists about his feelings and memories dating back 15 years.

"Yes, I can still remember the days and I feel sad remembering those days," Stackpole said while ruminating the memories.

He said the 1991 disaster gave us all a lesson that communication, cooperation, coordination and collaboration can effectively address any disaster.

Ambassador Butenis said she feels proud to be associated with Stackpole in visiting the cyclone-hit area.

"The experience we had during the humanitarian efforts here in 1991 was of great use in post-disaster rescue and humanitarian operation in Indonesia after Nsunami and after the devastating earthquake in Pakistan. And I believe such humanitarian cooperation strengthens relationship between the countries," she added.

The Operation Sea Angel, which was launched within 24 hours of a request from Bangladesh government, involved over 7,000 sailors, marines, airmen.

During their 34-day stay in Bangladesh US forces provided food, water and medicare to nearly 20 lakh people and saved as many as 2,00,000 lives.



PHOTO: STAR

Former US Marine Task Force Commander Lt. General (Retd.) Henry C Stackpole and US Ambassador Patricia A Butenis stand in solemn silence after placing wreaths at the memorial to the victims of 1991 cyclone at Banshkhali in Chittagong yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina kisses her son Sajib Wajed Joy on the forehead when he arrived at Zia International Airport in the city from the USA yesterday.



Shahadat's art exhibition begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 15-day solo art exhibition titled 'Existence' by Shahadat Hussain begins at Gallery Kaya in the city today.

French Ambassador Jacques-Andre Costilhes will inaugurate the exhibition as the chief guest at House #20, Road #16, Sector #4, Uttara.

Eminent art critic Abul Mansur, architect Mustafa Ameen and Chairman of the Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art Elthem B Kabir will attend the inaugural ceremony, says a press release.

A total of 75 art works done in oil, acrylic, mixed media and watercolour and an idea presentation of three sculptures will be put on display.

The exhibition will remain open from 11:00am to 8:00pm daily until May 12. Society for Promotion of Bangladesh Art is sponsoring the event.

Shahadat Hussain has been living in Paris for the last 18 years.