

'Terror financing'

FROM PAGE 16
were also closed permanently, said the sources.

After the closures, most of the medical equipment and furniture of the two organisations were handed over to another NGO – Kuwait Joint Relief Committee.

ABU MOZAF & MEDICAL CENTER
The Daily Star on March 28 reported that RIHS was using its bank accounts to meet its office expenses despite a government ban on releasing fund to the suspected donor to militants.

Government later found that the joint bank account at Bank Asia belongs to Zafar Musa Abu Moaz and RIHS' Bangladeshi office secretary Fazlur Rahman.

Although the withdrawals were ostensibly for office use, the cheques did not carry any seal of the NGO.

Abu Moaz, however, was ousted from Iraq for his alleged connection with an international extremist outfit, Ikhwanul Muslimin, said sources.

In the second week of March, cash amounting to Tk 1 lakh and other valuables were stolen from the kidney dialysis centre, but mysteriously no complaint was lodged so far.

KAMAL & EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

Following strong intelligence insistence on banning RIHS since the arrest of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh chief Abdur Rahman in last March, the government so far objected to the presence of six foreign nationals at RIHS office in the country.

Sudanese citizen Kamal Hossain was one of them. The others are – Sajlee Rifat Osman Muhammad, Abbas Bao, and Muhammad Ahmed al Sheikh of Sudan, Abdur Rahman of Yemen, and Zafar Musa Abu Moaz of Iraq.

Investigators found some of them to be connected with Ikhwanul Muslimin while some were ousted from their home countries for links with militancy.

The Dayee and Imam (Daao) section and Higher Islamic Education Institute under RIHS at Uttara in Dhaka were also closed last year for alleged connection with militancy.

PREVIOUS DEPARTURES
Following the August 17 country-wide series of blasts last year, five foreign officials of RIHS left the country under government pressure.

Before joining RIHS the five officials – two Sudanese nationals, two Algerians and a Libyan – had worked for Al-Haramine in Bangladesh, another international NGO alleged to be a donor to Al Qaeda and now banned worldwide.

All 14 foreign Al Haramine officials left Bangladesh when the government banned its activities in 2004. But the five returned later and joined RIHS secretly.

Investigators found RIHS, also known as Jamiatul Itha ul Turath, to be accused of aiding militant activities in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan, and of providing aid to militant leader Asadullah al Galib and his men in Bangladesh with most of their funds.

Galib and Rahman established relations with RIHS with recommendations from Indian militant leader Abdul Matin Salafi who was expelled from Bangladesh in 1988.

2 street urchins

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Shahidul, who sustained injuries to his chest, said he along with three of his friends went to the Buriganga to bathe around 12:00noon and found a bottle wrapped with tape near a dustbin.

He threw the bottle at the river but it hit a nearby wall and exploded also injuring the right eye of Miraj.

3 Neptune-size

FROM PAGE 16
planetary system orbiting the star HD 69830.

The star is 41 light years from Earth in the Puppis constellation and is about four-fifths the mass of our Sun.

The three planets are big, being 10, 12 and 18 times larger in mass than the Earth. That makes them about the size of our Neptune, although a lot smaller than Jupiter, the biggest planet in our Solar System—and they appear to be solid planets too, made of rock, not gas.

The two innermost planets are probably so close to HD 69830 that they would be blisteringly hot, but the outermost one lies in what planet experts call the Goldilocks zone—a comfortable distance where liquid water could exist.

Another discovery is that HD 69830 also hosts, like our Sun, an asteroid belt, the rubble left over from the building of planets from dust and gassy debris that clump together through gravitational attraction.

No one is suggesting that these planets contain life or the conditions for it, and it would be ludicrous anyway to think of them as a potential home from home, given that our puny chemical rockets and their passengers could never reach

there.

But it shows that with patient searching and the right tools, astronomers can uncover ever-smaller exoplanets in ever-wider orbits from their star, which may one day lead to finding copies of Earth.

"The planetary system around HD 69830 clearly represents a Rosetta stone in our understanding of how planets form," said Michel Mayor, also of the Geneva Observatory, referring to the stone that opened the way to understanding the hieroglyphics of ancient Egypt.

"No doubt it will help us better understand the huge diversity we have observed since the first extrasolar planet was found 11 years ago."

The three planets were found after a two-year monitoring of the star using a 3.6-metre telescope at the European Southern Observatory in La Silla, Chile.

When a planet moves in front of a star, the light from the star "wobbles" in response to the gravitational pull. The "wobble" gives clues to the planet's size, density and orbit.

Safe water scarce

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had to suffer from diarrhoeal diseases and some even died due to lack of pure drinking water before setting up ring wells in the village," said Ching Murma.

NGO Forum officials visiting the water and sanitation projects in Bandarban quoted the DPHE officials of Rangamati as saying that around 75 percent of the water sources like ring wells, rain water harvesting system, deep set pumps, gravity flow system, and infiltration gallery, which are installed by the DPHE in assistance with NGOs, are not functional.

On the other hand, Executive Engineer of Bandarban DPHE Mohammad Mostafa said of the 6,158 water sources installed in Bandarban, 5,004 are functional.

The executive engineer, however, admitted that there are fund constraints for repairing the dysfunctional water sources in the hilly districts while parts of many water sources installed in the public places were stolen due to lack of maintenance.

Besides, some areas of the hill districts are so remote that it is very hard for us to reach and install or repair the installed water sources, he said.

Putting aside the debate over the number of functional or dysfunctional water sources, the important matter to consider is that majority of the CHT people are deprived of pure drinking water and sanitation facilities, making them suffer from diarrhoeal diseases.

Sanitation and hygiene are deeply linked to access of pure drinking water, SMA Rashid, executive director of NGO Forum said, adding that his organisation initiated a 3-year project in 2004 for installing suitable water sources and sanitary latrines in the 72 villages in the three hill districts.

Twelve local NGOs are implementing the project funded by the European Commission (EC).

A three-member EC team during their May 14 visit to Bandarban appreciated the NGO Forum's style of work that includes installing water sources and creating mass awareness on sanitation.

Heroin smuggling

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the team is ill and a fully-fledged scrutiny of all banking information will start after he joins.

As part of the ongoing investigation into the smuggling, the BB asked all commercial banks on May 3 to report within a week all banking information of the 12 business houses on a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) request. The CID deemed the banking information vital for its investigation, BB and CID sources said.

The banks, however, failed to report within the stipulated time.

The eight sister concerns of BD Foods Ltd have the same address—9 DIT Avenue, Motijheel, Dhaka. They are Universal Trade International, Al Ajmir Trade International, King and Company, Camellia International, Oriental Export, Greenway Traders, Famous Business Internationals, and BD Sea Food.

The BD Food Corporation, another BD Foods concern, is located on Sagarika Road in Chittagong.

The remaining two business houses on the suspect-list are NHB Corporation at 28/G/1 Toynee Circular Road in Motijheel, and Rainbow International at Al Baraka Tower, 252 New Elephant Road.

Meanwhile, sources said the probe team members are quizzing detained BD Foods Chairman Badruddoza Chowdhury Momen intensively, but he did not divulge any significant information yesterday.

Momen admitted to the investigators on Wednesday that he smuggled some contraband items outside the country.

MAINUDDIN REMANDED
Md Mainuddin, manager of King and Company, was shown arrested in the heroin smuggling case filed with the Sutrapur Police Station and taken on a three-day fresh remand.

The CID produced Mainuddin before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court, Dhaka yesterday with a prayer for a seven-day remand.

Kushtia

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According to sources, Daily Ajker Alo ran a news on May 3 headlined, "Judge assaulted for not granting bail: Nine Kushtia lawyers appeared before High Court in a court violation case."

On May 7, KBA leaders served a legal notice to the daily saying the news false, baseless, and fabricated and asked the daily to apologise within 36 hours or face legal action.

The daily however published a rejoinder within 14 hours but KBA leaders alleged the paper had not done enough.

144 imposed

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declared a three-day Islamic discussion programme in the area.

Three platoons of police were deployed in the area yesterday morning to avoid any untoward situation.

The Ahmadiyyas alleged that local zealots are trying to foil their programme.

Legal experts

FROM PAGE 1
Council Rakanuddin Mahmud demanded punishment of those involved in making "false" voter list.

"The names of fake voters will have to be excluded from the list to make the electoral roll acceptable and fair one," he said.

Former SCBA president Advocate Mohammad Ozair Farooq said CEC Justice MA Aziz and two election commissioners—Justice Mahfuzur Rahman and SM Zakaria—should be punished with imprisonment, fine and impeachment, as they have committed serious criminal offences by betraying the nation.

"As a Supreme Court judge, the CEC has violated his oath and ignored the High Court judgment over preparation of the electoral roll," he said.

Former SCBA president Advocate Mabbubey Alam said the CEC and two other election commissioners have committed criminal offences by betraying the nation.

"As the Election Commission (EC) is a constitutional body, allegations should be brought separately against the members of the EC through forming supreme judicial council," said the former SCBA president.

Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, former judge of the High Court, said the election officials as well as the election commissioners are accused of committing criminal offences in making "false" voter list.

"The three EC members have been hatching conspiracy of holding a farcical election. They should be punished under the existing electoral and criminal laws," he said.

Former SCBA secretary Advocate M Enayetur Rahim said all the three members of the Election Commission are involved in making "false" voter list.

"They have violated their constitutional oaths by acting as per suggestions of the BNP-Jamaat alliance," he alleged.

Submarine cable

FROM PAGE 1
(SEA-ME-WE-4) submarine cable line, spanning about 20,000 km across the eastern and western hemispheres.

Fujitsu and Alcatel last month completed installing all necessary equipment at the landing station in Old T&T area of Zhilanga.

However, the country will have to wait another month to get access to the superhighway due to a delay in laying an optical fibre cable link between Cox's Bazar and Chittagong. Although the Turkish contractor Hestibel was supposed to finish installing the 160km cable link by last November, it is expected to complete the task in next month.

"It's a very good news for us. The submarine cable will increase our bandwidth many times more than the present rate and it will lead to a big fall in internet charges," said Ershad Shafi Chowdhury, general secretary of the Internet Service Providers Association.

"But it's not the end of the story. The telephone board has yet to upgrade the domestic cable system and other infrastructure, making it almost impossible to reap the benefit immediately," he added.

offer outsourcing services such as call centres, data processing and medical transcriptions for the first time, he added.

Bangladesh turned down an earlier opportunity in the late 1980s and analysts say the decision has hampered the growth of telecom and outsourcing services. The country has only a small number of call centres.

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N districts

FROM PAGE 1
132 kilovolt grid line at 6:07pm on Thursday, power supply in the northern region was disrupted, said a news release of Power Development Board yesterday.

As a result power generation at 100 megawatt (mw) Baghabari unit, 90mw Westmont unit and 125mw Barapukuria unit stopped, the release added.

In another incident three power units in Sylhet, Fenjujanj and Mymensingh became inoperative following a fire in a transformer in Ashuganj power station at 6:19pm.

Two probe teams headed by General Manager of Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) Amir Khasru and its GM Ruhul Amin have been formed to look into the causes of the sudden disruption in power supply in the northern districts and the accident in Ashuganj power station.

Both the committees are supposed to submit their reports within three days.

Crimes rise

FROM PAGE 1
visits, the underworld dons organised their groups, reasserting their leadership, and went back to their dens.

Recently, Mukul, one of the chargesheeted accused in the case filed in connection with the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally in 2004, visited the country, the sources said.

The latest police count reveals that 73 people were killed during the first four months of this year in Dhaka alone. Besides, 67 cases of mugging, 14 robberies and 589 theft were lodged with different police stations here.

However, the real number of crime incidents except murder is much more higher than what the police records show, as victims often do not inform the police about the incidents. In about 90 per cent cases, mugging victims preferred not to file any complaint.

According to newspaper reports, at least 25 people have been killed this month.

Besides, car-lifting—often accompanied by the killing of the

driver—also became a headache for the law enforcers.

Alarmed by the sudden rise in crimes, Babar held a marathon meeting with Rab and directed it to curb the slide in law and order—the result of slackened police efforts.

The police department was also alerted in this regard at the last meeting of the home ministry, but it failed to contain the law and order.

A top Rab official said around 600 Rab members are patrolling the city round the clock while its intelligence wing members are working to catch the criminals.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday that they have geared up efforts to arrest the criminals. He said police patrol and other steps have been strengthened to check crimes.

Asked if he has reports about the top criminals' recent visits to the country, the commissioner said he does not have any such report.

Industrial wastes

FROM PAGE 1
Both local entrepreneurs and foreign investors have demanded that the government immediately declare the industrialised area an 'ideal industrial city' and a municipality.

The industries are contributing a lot to the country's economy and playing important role in socio-economic development of the area.

They also put several demands including immediate solution of drainage problems, road development, setting up of gas line and assurance of its supply, improvement of security with additional police patrol, setting up of a fire station and street lights in all the roads and lanes.

Abdus Salam Murshedy, managing director of Envoy Group, said though they have maintained international standard in setting up industries in these areas with modern equipment and facilities for the workers, they are facing shortage of workers due to lack of adequate domestic gas line in those areas.

"The workers are less interested to live in these areas due to absence of gas facilities and we have to bring workers from the capital, which adds to the costs," Salam, also a vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGEMA), said.

NM Ziaul Haque, another local entrepreneur, said due to lack of infrastructure development in these areas, the industries could not flourish fast. Saying that the government is earning around Tk 4 crore per month as revenue, Ziaul, also managing director of Mascot Plaza Ltd said the government should look into their problems and take immediate steps to solve them.

"We are getting only five megawatt electricity for around 300 industries and most of the daytime we have to witness load shedding. We run our industries with the help of backup generator," said M Siddiqur Rahman, chairman of Sterlings Apparels Limited at

Voter list scandal

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have used a false identity where he claimed himself to be a teacher, and prepared the list in March, a month before his appointment as an enumerator.

The EC officials yesterday kept waiting throughout the day for Aminul to submit the 900 registration forms. Later some of them including a deputy election commissioner went to Agargaon, searching for him but to no avail.

When asked how did Atikul get the registration forms even before his recruitment, District Election Officer-3 and Registration Officer Samsul Alam could not give a satisfactory answer.

Atikul had used the seal of Mohammadpur Pre-Cadet Academy and High School while submitting the forms. But the election office showed him as a teacher of Shyamoli Pre-Cadet Academy.

The headmaster of Shyamoli Pre-Cadet Academy, the only institution by that name in the locality, Mominul Islam said he does not have any teacher by that name and none of his teachers are working as enumerators.

Locals said Atikul is married to a Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal leader of DCC ward No. 41 and a close associate to the local commissioner.

He prepared the voter list in March while a district election officer in a letter asked Aminul on April 2 to appoint Atik as an enumerator.

Aminul yesterday told the press that his current physical condition did not allow him to go to the election office and his doctors too have told him to rest.

He said he was not feeling secure and so he has been living somewhere else.

He earlier told the reporters that he had been instructed by the election officials to include fake names in the voter list.

During the visit to Agargaon, this correspondent found that many of the voters do not live at the addresses they used in the forms. For instance, Hemayet Howlader, Sabuj Sardar, and Akhtar Hossain do not live at 152/Ka/9 Agargaon, the address they mentioned in the forms.

The residents of the house said they know only two out of 14 names mentioned in the list.

The forms also listed several garment workers without mentioning that they work at garments. They were portrayed as permanent residents.

Electoral reform

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paign is to mobilise public support in favour of "Dhaka siege programme" on June 5 to force the government to accept the opposition's reform proposals for free and fair elections.

Central leaders of the main opposition Awami League will also hold workshop at upazila headquarters May 23-24.

Besides, Awami League will hold an extended meeting at the Institution of Engineers in the city n May 27-28 to discuss the June 5 siege programme with the party's district unit presidents and general secretaries.

The leaders of 14-party combine, divided in two teams, will visit eight northern districts during the three-day mass campaign. The first team, led by AL presidium member Abdur Rajjak MP, will begin campaign from Panchagarh and the second team, led by another AL presidium member Suranjit Sengupta MP, will start from Lalmonirhat on May 20.

Phulbari

FROM PAGE 16
investors and international financiers, who had committed a huge fund to dig out coal from Phulbari.

The company's proposals also include building a 500 MW coal-fired power plant at the mine site at an estimated cost of \$ 476 million. Provision has been made for addition of a second 500 MW plant later.

Asia Energy also unveiled plans to float stock market shares in Bangladesh. The company had signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Merchant Bank Equity Partners Ltd for initial public offering (IPO) later this year.

RAILWAY TO EARN \$2 BILLION
Meanwhile, the company yesterday presented a paper to Bangladesh Railway (BR) saying that the BR would earn more than \$2 billion transporting its coal to market and its equipment and supplies to the mine over a period of 30 years.

But the BR will need to invest \$250 million to upgrade its tracks and buy new rolling stock for the railway system in western zone.

David Schonfeld, Asia Energy's rail development manager, outlined the projected revenues in a presentation to BR Director General KMA Rob and senior officials. He explained the company's vision for a "world-class western rail corridor".

When in full operation, Phulbari coal mine will produce more than 15 million tonnes a year (Mtpa), plus an estimated 1.5 million tonnes co-products, most of which will require transport by train. Schonfeld said as a result, BR's freight traffic will grow more than six fold to 26 Mtpa from 4 Mtpa.

The company plans to export initially the bulk of its coal production—most of it by trains to Khulna and then by barges to sea-going ships at Akram Point, and the rest directly by trains.

At the early stages, about three million tonnes of coal will be sold locally, which will be transported by trains to industrial centres such as Gazipur. As local consumption and demand increases, more will be kept back for domestic use.

Asia Energy will also use the railway to transport heavy equipment, fuel and other supplies it will have to import to operate Phulbari mine.

India to join US-backed

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join the project which will now be re-named TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India pipeline), he said.

Besides the fact that Iran was bargaining for a very high price for the gas it wants to sell to India through Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline and in its liquid form (LNG), the pipeline from Turkmenistan would be easier to implement than IPI line as it already has the backing of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Iran's controversial nuclear programme and Washington's strong reservations have clearly cast a shadow on the future of the proposed eight billion dollar Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline.

Moreover, unlike IPI, the TAPI project does not run the risk of being blacklisted for participation by US and European financiers and companies.

The US has been encouraging Pakistan to abandon the IPI project and consider TAP for meeting its gas needs.

The proposed natural gas pipeline would stretch from the Turkmenistan/Afghanistan border in south-eastern Turkmenistan to Multan, Pakistan (1,271km), with a 640km extension to India.

The estimated cost of the project is 2.9 billion dollars for the segment to Pakistan and an additional 600 million dollars for the extension to India.

3 killed

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gang slaughtered him and hung his body upside down from a tree.

Police recovered the body yesterday and sent it to Meherpur General Hospital for an autopsy.

In another incident at Harbhanga in the same upazila, a member of an outlawed party shot his own brother dead.

The incident happened following a feud between them over share of their ancestral properties.

Manun around 12:00midnight shot his elder brother Monirul as he was sleeping in his room and fled the scene.

Family members tried to take Monirul to Gangni Upazila Health Complex but he succumbed to his injuries on the way.

Police sent the body to Meherpur General Hospital yesterday morning for an autopsy.

Meanwhile, Rajbari police said armed cadres of New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) shot dead Atiur Rahman, general secretary of Khet Mujur Samity, Rajbari district unit, when he was returning home at Radhakantapur in Sadar upazila around 10:30pm.

Police quoting some witnesses said a gang ambushed Atiur as he reached Binodpur. They shot him five times in the head, chest and abdomen point-blank leaving him dead on the spot. Police arrested two people on suspicion of their involvement in the killing.

Dhaka, Yangon

FROM PAGE 1
issues, including refugee repatriation, border security, trade and investment, and issues related to the maritime boundary between Bangladesh and Myanmar.

Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin stressed that maintaining good relation with neighbours is one of the basics of Bangladesh foreign policy and underscored the importance of Bangladesh bilateral relations with Myanmar from that point of view.

Hemayet said alongside "look east policy" Myanmar as a neighbour is also important to Bangladesh.

Sharing the views, Myanmar deputy foreign minister emphasised enhancing cooperation bilaterally and multilaterally.

Before the bilateral talks, Myanmar's deputy foreign minister and the foreign secretary held an exclusive tete-a-tete at Hotel Nikko Royal Lake. During the meeting, Hemayet discussed some important issues of common concern.

After the talks, the foreign secretary called on Myanmar Foreign

"With a view to meeting the burgeoning gas demand, it is estimated that substantial volumes of gas would need to be imported.

Joining the TAP project offers the possibility of an alternative source of gas supply to India," said the petroleum ministry proposal without referring to Iran. Participation in TAP would give New Delhi leverage with Iran on the IPI project, the official said, adding that in mid-February the Steering Committee had given India three months to submit a formal request.

India needs around 150 million standard cubic metres (mscm) of gas per day while its current availability, including LNG imports, is 92 mscm daily. This demand is estimated to jump to 313 mscm per day by 2011-12. Of the TAPI gas, India is willing to lift 70 mscm daily, the same volume that it tabled during talks with Iran.

Sutrapur PS

FROM PAGE 16
including the SI and the ASI.

Jisan, a student of class five at Nawabpur Government Primary School, was missing since Thursday morning when he went to buy breakfast from a hotel near their house on BCC Road.

Firoz Hossain, who resides in a nearby under-construction house, found the body of Jisan lying beside the stairs on the second floor of the house. He informed Sutrapur police who later recovered the body.