

Charges framed against 5 JMB men in Dhaka
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against five Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leaders and activists in two cases filed in January this year.

The cases -- one under the Arms Act and the other under the Explosive Substances Act -- were filed with Uttara Police Station on January 5.

The accused in the cases are Wahidul Islam, 20, Shafiqul Islam, 30, Hafez Ibrahim, 30, Abdullah Al Faruq, 21, and Hanif, 22.

The five pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Mohammad Rabiul Hassan of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court framed charges against them.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on March 30 pressed charges against the five JMB members, showing 36 people as prosecution witnesses.

The investigation officer dropped the name of Shakil alias Mollah Omar from the charge sheet as he was killed in a fight with the law enforcers in Comilla on March 12.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

BARAPUKURIA POWER PLANT

Technical glitches cut output by half

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

The power generation of 250 megawatt (MW) Barapukuria Coal-Powered Plant has come down 50 per cent as it developed technical glitches.

The crippled plant is producing power around half its actual capacity for the last 15 days, Power Development Board (PDB) sources said.

The plant sources claimed a number of technical problems developed in the fan installed in the boiler of the two power generation units, causing the production capacity to come down. The first unit is constantly producing 80 to 100MW power.

The first unit was earlier scheduled to start trial runs back in October last year but it started in November.

Then it had to be shut down due to technical problems. It again went into operation on January 14 this year and contributed 50 to 60MW of power to the national grid. The authorities detected hundreds of technical faults and shut down the plant again.

On February 8, former state minister for power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood visited the plant and asked the plant's Chinese builder CMC to start commercial operation of both the units by April.

Following the directives, the first unit started production in April. The 250MW power plant's second unit started on February 14. In April, the plant was producing in full capacity around 225 to 245MW power daily.

The plant developed hundreds of faults last month and tripped again shutting down production for several days.

But the plant authorities continued power production during the Fifa World Cup football matches with half its production capabilities.

Sources said since the plant was not equipped with the spare parts for repairing the faults in the boiler, it could not go into full production immediately. However, sources confirmed that a number of spare parts are about to arrive within the next few months.

Power plant sources speculated the fans installed in the boilers might be having trouble for the excessive humidity in the area. Sources said the plant requires 13.5 per cent moisture but they are having 18 to 20 per cent moisture.

The troubled fans of both units need to be replaced but unavailability of the fans is causing the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Cops swoop on striking teachers' procession again
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several teachers received minor injuries in clashes with police as the latter prevented teachers and employees of non-government schools, colleges, madrasas and technical colleges from laying siege to the Technical Education Board at Agargaon in the capital.

The teachers and employees were staging demonstration at Rokeya Sarani.

Earlier on Saturday, police charged batons on a teachers' procession at Muktagong in the city, leaving six teachers injured.

The agitating teachers and employees yesterday tried to lay siege to the Technical Education Board demanding reduction of different types of fees for technical students and 100 per cent basic salary from the government exchequer for the teachers and employees of the technical colleges.

Issuing a 24-hour ultimatum demanding realisation of 12-point demand of the Technical College Teachers Association, leaders of National Front of Teachers and Employees said they will bring out

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



Bangladesh Vocational College Teachers' Association holds a rally in front of the passport office at Agargaon in the capital yesterday after police stopped their procession heading to besiege the Technical Education Board office.



PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

An estuarine crocodile is seen incubating 23 eggs she laid earlier in captivity at a breeding centre at Karamajal set up under Sundarbans Biodiversity Conservation Project. Once the Sundarbans was swarmed with these saltwater reptiles but unabated poaching and killing when they get entangled in fishermen's nets saw their numbers decline significantly. After hatching of the eggs the breeding centre authorities plan to release the crocodiles at different spots across the Sundarbans.

BDR, BSF trade gunshots on Shibganj border
UNB, *Chapainawabganj*

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) traded gunshots for about two hours on Kironganj border in Shibganj upazila of the district early yesterday.

However, there was no report of any casualty.

Inhabitants of two frontier villages -- Jaminpur and Marantola -- got panicky as tension prevailed in the area following the gunfire that broke out after Saturday midnight.

BDR sources said the Indian BSF from Churi Anantapur outpost started "unprovoked" firing towards Bangladesh territory, forcing the BDR jawans to return the fire.

The BSF used nearly 300 rounds of bullets against 117 fired by BDR during the exchange of fire that continued till about 2:00am.

Six Rifles Battalion Commander Lt Col Lutfar Rahman said the BDR jawans have been kept on alert.

BIGOTS' THREAT Ahmadiyyas demand protection
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat once again urged the government to protect the minority sect in the wake of religious extremists' recent threats of holding them incommunicado at their houses and spreading hatred among the villagers at Sharishabari in Jamalpur.

The minority sect also condemned law enforcers for being silent and reluctant to act in two assault incidents on Ahmadiyyas on July 29 last year and June 16 this year. The sect believes it encouraged the bigots to be more aggressive.

The recent declaration of holding 'incommunicado' the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Opposition plots to grab power thru' backdoor
PM says at public meeting

UNB, *Panchbibi*

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday charged her political opponents with plotting to grab power through the backdoor by disrupting the upcoming elections.

"They want to come to power through the backdoor, but people will not allow them to see success in their conspiracy," she told a public meeting at Panchbibi.

Khaleda, who completes her 5-year term in October, apprehended that a deep-rooted conspiracy is on against the country, democracy and

economic development.

Asking people to remain alert against any evil design or conspiracy, she said conspirators will never succeed.

On the opposition's electoral reform proposals, the prime minister said, "We had told them to sit across the table, but they did not want their demands to be met."

She said when Awami League was in power, it did not reform the system of caretaker government as they knew free and fair elections are possible under this system.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

4 criminals killed in 'crossfire'

STAR REPORT

Four criminals were killed in 'crossfire' incidents between their accomplices and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police at Jessore, Feni and Chuadanga yesterday.

Two were killed when two Rab teams came under attack from the cohorts of the criminals they were travelling with in Jessore, our Jessore correspondent reports.

The dead Harun-ur-Rashid, 38, and Aslam Hossain, 37, were from Talbaria of Sadar upazila of Jessore.

Sources claim they were regional commanders of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) ML faction.

Rab recovered a pistol, a pipe

captured at Segunbagicha, Dhaka on Saturday and were taken to Jessore after they gave confessional statements that they had arms hidden there.

"Split into two teams, we carried out an arms recovery operation," a Rab official said. Harun was taken to Krishnabati in Sadar upazila while Aslam was taken to Sheikhhati near Jessore town, he added.

Rab sources said the accomplices of the outlaws ambushed the teams early yesterday. "They were trying to free the criminals and Rab retaliated," a Rab source said.

Harun and Aslam received bullets and were rushed to Jessore General Hospital where the doctors declared them dead.

Rab recovered a pistol, a pipe

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

Visitors gather in front of gate-3 of Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday to meet ministers and high officials. Such gathering of visitors has increased in recent time.

TIB clarifies its source of fund
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Against the backdrop of adverse comments and questions about the source of funding following publication of corruption index by the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), the organisation has come up with clarification to 'put an end' to any further confusion regarding the matter.

Several ministers and a section of journalists in a press conference made comments and raised questions following TIB's publication of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Prayer Timing		
July 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

UN slaps sanctions on North Korea

Pyongyang not bound by resolution

REUTERS, *United Nations*

The UN Security Council voted unanimously on Saturday for a resolution requiring nations to prevent North Korea from obtaining dangerous weapons and demanding Pyongyang halt its ballistic missile programme.

North Korea said on Sunday it was not bound by a UN Security Council resolution, which has created "an extremely dangerous situation" and the country would "bolster its war deterrent" in every way.

The Security Council had acted with "irresponsibility," by voting unanimously for a resolution requiring nations to prevent North Korea from obtaining dangerous weapons, an unnamed North Korean

foreign ministry spokesman was quoted as saying by the official KCNA news agency.

North Korea immediately "totally rejected" the resolution. Its UN Ambassador Pak Gil Yon told the council that Pyongyang's missile development preserved a balance of forces in Northeast Asia and test launches would continue.

"It is clear to everyone that there is no need for the DPRK to unilaterally put on hold the missile launches under such a situation," Pak told the council following the vote, using the acronym for his country's formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The resolution requires all UN member states "in accordance with

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

