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Over 100 Ctg jail prisoners refuse food, stage protest

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 21: A section of prisoners in Chittagong jail staged a demonstration and refused to take meals today demanding adequate facilities, police and jail sources said.
Police said that 111 prisoners, mostly BNP activists, also chanted slogans to protest the authorities' decision to keep them in two particular cells instead of allowing them to stay with other inmates.
The agitating prisoners demanded cancellation of the decision.
Police and jail sources said the pro-BNP prisoners were kept isolated in S and J block cells to avert any clash with the prisoners belonging to rival political parties.
Failing to tame the agitating prisoners, the jail authorities later called in a large contingent of police force who cordoned off the jail premises. Later magistrates and other administration officials went to the jail and brought the situation under control.
They forced the agitating prisoners to enter the lockers at 6:30 pm.
Tight security measures have been taken in and around the Chittagong Jail.

SSC exams in Ctg Social Science part-I held with new set of questions

CHITTAGONG, Apr 21: The Social Science 1st paper of the SSC examinations was held in the district today with new set of questions cancelling all three previous sets, reports UNB.
The Chittagong Education Board earlier sent the new set of question papers to the district and thana treasuries last night.
The authorities decided to hold the examination with new set of questions on receipt of evidence about the leakage of question papers, the Board sources said.
They said additional three sets of question papers were kept ready to face any eventualities.
The administration is yet to take decision on the examinations already held with the "leaked out" question papers. Sources said a meeting was held today and a decision would be taken within a day or two.
On Monday morning, police arrested two SSC examinees of Barairhat School in Mirsarai
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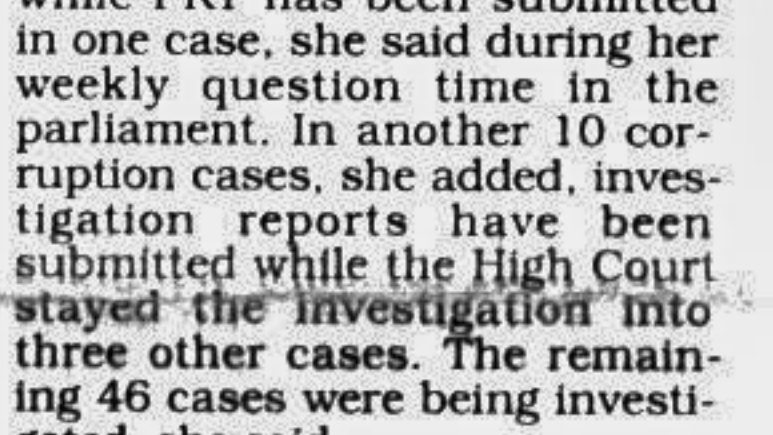
Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a three-page special supplement on birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
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Speaker's ruling in Jatiya Sangsad Swapan, Alauddin won't lose JS membership

By Staff Correspondent
Speaker Humayun Rashid Choudhury ruled in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the two BNP lawmakers — Hasibur Rahman Swapan and Dr Alauddin — did not lose their membership for joining the Awami League government.
The ruling came 43 days after BNP raised the issue in parliament, claiming that the two MPs lost their membership for "crossing" the floor.
The House witnessed pin-dread silence when the Speaker read out his two-page ruling. As soon as the ruling was over, the BNP lawmakers sprang on their feet to protest it. Failing to get the floor, they staged a noisy walkout, terming the Speaker's decision "illegal".
Returning to the House after 10 minutes, some of the BNP legislators tried to speak on the ruling but the Deputy Speaker, then in the Chair, referred to articles 301 and 302 of the Jatiya Sangsad Rules of Procedure that bar any discussion on a ruling by the Chair.
Dr Alauddin was present in the House while the ruling was pronounced but Hasibur Rahman Swapan was absent from there. Alauddin left the House when the BNP members started shouting against the Speaker's ruling.
Swapan joined the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as Deputy Minister for Industries on February 2 while Dr Alauddin joined as State Minister for Water Resources eight days later.
BNP expelled both the lawmakers for "violating party discipline" the same day they took oaths of office.
In his ruling, the Speaker mentioned different articles of the Constitution as regards vacation of the seat of an MP and said that those were not applicable in the cases of the two BNP lawmakers.
The ruling also referred to the legal points raised by BNP
See Page 12 Col 6

Corruption cases against BNP men Investigation on, none will be spared: PM

By Staff Correspondent
The government has filed 69 cases against the BNP leaders, including former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia, on charges of corruption committed during the tenure of the last BNP government.
Disclosing this in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said, of the cases, one was filed against her predecessor while 17 against the ministers and advisers in the past BNP government, one against the ex-Speaker and 11 against former and present MPs of the party.
Chargesheets had been submitted in nine of the cases while FRT has been submitted in one case, she said during her weekly question time in the parliament. In another 10 corruption cases, she added, investigation reports have been submitted while the High Court stayed the investigation into three other cases. The remaining 46 cases were being investigated, she said.
Replying to a supplementary question, the PM told the House that the Bureau of Anti-Corruption which was made non-functional by the successive governments, specially that of BNP, was being made operational. "But it is not as effective as it is supposed to be", she observed.
Sheikh Hasina accused Begum Zia, her son Tarek Rahman and brother Sayeed Eskandar of misappropriating crores of taka they took from the banks.
"All those corruption charges are being investigated



The Prime Minister at Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.



The Prime Minister at Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

and none would be spared," the Prime Minister warned.
Speaking on the difficulties of investigation, Sheikh Hasina informed the House that many documents were burnt and removed when the fall of the BNP government became imminent.
To another supplementary, the PM said the authorities were also probing into misuse of the PM's Relief Fund, distributed among the party MPs during the BNP rule. Many cases were filed against the then ruling party MPs in this connection, she added.
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PM's question hr BNP MPs stay out of House again
By Staff Correspondent
The BNP lawmakers again did not attend the Prime Minister's question time yesterday.
Of the six starred questions for the PM yesterday, four were by the BNP lawmakers and one each by Awami League and Jatiya Party MPs.
The BNP legislators walked out of the House after the PM's question time on March 25 as no starred question of the party MPs were selected for the PM on that day.
However, the Speaker allowed three BNP MPs to ask supplementary questions to the PM on that day when the Prime Minister pointed out there was no question for her submitted by the BNP members.
The BNP legislators also remained absent from the House during the PM's question time on the following Tuesday (March 31) when one BNP MP's question was chosen for the PM.
See Page 12 Col 8

R&H sector to be declared industry for pvt investment

By Mizan Ali
The government is likely to declare Roads and Highway Sector an industry, facilitating participation of private investors, according to officials of the communications ministry.
The World Bank (WB) has already allocated 225 million US dollars to encourage private sector involvement in the construction of roads and highways, power generation and setting up of telecommunication services in the country.
The Roads and Highways Sector will probably be the first among all others to come up with projects to utilise the money already sanctioned by the WB, said an official of the communications ministry.
Involvement of private entrepreneurs in this area has so far been limited only to construction services carried out on the basis of fixed price contract.
"Private sector involvement in infrastructure development is envisaged on a build-operate-transfer (BOT) basis which has already been put into operation in South Asian and South-East Asian countries", he added.
An attractive package will be offered by the government to ensure that individual projects are made financially viable and that adequate support is provided to the entrepreneurs for the BOT mechanism, the ministry official said.
"Once the BOT system is put into operation the private sector will participate in construction of roads, highways, flyovers and bridges," another official of communications ministry said.
The BOT projects would be identified on the basis of traffic generating capacity, lower operating costs, faster journey times and greater convenience, useful and valuable public service and commercial viability, he added.
"Private sector participation is expected to encourage additional financial, technical and managerial resources, greater efficiency and expertise besides
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Even light rainfall causes waterlogging in roads in the city's Babu Bazar area for lack of drainage facilities. —Star photo

Speaker's ruling unfair: BNP

By Staff Correspondent
Opposition BNP yesterday denounced the Speaker's ruling on parliament membership of Dr Mohammad Alauddin and Hasibur Rahman Swapan.
Addressing a press briefing, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Badruddoza Chowdhury said, "the Speaker has given the ruling beyond his jurisdiction and under the influence of the government."
Attended by Opposition Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, the press briefing was held at the Opposition lobby in the Sangsad Bhawan yesterday evening.
Badruddoza Chowdhury said as his party did not believe in the idea of a consensus government, the two MPs who joined the consensus government went beyond our party's stand and can no longer remain law-
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Nor'westers kill 12 in 4 districts

At least 12 people were killed and scores of others injured as nor'westers lashed five districts yesterday, report agencies.
Hundreds of thatched houses and standing crops on vast tracks of land were damaged and a large number of trees uprooted during the storm.
The casualties were reported from Sirajganj, Tangail, Chittagong and Mymensingh districts.
UNB Sirajganj correspondent reports: Four people were killed and 16 others injured when nor'westers hit two unions of Ullapara and Shahjadpur thanas in the district.
Three of them died as a lightning struck them during the storm in the evening.
The victims were identified as Amena Bewa, 55, Akht Begum, 43, and Panna Khatun, 19, of village Baro Khukuni in Shahjadpur thana.
The other victim Shamim Ali, 61, of village Khamarpara in Ullapara thana died in a house collapse during another storm early in the morning.
Some 700 thatched houses were also destroyed during the nor'westers.
In Chittagong districts, two people were killed during a storm last night.
A rickshaw-puller, Nurul Alam, 22, died on the spot when a thunderbolt struck him at village Gandamara in Banskhali thana. The nor'wester swept over the district with a velocity of 95 kph.
Shamsul Alam, 14, died as an overhead electric cable snapped and fell on him at village Shakpura in Boalkhali thana during the nor'wester.
Officials said some 150 thatched houses were also damaged by the storm.
See Page 12 Col 7

Death toll in Gaibandha went up for lack of medicare facilities

By Naimul Haq back from Gaibandha
Inadequate medicare facilities and shortage of doctors were responsible for the recent deaths from liquor poisoning at the Gaibandha Sadar Hospital.
This view was expressed by the district administration officials, the Poursabha chairman, local political leaders and the elite of the town while talking to this correspondent during his visit there.
"It is very sad that despite having a so-called modern hospital, we lost so many lives," a political leader said.
"Many patients had to be sent to Rangpur Medical College Hospital because Gaibandha Hospital lacks proper facilities," an elite of the town said.
The hospital authorities could have sent an SOS to Dhaka for Army's hospital helicopter to treat the patients at Mohakhali (Dhaka), a high official of the district administration said. The death toll could have been lower if some of the patients were taken to Mohakhali, he observed. "Even RMCH proved ineffective for the emergency," the official claimed.
When contacted, Gaibandha Civil Surgeon ASM Shahid Ullah admitted that the hospital lacked facilities for proper treatment of the patients but said they had adequate drugs.
He said, "because we do not have any surgery professor, we refer all patients requiring operations to RMCH. It is our normal practice."
He also said that some of the patients were brought to the
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LIQUOR TRAGEDY: (Top) Ranjit, who lost his father and three other family members, is seen with others of the family in front of their Bridge Road residence at Gaibandha town. (Bottom) The homeopathic shops, from where the illegal liquor was sold, have been sealed by the police. —Star photo by Amran Hossain

Tale of an abducted boy

A 13-year-old boy returned to his family after remaining in captivity for five months at a house in the port city of Chittagong.
Mohammad Salahuddin, who was abducted by a gang of child traffickers five months back, had fled from their camp in Chittagong on April 16.
Salahuddin, son of late Moharram Ali of Ghorasal of Muradnagar thana in Comilla, worked as a domestic help at a residence in the city's Taltala area before this kidnapping.
Salahuddin told UNB that on November 15 last year, while he was going to Khilgaon crossing at Noon, an elderly man attired in a white shirt and
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Liquor traders often mix methanol for more profit

By Masud Arif
Mixing of cheap and poisonous methanol with rectified spirit by unauthorised liquor traders for more profit is the main cause of death from drinking this liquor, according to officials of the Department of Narcotics Control and experts.
At least 110 people died drinking such adulterated liquor in the last two years.
The traders think that methanol is an intoxicant, but actually it is not, they said.
One litre of rectified spirit costs Tk 140 to 145 while the same quantity of methanol costs only Tk 26.
"These traders sometimes use methanol, a new material for varnishing, as an intoxicant although it does not have any sedative effect," said a senior narcotics official.
Prof AH Moinuddin Ahmed of Chemistry Department of Dhaka University when contacted said methanol is highly poisonous while it has a very weak sedative effect.
It is ethanol, used in homeopathic shops, which has tranquilizing effect. Prof Ahmed however said that a small percentage of methanol is mixed with ethanol to produce rectified spirit so that people do not drink it.
Senior DNC officials said that in most cases of liquor poisoning, they found that unscrupulous liquor traders had produced the drink using water, a small quantity of rectified spirit, methanol and sedative
See Page 12 Col 3

IO discloses during cross-examination Mushtaque, others met at BARD few months before Aug 15 tragedy

Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed had a meeting with some civilians and army officers at Comilla BARD several months before the August 15 tragedy of 1975, the IO of Bangladesh murder case told the trial court yesterday, reports UNB.
The investigation officer said the witnesses he interrogated informed him of the meeting attended by Major Farooq, Major Rashid, Major Shahriyar, minister Taheruddin Thakur and BARD chief Mahabul Alam Chashee and others.
Cross-examined by a state defence counsel, IO Abdul Kahar Akand said the exclusive meeting was held on the second day of a three-day divisional meeting that began on March 23 at BARD.
ASP Akand, also 61st prosecution witness in the case, stated that the meeting took place at the lounge of the BARD in the name of taking afternoon tea.
Replying to a query, he said he could not know who had served them tea. However, caretaker Firoz Mia confirmed that the meeting took place.
The ASP of the CID denied that he himself fabricated the story of the meeting and for this no witness was produced before the trial court.
He said, apart from the statement of caretaker Firoz Mia, a witness, Prof Khorshed Alam, then an MP from Comilla, made a statement about the meeting of Khandaker Mushtaque and others.
Mushtaque, Chashee, Thakur and the army officers were accused in the case. But, Mushtaque and Chashee were relieved of the charges as they died before the investigation began.
Taheruddin Thakur, Syed Farooq Rahman and Shahriyar Rashid along with two others are facing trial. Khandaker Abdur Rashid and 13 others have remained absconding.
Advocate Gazi Zillur Rahman, state defence for accused Khandaker Rashid, cross-examined the IO all over the proceedings yesterday at the special sesh of Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Court.
Other state defence counsels for the absconding accused, will cross-examine the ASP when the court of District Judge Kazi Golam Rasul resumes this morning.
Quoting witnesses, the IO said that he got enough proof that Khandaker Rashid was actively involved in the assassination of Bangladesh.
"Rashid joined the Army Headquarters on March 11, 1975 after a training abroad. He was appointed commanding officer of the 2 Field Artillery on May, '75," Akand said.
He said one Major Delwar was second-in-command of the 2 Field Artillery during the incident. "He was summoned during the investigation but was not available," the IO said.

Terrorism in Ctg Businessmen to keep shutters down for 3 hrs in protest May 5

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 21: A meeting of 40 organisations of businessmen and industrialists, organised by Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) at its office, today decided to keep shops and markets in the city closed for three hours from 9 am on May 5 to protest growing terrorism.
The meeting also decided that the businessmen and industrialists will wear black badges, bring out a silent procession from a rally at the New Market crossing and hand over a memorandum to the Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong on that day.
See Page 12 Col 8

British minister of state arrives today

British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Derek Fatchett, MP, arrives in the city today on a two-day official visit, reports UNB.
His visit to Bangladesh is being considered as significant as he is in charge of Asia-Pacific region in the British Foreign Office.
Officials at Bangladesh Foreign Ministry described the visit as a part of on-going dialogue between the two countries at the political level.
During the visit, Fatchett will have bilateral discussions with State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hassan Chowdhury.
In the formal talks, the two ministers are expected to review the broad gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern and interest.
Fatchett will also call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed.
A press release of the British High Commission said the State Minister will also call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia.
Fatchett will take part in a roundtable discussion on "Trade Links and Investment Promotions" with the Bangladesh business leaders.

Boy torture: 4 confess their involvement

By Staff Correspondent
The elderly homewife, her daughter and two sons confessed to police Monday night about their involvement in torturing the 10-year-old boy who worked as a domestic help at her house at the city's Shahidbagh area for about 13 days, police said.
The boy, Shohagh, from Comilla, is now under treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, hospital sources said. Shohagh was admitted to the hospital with marks of assault and burn injuries.
Police yesterday produced Shabiba Hossain, the housewife, her daughter Afroza Afrin and sons Zahid Hossain and Shahid Hossain before the CMM's Court. The Court sent them to Dhaka Central Jail.
The four were arrested by police after Alena Khan, a human rights activist, filed a case with Motijheel thana under the Woman and Children Repression Act 1995 on Monday.

By-election: AL invites applications

Awami League has invited applications from intending candidates for the May 24 by-elections in Barisal-5 constituency, reports UNB.
Interested persons have been asked to collect and submit nomination papers from the party's central office at 23 Bangabandhu Avenue between 10 am and 5 pm tomorrow.
The nomination seekers will have to appear before an interview board at 4 pm on Friday.

Showcuse on Dainik Karnaphuli

CHITTAGONG, Apr 21: The government tonight issued a showcase notice upon a local daily — Dainik Karnaphuli — as to why its declaration will not be cancelled for leaking question papers of the ongoing SSC examination and official secrets reports UNB.
Deputy Commissioner K M Habbullah said that the publisher of the daily has been asked to reply within seven days.
The showcase notice was issued and sent after a high-level meeting of the district administration here today.
It mentioned that the daily by publishing question papers in advance has violated the Declaration Act and Official Secrecy Act on Public Examination, 1980.