

Danes yet to respond to Bangladesh protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is still awaiting a response from Denmark to its protest note handed to the Danish ambassador in the city on Wednesday about the graft charge slapped on Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain by the Danish foreign ministry under-secretary.

Foreign Secretary Shamsur M Chowdhury Wednesday summoned the Danish Ambassador Niels Severin Munk to the foreign office and handed an aide-memoire to him, reminding the Danish government that Danish Under-secretary Peter Lysholt Hansen's approach "is a clear breach of long established diplomatic traditions and practice".

This is the second time the Danish envoy was summoned to the foreign office after the graft charge was aired.

Earlier, Dhaka also asked Copenhagen to provide evidence in support of its allegation.

Hansen made the charge at a press conference on April 13, saying the minister had "serious intention of corruption" in the process of floating tender for rehabilitation of four ferries with Danish grant.

In an interview with the BBC Radio on April 16, he also alleged

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Juba Dal leader shot by his associates in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A leader of Juba Dal, BNP's front organisation, was shot and injured by his associates at East Razabazar in the city yesterday.

The victim identified as Arman, 28, son of Abdul Awal and joint secretary of Ward No.16 unit of Juba Dal, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with a bullet in his left leg.

Sources said Arman and his friends, Rafiq and Jamal, lived at 423, North Ibrahimpur.

Arman had left the house yesterday morning, telling his friends to stay put while he was gone for a few hours. But on his return, he found that the door of the house was locked and his friends were nowhere around.

As he didn't have the keys with him, he had to break the door open and found that some of his valuables were missing. Suspecting that Rafiq and Jamal had stolen his belongings, Arman started looking for the two.

At about 11:45am, Arman was

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Mild tremor in port city

BSS, Ctg

An earthquake measuring 3.38 in the Richter scale rocked the port city and its adjacent areas in the early hours of yesterday.

No reports of damage or casualty were received from any corner of the city, police and local people said.

Met office said the quake started at 2 hours 21 minutes and 33 seconds (Bangladesh Standard Time-BST) and lasted 16 seconds.

The epicentre of the quake was 141 kilometers off the Chittagong Port. However, the lone seismic observatory centre located in the port city could not measure its direction.

The intensity of the tremor was minor, met office added.

Royal homecoming

Zahir Shah's 29-year exile ends



AFP, Kabul

Deposed Afghan monarch Mohammed Zahir Shah returned home after 29 years in exile yesterday to a red-carpet ceremony fit for a king as his former subjects took to the streets in celebration.

A grey Italian airforce plane touched down shortly before 11:30 am (0700 GMT) at the Kabul international airport, the wreckage of planes from more than two decades of conflict much in evidence.

Interim leader Hamid Karzai, who had travelled to Rome to pick up the 87-year-old, made sure he stepped out of the plane behind Zahir Shah who was then greeted with a bouquet of flowers by waiting children.

He made his way slowly down the red carpet where he was greeted by officials, many of whom were still at school at the time of his ouster, before stepping into a waiting

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

No second shift at DU, not now

DU CORRESPONDENT

The proposed second shift at the Dhaka University is not being launched in the current academic session.

The academic committee of the university has said classes in different departments and institutions of the university for this session have already begun and now it is not possible to launch a second shift.

Besides, recommendations of different faculties regarding the proposed second shift are yet to reach the authorities, the committee noted at a meeting on Wednesday. Vice Chancellor Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury chaired the meeting.

However, the meeting decided that steps in this regard would be taken for the next session after getting the recommendations.

Earlier on February 5, two teachers of the university put forward a proposal to the academic committee

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Mukta relates traumatic tale

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanangaj

Housewife Asma Bhuiyan Mukta, abducted and tortured, has given her statement under Section-161 to the police on Thursday.

In the statement given at 5.15pm to Investigation Officer of the case Sadek Mujibur Rahman at her residence, Mukta accused Dipu, the mastermind, of abduction and torture.

On March 31, Dipu and his accomplices intercepted her in Masdair area on her way to her sister's house, the statement said. The gang bundled her into a microbus and drugged her with chloroform.

Later, Mukta found herself in a tin-shed. The next day, she was confined to a room on the first floor of a building, where Dipu visited her almost everyday.

She was given dry food to eat, but not adequate drinking water. Nor was she allowed to take bath.

On the evening of April 16, Dipu and his accomplices took Mukta out of the room blindfolded, and after a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Kamal Majumder chargesheeted in attempted rape case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former Awami League MP Kamal Ahmed Majumder and two others have been chargesheeted in an attempted rape case.

The two other accused are Kamal's brother Anwar Hossain Majumder and one Nazma Hossain.

The Investigation Officer (IO) of the case submitted the chargesheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

In the case, filed with Pallabi police station, it has been alleged that on December 30, last year, eight men forcibly took a 35-year-old-woman Yasmin Sultana to Kamal's political office at Mohana in the city's Pallabi area where Kamal tried to rape her.

Later, the victim filed a rape case under the Prevention of Women and Repression Act 2000 against Kamal Majumder, his brother Anwar Hossain and one Nazma Hossain.

Following the case, Kamal Majumder was arrested from his Banani residence in the city on January 1.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Laden & co stage TV comeback

AFP, Dubai

Osama bin Laden is staging a "television comeback", with top Arab satellite channels successively airing two videotapes of the suspected terror mastermind, his al-Qaeda aides and the "last will" of one of the September 11 suicide bombers.

Bin Laden's return to TV screens via videotapes provided to Qatar's Al-Jazeera and Saudi-owned Middle East Broadcasting Centre (MBC) at a time when anti-US sentiment is rising in the Arab world as Israel carries on its West Bank offensive cannot be merely coincidental, analysts say.

In the tape aired by the Dubai-based MBC on Wednesday, a spokesman for al-Qaeda for the first time claimed responsibility for the September 11 attacks on the United States.

"We were able to hit the head of the infidels on his own turf," said Suleiman Abu Ghaith.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

HOSPITAL WATCH Doctors for dough

Patients at Suhrawardy Hospital referred to private facilities for tests

NAIMUL HAQ

Some doctors at the city's Suhrawardy Hospital allegedly spin off extra money by sending their patients to nearby diagnostic centres for pathological tests.

According to sources, most doctors of the emergency wing at the 300-bed hospital have links with few private pathological laboratories in the area and send patients there for tests that are both 'unnecessary and unreliable'.

Although the hospital has a full-fledged pathology unit, at least 70 per cent of the treatment seekers are referred to these private facilities for common blood and urine tests.

In return, these doctors get 40 to 45 per cent of the profit the diagnostic centres make. Payments are made at the end of the day and a doctor earns up to Tk 1.50 lakh a month through such malpractice, sources said.

Despite several complaints lodged by patients, the

hospital administration is yet to take any action, they added.

Later last week, at around 11 in the morning, a young housewife, who brought her child to the hospital, fell prey to the illegal practice.

The housewife, Rahima, went to the ticket counter where patients have to register their names and other details. Out came a broker and took her to Dr Misbah-ul-Karim, an emergency medical officer (EMO).

The EMO, who, according to a senior doctor, was not supposed to be on duty then, reportedly advised several pathological tests for the child to be done at the nearby Medi Prime Diagnostic Complex.

Senior doctors said that the child, who complained "loss of appetite and loose bowel movement", should have been referred to the paediatric department of the hospital.

"I paid the Medi Prime Diagnostic Centre Tk 700 for

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Biodiversity strategy to reap TRIPS benefit

Seminar in city told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a dialogue yesterday underscored the need for setting up a national strategy and proper documentation of traditional knowledge regarding bio-diversity to derive benefits from the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

They suggested formation of a national body on intellectual property rights and modernising the patent system of the country. Experts also stressed the need for formation of a single authority in the country to handle intellectual property rights issues since multiple bodies create problem.

The international dialogue on Trade, Biological Resources and Intellectual Property Rights was jointly organised by the Centre for

Policy Dialogue (CPD), the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Geneva, in collaboration with Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA) and the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva (QUNO) at CIRDAP auditorium in the city.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, who attended the dialogue as chief guest, observed that many countries were now enacting new laws or amending the existing ones to conform to TRIPS. He, however, said the issue of intellectual property rights is undergoing constant changes, making it difficult for many developing countries to keep pace with.

Among the basic objectives of TRIPS is to consider the mutual benefits of the producers and users

of technological knowledge and to balance their rights and obligations. In implementing IPR regulations, members could adopt measures necessary to protect human health and nutrition, and to promote public interest in sectors of vital importance for their socio-economic and technical development, he said.

He said the government is aware of the recent problems with HIV/AIDS and Africa's needs that effectively led to the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and public health.

"It is vital to affirm that TRIPS provides for measures necessary to protect public health," Khan said.

He said the government has been active in modernising laws about intellectual property rights a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



Gate of an inquiry commission at the Circuit House waits open to receive cases filed 'basically to politically harass' opponents for review.

Initiate Ganges treaty review

Foreign ministry urged

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Flood Control and Water Resources has requested the foreign ministry to intimate a proposal for a review of the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty to the Indian government soon.

The treaty signed on December 14, 1986 in New Delhi for 30 years by the prime ministers of Bangladesh and India provides for a review every five years.

Yet, no such review has taken place so far. Now, the government prepares for the review, highly placed sources said.

An Indian official told a group of Bangladesh journalists in New Delhi on Tuesday that India also

wanted to have a review of the treaty. The sources said yesterday that no Indian proposal for a review has so far been received. Also unknown is whether Bangladeshi proposal for the review has been passed on to the Indian government.

The issue of review of the treaty was in the election manifesto of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

The government is also reviewing the draft of a national water management policy and a plan worked out by the previous government to prepare a proper water resources management

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Govt decides to set up airport at Kuakata

UNB, Kuakata

The government has decided to set up an airport at Kuakata and declare Ganganati a tourism village, aiming to develop this panoramic sea beach as a special tourist resort.

The decisions were taken at a meeting on Kuakata tourist resort development at Kuakata Parjatan Holiday Home yesterday.

Chaired by State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin, the meeting decided to select a 100-acre site for the airport after conducting a survey.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary M Shafiqul Islam, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation Chairman M Abdur Razzak, and Chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Lutfur Rahman were also present.

Later, the state minister visited the sights of Kuakata and expressed dissatisfaction over illegal establishment of a good number of fish centres near the sea bench.

He instructed the authorities concerned to relocate those to Mohipur to rid the tourists of bad

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

S A Malek's son sent to Dhaka Central Jail

UNB, Nganj

Dr Abdullah Al Mamun, son of political advisor to former Prime Minister Dr S A Malek, was sent to Dhaka Central Jail from the District Jail yesterday.

He was shifted to Dhaka as per instruction of Magistrate Mia Mushtaq Ahmed, jail sources said.

Dr Mamun, a physician of Gynaecology Department in PG Hospital, was arrested along with his four friends from Mograpara crossing in Sonargaon upazila on April 10.

He was charged with illegal possession of foreign currencies and 240 bottles of phensidyl.

