

Jamal's mother

FROM PAGE 1
Sources said the Kapasia police did not take the murder case, as they were the accused in the case. The ASI and the constable have been suspended after the incident, but no action has been taken against the OC.

Jamal's mother Ramiza later told journalists at the court that some local people were issuing threat to her to keep mum and stay off the court. "I have lost my only son and now I want justice," a sobbing Ramiza said.

Police picked up Jamal, a member of the Kapasia unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and president of Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmed Smriti Library, and allegedly tortured him to death inside the Kapasia Police Station in the morning of April 19.

According to family members, a team of Kapasia police led by the OC went to Jamal's Targaon village at about 1:30am on April 17 and

Abducted Haji Monir freed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, CTG

Kidnapped businessman Haji Monir Ahmed of Khatungonj was released by his abductors yesterday.

The gang released him at Colonelhat under Paharoti thana and sent him to his residence at Sugandha in the city in a hired autorickshaw.

It could not be confirmed whether any ransom was paid. Some sources however claimed that Tk eight lakh was paid as ransom.

Talking to newsmen at his residence, Monir did not say anything about payment of ransom. He also declined to say who were the abductors and whether he would take recourse to law.

Monir was abducted on the night of April 23.

The abductors later told Monir's family over telephone that he would be released after settlement of a business dispute involving Tk 2.5 crore.

The businessman said after abduction, he was taken to a place in a vehicle. Then they made him walk a long distance till they reached a hill in a forest. He was left there for two days in the open, with his legs chained.

On the third day, he was taken to a hut in the hills and given some food. Two armed men guarded him alternately while some others used to beat him with iron rods and wooden sticks. The miscreants also fired blank shots keeping firearms on his shoulder, Monir said.

He was shifted to different places and given food only four times in 10 days.

ADP trimmed

FROM PAGE 11
of resources. The original ADP of Tk 19,000 crore became unrealistic due to expansionary monetary policy of the past Awami League government, he added.

The minister said the failure of the AL government in controlling expenditure caused fiscal deficit of 6.5 per cent, which actually should be around seven per cent if over-drafts of Tk 2,000 crore is considered.

He said the government tried to limit the expenditures to priority areas like poverty alleviation and human resources development. The finance minister said the past success in the health sector is now going to be destroyed as the Awami League government adopted the Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP) violating all norms.

In the original ADP for the current fiscal, Tk 9,800 crore was earmarked for the HPSP against an expenditure of Tk 2,088 crore for the programme in the previous fiscal. Only Tk 1,090 crore has so far been spent during this fiscal.

Under the World Bank-funded programme, the construction of 14 hospitals has already been completed but equipment could not be procured due to some problems in the agreements with the World Bank, he said. Ministry of Health cannot procure equipment as per the agreement.

Landslide for Musharraf

FROM PAGE 12
where the votes were stuffed."

But the government said political parties had decided the turnout would be low before the referendum even began, and were sticking to that position in the face of the evidence.

From a total electorate of just under 62 million, Chief Election Commissioner Irshad Hassan Khan said Musharraf had won 42.8 million "yes" votes, against 883,676 "no" votes and 282,935 spoiled papers.

Although Musharraf is genuinely popular among many sections of the population for his efforts to stamp out corruption, his critics say he used state machinery to ensure a resounding referendum victory.

Reuters journalists saw evidence of public sector workers being pressured to vote in an apparent effort to bolster the turnout, and, in one instance, saw ballot boxes being stuffed by officials and local government officers.

The United States has refrained from criticising the referendum, but Commonwealth Secretary-General Don McKinnon said Pakistan would be monitored and discussed at the

arrested him on charge of robbery. Police had told his family that they were taking him for interrogation. But, they did not file any case.

Police however filed a case at about 10:15am the following day but did not produce Jamal before court even after 24 hours of his arrest. Charges are there that the OC misbehaved with Jamal's mother and did not allow her to meet her son at the police station.

Sources said a severely roughed-up Jamal fled the custody and jumped into the adjacent Shitalakhya river in the morning of April 18. But the police chased him down and poked him with bamboo until he drowned in the water.

In a bid to cover up the incident the Kapasia police later claimed that Jamal was missing after he had jumped into the river after having fled the police station.

Amidst widespread allegation and public outcry, Fire Brigade divers recovered the body on April 20, which bore marks of multiple injury.

The Kapasia police then filed an unnatural death case.

Jamal obtained first division with star marks in both the SSC and HSC examinations and was doing his graduation in political science at the Alam Government College in Kapasia.

Jamal's father told The Daily Star that the police picked up his son though on the night of the robbery he was at the house of his grandfather at Kalaroa thana in Mymensingh.

Beximco

FROM PAGE 1
on Saturday to discuss the suspension order. The allegation that the trading suspension had hurt investors' interest would be discussed there.

Talking to The Daily Star, SEC Chairman Maniuruddin Ahmad said the commission took the move to ensure a safe and transparent market for the investors.

"We have also called the chairmen, vice-chairmen and chief executives of both the stock exchanges to get their opinion on the issue," the SEC chairman said.

He said the 11 companies announced their low dividends on a single day, which would have caused serious repercussion on the market, and since the SEC is there to protect investors' interest, it deemed it better to suspend trading and call for an explanation.

He said the Beximco Group has decided to go for legal proceedings leaving no other options open and the SEC will also take its decision as per advice of its legal department.

PM leaves

FROM PAGE 1
ence to be held in New York after last year's terrorist attacks on USA. The Special Session, originally scheduled for September 19-21, 2001, was postponed following the September 11 attack.

The UNGA special session on children will review the achievements of the goals adopted during the landmark World Summit on Children in 1990 in order to improve the condition of children in various parts of the world.

Some 71 heads of state or government, vice-presidents and crown princes from around the world are scheduled to attend the Special Session.

The world leaders are expected to finalise a new multi-pronged Plan of Action to irreversibly improve the condition of the children through implementation of child specific strategies.

The PM will be accompanied by Women and Children Affairs Minister Khursid Jahan Haque, PM's Advisor for Women and Children Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum, Mayor of Rajshahi, PM's Principal Secretary, Foreign Secretary, PM's Political Secretary-II and other senior officials.

Two Bangladeshi children will attend side events of the UNGA Special session.

Outlaws kill

FROM PAGE 12
Asmat, 33 and Harun, 35.

Police quoting the residents said the extremists, chased by the villagers, took shelter in a house. They opened fire when the villagers surrounded the house.

The extremists managed to flee when the villagers retreated in the face of barrage of gunfire.

On information, police from Alamdanga rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies.

Movie house

FROM PAGE 12
sions and why.

A case was filed with Gurudaspur thana but none could be arrested so far.

The SP of Natore, Nazrul Islam, who visited the spot yesterday morning told this correspondent an organised gang might be involved in the incident. But it was still under investigation.

Earlier in January this year, three powerful time bombs were recovered from three cinema halls in Rajshahi city and Natore and Chapainawabganj towns.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Baneswar Union Parishad and local Awami League leader Abdus Samad was stabbed allegedly by BNP activists at Maipara in Puthia upazilla of Rajshahi Wednesday morning.

The attackers also set fire to his motorbike.

He was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH). His body bore at least 12 stab injuries, hospital sources said.

A case was filed with Puthia thana accusing five persons in this connection and the 'main accused' was arrested.

Robbers kill

FROM PAGE 12
DMCH that four young men with revolvers walked into the shop at about 11:30am.

"Days are not going well, give your valuables hurriedly" one of them said and snatched Tk 28,000 from one customer and Tk 10,000 from another.

The gang then asked the manager to hand over valuables and looted Tk 10,000 from the cash box. They took away a mobile phone and the keys of the iron safe from Shorab.

While leaving in a hurry, the four tumbled into a drain but stood up and started fleeing.

As people inside the shop and the labourers cried out, one of them fired shots injuring the three.

The labourers and others appealed to a traffic sergeant nearby for help but he did not pay any heed to them, Shorab alleged.

Protesting alleged inaction by police, angry people in the area raised a barricade and kept the Mirpur-argate road blocked for about two hours.

Police from Mirpur and Kafrul thanas later cleared the road, arrested 15 people and took another 35 into custody for blocking the road.

Police admitted that a shop was looted in the area but could not arrest any body in connection with the incident.

Power

FROM PAGE 1
commercial basis.

"Although it is a loss-making organisation, the DESA does not have any liability other than arrears with the PDB in power purchase," said a source. "The finance ministry will guide the DESA in this regard."

The DESA loses Tk 30 crore every month in power and revenue, thanks to a section of unscrupulous meter readers and ledger writers.

It purchases electricity worth Tk 100 crore every month from the PDB, but is able to pay around Tk 75 crore, leaving a gap of Tk 25 crore.

Besides streamlining gas arrears, the Petrobangla is also trying to streamline two of its affiliates, Titas Gas and Bakhrabad Gas, which are dominated by politically-blessed, unscrupulous trade union activists who devour up to Tk 500 crore worth of gas every year.

All charges, no cases

FROM PAGE 1
spent on these.

A top policymaker told The Daily Star earlier, "We do not want to destabilise any bilateral relationship with countries which are important to Bangladesh by suspending any ongoing negotiations or projects."

It meant that the government would not stop schemes like the US company-led Bangladesh-Singapore Submarine Cable project, British company WorldTel's land telephone project, personal handy-phone project by Japanese investors, the supply of Volvo buses from Sweden, etc.

However, till date the country has not spent much for the submarine cable project, the WorldTel project or the handy-phone project.

Meanwhile, many non-political business people, accused of corruption in the white paper, have contacted The Daily Star and claimed that they have been wrongly accused and socially harmed by the white paper.

On the other hand, the Awami League leaders have denied the allegations and urged the government to allow the past corruption cases against ministers of the previous BNP government and leaders to continue.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) has, however, acted on its own and filed some 30 cases against Awami League ministers and leaders. The charges it has brought are not the ones pinpointed in the white paper.

In 1996, during the AL government, the BAC filed 69 cases against former BNP ministers and leaders.

On January 23, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina along with Mohammad Nasim, Amir Hossain Amu, Shah AMS Kibria, ASHK Sadique, Abdur Razzak, Professor Rafiqul Islam, Mosharraf Hossain, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and Maulana Nurul Islam were linked to graft and irregularities.

The same day, the political secretary to the prime minister, Harish Chowdhury, said that it

would engage international investigators to probe foreign links to the grafts.

But no international investigator has been appointed till date.

The cases of financial irregularities, abuse of power and graft in the white paper include purchase of eight Russian Mig-29, installation of over two lakh telephone lines across the country and two lakh personal handy phones in the city, construction projects of the Bangladesh-Singapore submarine cable, installation of power plants at different places, food imports from India and recruitment in the food ministry, and procurement of dredging rigs by the WDB.

The allotment of plots at Gulshan and Uttara by the Rajuk, printing and distribution of textbooks, 1996 share market scam, purchase of Volvo buses for the BRTC, procurement of diesel generators for the WASA under a supplier's credit, Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge project and population census project have also been mentioned in the white paper.

Prepared by a cell of four consultants, the 793-page paper was published in two volumes in the first phase.

Publication of a white paper on 'corruption' during the Awami League regime was one of the major election pledges of the BNP-led four-party alliance. Also, it was a crucial part of the first 100-day agenda of the coalition government.

Some of the allegations and their status
Signing an MOU with a Chinese company on the 2.16-lakh digital telephone line project bypassing the Planning Commission and the ERD in 1997. (Project nearing completion)

Signing the submarine cable project with Sing Tel violating rules. (Still under negotiations)

Illegally issuing license to the Bangladesh Broadcasting Telephone and Technology (BBTT) and giving it to launch obsolete Personal Handy Phone System in the country. (Implementation yet to

Siege on Arafat ends

FROM PAGE 1
the Israeli military blitz. But he was vague about his plans.

Arafat, who had been bottled up in the town of Ramallah by the Israelis since December, said he would tour the West Bank to "shake hands with my people who have suffered (from) crimes" of the Israeli army.

He also seized on controversy over the Jenin refugee camp, comparing the nine-day campaign there to the devastating World War II battle of Stalingrad that obliterated the former Soviet city and killed more than 600,000 people.

"Jenin has turned into Jeningrad," Arafat told the CNN.

Peter Hansen, commissioner general of the UN Relief and Works Agency, said meanwhile that the group would need two billion dollars to help Palestinian refugees recover from Israel's offensive, Saudi Arabia's official SPA agency reported.

Arafat was freed after six Palestinian militants wanted by Israel, who were holed up in his headquarters, were hauled off to a prison in Jericho under the supervision of US and British officials.

But despite the breakthrough in the Ramallah siege, there was little sign of an easing in Israeli-Palestinian tensions.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon raised the possibility that Arafat might not be allowed to return to the West Bank if he travels abroad.

"We're not going to give any guarantees, because usually in the past when he left, it was always a sign for a wave of terror," Sharon told US television.

At the same time, Abdel Aziz al-Rantissi, a senior Hamas leader, warned the group would launch new

Sajal murder

FROM PAGE 1
Sajal Chowdhury, a BNP activist, was gunned down near the Science Laboratory in the city by armed men from a convoy of vehicles allegedly led by the then AL legislator Muckbol Hossain during an opposition called hartal on February 9, 1999.

Dhanmondi police recorded a murder case in this connection. In the FIR, it was stated that Sajal was shot dead during a clash involving activists of BNP, Jamat-e-Islami and the then ruling Awami League.

Later, the victim's father filed a General Diary (GD) alleging that a gang of gunmen led by Muckbol Hossain shot his son dead.

The then Investigation Officer of the case submitted "final report" of the case on December 25, 1999 as there was no witness and no evidence to support the allegation by Sajal's father.

After take over by the present government, the home minister ordered reinvestigation into some murder cases including Sajal murder case.

The case was then revived on November 27 last year.

Muckbol was arrested on December 2 without any specific charge.

Later, he was shown arrested in a dozen cases including Sajal murder case.

begin)

Irregularities, corruption and misuse of power in the Ghorashal Power Plant modernisation project (under consideration for a go ahead), the 20-megawatt power project in Bhola (suspended by the Caretaker government), 210-megawatt power plant in Siddirganj (under implementation, behind schedule by several years) and Mehngnaghat power plant project (near completion).

Irregularities in importing rice from India, corruption in the domestic food procurement, and irregularities in the transportation of food and appointment of staff for the food ministry. (No follow up)

Corruption in the Madhyapara Hard Rock Project (under implementation, contract extension under consideration).

Irregularities in the allotment of plots at Gulshan-Banani, Gulshan-Baridhara, Uttara Lake and Jhilmili housing projects of the Rajuk (No follow up).

Allotting the Lalmatia playground to the government officers' association in violation of rules (A case filed against Mohammad Nasim one month before the White Paper release).

Constructing road dividers on the city streets in an unplanned way. (No follow up)

Corruption in the purchase of books for the offices under the education ministry. (No follow up)

Corruption and irregularities in the purchase of Volvo buses for BRTC. (Buses now in use)

Corruption in the construction of Minar of the Baitul Mokarram. (No follow up)

Corruption in the purchase of eight Mig-29 fighter planes from Russia. (No follow up)

Share scam in 1996. (No new case or reinvestigation/old cases pending with various courts like before)

Corruption and irregularities in the population and economic census (no follow up).

President Moshe Katsav at the start of his bid to breathe new life into the stalled Bethlehem talks.

Church officials said Etchegaray would also see Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Arafat. The prelate also sought permission to visit the area of the church and meet with Palestinian negotiators, Bethlehem Mayor Hanna Nasser said.

Abducted boy

FROM PAGE 12
Kaltabazar at gunpoint.

Sutrapur police yesterday arrested two youths - Sumon and Jiku - for their alleged involvement in the abduction and killing of Monti.

Monti was the son of Haji Yusuf of Kazi Abdur Rab Road, Kaltabazar. Haji Yusuf has a motor workshop at Tipu Sulttan Road.

Two separate cases were registered with Sutrapur and Ramna thana.

Power trouble

FROM PAGE 12
The Prime Minister's Office inquired about the power scenario of the capital. The energy minister and the DESA chairman visited the control room and gave directives to retrieve the situation as quickly as possible.

Sources in the Power Development Board (PDB) said there was an adequate generation of power at the PDB's end. "PDB today got the capacity to generate 3,300-megawatt electricity an hour," a PDB official said. He said the estimated demand is about 3,150-megawatt an hour.

One-eyed BTV

FROM PAGE 12
BTV's news coverage was 'very weak' and the presentation by its reporters was 'substandard'.

The Media Watch unit of the Democracy Watch also monitored news bulletins of the three private sector television channels Ekushey Television (ETV), Channel i and ATN Bangla during the period.

Eighty-three per cent of ETV's coverage in its prime news bulletin at 7.30pm was on the government and 17 per cent was on the opposition. The ratio in Channel i was 84:16 and in ATN Bangla 85:15.

ETV news was 'objective and of high professional standard', and the news value was 'fairly' maintained.

Channel i is gradually proving its maturity as regards news coverage. In news coverage, it is following professionalism and is giving emphasis on the opposition alongside the government, the Democracy Watch said. Quality of reporting of Channel i is much better than that of BTV, but pronunciation of its reporters is not good, it added.

The survey said ATN Bangla news is yet to reach the standard of a national media. It's presentation of news as well as reporting are still very weak. It stresses more on government news.

AL asks govt to create 'congenial atmosphere for dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) has asked the government to stop 'repression' on its activists, arrest killers of innocent people and create a congenial environment for any meaningful dialogue with the main opposition.

Acting AL President Abdus Samad Azad said this at a party rally in the city yesterday.

He said the AL cannot join the parliament with the 'innocents being killed everyday'.

The AL organised the rally at the Paltan Maidan, demanding cancellation of the city corporation polls and fresh elections under a new chief election commissioner. The party rally also protested the murders of a Buddhist monk in the hill tracts; Jamal, a meritorious student of Kapasia; and other 'atrocities'.

In response to BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's proposal for dialogue, the acting AL president said the government should also withdraw treason charges against AL leaders to create a congenial environment.

He demanded formation of a judicial inquiry committee led by the chief justice to probe the killing of Jamal allegedly by policemen in Kapasia.

Azad as well as AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman claimed that Japan, China, Thailand, Korea, and Myanmar took serious note of the recent killing of a Buddhist monk and said these countries would

Six foreigners

FROM PAGE 1
Ahsan, director of Odhikar.

Of the foreign nationals, five were arrested and punished on different terms.

MA Rahim, a teacher and political leader of Arakan in Myanmar, was not arrested. He left Myanmar and sneaked into Bangladesh for security. The military government of Myanmar killed his son, a student of the Rangoon University, and damaged his house, the statement continued.

On January 27 2002, following a writ petition by BSEHR, the High Court issued an order to the government to settle the issue of asylum for two months or to send them to a third country by six months.

The director of Odhikar also appealed for reconsideration of the issue.

Donor to visit CHT

FROM PAGE 12
districts due to ongoing fighting between the pro- and anti-peace treaty groups that has claimed about 100 lives so far since the signing of the CHT peace treaty in December 1997.

Under the circumstances, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) proposed to the government last month to authorise a security assessment mission comprising UNDP representatives and representatives of the army to find out about the overall security situation in the CHT.

As per UNDP's proposal, the security assessment was to take place from May 1 to 10. But as the government thought it should also have a role in the mission it asked to defer the date in order to include representatives from the CHT Affairs Ministry and the Foreign Ministry, sources said.

The date for conducting the assessment is yet to be fixed. However, according to highly placed government sources, the team will begin its work sometimes next week.

The UNDP's move came following a recent meeting between the top leaders of the pro-peace treaty PCJSS (Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity) and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, and also in the wake of deteriorating law and order situation in the region.

Earlier, the Resident Representative of UNDP Jorgen Lissner in a letter to the CHT Affairs Ministry on April 24 proposed the move mentioning that donor countries and agencies are interested in participating in the development work of CHT but are nevertheless alarmed at the security situation in

reconsider their assistance to Bangladesh.

Recalling another failed dialogue effort during the last parliament session, Azad said the government vitiated the environment by passing a law to remove the portrait of Bangabandhu from public offices.

He, however, reminded that AL President Sheikh Hasina did never say that her party would not join the parliament.

Zillur blamed the government for escalation of torture and killing and for elimination of 'pro-independence' forces.

Outgoing Dhaka Mayor Mohammad Hanif chaired the rally, which was addressed, among others, by AL presidium members Tofail Ahmed, Amir Hossain Amu, Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak and Suranjit Sengupta.

Tofail said the people should wage a mass upsurge like that of 1969 to topple the 'autocratic' government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Media World