

Bail forgery Hearing on remand for 4 accused today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Four people, including a Supreme Court lawyer, who were arrested Saturday on charges of getting three accused in a smuggling case released on a counterfeit bail order, were produced before the CMM's Court, Dhaka yesterday.

Ramna police produced advocate Nurul Islam Chowdhury, High Court staff Nurul Islam, executive editor of the fortnightly "Ainer Darpan" Abul Khair and one Abu Sayeed before the CMM's Court, Dhaka at 7.00 pm with a prayer for a seven-day remand. But the court fixed today for hearing on the remand prayer.

A High Court Division bench comprising Justice MA Aziz and Justice Mohammad Mottazuddin Ahmed on Saturday found that the accused had "managed to procure a forged order of bail" allegedly through their signature. Later, the judges ordered arrest of the four accused.

Mohammad Faruk Mia, deputy registrar of Bangladesh Supreme Court, filed a case with Ramna thana on Saturday accusing the four.

BB to step up security in its 3 buildings in Motijheel area

UNB, Dhaka

The Bangladesh Bank will step up security in its three buildings in the Motijheel Commercial Area from June 22.

The central bank will introduce a new system restricting entry to the buildings without any purpose of transactions with the bank.

Under the new system, people have to collect passes from the security officials at the main gate for their entry to different sections of the bank, except for the transaction booths that will remain open as usual. The pass must be returned on departure.

People could make appointments on the telephone with any bank official, the bank said.

Besides, the bank will introduce term passes for those who regularly visit the bank for work related to selected banks and financial institutions.

Police attack AL procession at N'ganj: 10 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

At least 10 Awami League activists were hurt yesterday when police baton-charged a procession of the district AL brought out in the morning to mourn victims of the bomb blast on its first anniversary yesterday.

On June 16 last year, a powerful bomb went off in the district AL office killing 22 people.

Sources said around 9:30 am yesterday about 300 AL activists tried to bring out a procession from their district office at No. 2 Rail Gate area of the town. But the procession immediately came under attack by police who baton-charged to dis

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Erratum

In the first paragraph of a report run in Saturday's edition of The Daily Star headlined "No stopping bus drivers?", it was to be read that the Traffic Department of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has failed to make bus drivers NOT to stop their vehicles haphazardly. We regret the inadvertent error.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
June 17		6-48 pm
June 18	5-11 am	

Prayer Timings		
June 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-52	6-56
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Waste-to-power project will be revived soon

ADB, C'wealth may give funds for consultants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An environment-friendly waste-to-power project of the government that remained shelved for four years due to lack of funds will be revived soon, official sources said.

Recently, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Commonwealth Secretariat have expressed their interest in financing the consultancy on the project.

Once the consultancy is appointed, the viability and usefulness of the project will be clear and the government can begin the tender-bidding process to develop the power plant.

Four years ago, the power cell of the energy ministry started nurturing an idea that a private power plant project would use all waste of the Dhaka city to generate at least 60MW power.

Besides, the project will help the authorities keep the city clean and the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) find simpler solutions to dump waste. The decade-old Matuail dump is about to fill up with waste and the DCC is facing difficulties in finding new dumps.

The power cell floated a tender on this and five companies submitted proposals.

Although the proposals outlined very competitive power prices and gave a picture of a cleaner Dhaka, the project progressed at a snail's pace for various reasons. Lack of funds to hire a consultancy was one of them.

In March, following a seminar on renewable energy organised by the power cell, the ADB and the Commonwealth Secretariat became interested in the

project. An expert on waste-to-power of the Commonwealth Secretariat is now expected to visit the city in August in this connection.

Earlier, the Commonwealth Secretariat had expressed keen interest in the project, but the government did not reciprocate.

Ideally, such a power project generates 20MW power per thousand metric tons of waste to be provided by the city corporation. Dhaka generates around 3,000MT solid waste every day.

The cost of per unit power will be at around 4.5 cents. This rate is lower than that of oil-based barge mount power plants but higher than that of the two gas-based large-scale AES power projects.

If implemented, the sorting-out of waste for feeding the power plant will also help evolve the recycling industry for plastic, aluminum, steel and glass.

In 1998, six companies submitted proposals for such a project. They were American Business Corporation (USA), Seghers Better Technology (Belgium), AARCEE Holdings (Singapore), Jaya Vegetables (Bangladesh), Merchant Trade Asia (Malaysia) and McConnel International (New Zealand).

According to primary proposals by some companies, the plant will not dispose of harmful waste. Such a power plant might be set up at the DCC's dump at Matuail.

The project will take 18 to 24 months for implementation. Some 5,000 DCC garbage collectors will supply waste daily to the plant from Dhaka and Narayanganj.

People have rejected budget by observing hartal: Hasina

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday greeted the people for observing the dawn-to-dusk hartal across the country.

In a statement, she said the people have rejected the proposed budget and expressed their no-confidence in the government by observing the hartal.

She also demanded immediate and unconditional release of the persons arrested during the hartal hours and cancellation of the budget.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: The Awami League (AL) yesterday said the ruling alliance pushed the opposition to the path of hartal by continuously denying it basic political rights.

Addressing a hartal-hour press briefing at the party central office on the Bangabandhu Avenue, senior AL leaders said that over the last eight months, the main opposition and its front organisations have been denied democratic rights like hold

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Prime Minister Khaleda Zia consoles the aggrieved mother of BUET student Sabequun Nahar Sony at her office yesterday.

New Chief Justice takes oath tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury would be sworn-in as Chief Justice tomorrow.

President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury would administer the oath.

Incumbent Chief Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury will retire on the same day.

He assumed office on March 1, 2001.

Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury was born in 1938 in Chapainawabganj. He joined the Supreme Court Bar in 1975. He was appointed an additional judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court on January 29, 1990. He was elevated to the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on November 8, 2000. He is the son of Murtaza Reza Chowdhury, state minister for finance in the then Pakistan.

His wife Dr Nazma Chowdhury was an advisor in the caretaker government in 1996.

Justice Mainur will retire on June 26 next year.

PM's directive to nab Sony's killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime minister Khaleda Zia yesterday assured the parents of Sabequun Nahar Sony, who was killed in a shootout on campus, of bringing the culprits to book at any cost.

The prime minister sympathised with the family for the tragic event and directed the authorities concerned to take possible measures to arrest the killers and warned that no negligence would be tolerated in this case.

Earlier, Sony's father Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan, mother Dilara Begum, two younger brothers Shawkat Rahman and Maksudur Rahman and her two uncles -- Mainul Islam and Mahfuzur

Rahman -- met the Prime Minister at her office yesterday and demanded punishment to the criminals.

Meanwhile, investigation into the killing of Sabequun Nahar Sony is hardly progressing as the main suspects are yet to be tracked down by police.

According to sources, the main suspects have taken shelter under influential 'political godfathers' belonging to the ruling BNP.

Nine days have passed with police failing to arrest the main culprits. This has created suspicion over the investigation process and the ruling party's sincere efforts to bring the offenders to justice.

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New army chief takes over, calls on President

BSS, Dhaka

Newly appointed Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Hasan Mashud Chowdhury yesterday took over as the Chief of Army Staff.

He succeeded Lt. Gen. M Harun-Ar-Rashid.

After taking over the charge, the new army chief called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who is also in charge of the Ministry of Defence, at the Armed Forces Division.

Naval Chief Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba, Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam decorated the newly appointed army chief with the rank badge in presence of the prime minister.

Defense Secretary K M Ehsanul Huq, Acting Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Commodore N A Chowdhury and other senior army officers were present on the occasion.

Immediately after the decoration, Lt Gen Chowdhury called on President A Q M Badruddoza

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Pvt TVs barred again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad authorities have once again barred private television channels from covering the parliament proceedings.

Crew of TV Channel i and ATN Bangla were refused entry into the House when they went to cover its proceedings yesterday evening. "The ban will continue until further order," an ATN Bangla reporter quoted a security official as telling him.

However, the Ekushey Television did not turn up to cover the sitting on the day.

Earlier, all the three private TV

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Police arrest a BCL man (left) during yesterday's hartal; and they pull at the scarf of a BCL woman activist on the Bangabandhu Avenue in the city. Law enforcers kept the Awami League Central Office on the Bangabandhu Avenue virtually under siege.



PHOTO: STAR

Nasim, 20 others chargesheeted in a graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former home minister Mohammad Nasim and 20 others were chargesheeted yesterday in a graft case.

The investigating officer (IO) of the case submitted the chargesheet against the accused to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka.

In the case filed with Mohammadpur thana, it has been alleged that Nasim, who initially held the works ministry portfolio in the AL government, had made irregularities in selling government property under the public works ministry.

It has also been alleged that Nasim along with 20 others inflicted a loss of Tk 4.25 crore on the government through the sale of a one-bigha plot at Lalmatia to a phony

society. Former secretary Jagannath Dey, chief engineer Juned Ahmed, deputy commissioner of PWD Aminur Rahman, personal secretary to former home minister Abdul Malek, assistant commissioner Yakub Ali and other officials later took possession of the land.

Mohammad Saif Mahmud, inspector of the Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) filed the case on December 11 last year accusing 21 people including Nasim.

Earlier, the IO of the case got approval from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for submission of the chargesheet, sources said.

Meanwhile, the case was sent for trial to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday.

Haji Selim's bail prayer rejected, sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former Awami League lawmaker Haji Mohammad Selim was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday after rejection of his petition for bail in connection with a fire incident at the telephone exchange in the city's Chawkbazar area on April 30.

Detective Branch (DB) of police on expiry of a two-day remand produced Selim before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka at about 3:00pm yesterday with a forwarding report.

Police did not seek further remand for interrogation.

In the report, Investigation Officer (IO) of the case said the information he received from Selim during the remand period was verified.

Defence lawyers advocate Syed

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2 Bangladeshis shot dead by BSF

AFP, Kolkata

Two Bangladeshi nationals were shot dead yesterday by Indian border guards when they tried to cross over into the eastern state of West Bengal, said a senior official.

The incident took place at Gede, about 70 kilometres east of West Bengal's provincial capital Kolkata near India's border with Bangladesh, Ramesh Singh, additional deputy inspector general of India's paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) told the wire service.

Singh said some Bangladeshi nationals had tried to cross into India by cutting the barbed wire fencing along the border erected recently to check infiltration.

The Bangladeshi group opened fire on the Indian guards when they challenged them, Singh said.

"Indian border guards repulsed the attack by firing. Two Bangladeshis died on the spot while the others escaped," Singh said.

In another incident, six Bangladeshis were arrested after they illegally entered India near Petrapole, about 60 kilometres east of Kolkata, yesterday morning, the BSF official said.

They were later handed over to the police for interrogation, he added.

Asian Cooperation Dialogue comes into being Wednesday

18 countries including Bangladesh invited to opening session in Bangkok

AFP, Bangkok

Thaksin Shinawatra's brainchild, the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), is set for its inaugural session in Thailand Wednesday amid scepticism voiced by the nation's press of its real usefulness.

The Thai premier has invited foreign ministers from 18 Asian countries to attend the half-day free-form talks at Cha-Am, a seaside resort town some 150 kilometres south of Bangkok, which will be preceded by an informal dinner tomorrow evening.

Some 13 foreign ministers have confirmed their attendance -- including Japan, China, South Korea and Singapore -- while four will be sending others at the ministerial level.

The 18 countries invited include the 10 grouped under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), along with, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh,

Qatar and Bahrain. All countries who have responded are sending foreign ministers, except Brunei, India, Indonesia and Pakistan.

Myanmar, with whom Thailand's relations are currently strained due to tension along their common border, is yet to respond to its invitation, government spokesman Yongyut Tiyapairat told reporters yesterday.

The objective of the new regional forum is to strengthen cooperation among Asian people, the government says.

"We want to strengthen cooperation among Asian people. Secondly, (we want to) eradicate poverty, and (examine) how to increase or enhance the potential of Asia," Yongyut said.

"We have much more than half the population of the world and much more than half the world's reserve

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Minor boy languishing in jail hajjat

UNB, Chittagong

An 11-year-old boy, who entered secondary school a few months ago, has been in jail 'hajjat' (custody) for the last two weeks.

Bewildered at the police action, Tayebur Rahman does not know why he was landed in jail. Anxious that he will not be able to appear in the second terminal examination beginning June 26, the young student is staying with hardcore criminals in Cox's Bazar district jail.

Manabdhikar Bastabayan Sangstha, a human rights body, which is trying to secure the boy's release, told this correspondent on

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