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COMMITTED TO
People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIII No. 189

DHAKA MONDAY JULY 28, 2003

SRABAN 13, 1410 BS

ZAMADIUL-AWAL 27, 1424 HIRI

20 PAGES PRICE Tk 7.00

www.thedailystar.net

Writ against govt move to drop charges facing MP's brother

UNB, Dhaka

A government move to withdraw a double murder case against the brother of Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu MP of the ruling BNP was challenged in the High Court Division yesterday.

A writ was filed challenging Section 494 of CrPC (Criminal Procedure Code) that empowered the government to withdraw criminal cases against those who are already on trial.

The counsel for the petitioner submitted that the home ministry has asked the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Dhaka to drop charges against Pintu's brother Reazuddin Ahmed Munir along with nine others

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Tremor train rattles Chittagong

25 hurt, 500 buildings damaged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A moderate tremor trailed by a series of aftershocks struck Chittagong and adjacent hill districts yesterday, injuring at least 25 people and damaging about 500 houses and government buildings.

The morning jolts scared residents into rushing out of their homes and staying outdoors for hours in the second largest quake since 1997 in Chittagong.

A pregnant woman, who gave birth to a stillborn baby in Rangamati, is among the injured.

The 20-second quake measuring 5.09 on the Richter scale with its epicentre 186km off the city hit at 5:19am, damaging a PGCB (Power Grid Company of Bangladesh) transformer under Madunaghat substation in Hathazari, Chittagong.

Power was restored to the area through an alternative transformer after an hour of outages, substation officials said.

The quake opened cracks in the four-storey Divisional Public Library building in front of the Chittagong Central Shaheed Minar and a century-old building in the

port city's Nandakanon area.

The first aftershock with a 3.69 magnitude lasted 13 seconds since 1:34pm, followed by the second aftershock at 6:11pm and a third at 8:38pm.

Among the injured in Rangamati, Abdul Karim, 45, his eight-year-old twin daughters and son Rashedul Islam, 2, and Obiron Khatun, 50, were admitted to district general hospital. They suffered wounds when the roof of Aamyachhara Health Complex came crashing down on them.

Fifty-year-old Madhulata

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PHOTO: STAR

A man looks at cracks in a building shaken by morning jolts in the second largest tremor since 1997 that also left 25 people injured in Chittagong yesterday.

Maimed body found in Ramna Lake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mutilated body of a young man was recovered from Ramna Lake yesterday.

Locals found the body of the unknown youth, aged about 25, floating in the lake at around 4:15pm. The youth was dressed in shirt and trouser.

Police could not confirm whether the man was murdered or not since the body was badly decomposed.

Notice

A total of 2,335 candidates have been provisionally selected for different cadre services in the 22nd BCS (Bangladesh Civil Service) Examinations, 2000. See results on page 8.

4 auditors assigned for NCB health check

REJAU KARIM BYRON

The finance ministry has appointed four audit firms to look into the financial health of four nationalised commercial banks (NCBs).

The ministry has also taken up a plan to hire internationally reputed consulting firms to change the management of Agrani Bank and also to appoint management support groups to Sonali and Janata banks.

Sources said the ministry will

soon write to six preferred consulting firms, including Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

Under a World Bank fund, the ministry appointed chartered accounting firm SF Ahmed & Co as auditor to Sonali, Rahman Rahman & Haq to Agrani, A Kashem & Co to Janata and Hoda Vasi Chowdhury & Co to Rupali.

The auditors will evaluate loans - over Tk 1 crore each - and review the health of the banks.

The ministry last week sent

letters to these banks asking them to cooperate with the auditors.

Sources said the government is considering appointment of managing director (MD), deputy managing directors (DMD) and general managers (GM) to Agrani Bank from private sector.

Barring the position of the MD, the government is open to recruiting foreigners for other posts.

Sources said the foreign consultants may be tasked with appointing

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Saddam missed by a day, another US Marine killed

REUTERS/AP, Baghdad

US soldiers said they missed catching Saddam Hussein's security chief -- and possibly the former Iraqi president himself -- by a mere 24 hours early yesterday, while a US Marine was killed in a grenade attack south of Baghdad.

Troops stormed three farms in Tikrit, Saddam's hometown, in simultaneous pre-dawn raids after

receiving a tip that Saddam's new security chief was staying at one of the farm houses, said Lt. Col. Steve Russell, who led the operation of the 4th Infantry.

"We missed him by 24 hours," Russell said, adding that residents told soldiers that the man they sought had been at one of the farm houses.

The military said one US soldier

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Criminals on crackdown list now 1,200

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Putting a brave face on the low-key success of the anti-outlaw crackdown in southwestern districts, Home Secretary Omar Farooq yesterday said the drive was making significant progress.

"We have arrested some 1,020 criminals, including 71 listed ones, and recovered 19 arms in the first week of the operation," he said at a

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FTA talks with India

MCCI identifies 968 items for negative list

STAR REPORT

The Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) has suggested the government exclude 968 items from the proposed Indo-Bangladesh free trade agreement (FTA) to protect local industries as a whole and agriculture in particular.

The list of the products, based on eight-digit HS (harmonised system) code, has been sent to the commerce ministry for consideration,

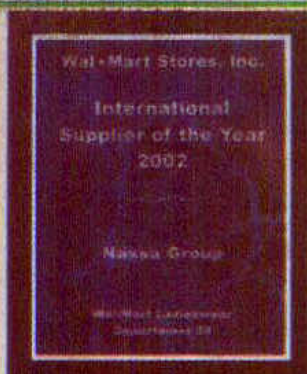
sources said.

The products on the 'negative list' represent the sectors like textile and clothing with 423 items, agriculture 167, steel and iron 59, plastic products 38, vehicles 44, pharmaceuticals 29, electrical goods 28 and others 180.

The 'negative list' approach means allowing all products duty-free access, except for those included on the list, which was pre-

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WAL*MART
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NASSA GROUP

WAL*MART (U.S.A) AWARDED NASSA GROUP AS THE INTERNATIONAL SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR-2002



Mr. Abul Hasnat - Country Manager (WAL*MART) presenting the Award to Mr. Md. Nazrul Islam Mazumder, Chairman, NASSA GROUP.

IN RECOGNITION OF NASSA GROUP'S OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE, ON 24TH AUGUST '03, MR. ABUL HASNAT, COUNTRY MANAGER OF WAL*MART STORES, INC (U.S.A.) FOR BANGLADESH, PRESENTED THE CREST TO MR. MD. NAZRUL ISLAM MAZUMDER, CHAIRMAN, NASSA GROUP AND DECLARED THAT WAL*MART STORES, INC (U.S.A.), THE LARGEST RETAILER IN THE WORLD, AWARDED NASSA GROUP AS THE INTERNATIONAL SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR, 2002. MR. HASNAT APPRECIATED THAT NASSA GROUP, REALLY DISTINGUISHED THEMSELVES FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE FOR ON TIME SHIPMENT OF QUALITY APPARELS TO

WAL*MART STORES, INC (U.S.A.). HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT NASSA GROUP'S SUCCESS LIES IN THEIR HARD WORK AND FULFILLING THEIR COMMITMENT, WITH HONESTY AND SINCERITY. FURTHER, MR. HASNAT SAID THAT, NASSA GROUP WAS ALSO AWARDED FOR 2001 AND 2002 IS A SUCCESSIVE YEAR OF SUCCESS. HE HOPED THAT NASSA GROUP MAY BE ABLE TO GET THE SAME AWARD IN FUTURE, IF THEIR PERFORMANCE CONTINUES, AS IT IS. HE WISHED EVERY SUCCESS OF NASSA GROUP.

MR. MD. NAZRUL ISLAM MAZUMDER, CHAIRMAN, NASSA GROUP, THANKED MR. HASNAT AND ALL OTHER ASSOCIATES OF WAL*MART (DHAKA) GP OFFICE FOR THEIR KIND CO-OPERATION AND SUPPORT, WITHOUT WHICH NASSA GROUP WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE THIS RARE RECOGNITION.



Directors of NASSA GROUP and WAL*MART (Dhaka) High Officials.



Directors of NASSA GROUP with WAL*MART (Dhaka) Associates

WAL*MART
 Global Procurement
 July 1, 2003
 Nazrul Islam Mazumder
 Nassa Group
 120 East National Avenue, C.A. Bhaban (4th floor) Keweenaw Square
 Dhaka 1215, Bangladesh.

Dear Mr. Mazumder:

In consideration of the travel has passed for many of our sourcing countries in the last few months due to the SARS disease, Wal-Mart has earlier decided to postpone the Supplier of the Year 2002 celebration event from its original date in April. I am glad to see the virus has now been brought under control, and many of us are now free to return to our activities as usual. However, due to the lateness of timing, we wish to notify you the celebration event will be cancelled for this year.

It's been a tough year for all of us. But the tremendous support and leadership of many fine suppliers like you has contributed and allowed us to be successful in the midst of great uncertainty. One thing is certain, this coming year will not be any easier. It's going to take an even greater courage and leadership to help keep our customer's trust while provide the best value and selection of merchandise they wanted. Together, there's no doubt we can meet these challenges and exceed our customer's expectations in 2003 and beyond.

Today it's our greatest pleasure to honor you as a winner of our International Supplier of the Year for 2002 while enclosed please find the award plaque in recognition of your great achievement and excellent service. We truly value the partnership and deeply believe we can continue to grow together. Thank you so much for your continued commitment and dedication in supporting Wal-Mart business over this past year and we look forward to a bigger and better year ahead.

Sincerely,
 Andrew Tsui
 V.P. - Managing Director
 Global Procurement
 Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Letter of Appreciation by WAL*MART