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REGD. NO. DA 781 VOL. XIV, No. 129 DHAKA, MONDAY, MAY 31, 2004 JAISTHA 17, 1411 BS RABI-US-SANI 10, 1425 HJRI 20 PAGES PRICE: Tk 7.00

www.thedailystar.net

APPEAL AGAINST DHAKA-10 BY-POLLS STAY ORDER

Full bench hearing today after heated debate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special Appellate Division bench yesterday decided that a full bench should address the high-profile appeal against the High Court's stay order of Dhaka-10 parliamentary by-polls, after it heard the petition for three consecutive days.

A stormy debate took place when the counsels of both sides argued the legal points and then finally focused on who the appellants are.

The special bench of justices M Ruhul Amin, MM Ruhul Amin and MA Aziz sat at 10:30am and heard the third day's arguments for over an hour.

It also directed the Office of

More twists to riddle

ZAYADUL AHSAN

It turned out to be a mind-boggling riddle as to who filed the petition against a High Court order that stayed the Dhaka-10 parliamentary by-poll when the Supreme Court yesterday found three parties -- the secretary of the Election Commission (EC), the divisional commissioner and a government lawyer -- signed the court documents for filing the appeal.

But two persons -- EC Secretary SM

Zakaria and Divisional Commissioner Mia Mostak Ahmed -- finally submitted the appeal petition against the High Court stay order. It was revealed to the court that at the time of filing the appeal there was no vakalatnama from the divisional commissioner.

The stay order came after Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh candidate Abdul Mannan filed a writ petition with the High Court being denied the election symbol 'Kula'.

However, the documents that the writ petitioner, Mannan, received from the court shows only

the divisional commissioner as the challenger of the High Court's stay. At the time of filing the appeal on May 26, there was only one appellant. The name of the EC as another appellant was inserted later without the knowledge of Mannan's lawyers. Such insertion amounts to tampering with the court documents, says Mannan's lawyer Barrister Tanjib-ul Alam.

The revelations now raise new questions. Why did Mia Mostak file the appeal as the divisional

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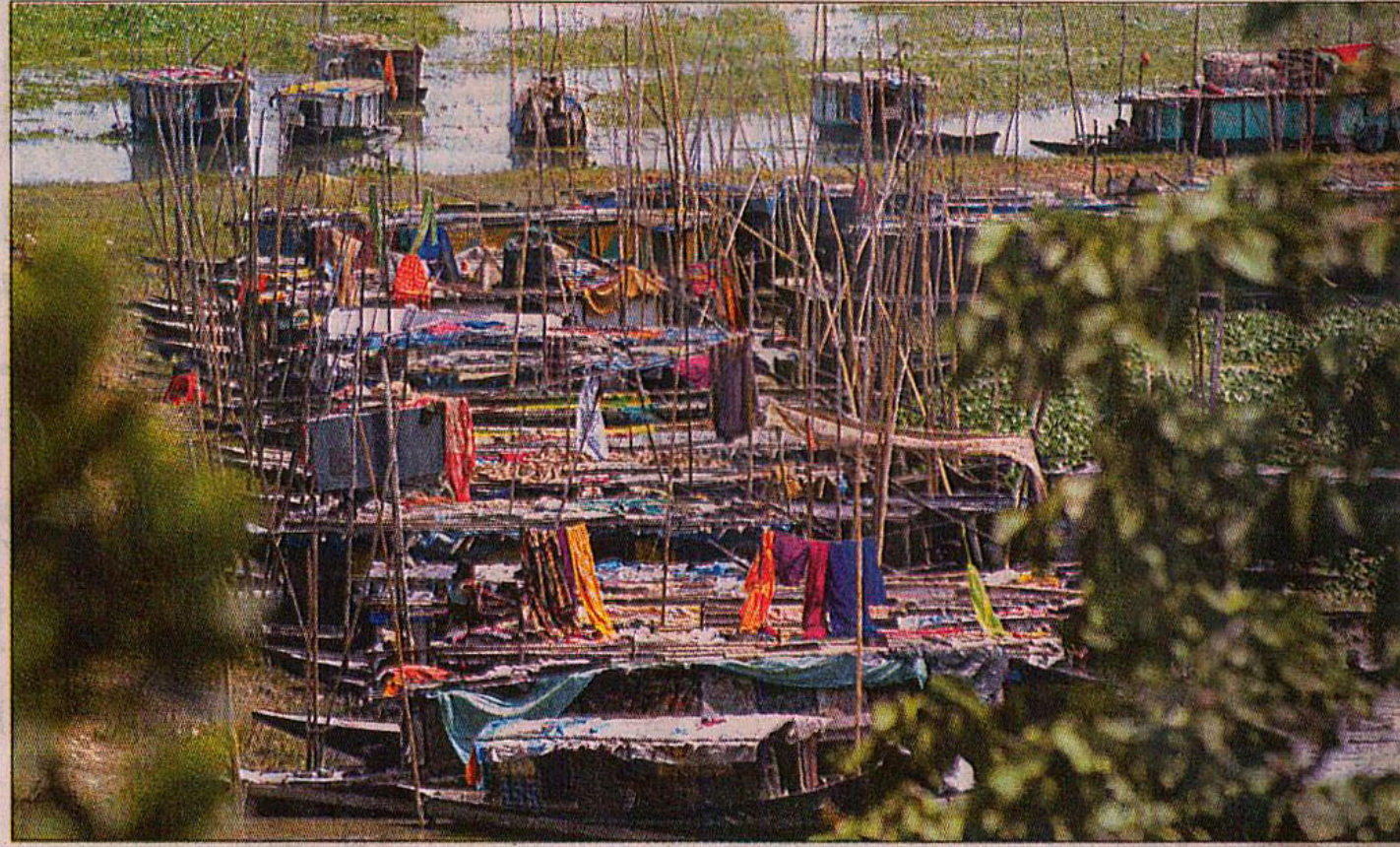


PHOTO: S K ENAMUL HAQ

River gypsies gather near Amin Bazaar Bridge in Dhaka in a flotilla of boats ahead of their monsoon business season. The community takes rain-fed river routes to travel from one place to another with their traditional wares and entertainment facilities.

JMJB-outlaw turf war looms

Islamic militants cobble up 500 guerrilla units, cops give up chase for Bangla Bhai

STAR REPORT

Villagers in Rajshahi and Naogaon fear a bloody turf war between the Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) and its rival underground operatives, as the police suspended their operation to arrest dreaded JMJB chief Bangla Bhai.

The JMJB and the banned Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) have quickened their efforts to revitalise their activities in outlying villages in the two northwestern

districts, the villagers said. The JMJB that swelled its ranks with about 500 guerrilla units to take on its opponents is set to train new members in an effort to stage an Islamic revolution in Bangladesh.

"Our guerrillas will launch secret killings," a JMJB leader said.

The Islamist outfit, blamed for killing at least nine suspected outlaws since April 1, went ahead with its anti-outlaw drive with support from the police, which prompted

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Govt urged not to sit on warehouse issue

Top business leaders, economists also speak for garment exporters' demand for import via land port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top business leaders and economists yesterday threw their weight behind the demand of garment exporters for a central bonded warehouse to help the sector survive in quota-free regime from next year.

They urged the government not to sit on the issue, as the fate of the highest foreign currency-earning sector will be on line in about eight months.

The export of goods in shorter period and competitive pricing will be key factors for retaining and expanding apparel business in the post-MFA (multi-fibre arrangement) era, and introduction of a central bonded warehouse is the solution to it.

They also favoured allowing import of yarn and fabrics through land ports.

The view came at a discussion on

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Who banned journos in SC building?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Strange it may sound, yet no-one knows for sure who passed the order barring journalists from entering the Supreme Court building since Saturday.

The presiding judge of the special bench of the Appellate Division, Justice M Ruhul Amin, on Thursday clamped restrictions on newsmen in covering the proceedings in his court -- not on their entrance in the court building -- during the hearing of the appeal against the High Court's stay order on Dhaka-10 parliamentary by-polls.

The reporters converged on the

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Saudi kidnappers slit throats of 9

Commandos free dozens of hostages

AGENCIES, Khobar, Saudi Arabia

Saudi commandos jumped from helicopters to storm a housing complex yesterday and freed dozens of foreign hostages from militants who had already slit the throats of nine people.

Security sources said several hostages were killed during the rescue operation at the upmarket Oasis compound to end a 25-hour drama in the oil city of Khobar in eastern Saudi Arabia. The militants killed at least 17 people in the assault on the vital Saudi oil industry.

"The nine had their throats cut by the kidnappers when they tried to escape at night by the stairs," Hijazin told AFP watching the removal of bodies.

Hijazin, a Jordanian computer engineer, said he was rescued along with fellow hostages and brought out by the roof.

An internet statement purporting to come from Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network said it carried out the unprecedented hostage-taking, which raised the stakes in a battle the world's biggest crude exporter

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Twister kills 2, injures 100 in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Two people were killed and about 100 others injured as a twister ripped through Nilphamari district early Sunday.

The tornado with heavy rain ravaged through Domar pourasava area and Domar Sadar and Boragari unions under Domar upazila, Jaldhaka pourasava, Mitganj, Shimulbari, Dharmapal, Golna, Kathali, Balagram villages under Jaldhaka upazila and some other villages under Dimla upazila at around 3:00am, sources said.

Mousumi, 12, daughter of Ohidul of Teen Bottoli village under Domar upazila, and Horimon, 70, of

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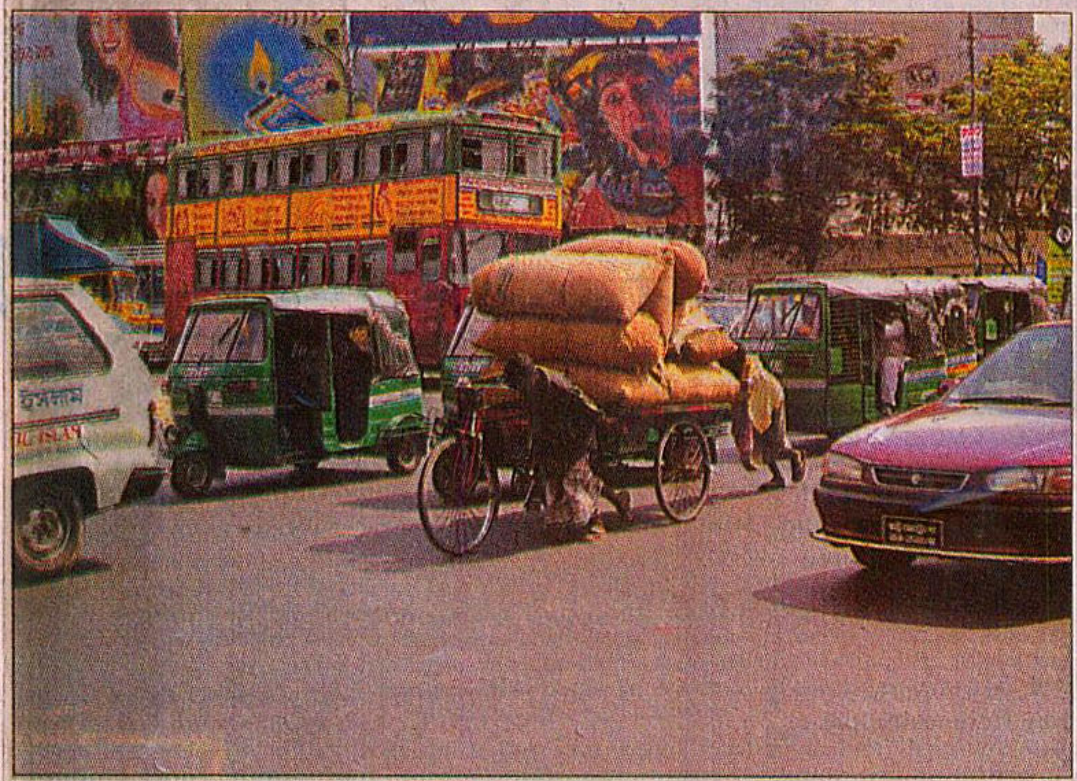


PHOTO: STAR

Violation of a ban on the movement of slow transport is commonplace near Sonargaon rail-crossing, thanks to the culture of bribe among traffic police. A cargo-laden van near the crossing in peak commuting hours yesterday laughs off the restriction.

Signs of warmth in Indo-Bangla ties

Morshed undertakes New Delhi visit today for high-level interface with Manmohan government

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's special envoy Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan arrives here today on a four-day visit for the first high-level interface with the new Indian government amid indications of warmth in ties between the neighbours.

Khan will meet Indian External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh tomorrow and is to call on Congress President Sonia Gandhi possibly on the same day to hand over a letter from Khaleda, officials said.

He will pay a courtesy call on Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Wednesday and give him a separate letter from the Bangladesh premier. Khan is also expected to interact with other senior Indian leaders, including Commerce and

Industry Minister Kamalnath and Water Resources Minister Priyaranjan Dasmunshi.

"We are hopeful that as per the announcement, the alliance government headed by Congress would strengthen regional harmony," Bangladesh's official BSS news agency quoted Morshed as saying yesterday.

"There is no specific agenda for talks, but we are interested to discuss all issues with an open mind."

Marred often in the last six years by bitter war of words and indifference to each other's concerns, the ties between India and Bangladesh now appear to be in for an upswing, if gestures and remarks stemming from the two capitals are anything to go by, diplomats said.

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Shinning Rafiq

RABEED IMAM, from St Lucia

Bangladesh could have had the West Indies in desperate trouble but Chris Gayle survived two dropped chances to move to 34 and the home side were 68 for one at lunch in their first innings on the third day here at the Beausejour Stadium.

Gayle first got lucky on 21 when Hannan Sarker at second slip couldn't catch a comfortable shoulder high chance on his right off debu-

tant paceman Tareq Aziz and the ball went for four. With the West Indies on the same score (55/1) Gayle edged Tareq again, this time to Rajin Saleh at an unusually close gully but the ball went through his hands.

The Tigers made a superb start when Faisal Hossain at point took advantage of a mix-up between openers Gayle and Devon Smith and threw the ball towards the non-striker's end where bowler Tareq



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took it and hit the stumps. After the TV replay, Smith was given out. Number three Ramnaresh Sarwan was batting on 30.

Earlier Bangladesh's innings ended on 416, their highest Test score in an innings, after they had resumed on 406 for nine. Centurion Mohammad Rafique pulled the second ball of the day from Sarwan for six but played on to Pedro Collins trying to force the left-arm seamer. Rafique's 111 came off 152 balls and had 11 fours and three sixes. Collins

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In Memorium



Today is the 4th Death Anniversary of our Founder Chairman Late Shahjahan Kabir. We remember this day with deep sorrow and respect our Late Chairman. His enormous efforts and contribution are still reflecting on the present growth and prosperity of Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited. His endeavour and dedication for the rapid expansion of the Bank will always be a constant source of inspiration to us. We are ever grateful to our Late Chairman.

We Pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

EXIM BANK

Board of Directors, Shareholders & Management
Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited

Rivals gun down 8 Kushtia outlaws

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Eight underground operatives were gunned down allegedly by their rivals at village Baghdanga in sadar upazila, 40 kilometers off the district headquarter in early hours of yesterday.

The slain were identified as Sanwar Hossain 30, Khodbar Ali 36 of Khordo Ailchhara, Sayeed Joardar 25, Bazur Rahman 24, of Baghdanga in sadar upazila and Somej Ali 35, Abul Kalam 40, of Halsha Majila and Abu Musa 24, Ainal Ali 37 of Asmankhali in Mirpur upazila of the district.

Police said all the dead belonged to the Islam faction of outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF), an underground wing of Sromojibi Mukti Andolon.

According to police, a gang of 30

armed men of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) at about 3:00am swooped on a house, where at least 15 GMF cadres including the faction chief Aslam were holding a secret meeting.

The PBCP men caught eight GMF cadres, while others managed to flee. They took the captured to Baghdanga field, tied them up and shot one after another at pointblank.

Police recovered the bodies yesterday morning and sent them to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

Sources said the eight were slain as a sequel to the fierce rivalry between the two underground outfits for establishing supremacy over the area.

Another source said PBCP killed

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No Tobacco Advocacy Campaign & Presentation Ceremony of WHO "World No Tobacco Award" To

Dr. Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain
Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Chief Guest: His Excellency Professor Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed
President, People's Republic of Bangladesh

Organized by: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and World Health Organization-WHO

Bureau of Health Education, Directorate of Health Services
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Osmani Memorial Hall • 31 May 2004 • 9 am