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Shahudul removed

No protocol given to him on arrival from France; meeting with Babar denied; Ashraful Huda to continue as acting IGP

SHAMIM ASHRAF

The government yesterday removed Inspector General of Police (IGP) Shahudul Haque from office after his conviction for contempt of court Tuesday.

His replacement was not announced until yesterday evening, but home ministry officials said it may take a few days. Ashraful Huda, acting IGP and commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, has been asked to continue in office.

Shahudul has now been removed three times from job since independence. The Awami League (AL) government during its 1972-75 rule stripped him of his army job for his

controversial role during the Liberation War and sent him into forced retirement. Former president Ziaur Rahman absorbed him in the police later, but the last AL government again forced him to retire.

Shahudul, who flew in Dhaka yesterday morning from France after a weeklong overseas trip, was told at Zia International Airport not to go to his office, sources said.

No flag car went to receive him at the airport and he was provided with no protocol. A police car drove him to his government house at Minto Road.

Officials at the home ministry said Shahudul was handed a law ministry notification that said he stood dismissed from the day of his

conviction.

He later tried to meet State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar, but was refused a meeting, the sources added.

"I got no orders," Shahudul told The Daily Star by phone last night when asked whether he had received his removal orders.

He refused to comment, when asked, on the High Court verdict and only said, "I will talk (about the matter) after consulting my lawyer."

Well-placed sources said the home ministry at a meeting Sunday night decided to cancel his contract in line with a law ministry observation that Shahudul is no more

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MARTYRED INTELLECTUALS DAY Nation recalls their supreme sacrifice today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation observes the Martyred Intellectuals Day today paying glowing tributes to the illustrious sons of the soil who made the supreme sacrifice

at the fag end of the 1971 Liberation War, with the killers still left unpunished.

Sensing an imminent defeat, the Pakistani occupation army and their local

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STAR FILE PHOTO

TOO MACABRE TO FORGET... Bodies of intellectuals left to rot amid the rubble of Rayerbazar killing field by local collaborators of Pakistan army days before Bangladesh was liberated.

Give us more aid, we'll listen more

Saifur tells donors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday told Japanese and British donors that donors advise Bangladesh a lot but provide much less assistance and the only way they can make Bangladesh listen more to them is increasing their assistance.

At a meeting with a delegation of donor groups of the two countries, Saifur assured the donors that the law and order here has improved after the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) swung into action.

"I get calls from abroad that if necessary we can spend less on constructing a few roads, but we should not stop Rab operations," he told them during the meeting at the

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UK, Japan to jointly help improve order, governance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Representatives from Britain and Japan, the two largest bilateral donors in Bangladesh, yesterday said they are joining hands with the government to take concrete steps to help improve governance and law and order and cut down on corruption.

"We will work with the government to identify specific actions to improve governance and reduce corruption, to assist civil service reform and build public sector capacity," said the head of British Department for International Development (DFID) and the deputy

director-general of Economic Cooperation Bureau of Japanese

Foreign Ministry, in a joint press statement yesterday. They also held a press conference at Sonargaon Hotel.

The British-Japanese collaboration would centre around steps on governance, gender equality and private sector capacity building, as they were marked as areas that Bangladesh need to improve on to meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of halving poverty by 2015.

A joint funding policy the two major bilateral donors are working on, with the objective of pushing up their development support, will also set its sights on ensuring accountability of the government and the policy-makers.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

POST-MFA ERA China to tax its textile goods to quell world worry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local garment exporters, who are bracing themselves for an uphill battle with the Chinese apparel in post-quota era, yesterday welcomed China's decision to impose duties on its certain textile exports.

They said it would benefit the exporting minnows as well as mitigate unrestrained growth in China.

An AFP dispatch from Shanghai referring to the commerce ministry official on Monday says, China will impose duties on textile and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

5 die in 'crossfire' with Rab, police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five people including two regional leaders and a cadre of outlawed outfits were killed in 'crossfire' between criminals and Rab and police in Dhaka and elsewhere yesterday.

The killing of five-- one each in Barisal, Jhenidah and Bagerhat and two in the capital-- raised to 75 the number of people killed in 'crossfire' and 'shootout' with Rab and police since June this year.

Two of them -- Kala Kamal alias Pichchi Kamal, 22, and Milon, 23 -- with criminal records were killed in a

shootout between joint teams of anticrime forces 'Cheetah' and 'Cobra', and a gang on Rokeya Sarani in Kafrul in the capital.

In Barisal, Moazzem Hossain Ripon, 40, a regional leader of outlawed Purb Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) and a top criminal of Barisal and three adjacent districts, was killed in 'crossfire' between outlaws and Rab in Banaripara upazila.

In Bagerhat, regional commander of PBGP (ML-Janajuddha) Rezaul Tarafdar alias 'Kana' Rezaul was killed in 'crossfire' between a joint team of police and Rab and

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Lost their loved ones, gained no recognition

AKBAR HOSSAIN

As the nation observes the Martyred Intellectuals Day today, due respect and recognition from the government still elude family members of many of the martyred intellectuals.

With a humiliating defeat gnawing at them, the Pakistani army on December 14 killed Selina Parveen, along with many other revered sons and daughters of the nation.

Pakistani army aided with information by the *rajakars* (local collaborators of the occupying

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Cabinet nods to tax ombudsman

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The cabinet yesterday approved, in principle, the appointment of a tax ombudsman at the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to deal with the complaints from taxpayers about payment of taxes.

A cabinet meeting last night with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair, decided that a draft law on the appointment of a tax ombudsman would be placed before the cabinet after vetting by the law ministry and then it would be tabled in the parliament for passage.

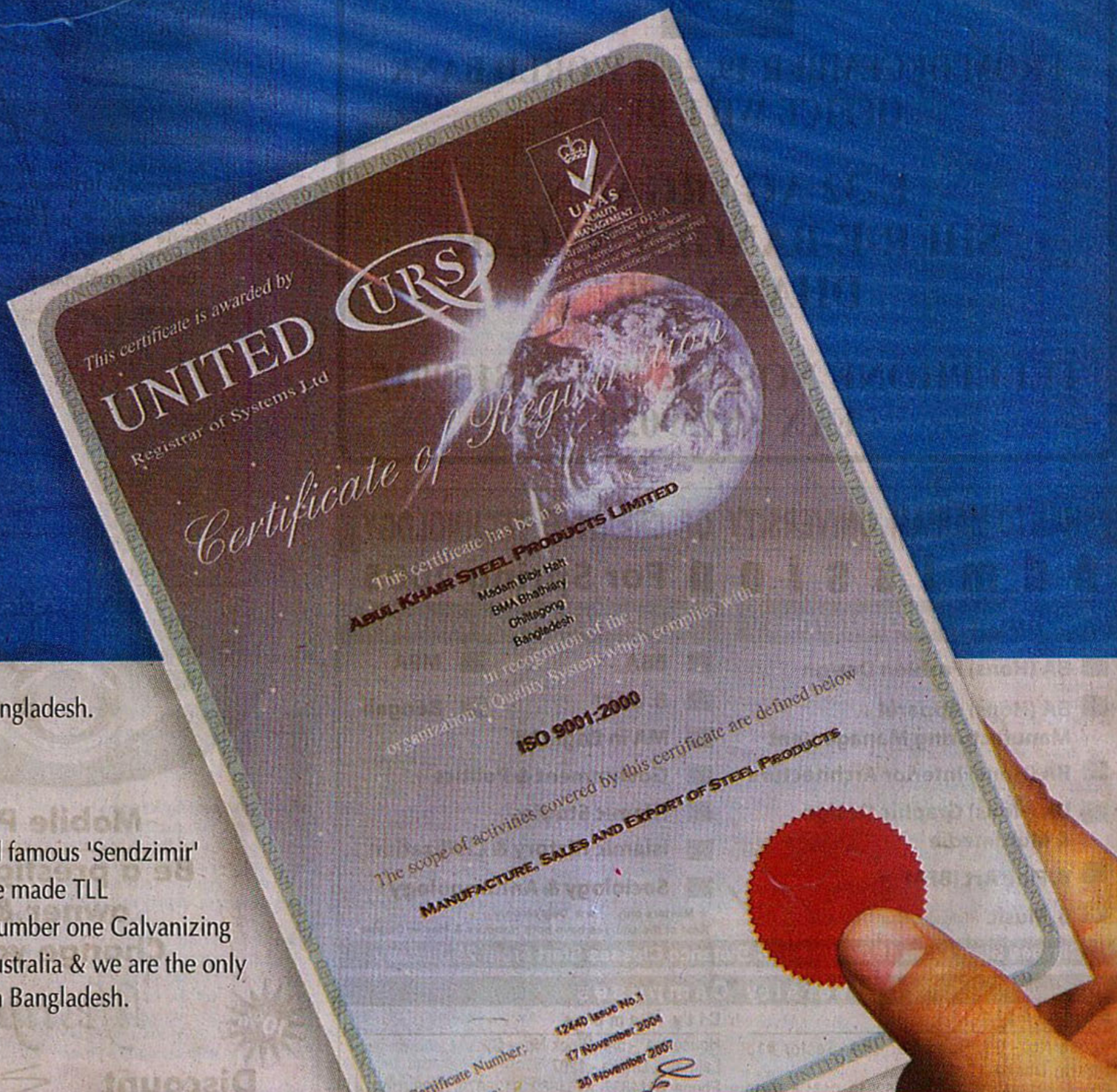
NBR sources said a tax ombudsman would be appointed in current fiscal.

According to a proposal of the NBR, the president will appoint the tax ombudsman for a four-year term. He will head a separate office with necessary staff.

The NBR proposal did not outline a specific criterion for this appointment but it suggested some rules for the ombudsman. The appointment will be made after further discussion by the government, sources said.

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