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Suo moto halts case against Ctg minors
4 cops suspended
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a suo moto rule on eight government and police officials and the plaintiff of a robbery case filed in Chittagong against 11 people including a dead man and four minor children. Meanwhile, acting on a directive of the ministry concerned, Chittagong Metropolitan Police yesterday suspended four police personnel for negligence in duty in connection with the case. A HC Division bench comprising Justice AK Badrul Huq and Justice ATM Fazlur Rahman stayed proceedings of the case until disposal of the rule and asked the nine

Opposition announces agitation plans today
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL), left 11-Party, and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) will announce the next course of simultaneous anti-government programmes from separate rallies in the city today. The main opposition AL would hold the rally at Paltan Maidan, 11-Party at Paltan Crossing and JSD at Muktagong.

Govt pressure holds back JS graft probes

Say parliamentary body chairmen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committees are facing pressure from the government high-ups in their move to probe corruption and irregularities in the ministries, the committee chairmen alleged yesterday. Speaking at a seminar, the committee chairmen accused the ministers and high officials of various ministries of non-cooperation with the committee moves and non-

implementation of their recommendations. They said the parliamentary committee system is not functioning properly due to the prevailing situation. Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, who chaired the seminar, said he would inform the prime minister and other ministers about the grievances of the committee chairmen. Explaining the functions of parliamentary committees, the

speaker said they work as a 'mini parliament' and play a vital role in strengthening the parliamentary democracy. Echoing the speaker, Abdul Mannan, chairman of the standing committee on agriculture ministry, said the standing committees play the major role in ensuring the accountability of the government to parliament. The Jatiya Sangsad and United



Lamenting the dead warriors.... Army officers cannot hold back tears as they offer munajat after the namaj-e-janaza of the nine Bangladeshi peacekeepers held at Army Stadium in the capital yesterday.

PEACEKEEPERS
Hasina could not pay homage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina could not pay homage to the slain Bangladeshi peacekeepers yesterday, as the Army Headquarters did not respond to her request to visit the bodies at Army Stadium before their burial. The authorities did not make any arrangement for the former prime

Peacekeepers laid to eternal rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nine Bangladeshi peacekeepers, killed Friday in a militia ambush in the restive West African state Congo, were laid to rest yesterday at their village homes with full military honour. Eight helicopters carried the bodies of the soldiers to their villages after their namaj-e-janaza at the Army Stadium.

Stop hartal, join JS
PM urges AL

UNB, Trishal

Prime Minister (PM) Khaleda Zia yesterday asked the main opposition Awami League (AL) to stop hartal and join parliament to prove their claim to be a party for people's welfare as people don't like shut-downs. "They (AL) avail the opportunities as opposition party but don't play their role by going to parliament, the PM told a huge public meeting at Nazrul Academy ground in Darirampur. "They want to make Bangladesh into a vassal state at the dictate of their foreign mentors by destroying the national economy," she added. "When a good number of investors

Govt takes over helm of BDF meet from WB

Apparently to duck donors' pointed queries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an apparent bid to mute the most vocal donors in the annual Bangladesh Development Forum (BDF) meetings typically arranged and led by the World Bank (WB), the government has decided to take the lead itself.

Sources in the donor community and the Economic Relations Division (ERD) said the government will fund and organise the meeting to take over the helm from the WB. In addition, it has decided that the meeting will be held once every two years instead of annually. The government last month in a

letter to the WB wrote that from now on the finance minister of Bangladesh will chair the BDF meeting. All these years, the WB vice president for South Asian and the Bangladesh finance minister have been co-chairing the BDF meetings. The BDF brings in about 40

CJ, judges keep off SC bar break-up party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Breaking with tradition, Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassar Husain and many of the Supreme Court judges yesterday did not attend the annual bar break-up party of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA). SCBA President Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud said the CJ had told him that 'some of the judges were not invited properly' and that is why he (CJ) refrained from attending the party. Rokanuddin told reporters that they had invited the CJ and other judges in an appropriate manner, as they did in previous years. He described the absence as a deliberate act and said, "It has shaken the very relations between the bar and the bench, and the damage that has been done is irreparable." Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and State

Minister for Law Barrister Shahjahan Omar went to the party. But on learning that the CJ would not come to the party, they left before the luncheon. Besides, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed did not attend the party. However, some 10 sitting judges of HC division bench, former president Abdur Rahman Biswas, former chief of caretaker government former chief justice Latifur Rahman and former chief justices Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury and KM Hassan joined the luncheon. The annual SCBA break-up party, where some 80 judges and 3,500 SCBA members were invited, began with lunch at around 1:30pm. But shortly afterwards, the SCBA president came to know that judges were holding a meeting at Chief Justice's Office (CJO). As whispers were rife

KL to take back 8,000 workers in 3 months

No Bangladeshi arrested in Malaysian crackdown

AGENCIES, Dhaka

Malaysian government has decided to take back some 8,000 Bangladeshi workers, who had returned to Bangladesh, within three months under a general amnesty. Those illegal Bangladeshi labourers had come back home before deadline of a four-month-old amnesty by the Malaysian government ended on midnight of February 28. Kuala Lumpur has appointed six Malaysian companies to recruit the workers through some Bangladeshi recruiting agents, Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Major (retired) Qamrul Islam told parliament yesterday. Replying to BNP lawmaker

Rashiduzzaman Millat, he said Bangladesh and Malaysia on October 22, 2003 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding export of Bangladeshi manpower. The MoU took effect from March 1, 2004. But a large number of workers could not be sent in last one year as a new government was installed in Kuala Lumpur, the minister said, adding it would take some time to finalise the procedures for exporting Bangladeshi manpower. He, however, said some 650 workers from Bangladesh were employed in Sabak and Sarawak provinces of Malaysia by this time. He hoped that the Malaysian government would soon start

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