

ARREST OF 9 INDIANS

Memo submitted to Agartala visa office

UNB, Dhaka

All Tripura Decorators' Association submitted a memorandum to the Bangladesh visa office in Agartala on Saturday demanding immediate release of nine Indian citizens who were arrested at Laksham on March 11.

First Secretary of Bangladesh visa office Sajjad Taimur said one of the employees of his office had received a written memorandum but he did not see it as the office was closed, a PTI report from Agartala said.

The nine Indians, including one Gautam Bhowmick were arrested for illegal entry without passport and engaging in building a podium for

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's scheduled public meeting at Laksham on March 13. They were brought on police remand for interrogation.

Tripura Decorators' Association Secretary Hrishikesh Poddar said Gautam Bhowmick, proprietor of Tarakeswar Decorators of Agartala along with his eight employees had entered Bangladesh without passport for putting up a temporary stage when their services were required by one Swapan Saha, Vice-President of the Laksham unit of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Poddar said "the border is porous and often labourers from both the countries enter each other's territories... but this time they are being labelled as terrorists."

The leader of the opposition (Congress) Ratan Lal Nath and Jubo Jana Morcha, the youth wing of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), demanded that the state government take up the matter with the central government so that Delhi can take up the matter with Dhaka for their release.

Acting Chief Minister Anil Sarkar said, "We have already taken up the matter with the central government who has assured us that they are looking into the issue."

1,667 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,667 people on various charges from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours as of 6.00am yesterday.

During the period, the law enforcers recovered nine firearms and nine bullets and filed five cases against nine people under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.



Awami League Presidium member Amir Hossain Amu speaks at a public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday protesting the publication of false news about Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wajed Joy.

Ahsania Mission book fair begins

A book fair organised by Ahsania Mission Book Distribution House (AMBDH) popularly known as 'Boi Bazaar' began at House No-1/A, Road No-13 (New), Dhanmondi in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Alhaj Munsef Ali, former Deputy Registrar of Dhaka University and former chairman of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, inaugurated the fair. Kazi Rafiqul Alam, President and Chief Executive of Dhaka Ahsania Mission, General Secretary Md Ziauddin, Deputy Executive Director M Ehsanur Rahman, Educationist Prof Nurul Islam, former Head of Personnel of British American Tobacco Company K A Islam and Assistant Director of 'Boi Bazaar' Ali Afzal were present.

Rafiqul Alam said they have taken this initiative to increase the number of book lovers. The special attraction of the fair is discounts up to 60 per cent and special gifts like free oxford mini dictionary, free entry ticket to Fantasy Kingdom with free rides for those buying books worth Tk 500, 600 or 800 respectively. The fair will continue till 30 March and will remain open from 9.00am to 9.00pm everyday.

Any customer can visit website: www.boibazaar.com and order by internet for books to reach them within 24 hours.



Alhaj Munsef Ali, former deputy registrar of Dhaka University, inaugurates the book fair of Dhaka Ahsania Mission yesterday.

SALAM MURDER

One robber to die, 2 others get life

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a robber to death and two others to life in jail for killing Abdus Salam of Savar in June in 2001.

The convict with death is Ayub Ali while Rafiqul Islam and Abdul Aziz were given life in jail.

Judge Kamrul Islam of the Fourth Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court handed down the verdict in presence of the convicts.

The court also fined the convicts with lifers Tk 20,000, in default, to suffer a one-year more imprisonment.

The convict with death can appeal to the High Court against the verdict within seven days from the date of receipt of the judgement copy, the judge said.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 13 prosecution witnesses.

In the case filed with Savar Police Station, it has been alleged that a gang of robbers entered the victim's residence at about 2:00am on June 25, 2001 and made attempt to rob. But the residents and neigh-

bours woke up and chased them. Then the robbers hurled bombs on them which left Abdus Salam dead on the spot. Three of the robbers were caught red-handed when they were trying to flee.

The three were handed over to Savar Police and victim's younger brother filed a murder case against them the same day. The investigation officer pressed charges against them on January 10, 2002.

HUNTER AND CROWN

SC stays HC order

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Appellate Division yesterday stayed for six weeks a High Court order that allowed production, marketing and selling of soft drinks Hunter and Crown.

The HC had directed the government to permit the Crown Beverage Limited for its production, marketing and selling of Hunter and Crown. After hearing an appeal petition filed by the government against the HC order, Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury passed the stay order.

Earlier, the Narcotics Department seized about eight lakh cans of Hunter and Crown, and cancelled the license issued to the Crown Beverage Limited for production, marketing and selling hunter and crown.

Shamima Islam, Managing Director of Crown Beverage Limited, had filed a writ petition challenging the government order and sought permission for production, marketing and selling their produced soft drinks.

A HC bench on March 15 had directed the Crown Beverage Limited to produce Hunter and Crown and to sell the seized cans to only the licensed bars of the country or export them abroad within one month. The HC also ordered the Narcotics Department to issue a new license to the Beverage Limited within two months.

BNP leaders must have a known source of income

Tarique tells conference of grassroots-level leaders

UNB, Pabna

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman yesterday said that all BNP leaders must have a known source of income.

"It is not acceptable if any one says that he or she don't do anything other than being only a member of BNP - You must have a legal source of income," Tarique Rahman told a conference of local grassroots-level leaders here, adding "do something yourself to earn your livelihood and encourage others to do the same."

"Go for cultivation in available lands around your home and encourage others also for cultivation. This will not only help you to be self-reliant but also the country to be

a prosperous one," he said.

Tarique, who is extensively touring the country to exchange views with the local party leaders and workers, asked them to earn the confidence and trust of the people in their respective areas.

"Try to earn trust of the people by standing by their side in distress, ensuring their safety and security and giving them good advice when needed," he said.

He also personally met the participants outside the dais and exchanged views with them on different local and national issues.

Terming Tarique Rahman's initiative for holding "Union Representative Meeting" as different and significant, Communication

Minister Nazmul Huda said that BNP could be in power for another 50 years if such new political trend set by him is continued.

He deplored that the opposition does not like Khaleda Zia's politics of development. The people are now fully aware of the opposition's designs, he added.

Around 2,000 union and ward-level leaders from Pabna and Sirajganj districts attended the conference and exchanged their views with him and other BNP leaders focusing on various local and burning issues.

Barrister Aminul Haque, Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku, Babu Goyeswar Chandra Roy and Amanulh Aman were present.



The Dhaka Japanese Language Institute Alumni Association in collaboration with the Japanese Language Department of the Institute of Modern Languages of Dhaka University and the Embassy of Japan organised a Japanese language speech contest in the city on Saturday. Participants pose for photograph with the guests.

Tk 10 lakh in cash, valuables looted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed robbers looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 10 lakh from a businessman's Shewrapara residence at Mirpur in the city early

yesterday.

A gang of about seven entered the building at 528, Shewrapara, breaking open the main gate at about 2:45am. The robbers rang the doorbell of the flat of Monirul Haq and, as his son Motiur opened the door, they entered the house and confined all members in a room at

gunpoint.

The robbers took Tk 55,000 in cash, 50 tolas of gold ornaments and other valuables.

A case was filed with Mirpur Police Station.

Police could neither arrest anybody nor recover the looted property still late in the evening.



AME new executives

Shariff Atiqur Rahman and Golam Kibria were elected president and general secretary of the Association of Marine Engineers (AME), says a press release.

Other office bearers are, vice-president: Inam Khan, assistant general secretaries: Atiqur Rahman Chowdhury and AHM Tayeb, treasurer: Kazi Golam Tabassum, assistant treasurer: Shamir Chandra, organising secretary: Eshrarul Haque, assistant organising secretary: AH Mamun and cultural secretary: Khondokar Sanaul Haque.

The newly elected executive committee, which was formed recently, will run the office of AME for the next two years.