

# Dhaka confirms commitment to peacekeeping

## Hafiz meets UN Dy Secy General

UNB, Dhaka

Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations (UN) Louise Frechette has praised positive and constructive role of Bangladesh in the UN.

She made the remarks when Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed paid a courtesy call on her on Friday in New York, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

The minister confirmed to her Bangladesh's commitment to, among other things, peacekeeping. He reiterated Bangladesh's support to future UN peacekeeping operations.

The deputy secretary general expressed her deep gratitude for Bangladesh's contribution to peacekeeping. She also lauded Bangladesh's role in other organs of

the United Nation. Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and Counsellor of the permanent mission Khondoker Talha were present on the occasion.

The Deputy Secretary General was assisted by Brig. General Elhadji Kandji, Deputy Military Advisor to the Secretary General.

## 1,680 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,680 people on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours as of 6.00am yesterday.



Environment Journalists Forum of Bangladesh (FEJB) took out a procession in the city on Friday marking the Earth Day.

PHOTO: STAR

## Ahab men agitate for Galib's release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Radical outfit Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh (Ahab) on Friday staged a large agitation under police escort in Rajshahi and Satkhira, inaugurating a countrywide movement to demand the release of the militant linchpin Asadullah Al Galib and his three associates.

Several thousand Ahab cohorts marched the streets of Rajshahi yesterday, threatening the government with tougher agitation and a 'a good lesson in the upcoming election' if Galib is not immediately released.

The Rajshahi Metropolitan Police had earlier granted the organisation a petition for holding the agitation, on the condition that the group does nothing but express its demands, police sources said.

Similar demonstrations were held in other cities, including Satkhira, where Ahab activists brought out a procession from Shahid Abdur Razzak park and paraded the main thoroughfares of the town.

The protests come in response to the arrest on February 23 of Ahab chief and Rajshahi University Arabic teacher Galib, Ahab second in command Abdus Samad Salafi, general secretary Nurul Islam and organising secretary ASM Azizullah. They were later implicated in at least seven cases of murder, bomb attacks and NGO office robbery cases.

Ahab followers from all nine upazilas of Rajshahi, including most from Durgapur, Mohonpur and Godagari, came to the city and brought out the procession from Upashahar AH Jame Mosque at around 4pm amid a large police escort.

# Six get life for murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal, Chittagong yesterday awarded life term to six persons for murdering an electrician in Cox's Bazar about two years ago.

Tribunal Judge M Hasan Imam handed the punishment to Jasim

alias Bullet, Abdul Majid alias Liton, Shamsul Alam, Abdul Hamid alias Kaiser Hamid, Ayub Ali and Sultan Ahmad for killing Md Syed, the electrician and the son of one Abdur Rahim, on July 16, 2003.

The first five are now in jail while Sultan is absconding.

Ten others were acquitted of charges.

According to prosecution, the convicts abducted Syed on his way back home at Kalatali in Cox's Bazar, and strangled him on the night of July 16.

Police recovered his body from a hill after four days.

The victim's father filed a case in this connection on July 20, 2003.

The investigation officer pressed charges against 16 persons on April 20, 2004, and later the case was sent to the tribunal which framed the charges on November 22, 2004.

A total of eight witnesses were cross-examined by the tribunal during the trial.

## Shrimp enclosure owner strangled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A shrimp enclosure owner was strangled to death at village Paranpur under Shyamnagar upazila in the district last night.

The victim was identified as Nizam Gazi, 65, son of late Safed Ali Gazi.

Police arrested one Mazid Morol on suspicion of his alleged involvement in the murder.

Quoting relatives of the victim, police said the victim used to stay at the makeshift house at his enclosure, and they found the body lying there.

Arab Ali, the victim's son, claimed that his father had a dispute with Mazid Morol over a piece of land for long.

He filed a case with Shyamnagar thana in this connection.

## ATTACK ON MAYOR'S CAR Chargesheet against outlaw

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police yesterday submitted chargesheet to the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate naming an outlaw as the lone accused in the case of grenade attack on mayor's car last year.

Sub-Inspector Shafiqul Alam of Khulna thana pressed the chargesheet accusing Mashikul Islam Joy who is an armed cadre of the outlawed PBCP (M-L faction). He is now in Khulna jail.

Five other suspects in the case were killed in crossfire and lynched by the angry mob. They were Mafizul Islam Mafiz, Abdur Rashid alias Tapu, Raja Chowdhury, Khalil and Oli.

Khulna city Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman's Pajero jeep came under grenade attack near the United Club while he was returning home after attending a function on February 29.

The mayor, however, survived the attempt on his life as the grenade did not explode.

A case was recorded with Khulna Police Station on the night of the incident.

Joy was arrested from Dhaka on May 28.