

## Bar Council

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Faizee not to sit at his two-member HC division bench after senior judge of the bench Justice Ali Asgar declined to sit with him and lawyers threatened to boycott the court. Justice Faizee later went on leave.

But the CJ allotted a single-member bench on April 10 this year, allowing Faizee to resume his work amid lawyers' strong protest.

The Bar Council served a show-cause notice on Faizee last November asking him to reply in seven days why punitive action would not be taken against him and why his enrolment would not be cancelled for providing false information to receive enrolment certificate.

In a letter, the council asked the CU authorities to allow two Bar Council men to verify the matter. But the CU authorities refused to allow the council enquiry saying they would themselves reinvestigate the matter.

As Faizee did not reply to the show-cause notice refuting the allegations and the CU authorities also did not defend him as an LLB graduate, the Bar Council took it to be granted that the allegations are true, Rakanuddin told reporters at his chamber.

Faizee applied for Bar Council's enrolment certificate showing a provisional LLB certificate. Even Faizee's father Mohammad Faiz, who filed the contempt suit against the two dailies, failed to produce Faizee's LLB certificate in court when he filed the case.

"So, the council meeting revokes his enrolment unanimously," Rakanuddin said.

Eight members of the council attended the meeting. They are Mahubey Alam, Sahara Khatun, Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Misbah Uddin Siraj, MA Salam, Zahurul Haq, Sarder Suruzzaman and Rakanuddin Mahmud.

Faizee mentioned September 15, 1965 as his date of birth in his application and supporting affidavit submitted for Bar Council certificate, but his SSC certificate attached with the

application showed it was September 15, 1963.

Although Faizee testified that all information in the affidavit were true, he put false information there. Rakanuddin said, "We have decided to file a criminal case for providing false information through the affidavit," he said.

About the eligibility of becoming a Supreme Court (SC) judge, the constitution says one having 10 years' experience in legal practice at the SC or background of working in the judicial service for at least 10 years can be an SC judge.

Faizee was appointed an additional judge of the High Court since he had 10 years' experience of legal practice.

Since Faizee received the council's permission to begin his practice on deceit, all his practice will be considered as null and void, Rakanuddin said.

He said Justice Faizee now disqualifies to be a judge as his working experience 'cannot be counted as legal practice'. "After his certificate for practice is revoked, judicial work and judgements of Faizee should not have legality," he added.

The Bar Council meeting decided to inform the CJ, law ministry, CU and Justice Faizee about its decisions, which will be circulated through a gazette notification.

As Faizee continues his judicial tasks, litigants may face trouble because constitutional legality of his judgements may be questioned in future, Rakanuddin said. He believes it would be safe for the litigants with his bench if they transfer their cases to other benches.

If the CJ does not withdraw Faizee from bench, the Bar Council will table a proposal at its extended meeting with presidents and secretaries of all bar associations of the country on May 13 to boycott the courts for a day to protest Faizee's judicial work.

## Six killed

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Doctors attributed the cause of the deaths to late arrival of the patients at health centres.

"Deaths from diarrhoea are mostly due to insufficient intake of fluid to replace body fluid loss during loose motion. No one should expire from only diarrhoeal attack as long as the patient takes sufficient fluid after every loose motion," said an expert at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B).

Nearly five hundred diarrhoea patients were admitted to the centre yesterday and the rush of patients is increasing, centre officials said.

The health ministry has deployed 2,736 mobile medical teams in the most affected districts to treat patients, mostly in remote areas.

Since the beginning of this year, 70 people, mostly children, died from diarrhoea while 1,60,801 people have been treated or hospitalised, health directorate officials said yesterday.

## Journo Bellal killing

**FROM PAGE 16**  
suspects in the case filed with Khulna thana. The eight others — Habi Shaikh, Khokon, Elias, Anowar Hossain, Delwar, Golam Rasul, Solaiman and Tallbabu — are also in jail custody now.

"I got no evidence against the eight others. Any new information can be included in the chargesheet, if necessary," the OC told this correspondent.

The monitoring cell of the home ministry recently named Jamaat-e-Islami leader Shahabuddin Lashkar alias Dhira as the prime suspect in the case. He went into hiding soon after this.

The journalists injured in the incident are Khulna bureau chief of the Prothom Alo and President of local press club Shaikh Abu Hasan, Khulna correspondent of Bangladesh Today Mohammad Dainik and staff photographer of Dainik Jugantar Zahidul Islam.

## Govt staffs

**FROM PAGE 1**  
committee recommendations.

Sources said on fixing the new pay scale, the secretary committee will place four alternative pay scales before the cabinet meeting.

One of them suggests fixing of the lowest scale at Tk 2,400 and the highest at 23,000. Another recommends Tk 2,500 for the lowest and Tk 24,000 for the highest scale. The other two options set the lowest scale at Tk 2,600 and Tk 2,450 and the highest at Tk 25,000 and Tk 23,500.

Sources said the government may pick one of the last two options to fix the new pay scale.

Another source said the secretary committee will suggest the government to implement the new pay scale in three phases. In the first phase, employees will get 60 to 70 percent of their salary in June and the rest in July in the second phase. They will get allowances in January next year in the third phase.

An additional Tk 6,712 crore in budgetary allocation is necessary to fully implement the recommendations of the two pay commissions for civil and defence staffs. The current budget has earmarked Tk 13,477 crore in salaries of government employees.

A source at the Cabinet Division said the International Monetary Fund recently asked the government to keep the additional figure for implementing new pay scale below Tk 4,000 crore.

## Saifur

**FROM PAGE 1**  
remark when asked about the government plan in the next budget to create jobs for the unemployed.

Substantiating his claim, Saifur said agriculture sector is suffering from an acute crisis of manpower in recent days. "If any one travels through Comilla and Brahmanbaria districts, he will witness that there are no workers for harvesting crops."

The minister mentioned that in the past, people from Kishoreganj used to go to Sylhet for jobs but it has stopped now as factories have been set up in that district.

Moreover, the government is looking for suitable people for many of its projects but it is not getting. Even workers for digging soil are not available, he said.

Purchasing capacity of general people has now increased, Saifur thought.

"I think people of Bangladesh are now living in a better condition compared to people of many Indian states like Rajasthan and Kerala," he said. "In my view, our people no longer give the impression of being from a typical third world country."

He went on, "Bangladesh is doing well compared to many countries if we consider its very small size and a huge population."

About 97 per cent children go to schools, and the government provides scholarship for about one crore girl students, he said.

Like the US and many European countries, Saifur said, Bangladesh is turning into a caring state day by day.

## Jamaat's rejoinder

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Tasneem described those as 'false in toto' and said his party 'has no relations with the organisation like Khatme Nabuwat Movement'. The Jamaat leader described the party's 'relation with the alleged attacks and looting of Ahmadiyya houses' as a hypothesis and said 'the information has been published to tarnish the image of Jamaat-e-Islami'.

The Jamaat leader urged The Daily Star to refrain from creating confusion among the people [by] publishing such type of news.

Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami and Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami issued a statement yesterday affirming his party's belief that despite being a religious minority Ahmadiyyas are citizens of Bangladesh and entitled to all protection guaranteed to a citizen by the constitution and other laws.

"About the status of the Ahmadiyyas as to whether they are Muslim or non-Muslim, our position is very clear and it is exactly the same as the position of the religious scholars of this country and other countries. In the light of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah this is a settled issue," Nizami said in the statement.

He said that Jamaat would protect the rights of the Ahmadiyyas to live peacefully.

Referring to a Daily Star report of April 25 that quoted the Nayeb-e-Ameer of the Ahmadiyyas as saying that Moulana Moudoodi, the founder of the Jamaat-e-Islami, launched the anti-Ahmadiyya campaign under the banner of the Aharar Movement in 1934, the Jamaat Ameer said Jamaat-e-Islami in fact was formed in 1941.

"Before that Moulana Moududi was not a member of any political or religious organisation. He had no relationship whatsoever with the Aharars, whose leader was one Shah Atullah Bukhari. In 1953 neither Jamaat-e-Islami nor Moulana Moudoodi was involved in any movement that led to violence against Ahmadiyyas," the statement reads.

To divert public opinion, certain vested quarters started a violent campaign against Ahmadiyyas, alleged Nizami adding that Jamaat had no relationship with that movement then, as it has no relationship with the violent movement now.

**OURREPLY**  
Shyamunur Jamaat leaders including Moulana Abdul Gafur, imam of local Munsiganj Mosque, Mufty Abdul Saleq, imam of Bangshipur Shahi Mosque, and Mohaddes Yunus Ali, muazzin of the mosque, held several meetings in the area on April 15 and 16 to mobilise locals in laying siege to the Ahmadiyya complex in Jyotindranagar on April 17.

Addressing the meetings, the Jamaat leaders called the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslim and urged the locals to join the April 17

programme of Khatme Nabuwat.

They also took part in the April 17 IKNMB procession to the Ahmadiyya complex.

It may be mentioned that Jamaat represents three of the five Sathkhira constituencies while BNP and Bangladesh Jatiya Party the rest.

Local Khatme Nabuwat chief Moulana Nur Hossain campaigned for Jamaat during the last general election.

Local lawmaker Nazrul Islam, who was elected on the Jamaat ticket, has been learnt to have asked the officer-in-charge of Harinagar Police Station not to record any case when injured Ahmadiyyas went to file case for attacks and looting of their houses on April 17. Local journalists were present at the police station when the OC was talking to the lawmaker over phone.

Meanwhile, Rabiul Islam, local Jamaat leader and son of Munsiganj Union Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Abdur Razzak, allegedly took part in looting Ahmadiyya houses in Chhotobethkhali on April 18 and 19. He along with other Khatme Nabuwat operatives took away furniture, gold ornaments, cash, documents of land, electronic goods, cattle and poultry from the houses of several Ahmadiyya sect members including Ahmed Ali Mollah, Abdul Alam, Abu Waseq, Sheikh Alam, Sheikh Wadud, Faruq Ahmed, Ensar Ali Gazi and GM Ataur Rahman.

Islam later reportedly returned the looted property of Ahmed Ali Mollah and Abdul Wadud to local Ahmadiyya leader Abdul Majid in front of the villagers on April 21.

Referring to a Daily Star report of April 25 that quoted the Nayeb-e-Ameer of the Ahmadiyyas as saying that Moulana Moudoodi, the founder of the Jamaat-e-Islami, launched the anti-Ahmadiyya campaign under the banner of the Aharar Movement in 1934, the Jamaat Ameer said Jamaat-e-Islami in fact was formed in 1941.

"Before that Moulana Moududi was not a member of any political or religious organisation. He had no relationship whatsoever with the Aharars, whose leader was one Shah Atullah Bukhari. In 1953 neither Jamaat-e-Islami nor Moulana Moudoodi was involved in any movement that led to violence against Ahmadiyyas," the statement reads.

To divert public opinion, certain vested quarters started a violent campaign against Ahmadiyyas, alleged Nizami adding that Jamaat had no relationship with that movement then, as it has no relationship with the violent movement now.

## NBR cuts

**FROM PAGE 16**  
the 40-foot wide container. He also imported television sets, refrigerators and air conditioners in the container.

The importer also obtained a certificate from the BSI Inspectorate, a pre-shipment inspection (PSI) firm, which confirmed that the declaration of the importer was true.

The NBR officials, however, sensed foul play. They searched the container when it was brought to Kamalapur Inland Container Depot and found the cars and other electronic home appliances.

On July 27, 2003, the importer filed a writ petition with the High Court where it said the NBR had been illegally blocking release of their imported items. The petition also referred to the PSI firm's certificate in this regard.

The NBR placed proofs of false declaration by the importer before the court that in a March 23 verdict ordered the NBR to release the items after turning those into scrap.

Sources said the NBR would take punitive actions against the PSI firm for issuing a false certificate.

## Desa slated

**FROM PAGE 16**  
of a particular company without inviting tenders.

It asked the ministry to bring amendments to the project proposal as the cabinet purchase committee had already rejected the previous proposal.

The committee also blasted the high officials of power division of the ministry for irregularities and failure to check repeated load shedding.

Earlier in a report the power division officials told the parliamentary body that Desa has incurred losses of Tk 1576.87 crore in last 10 years due to systems loss. But the committee members alleged that mainly irregularities and corruption have caused the losses.

They also observed that the activities of the ministry have stagnated for widespread irregularities and corruption.

"We asked the ministry to bring dynamism in its work to complete immediately different power projects," Committee Chairman Shahidul Islam told reporters after the meeting. "We also asked the ministry to initiate proper steps to slash the systems loss," he added.

Members of the parliamentary body was of the view that the ministry high-ups had tried to put out to tender aresh the 210 MW power plant at Siddhirganj (unit 2) cancelling the previous tender to award their favoured company the work order

through irregularities, said a meeting source.

Though the Prime Minister's Office had approved the previous tender, the ministry officials did not issue the work order in last three years.

The committee asked the ministry to award the work order to the company, which became the lowest bidder in the previous tender, added the source.

## Heavy rains

**FROM PAGE 1**  
tore apart a few hundred billboards in the city and uprooted trees and roadside sheds for bus passengers, leaving long queues of vehicles waiting to pass through the mess on the roads.

Soon after 6pm, the power supply in some areas like Mirpur, Gandaria and in many areas of Old Dhaka was suspended for a while.

Heavy showers also clogged sewerage lines in many areas, slowing down traffic movement in many of the city's busy areas.

As of the writing of this report, the Met office could not provide any information on the amount of rainfall in the city, nor any information about the gusty winds and rainfall taking place in other parts of the country.

## Two businessmen

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), where doctors declared them dead.

Police picked up three staff of the cable network office — Newtol, Tofazzel and Rafiq — for interrogation. They were out of the office when the attack occurred.

Kamal Hossain, alias Ratan, 30, who went to the office to meet an owner of the cable network, sustained a bullet in the right thigh. He was undergoing treatment at the DMCH.

"Seven to eight youths walked up to the office from the western side. They entered through a window and started hurling abusive words and firing with weapons," Ratan told The Daily Star.

"Amid the shooting one criminal shouted, 'Bring petrol and set fire,' and soon I found a ball of fire and thick smoke clouding the room," Ratan said.

After the incident the police and

members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) were deployed in the area.

Police said Mithun played a role in removing one Rois, who was one of the eight partners of the cable network, from the business three months ago following allegations of embezzlement.

"We are investigating whether Rois had a hand in the murder," said the officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station. He added that Rois is an accused in a case filed in his police station, but could not provide details.

Crystal Cable Network has a thriving business providing connections to several hundred households in the Banasree Housing Project.

Around three years ago, local criminal Kala Palash and his accomplices gunned down Mizanur Rahman, then a partner of Crystal Cable Network, inside his house, locals said.

## Putin deplores collapse of USSR

**BBC ONLINE**

Russia's President Vladimir Putin has described the collapse of the Soviet Union as "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe" of the 20th century.

Putin's annual state of the nation address to parliament was broadcast live on Russian television.

He said the break-up of the USSR in 1991 was "a real drama" which left tens of millions of Russians outside the Russian Federation.

He also said Russia must develop as a "free and democratic" country.

But he stressed that Russia "will decide for itself the pace, terms and conditions of moving towards democracy".

"We are a free nation and our place in the modern world will be defined only by how successful and strong we are."

Critics accuse President Putin of concentrating too much power in the Kremlin, pointing to controversial changes in the way provincial governors and parliamentary deputies are elected.

Putin also said Russians who had saved money overseas should be encouraged to return capital to Russia.

He called for a flat 13% tax on all undeclared revenue.

"Tax authorities have no rights to terrorise business," Putin said.

Massive demands for back taxes crippled Russia's largest oil firm Yukos - and its plight has alarmed many western investors.

Monday's speech was Putin's second state of the nation address since he was re-elected by a landslide in 2004.

His wide-ranging speech also touched on the government's efforts to combat terrorism. He called for "radically new approaches" to tackle the threat, which he described as "still very strong".

"The moment we display weakness or spinelessness, our losses will be immeasurably greater," he warned.

## Thai team

**FROM PAGE 16**  
The team will work out alignment and financing process for the 13-km expressway.

Discussion on the project was held at yesterday's meeting between Thai Ambassador Suphat Chitranukroh and Communications Minister Nazmul Huda.

During the visit, the high-powered delegation will meet the taskforce formed by the Bangladesh government, officials of the communications ministry and Roads and Highways Department and finalise the process.

Thai Exim Bank will support 60 percent while Thai and Bangladesh governments will equally share the remaining 40 percent of total cost of the project to be implemented in two phases.

## Top tax boss

**FROM PAGE 16**  
group Vice-chairman AA Kaiser Tito met him at his office on April 19.

"After the meeting, he gave me a Rolex Oyster watch as a gift. I felt embarrassed to accept it, but for courtesy I had to receive it," he added.

Chowdhury, also secretary of Internal Resource Division, sent the gift along with the letter to the cabinet secretary for depositing it in the government treasury.

Yesterday's price of a Rolex Oyster watch on the international market was \$1,500, equivalent to over Tk 90,000.

## Savar victims

**FROM PAGE 16**  
legs, fled from Palashbari several days before along with his wife," said Laily, a neighbor of Hafiz, who worked as a knitting operator in the factory. "He will never stand straight and work as he could not complete treatment because of financial constraints."

Some families have fled in the night, as they owe money to nearby grocery shop owner, landlords, and neighbors.

"I can not go home as I owe my neighbors Tk 2700, which they lent me for my husband's burial in Kushtia," said Rekha, wife of Monir, an electrician killed in the collapse. "I do not know how I will survive with my child if I do not get more compensation."

Meanwhile, the factory authorities have given employees half of their outstanding salaries, while their salaries for overtime duty still remain unpaid.

"They gave me Tk 1,100 against my due salary of Tk 2,200, saying we should realize the loss of our owner," said a helpless Achhia, adding, "the authorities also refused to give me two months outstanding bills for my overtime duty."

Distraught workers say the do not know how they will cope in the uncertainly hanging over their compensation. "Giving us half of our outstanding salary, the factory authorities informed us no bill for overtime duty would be paid as the owner suffered a huge loss," said Hagera, a knitting operator. "How will I be freed from my debt of Tk 3000 by my halved salary of Tk 2000?"

## BSF kills 2 more

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Ashrafal Alam, 25, a cattle trader, when he went to the no man's land of Haripur border, chasing the cattle on Sunday night.

BDR said they have lodged a strong protest with their Indian counterpart.

Tension has been prevailing in the border area. Villagers along the border said the BSF deployed additional troops at some points including Borshalupara, Baliadangi and Atwari.

Meanwhile, amidst strained relations on the border with Bangladesh, India appeared to have downplayed allegations of airspace violation in Tripura by BDR helicopters.

Bangladesh has alleged that an Indian Border Security Force (BSF) helicopter violated its airspace on April 18. But BSF director general RS Mooshahary said on Sunday: "BSF does not have a copter in that sector," Times of India reported yesterday.

The daily quoting BSF officials in Agartala said that on checking the timing of the alleged movement of the Indian helicopter, as claimed by Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), it was found that these were the timings of Indian commercial flights which arrive at Agartala from Kolkata overflying Bangladesh airspace.

The BSF informed the Indian air force (IAF), both in the eastern sector and at the IAF headquarters, of a Bangladesh helicopter violating India's airspace on Friday and an IAF spokesman said it was investigating the matter.

"The helicopter was seen a few hundred metres inside Indian airspace and we have passed on this information to the IAF for investigation," Mooshahary confirmed on Sunday.

However, he added that there was "nothing alarming about the development." These issues will also be taken up with BDR during their regular flag meeting, he added.

Bangladesh Rifles has alleged that Indian Mi-8 helicopters violated Bangladesh's airspace several times and lodged protest with the Indian authorities. A senior BDR

official termed the BSF allegation "concocted," saying that BDR has no helicopter of its own.

In Jhenidah, the Indian border guards yesterday returned the bodies of two Bangladeshi farmers shot dead by them on Saturday.

Jahangir Hossain, Jadavpur Company Commander of BDR, received the bodies from BSF at 5:00pm.

Locals said the BSF personnel gunned down Jahidur Rahman, 24, and Moktar, 20, of Gopalpur village while they were going to their crop land Saturday morning.

## INDIAN HC STATEMENT

The Indian High Commission, Dhaka, in a statement yesterday explained the shooting of two Bangladeshis in Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah district on April 23.

According to the statement, the Border Security Force (BSF) members heard some unusual noises from the site of the barbed wire fencing and also across the barbed wire fencing towards Bangladesh in Indian territory while patrolling.

One of the members of the patrol team used his torchlight to illuminate the area and observed that more than 10-12 miscreants were breaching the barbed wire fence and two of them had already crossed over to their own side of the barbed wire fencing through gap created by breaching, the statement said.

It said the patrol commander challenged and directed them to surrender but they did not pay heed, rather started pelting stones. Patrol party tried to apprehend the two already crossed over. But one of them tried to snatch weapon by assaulting one patrol member. Sensing grave and imminent danger, patrol party fired five bullets at two criminals already crossed over and also criminals on the other side of the fence, resulting in deaths of two of them on the spot.

On search of the area, two dead bodies of unknown criminals were recovered along with wire cutter and two cans of Palm oil, the statements said.

## Kuwaiti cops launch

**FROM PAGE 16**  
joint Nibray Cleaning Company in Kuwait in August last year on allegation that the company does not treat well its foreign workers, the official told The Daily Star.

Asked how the Bangladeshis manage job in that company despite the restriction, the official said most of them had gone to Kuwait either on individual visa or joined the company after leaving jobs in other companies.

Around 4,000-4,500 Bangladeshis are now working in Nibray company, sources said.

Meanwhile, the ministry has asked the Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait to send the particulars of the nine workers who were arrested after about 800 workers of Nibray stormed the embassy alleging non-payment of their salaries.

Bangladesh ambassador in Kuwait yesterday told UNB that Kuwaiti police were interrogating the arrestees to find out the motive behind the attack.

"I believe the common workers were misguided... We are trying to find out who had instigated them with what purpose," Ambassador Nazrul Islam Khan told the news agency over telephone.

AKM Shamsuddin, secretary in-charge of the expatriates welfare ministry, told The Daily Star yesterday that the ministry has sought information about all those who were involved directly or indirectly in the incident.

Asked whether they often get complaints of non-payment of salary to expatriate workers in Kuwait, the secretary responded in the negative.

"We have heard that the workers were not getting salary for the last few months but no official complaints were received," said another official of the expatriates welfare ministry terming the attack "mysterious."

But Ambassador Nazrul Islam Khan expressed doubt about the allegation. Talking to UNB, he said if these workers were not paid for a long time, how they could hire buses and lorries and organise 70