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CCC POLLS

CMP chief removed as EC finds him guilty

Govt appoints Moniruzzaman as Acting Commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday removed the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) commissioner after the Election Commission (EC) the same day ordered for his removal on the failure to discharge his duties impartially in the run-up to Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) elections.

The home ministry attached M Amzad Hossain, the commissioner, to the Police Headquarters and made Additional Commissioner Mohammed Moniruzzaman as Acting CMP Commissioner.

The EC, a quasi-judicial body, had also directed the home secre-

tary to immediately replace him with a suitable person for holding the May 9 polls in a free, fair manner.

Sources close to Amzad, however, said he was going around saying that he would be reinstated in his position once the election is over.

The EC order came in the wake of allegations by main opposition Awami League-backed Chittagong Nagorik Committee that the CMP commissioner was harassing its workers and favouring the ruling alliance candidate.

The Nagorik Committee is backing incumbent Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury for a consecutive third term in office.

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M Amzad Hossain

SCBA stages sit-in today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) stages a sit-in demonstration today at the chief justice's (CJ) entrance to the Supreme Court to protest his allowing Additional High Court Judge Faisal Mahmud Faizee to sit on his bench yesterday.

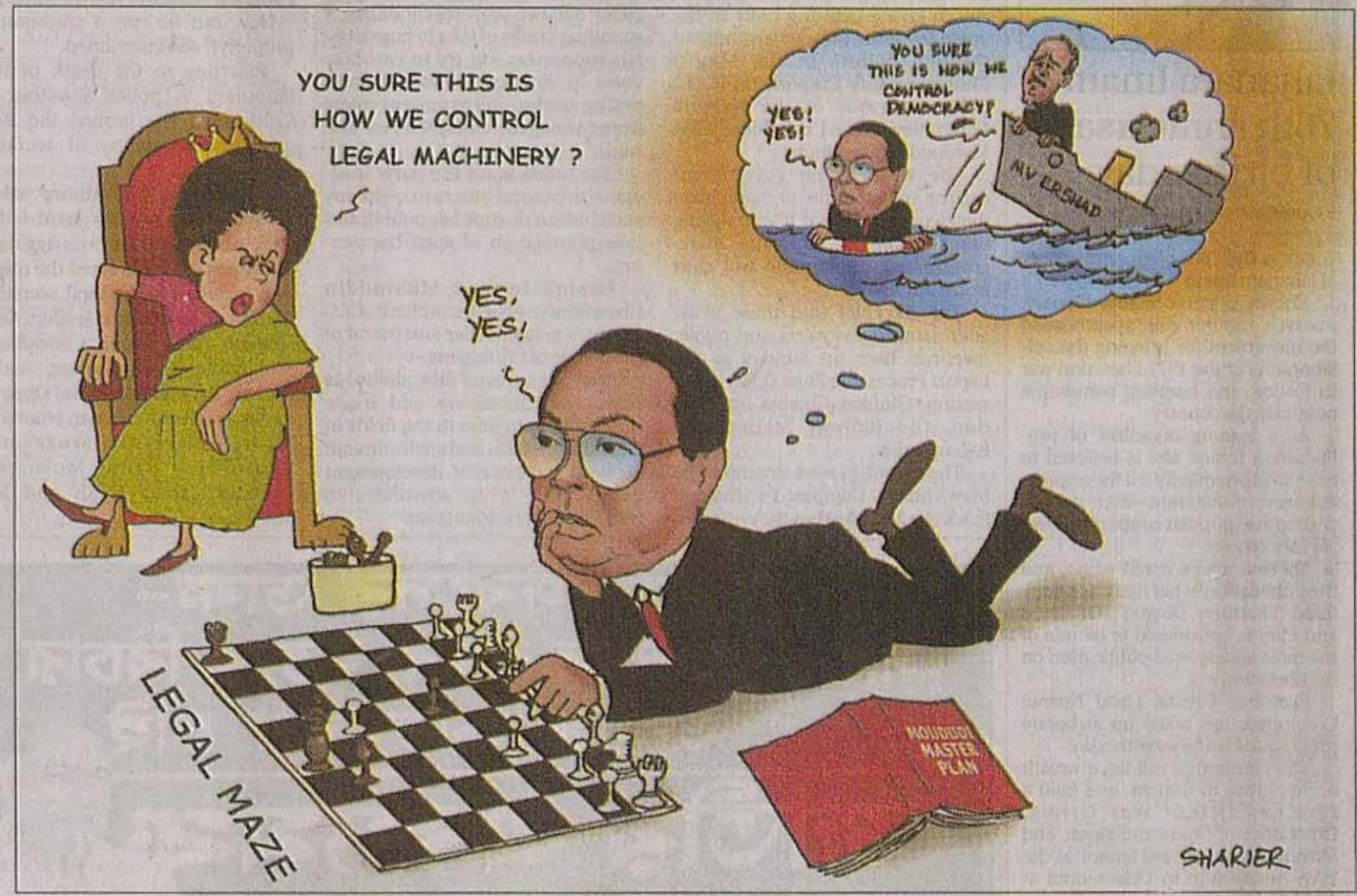
Sources said the SCBA may announce tougher programmes such as fasting and boycott of the chief justice's court from the sit-in.

On Saturday, the SCBA urged Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain to no more allow Faizee to sit on any bench after Bangladesh Bar Council cancelled Faizee's enrolment certificate.

It had announced that it would stage a sit-in from 8:30am to 10:15am if the chief justice did not meet their demand.

The Bar Council, in an unprecedented move on April 24, cancelled Faizee's enrolment certificate on the grounds of his providing false information about his LLB exam results during enrolment.

"There is no question of backtracking on the movement," SCBA President Advocate Mahbub Alam told reporters yesterday.



MANPOWER CHEATING 3 more return after 6-month Sudan ordeal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Three more young fortune-seekers, cheated by a manpower broker in the name of migrating to Italy, have returned home after six harrowing months in the African country of Sudan, observing that many Bangladeshi youths are suffering similar fates there.

Relatives of the migrants consoled themselves that their kin did not die like the 11 youths who lost their lives on the Mediterranean while en route to Spain from Morocco in the third week of February this year.

The three youths - Bishawjit, 24, Saiful, 23 and Shiplu, 25, of Mandolpara area of the district town - gave a total of Tk 16 lakh fifty thousand to a broker named Sarwar, of nearby Baburail area, in return for being sent to Italy.

The amount was given in two phases: the first on September 26 of last year, when Abdul Bari, the father of Shiplu, handed over Tk seven lakh to Sarwar on behalf of the three families.

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Three immigration cops, Caab man, brokers held

Police also arrest four Dubai-returned fortune-seekers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police in a massive hunt in the last two days arrested three immigration cops, a security officer of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) and three brokers on charges of sending four people to Dubai with fake passports.

They also arrested the four fortune seekers who alleged they had paid the organised gang Tk 80,000 each for going to Dubai. Their passports were found doctored with their photographs attached removing the original ones.

The four -- Kaptan Mia of Sunamganj, Abul Kalam of Sylhet, Mohammad Kabir and Mohammad Ishaq of Comilla -- were sent to Dubai by an Emirates flight on April 27, but Dubai airport police finding the fake passports sent them back on April 29.

"As they arrived at Zia International Airport (ZIA), we arrested them. During interrogation they admitted that they had gone to Dubai illegally," a top immigration official told The Daily Star yesterday seeking anonymity.

The immigration police then watched the records (footage) of close circuit television (CCTV) at the ZIA immigration on April 27 and found CAAB Security Officer Amzad Hossain's involvement in the crime.

The police arrested Amzad who named three immigration policemen -- Sub-Inspector (SI) Mokbul Ahmed, Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Ashraf Alam and Constable Motiur Rahman -- saying they were also involved.

The accused policemen took Tk 2,800 for clearing each passport, Amzad admitted.

Later, the immigration police

arrested the three cops and quizzed them extensively. They admitted their guilt during interrogation and named seven manpower brokers who had allegedly bribed them to give immigration seals on the passports.

Following their statements, the Special Branch (SB) of police launched a massive hunt for the manpower brokers and arrested three -- Moklesur Rahman of Comilla, Fazlul Karim of Bogra and Mokbul Ahmed of Uttara -- until Sunday night.

Inspector Aziza Sultana of ZIA immigration filed a case with the Airport Police Station on Sunday against 15 people in this connection.

The police produced the four passengers before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka on

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UP chairman, 'criminal' die in 'crossfire'

STAR REPORT

An alleged criminal was killed in a 'shootout' with Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) in Sutrapur yesterday, while a Union Parishad chairman, also a member of JSD Gono Bahini, was killed in a 'crossfire' with police in Jhenidah Sunday night.

Police said criminal Sirajul Haq Ripon, alias Takku Ripon, 30, had four cases filed against him, including two for the killings of Sergeant Farhad of the Motijheel Police

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2 bank staff die in failed Savar heist

UNB, Savar

Robbers killed two employees of Sonali Bank Savar Cantonment branch in their abortive attempt to loot the bank on Saturday night.

The victims were identified as bank guard Abdul Mannan, 42, and sweeper Nazrul Islam, 30.

Police and bank sources said a gang of robbers entered the bank by

breaking open a window and stabbed Mannan and Nazrul to death while they were asleep. The bandits also disconnected the telephones.

"They tried but failed to break open the vault of the bank despite repeated attempts," police said.

The grisly incident of slaying the two bank men could not come to

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Man killed for protesting adulterated oil sale

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young man, struck hard on the head by a grocer after a scuffle over sale of adulterated soyabean oil, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Sunday.

As Abdul Majid, 30, a resident of Karail slum in Gulshan, protested

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3 killed, 20 injured in boiler blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Three people were killed and 20 others injured in a boiler explosion at Nandanpur Chikabari bazaar in Bagmara upazila yesterday.

As the rice boiler exploded with a bang at around 7:45am, the burning tank was flown onto a nearby hotel, killing Mahbubur Rahman, 20, and Naimul Haque, 14, on the spot while Jewel, 12, succumbed to his injuries on the way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Of the injured, mostly pedestrians and labourers, Lutfar Rahman, Abul Kalam Azad, Azad Ali, Manjor, Sohel Rana, Uzzal, Manju and Nur Muhammad were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, Lutfar's condition was stated to be critical.

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Robbery spree in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted cash and gold estimated at over Tk 1 lakh from the house of a dance director at Uttara and muggers took away Tk 47,000 after shooting a contractor at Azimpur in the capital yesterday.

On Sunday, robbers took away cash and valuables said to be worth about Tk 50,000 from a house at Pallabi in Mirpur, while another group looted Tk 29,000 from a wholesale flower market in Tongi.

Five robbers entered the house of Aziz Reza, a dance director of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation, in Kamarpura cutting open the grill of his kitchen to the ground floor at 3:30am yesterday.

Taking hostage Aziz's son Sony Reza, 14, at gunpoint, the robbers

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Morshed refutes US claim of terror link

Offers fresh Saarc meet dates, seeks compensation from Kuwait for damage to mission

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Morshed Khan has sharply reacted to US State Department report that an Islamist outfit having links with al-Qaeda is operating in the country, saying that it is part of a "conspiracy and orchestrated anti-Bangladesh campaign".

"The way Bangladesh is being painted with the same brush time and again, it seems that it is a conspiracy and an orchestrated campaign by some vested quar-

ters," he told reporters at his office yesterday about the report that named Harkat Ul-Jihad-I Islami, Bangladesh (Huji-B) as the militant outfit.

Without rejecting or accepting the report, Khan said, "I don't see any activity of such organisation in Bangladesh. The question of accepting or rejecting it does not arise."

To defend his contentions, Khan made two points. Firstly, though there had been international terrorist attacks in America, Europe and Spain and many other countries, no such

attack took place in Bangladesh. Secondly, no Bangladeshi citizens have been arrested anywhere in the world as a member of so-called terrorist organisations.

The foreign minister said the State Department in its report has only made a speculation -- it has not had the guesswork confirmed. "It said it may happen, so anything can happen anywhere in the world," he said, adding that the report itself is not sure as it stated Huji leader Saukat Osman is "unknown."

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AL fires Hazari

More actions on the cards to cleanse party of "godfathers"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday in a major cleansing step within the party expelled former AL lawmaker Joyal Hazari, who had drawn news headlines frequently for "criminal activities" in Feni during the 1996-2001 AL rule.

"Joyal Hazari has been expelled from the party for his involvement in anti-organisational activities. We issued a letter in this regard today (Monday)," Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil told The Daily Star yesterday.

Earlier in April 2002, Hazari was



Joyal Hazari

Bigots hit back with case against Ahmadiyyas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A local of Shyamnagar upazila filed a case with a Satkhira magistrate court on April 30 accusing 48 Ahmadiyya community members for alleged April 17 attack on a procession of International Khatme Nabuwat Movement, Bangladesh (IKNMB).

The complainant, Abdul Aziz Moral of village Chhoto Bhetkhali in Shyamnagar upazila named 48 Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat men including Abdul Mazid, Amir of Sundarban Ahmadiyya Complex at Jyotindra Nagar in the case.

The accused, with an aim to kill, opened fire on the processionists including IKNMB leaders Noor

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