

Foreign ministry still awaits info from Kenya on 69 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin yesterday said the foreign ministry has already contacted the Bangladesh ambassador to Kenya about the 69 Bangladeshis arrested there but has not received yet any details including their number and identities.

At a press briefing in the afternoon, he said he hopes to learn their identities within the next couple of days.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

SC Bar waves black flags against Faizee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday staged a sit-in and black flag demonstrations along the chief justice's (CJ) path to the Supreme Court Building protesting Judge Faisal Mahmud Faizee's continuing judicial work.

More than 50 lawyers took part in the demonstrations that started at 9:00am and went on for an hour at the main entrance to the Supreme Court.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Asma Jahangir, other women HR activists held over rally

AFP, Lahore

A group of female rights activists were arrested Saturday after attempting to lead a rally demanding women the right to run in marathons alongside men.

Among the arrested were Pakistan's internationally known human rights activist Asma Jahangir, witnesses said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Close shave for Iraq governor

4 killed in suicide blasts; 23 bodies recovered from garbage bin

AGENCIES, Baghdad

The governor of the province of Diyala survived one of two bombings in Baqouba early Sunday that a hospital official said killed four people and injured 37 while 23 bodies were recovered from . The two explosions detonated about five minutes apart in a busy street as people were heading to work in downtown Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad. The first targeted the convoy of

Diyala governor Raed Rashid Hamid al-Mullah Jawad, who escaped unharmed, said police Col. Mudhafar Muhammed. A second bomb exploded minutes later about 500 yards away, rocking a crowded Baqouba area where the city's police, army, court and taxation headquarters are located. Ambulances rushed to the scene, where body parts, including a hand and foot, lied on the ground amid pools of blood and shards of glass.

Raed Abdul Munim, head of Baqouba General Hospital, said the bodies of four people killed in the blasts were brought to his hospital, along with 37 people who were injured.

Iraqi government officials have been regularly targeted by insurgents determined to derail the war-ravaged country's reconstruction effort.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Thousands of people, left, join a victory rally for Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury; Sheikh Hasina and Mohiuddin, right, wave to the crowd before inaugurating the rally yesterday.

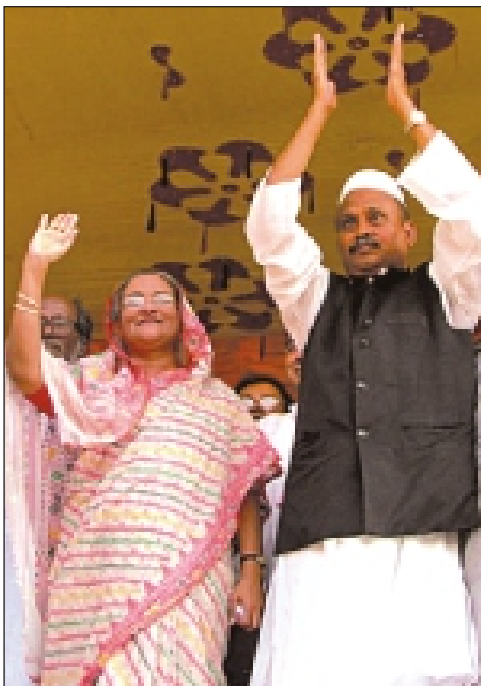


PHOTO: STAR

Noab, BSP for duty withdrawal on imported newspaper

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Sangbadptra Parishad (BSP) and the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) yesterday asked the government to withdraw the duty on newsprint imported for the newspaper industry or to fix a five per cent import tax on it.

The organisations also proposed the cancellation of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) circular that asked the newspaper houses to use locally produced newsprint for publishing newspapers.

A delegation of the two organisations placed the demands at a meeting with the NBR Chairman Khairuzzaman Chowdhury at the latter's office.

Barrister Moinal Hussein, chief of the board of editors of the daily Ittefaq and the New Nation, as well as Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Hasina salutes Ctg people at Mohiuddin shindig

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Sheikh Hasina led a 100,000-strong procession yesterday afternoon in the port city celebrating the third consecutive victory of ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in the Chittagong mayoral race.

Starting from Laldighi Maidan, the jubilant fans of Mayor Mohiuddin paraded the city thoroughfares in time with band music and carrying national flags, Mohiuddin's election symbol hurricane lanterns and colourful banners, festoons and placards.

With the leader of the opposition and the re-elected city father at the head, the mammoth 2km human serpent slowly marched through Kotwali crossing, New Market, Station Road, Enayet Bazar, Jubilee Road, Buddhist Temple Road,

Nandan Kanan and Cinema Palace intersection to come back to Laldighi. It took over two hours for the procession to complete the circuit of triumph.

It is the largest procession in the commercial capital's recent history, said a participant. "And it is possible because of the immense popularity and unique charisma of Mohiuddin," another man quipped.

Hasina, president of the main opposition Awami League, launched the victory march in Laldighi standing on an open truck beside Mohiuddin and other senior leaders. She came down from the truck after a few yards and boarded a Pajero jeep, in which she went up to New Market with the cavalcade.

Mohiuddin then took the lead, with AL Presidium Member Abdur

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

CROSSFIRE

Why killing of Dud Mia not illegal, asks HC

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain in two weeks why the killing of Meghnaghat Awami League leader Mofizul Islam Dud Mia in 'Rab crossfire' should not be declared illegal.

The court also ordered the government to explain as to why police should not register the FIR (first information report) filed by his wife accusing Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) of picking up her husband.

The court orders came following a writ filed by Kawsari Islam, wife of Dud Mia, challenging the extra-judicial killing by the Rab.

The division bench headed by Justice MA Matin also ordered the government to reply why compensation should not be awarded to the victim's family.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Practise democracy within parties first

Barisal seminar urges politicians

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday urged politicians to practise democracy within parties first.

No reforms will serve any purpose unless the political parties themselves maintain the norms of democracy, they said at the roundtable seminar held at the social welfare auditorium yesterday.

Organised by an NGO, Shushasoner Janya Nagorik (Sujon), the seminar presided over by Prof Syed Aminul Haque focused

on the political reformations in Bangladesh and their reasons.

Dr Badiul Alam, member secretary of the NGO, raised a point on the election reforms in Bangladesh.

The seminar observed that the political parties in Bangladesh consider election only as a stairway to power and that most political leaders are after their own interests rather than serving the people, which has reduced the possibility of giving democracy an institutional shape.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

5 hurt as trains collide at B'baria

5 hurt, links with Dhaka snapped for 4 hours

UNB, B'baria

Two trains collided at Kodda in the district yesterday morning, injuring at least five people and disrupting rail communications on Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet routes for four hours.

Locals said a Dhaka-bound container train rammed the Turna Nishitha, a Chittagong-bound inter-city train from Dhaka, at Kodda on the Akhaura-Bhatshala section of the railway's eastern route at about 6:30am.

"One of the Turna Nishitha bogies derailed following the head-on collision, leaving five of its passengers injured," said an eyewitness.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

800yr-old temple unearthed

Relic raiders steal 4 statues

At least four statues and other priceless antiques, found in the recently discovered Shiva temple that was built in 1213 AD, at Pirapat village in Khaloo Upazila reportedly went missing some time Friday night.

Officials at the Archaeology Department and local people said some miscreants might have entered the temple Friday night by cutting an 18-foot-long tunnel. The Hindu devotees last said their prayers at the temple on Thursday.

Regional Archaeology Office sources said higher authorities have

been informed of the incident and requested to declare the site protected for a preliminary excavation.

The department is going to declare the temple of Lord Shiva a protected site soon, according to the field officer of the department.

Thana Nirbahi Officer of Khaloo Upazila Shafiqul Islam told The Daily Star that if the department fails to declare the site protected, the local authorities would take up steps to excavate the site to meet the local people's curiosity.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

Curious people flock to see a tunnel of an about 800 years old temple discovered recently at Kahalu in Bogra district.

Prayer Timing		
May 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		