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HC halts jetty building on Cox's Bazar sea beach

Asks govt to prove legality

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday ordered the government to refrain from constructing a jetty at the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf sea beach.

A HC division bench comprising Justice MA Matin and Justice M Rezaul Haque issued an interim injunction. It also asked the government and other authorities concerned to explain why the decision to construct the jetty for commercial purposes in the ecologically critical area (ECA) should not be considered unlawful.

The injunction and the rule came upon a public interest litigation (PIL) writ filed by the Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (Bela) challenging the

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DIALOGUE ON MILITANCY

PMO forces JP not to talk Jamaat link

Ershad backs out of party presidium proposals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (Ershad) reportedly under duress of the prime minister's office refrained from accusing Jamaat-e-Islami of harbouring militants at the dialogue yesterday and instead proposed a judicial inquiry into the allegations of militant links against a section of the ruling alliance.

Earlier in the morning, a JP presidium meeting finalised a set of proposals to table at the dialogue with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. At the meeting, members of the pre-

sidium unanimously decided to make an accusation against ruling coalition partner Jamaat of patronising the militants, said a presidium member seeking anonymity.

Immediately after learning about the JP proposals, the PMO officials communicated with the party top brass and said they would better not attend the dialogue with such proposals that include among others the accusation of militancy against Jamaat, said JP sources.

Considering the probable fall-out of worsening relations with the government especially when a

dozen cases are pending against Ershad, the party bowed to the pressure and toned down the language of the proposals.

"We don't want to attribute blame to anyone before an investigation," Ershad, also a former president, told reporters after the talks with the prime minister.

"Allegation of patronising the militants has been levelled at a component of the four-party alliance. The government should act to probe it," JP Chairman Ershad was quoted as telling the prime minister

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Rare species of birds, animals seized in raid on pet market

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Forest Department team in a drive yesterday recovered 127 different rare species of wild birds and three monkeys from the Kataban pet market in the city.

The team led by Dhaka Divisional Forest Officer Md Abdul Latif recovered 40 parakeets of two species—rose-ringed and blossom-headed, 12 partridges, 21 hill mynas, 31 spotted doves, a kite and a purple moorhen. The team also recovered three rhesus monkeys from the market.

However, the bird traders had fled the market with a number of rare birds as they had come to know about the raid beforehand, Forest Department sources said.

The birds and animals recovered in the raid have been kept at

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A caged rhesus monkey and a spotted dove recovered by a forest department team yesterday from the city's Kataban pet market during a drive against selling of poached animals and birds.

Jamaat man held while entering SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday held an activist of Jamaat-e-Islami as he attempted to enter the Supreme Court building, dodging the security guards.

The arrestee identified himself as Golam Rasul, 30, of Shibganj upazila in Chanchainawabganj.

Security guards in the corridor connecting the first floors of the Bar building and the Court building first barred Rasul from entering the building at about noon as he could not explain why he wanted to get inside.

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MARTYRED INTELLECTUALS DAY Nation recalls their supreme sacrifice today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation observes the Martyred Intellectuals Day today paying glowing tributes to the illustrious sons of the soil who made the supreme sacrifice at the fag end of the Liberation War in 1971.

Sensing an imminent defeat, the Pakistani occupation army and their local collaborators -- Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams -- abducted frontline Bengalee intellectuals and professionals on December 14 in 1971 and killed them to cripple the nation intellectually.

The killers dragged renowned academics, litterateurs, doctors, engineers, journalists and other eminent personalities out of their houses in Dhaka and massacred them at Rayerbazar, Mirpur and other killing fields in the city.

The martyred intellectuals include Prof Muneir Chowdhury, Dr Alim Chowdhury, Prof Muniruzzaman, Dr Fazle Rabbi, Sirajuddin Hossain, Shahidullah Kaiser, Prof GC Dev, JC Guha

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STAR FILE PHOTO

TOO MACABRE TO FORGET ... Bodies of unknown intellectuals left to rot amidst the rubble of Rayerbazar mass killing field by local collaborators of Pakistan army days before Bangladesh was liberated.

Submarine cable opens

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A consortium of 16 partners, comprising leading global telecom companies, announced yesterday that they have completed and inaugurated the high speed fibre-optic submarine cable stretching from France to Singapore.

The cable called SEA-ME-WE 4 (South East Asia, Middle East and Western Europe) is the fourth cable of a series of cables connecting the continents over almost 20,000km. The cable has the design capacity of 1.28 tera bits per second (tbps).

The announcement was made at the Grand Hyatt in Dubai in

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SAARC ECONOMIC COOPERATION

ADB sees Bangladesh as transport, energy hub

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asian Development Bank (ADB) yesterday offered to help develop South Asia's transport and energy infrastructure with Bangladesh playing a pivotal role as a sub-regional hub.

A four-member ADB mission led by South Asia Department Deputy Director General John Samy conveyed the bank's willing-

ness to assist in programmes for stepping up regional economic cooperation to Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at a meeting at the latter's finance ministry office.

In response, Saifur proposed to hold a meeting of the Saarc finance ministers in February in Pakistan to work out the details of possible ADB assistance.

"ADB wants to use the momentum generated by the 13th Saarc

Summit in Dhaka to speed up implementation of the Saarc initiatives. We, the Saarc finance ministers, will discuss the possible areas and modes of cooperations," Saifur told the press after the meeting.

A recent ADB report on its Bangladesh Country Strategy and Programme for 2006 to 2010 observed, "Bangladesh has the potential to become a transport

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Father disowns his JMB son

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

A father has snapped all relations with his son for his active involvement with the banned militant Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Faizur Rahman of village Barokona in Shaghata upazila of

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Govt to allow yarn import through Benapole land port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday announced that the government will allow knitwear manufacturers to import yarn from India through Benapole land port, a long-standing demand of the apparel manufacturers and exporters.

"All necessary steps will be taken to reopen the land port as soon as possible to facilitate the growing [knitwear] sector," she said at the inaugural ceremony of the second Bangladesh Knitwear Exposition 2005 at Dhaka Sheraton hotel.

The prime minister's announcement came as a relief to the apparel exporters who have been demanding reopening of the land port for import of yarn from India.

The government banned yarn import through Benapole land port in March 2001 to prevent unscrupulous businessmen from importing or smuggling yarn by taking advantage of inadequate infrastructure facility at the land port.

In an instant reaction, Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA)

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Bangladesh Shines in Colors

374 Thanas of 61 Districts

NEW THANAS

- Kolmakanda, Netrokona
- Durgapur, Netrokona
- Ishwarganj, Mymensingh
- Nandail, Mymensingh
- Mirzagonj, Potuakhali
- Lalmohon, Bhola



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SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP Bangla-Pak semi today

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Karachi

Bangladesh will take on Pakistan in the second semifinal of the Fourth SAFF Championship here today.

And when the match kicks off at the People's Sports Complex Stadium at 7pm Bangladesh time, the boys of Diego Cruciani will draw inspiration from the victory

in the great Liberation War in 1971 in this month of pain and pleasure.

The holders will retain a full-strength side in the do-or-die battle with the seven players rested in the last ground league game against India returning.

Runners-up Maldives play India in the first semifinal also today at

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