

Dhaka should seek UN help to combat extremism

Says Lord Avebury  
STAR REPORT

Bangladesh should seek UN help to combat the crescendo of extremism, chairman of the International Bangladesh Foundation (IBF) Lord Avebury said in the wake of the spate of recent bomb attacks against the judiciary in the country. Avebury, also vice chairman of...

Pro-AL Blue Panel wins Duta polls

DU CORRESPONDENT

The pro-Awami League Blue Panel swept the 35th Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) polls securing majority and the posts of the president, general secretary and treasurer for the tenure of 2006-2007.

Besides the top posts, the Blue Panel also secured five executive member posts out of total 15 posts. The rival pro-BNP-Jamaat White Panel secured seven posts including the vice-president, joint secretary...

FERTILISER SUPPLIERS' STRIKE

Importers' conflict peaks crisis

REAZ AHMAD

With no signs of a let up in fertiliser suppliers' strike across the country that began on Monday, conflicts within Bangladesh Fertiliser Association (BFA) are coming to light.

BFA Chairman Kofiluddin Ahmed blamed the finance ministry's inertia in releasing outstanding fertiliser subsidy amounting to Tk 60 crore.

But a ruling BNP lawmaker, also a fertiliser indenter, alleged over invoicing of imported fertiliser - triple super phosphate (TSP), murate of potash (MoP) and diammonium phosphate (DAP) - meant for marketing with 25 percent...

price subsidy.

The lawmaker, who also happens to be a BFA leader, smelt a rat in the entire process of privately imported fertiliser, for which the government introduced 25 percent subsidy for the first time in the last fiscal year. He however sought anonymity.

The BFA leadership and fertiliser importers however squarely blamed the BNP lawmaker, also a member of the parliamentary standing committee on agriculture, for spear-heading a campaign against fertiliser subsidy as most of the fertiliser importers no more go to his firm.

Over 3,000 fertiliser dealers and

farmers in the country are experiencing the pinch of supply stoppage for the last three days.

Sources said internal conflicts of the BFA and certain powerful quarters' loss of monopoly in fertiliser business have led to the long delay in release of the subsidy fund from the finance ministry.

Finance Secretary Siddiqur Rahman Chowdhury, contacted on Tuesday, declined to explain the delay.

In the wake of Tuesday's inconclusive meeting between the agriculture minister and a BFA delegation...

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

Fishermen caught a whale shark in the Bay of Bengal in Cox's Bazar on Tuesday. The photograph was snapped yesterday. The fishermen caught another whale shark from the same coast on Saturday.

14-party holds 'grand rally' in Rajshahi today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The 14-party opposition combine holds a "grand rally" at Madrasa Maidan in the city this afternoon when they will call upon people to intensify "anti-government movement" to check the rise of militancy.

Top Awami League (AL) leaders including the party chief Sheikh Hasina, leaders of left 11-party alliance, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and National Awami Party will speak at the rally.

The "anti-militancy" rally to be held after the BNP's Paltan rally in Dhaka is very important as the 14-party combine will get an opportunity to counter it in Rajshahi where militants had their birth, AL Organising Secretary Akhtaruzzaman said.

Meanwhile, Workers' Party Politbureau member Fazle Hossain...

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

JMB 'linked' lawyer held at Ctg court

7 bombs, 2 guns seized in Barisal

STAR REPORT

The law enforcers yesterday recovered bombs, firearms, Islami books and Phensidyles during a raid on a house in West Kawnia in Barisal city and arrested a person.

Angry lawyers in Chittagong have meanwhile detained a colleague for his initiative to move a bail petition of a JMB cadre and turned him in to police.

Barisal police recovered seven bombs, two firearms, several

Islamic books and seven bottles of Phensidylye from the house of Hemayet Hossain Howladar and arrested him for his alleged links to militants.

The police also seized a note written to Hemayet's wife Shahida Begum by her brother Enayetullah, reports our Barisal Correspondent.

Enayetullah, a teacher at Andhar Manik Madrasa and owner of Islamia Library at Khunna Bazar in Hizla upazila, asked her to hide

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Kidnapped trader freed on ransom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A kidnapped businessman in the city was freed on payment of Tk 50,000 and 5 tolas of gold ornament on Tuesday night.

SM Shayesta Talukder, a contractor and dealer in second hand vehicles, went out in his private car from his Ambarkhana residence as a party told him to see a motorcycle for sale at Kalyanpur in the city.

As he reached there at about 4:00pm, they told him that the bike was at Moglabazar in South Surma and Shayesta accompanied the group in their car, keeping his own at Kalyanpur.

After some time, the group told...

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Slain journo's family lives in fear of attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Slain journalist Hurun-ur-Rashid Khokon's wife, Minu Begum, has been living with a perpetual sense of insecurity since her return to Khulna from Dhaka, where she attended a convention against repression on journalists organised by the Bangladesh Federation of Union of Journalists (BFUJ).

"I told the truth that CID submitted a weak charge sheet which neither contains the names of the real killers of my husband nor contains the names of the masterminds behind the plan for murder", said

Minu, who was never provided with security, as was done in the cases of families of other slain journalists, Manik Shaha and Humayun Kabir Balu.

"Hardened criminal Tera Aslam threatened to kill my husband on the night before the murder. His name has been left out of the charge sheet", she said.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted the charge sheet accusing Baby, Shahin, Kalam Amzad and Kamal. Kalam Amjad and Kamal were later killed in "crossfire" incidents early this year. Baby is now out on bail,

and Shahin is in Khulna jail.

The investigation officer of the case ASP Mowla Bux of CID never intended to investigate the case properly nor did he arrange judicial confession of the arrestees, Minu alleged. She accused both the police and CID of damaging the merit of the case by introducing fake prosecution witnesses.

Harun-ur-Rashid was shot dead in the evening of March 2, 2002. He was a crime reporter for the Dainik Purabanchal, a Bangla daily published from Khulna city.

Minu Begum now maintains her...

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

New anti-militant action from tomorrow in Khulna region

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A special combing operation, fourth of its kind this year, will be launched tomorrow at midnight in the south-western region in an attempt to crush militants.

Khulna Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Noor Mohammad told The Daily Star yesterday a different strategy will be applied in this operation which would stress on crime-infested areas of Khulna division.

He said the modus operandi for this combing operation will be...

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Table with Prayer Timing for December 22, listing Azan and Jamaat times for Fajr, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, and Esha.