

LITANY OF ALLEGATIONS

Manjurul Ahsan Munshi, a BNP lawmaker for three times from Comilla's Debidwar upazila, gained notoriety for reportedly beating up opposition leaders, extorting huge amount of money and creating a 'mobile force' of criminals who used to rape women

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1,519 more held as anti-crime drive continues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army-led joint forces arrested a total of 1,519 people on different charges across the country during the last 24 hours.

Among the detainees, the military force arrested 81 while the police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) detained 1438 people, said a press release.

The military force members recovered four firearms, a few rounds of bullet and ammunition during the drive and handed the criminals over to police.

Rab and police personnel arrested 1,438 from different parts of the country. Among them, 16 are accused in arm cases, one in explosives case, 12 are convicted

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Prayer Timing		
February 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Recommendation for wholesale ACC recast

Advisory body also limits graft probe to 45 days, speedy trial to 60 days

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The advisory committee on graft yesterday recommended that the government reconstitute the three-member Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), re-screen its staff and amend the ACC Act to make it functional.

It also suggested a number of measures to ensure speedy dis-

posal of the graft cases. Those include setting a 45-day time limit for submitting charge sheets and 60 days for completion of trials.

Besides, it proposed that the government set up special courts to deal with the corruption cases.

After the inaugural meeting of the committee yesterday, Communications Adviser Major Gen (retired) Abdul Matin told The Daily Star, "The incumbent ACC members must be replaced with the competent ones."

He said they have decided on a number of recommendations to be placed before the chief adviser in a day or two.

The caretaker government on January 24 formed the seven-member advisory council committee. With Law Adviser Barrister Mainul Hossain at the helm, it has

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Thousands of devotees unable to get to the overflowing Ijtima ground offer the Akheri Munajat (concluding prayers) at Tongi Railway Station on the outskirts of Dhaka yesterday.

ARREST REACTIONS

AL, allies for arrest of politicians on specific charges

Civil society for proper probe into graft charges

Worried BNP wants disclosure of charges against arrestees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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Leaders of the Awami League (AL)-led grand alliance yesterday said the caretaker government (CG) should arrest politicians against whom specific allegations of corruption or criminal activities exist and urged not to harass them only on political consideration.

Civil society leaders and eminent citizens yesterday urged the caretaker government to initiate proper investigation into the corruption charges against political leaders and bring them to justice.

The BNP yesterday expressed concerns over the arrest of political leaders and urged the government to disclose the specific allegations against them. It also demanded immediate release of those who have no allegation against them.

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Tigers thrash Zim in series opener

SPORTS REPOTER

Bangladesh got off to a sound start with a 45-run victory over hosts Zimbabwe in the first one-day international at the Harare Sports Club ground yesterday.

Skipper Habibul Bashar led from the front with a finely made 78, incidentally his highest score in limited overs cricket, as Bangladesh piled on a competitive 260-9 after being sent into bat by Zimbabwe captain Prosper Utseya.

Bashar, whose previous best was 74 against Zimbabwe in 2001, was well-supported by Sakib Al Hasan who struck 68 as the two shared a 105-run stand for the fourth wicket after the Tigers were reduced to 93-3.

Zimbabwe in their hunt for the target, were off to a bright start but lost their way in the face of some disciplined bowling from the tourists as they were bowled out for 215 in 48 overs, with Chamu Chibhabha top-scoring with 57 and Vusi

Sibanda hitting 47.

Fast bowler Mashrafe bin-Mortuza started 2007 where he left off in 2006 as his first match in the year yielded four wickets for only 31 runs. Left-arm spinners Abdur Razzak and Sakib took two wickets each.

Bashar struck seven boundaries in his 87-ball essay while southpaw Sakib struck six fours during his innings, which was his second half-century in his 15th match.

Opener Shahriar Nafees, who was in ominous form during the home series against Zimbabwe last November, struck four boundaries in his 34. In a brief cameo, Aftab Ahmed struck two sixes in his 26-ball 31 while Mohammad Ashraful, batting at number five, scored a rapid 22.

For the hosts, seamer Anthony Ireland took three wickets.

The second game of the four-match series will be held at the same venue tomorrow.

Over 2 lakh sacks of commodities seized

STAR REPORT

Joint forces in their ongoing nationwide drive against hoarding and adulteration yesterday seized over two lakh sacks of various types of spoilt and adulterated basic commodities.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) held four people and seized two lakh sacks of essential commodities

including over 45,000 sacks of spoilt and date-expired items from twenty warehouses in Chittagong, our correspondent reports.

After the raids, Rab sealed off the warehouses — all located in the Majhirghat area under Double Mooring thana of the city. The warehouses, known as Nabojug Warehouse, were owned by

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