

Five receive Ekushey Padak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser to the caretaker government Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed has called upon all to be pledge bound and sincere about their responsibility and accountability to the people and future generation in the sprit of martyrs of the Language Movement.

United effort is imperative for building a happy, prosperous and disciplined society based on justice and knowledge, he said while handing over the prestigious Ekushey Padak to five distinguished personalities for their outstanding contribution in their respective fields.

"As a nation we are now passing through a critical moment as different evil forces and evil mechanisms disturbed exploring our unlimited potentials," the CA said at the award giving ceremony held at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in

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Bhuiyan stresses 'self-correction' to strengthen party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday stressed the need for self-correction to strengthen the party and said a big political party like BNP will not lose anything.

Referring to BNP founder late president Ziaur Rahman, he said, "If needed, we will have to strengthen the party through self-correction to make the country prosperous by implementing the ideology of Ziaur Rahman and the spirit of the Language Movement as well as the Liberation War."

Bhuiyan was speaking at a discussion meeting organised by BNP at the Shishu Academy auditorium to mark the International Mother Language Day today.

BNP Standing Committee members Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, RA Gani and Moudud Ahmed, vice-chairmen MK Anwar and Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, BNP

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DEFAULTED LOANS

Corrupt policemen, land officials upset recovery

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Law enforcers and assistant commissioners (land) often take bribes from loan defaulters to help them evade legal actions, alleged officials of a bank, saying this frustrates the bank's hope to recover a huge amount of classified loans.

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has issued a huge number of warrants of arrest since 2003 against the defaulters and asked the banks to confiscate their assets.

But it was found in a number of cases that police officials were either reluctant to arresting the loan defaulters as per court orders or helped them go into hiding, officials of Social Investment Bank Ltd (SIBL) told journalists yesterday.

The offices of the assistant

commissioners (land) also seem unwilling to mutate the defaulters' land assets, which is a prerequisite to confiscation of land by the banks, they added.

In such a situation, the BB yesterday sought the home ministry's cooperation through the finance ministry to activate the police in implementing the Money Loan Court's orders.

It was found that the administration and the police did not cooperate with the banks in confiscating the defaulters' assets, the BB said in a letter to the finance ministry.

"Although there are many such warrants of arrest awaiting implementation at police stations, the police department has not taken necessary steps to arrest the defaulters concerned," the letter

said.

The BB asked the finance ministry to take necessary action in cooperation with the home ministry to recover the defaulted loans or punish the defaulters.

The letter said mutation of land is necessary for preparing the selling deed of any piece of land, but the land offices do not cooperate in this regard.

SIBL Executive Vice-President Taherul Islam told The Daily Star that he witnessed a number of cases where the police did not cooperate with the bank in arresting the bank's loan defaulters.

He was talking to journalists at a city hotel where SIBL Managing Director KM Asaduzzaman and

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CARJACKING CASE Court accepts charge sheet against Paban

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court accepted charge sheet of a carjacking case against Akter Hamid Paban, son of former chief whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain, and three others on Sunday.

The three are Paban's accomplice Zahirul Islam Robin, 24, Abdul Halim, 23, and Masum, 26. Of them, Paban, Robin and Halim are on bail while Masum is still at large.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abdur Rouf Khan passed the order after scrutinising case docket, Robin's confessional statement and other relevant documents.

The court also issued arrest warrant against Masum and ordered to attach his property.

Sub-Inspector of Detective Branch of police Syed Selim Masud, also the investigation officer of the case, pressed charges against the four on December 28 last year showing 10 people as prosecution witnesses.



PHOTO: STAR

Workers of Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha demolish illegal part of a structure built on the bank of Gulshan Lake in the capital yesterday.

Commodity prices to be checked regularly

Govt handout claims LC situation stable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government from now on will carry out commodity price analysis on a regular basis in order to curb illegal syndication both at wholesale and retail levels.

As part of monitoring the market situation the authorities will collect information about international prices of imported essential products and currency depreciation to determine actual costs of commodities.

The decision was taken yesterday at a task force meeting on prices of essential commodities in the commerce ministry conference room with Finance and Commerce Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam in the chair.

The ministry will post wholesale price lists of essential commodities at all retail markets in all city corporations and municipalities to curb syndication at the retail level.

Commerce Adviser Mirza Azizul

Islam said commodity price analysis will help check import and retail level syndication. He said availability of wholesale price list at retail markets will directly help curbing of retail price hike.

The government might consider a Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) proposal for specific tariff rates on some essential products after examining the

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2 wounded as criminals spray bullets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The son of an assistant superintendent of police (ASP) and another youth were shot by unknown assailants at Uttara in the capital yesterday.

Ashrafur Islam Sagar, son of Criminal Investigation

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Like every year The Daily Star will bring out a special supplement on our Independence Day, the 26th of March 2007. The theme of the supplement is: "State of our politics: Views of the young generation."

The Daily Star invites young professionals between the age of 25 and 40 to contribute on the above theme from the point of view of its impact on our economy, administration, rule of law, work ethics, personal behaviour, professional excellence, etc.

The articles must draw reference to the current political crisis and ways of overcoming it. The length of the articles should not be more than 1,000 words and addressed to: editor@thedailystar.net. Last date of submission March 10, 2007.

Prayer Timing		
February 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-07
Esha	7-30	8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Islamabad zoo closed after bird flu outbreak

AFP, Islamabad

Authorities shut down a zoo in the Pakistani capital and slaughtered dozens of birds after the deadly H5N1 flu virus was found in peacocks and geese, officials said yesterday.

The outbreak at Islamabad's

Marghzar zoo -- a popular spot near a children's adventure playground that also houses elephants, monkeys and other animals -- is the fourth case of the virus detected in Pakistan this month.

Food, Agriculture and Livestock Ministry spokesman Mohammad

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