

Bail sought for Mirza Abbas, Pintu, Akhtar

Hearing on Mar 21, Apr 9

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The lawyers of detained former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas, ex-lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and former power secretary ANH Akhtar Hossain yesterday sought bails for their clients from a Dhaka court.

Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed March 21 and April 9 for hearing on the issue following four separate criminal appeals filed by the lawyers against the rejection orders of the lower courts on different dates.

On February 15, Metropolitan Magistrate Quamrunnahar rejected Pintu's bail petitions and ordered to send him to Dhaka

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

No JS body exists, yet hiring goes on

Sircar appoints 84 staff in few days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though the immediate past parliament's tenure expired more than four months ago, appointments at different offices of it are going on.

Even the Speaker has appointed a huge number of employees for the offices of chairmen of parliamentary standing committees that stood dissolved automatically at the end of the parliament's tenure.

In a surprise initiative in the last few days, Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar appointed 84 personal assistants and office assistants for different offices including those of the standing committee chairmen.

The parliament secretariat has confirmed the job of 42 of them as they were serving for the last five years on ad hoc basis, and another 42 got appointment on ad hoc basis.

Jamir Uddin told reporters that he took the move to keep democracy on track.

Talking to reporters, former Speaker Abdul Hamid however termed the appointments "rehabilitation" of BNP and Jamaat men.

Meanwhile, a section of employees of the parliament secretariat alleged that authorities made the appointments through irregularities, and demanded a probe into this.

Sources pointed out that three

staffs-- an administrative officer, a typist and a peon -- are adequate for a parliamentary committee office at the parliament secretariat but at least three typists and two peons have been appointed for each such office.

Many typists and peons cannot manage any place to sit in any room as the Speaker has appointed too many class four employees. Most of them are workers of BNP and Jamaat, and they also served the standing committee chairmen from the two parties in the last

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Rajuk demolishes illegal parts of 2 commercial buildings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The eviction team of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) yesterday demolished some portions of the Siemens building and the Malaysian Airlines office building on the Tejgaon Gulshan Link Road.

"We also vacated the ground floor of the visa processing office of the Thai Embassy," Magistrate ASM Emdadul Dastagir, who led the team, said.

Besides, the mobile court instructed all the building owners on the road to use the ground floors and basements solely for parking instead of using for any other purposes. Some other buildings of the area were also knocked down partly.

Equipped with bulldozers, the mobile court started their drive

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

Rajuk workers demolish an illegally constructed Thai and Chinese restaurant at Gulshan-1 in the capital yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

A mobile court during a raid at a bakery at Moghbazar in the capital yesterday found biscuits being baked in unhygienic condition. The court fined the owner Tk 40,000.

Robbers kill 1, loot Tk 50 lakh jewellery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Unknown assailants killed the son of a jewellery storeowner, injured a worker critically and robbed at least Tk 50 lakh worth gold from the store on Station Road in the town yesterday.

The dead was identified as Shahin, 28, while Bishnu Pal, 30, was the injured employee.

Police quoting the locals said, the owner's son Shahin along with Bishnu Pal and Abdul Hakim, 19, both employees of the store, watched TV together all night on Wednesday and they all went to bed inside Habib Jewellery in early morning yesterday.

In the morning yesterday, people from nearby areas rushed to the jewellery store on hearing Hakim's scream for help and found Shahin and Bishnu with critical stab injuries. Hakim was however unscathed.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Journos' entry to RMCH prohibited

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) authorities on Wednesday evening prohibited the entrance of journalists on the hospital compound and threatened with legal actions against newsmen failing to comply.

On Wednesday evening, notices were pasted on notice boards and walls of the hospital, notifying people of the prohibition.

The notice read, "For information of all concerned, the entrance of journalists on the hospital compound has been prohibited for unavoidable reasons. Photojournalists would also not be allowed to take photos without permission."

The notice went on to say that legal actions would be taken against any journalists trying to enter the hospital premises without permission taken prior to the visit.

RMCH Director Bozle Kader also asked the police to arrest any journalists trying to enter the hospital compound to collect information or take photographs, sources said.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

N Korea pledges to give up nukes in talks

Seoul, Pyongyang at odds over aid push

AP, Seoul

North Korea's No. 2 leader pledged his country's commitment yesterday to giving up its nuclear programme during a meeting with a visiting high-level South Korean delegation.

"The denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula is the dying wish" of the country's late founding president Kim Il Sung, said Kim Yong Nam. The North "will make efforts to realize it," he said.

At the meeting, South Korean Unification Minister Lee Jae-joung pressed the North to implement a Feb. 13 pledge to take initial steps to disarm.

"It is important to make efforts to ensure that South and North Korea cooperate and six countries each assume their responsibilities," Lee

said in reference to the accord reached last month in Beijing between North Korea and five other countries.

This week's Cabinet-level talks between the North and South the highest-level regular contact between the Koreans are the first in seven months. The talks resumed after North Korea's pledge to shut down its main nuclear reactor within 60 days in exchange for aid.

Earlier Thursday, North Korean negotiators appealed for aid from the South, but Seoul appeared resistant to promising any major assistance until Pyongyang keeps its pledge to start dismantling its nuclear programme.

Meanwhile, North Korea cooperated at high-level talks yesterday for aid from South Korea, which

appeared resistant to promising major assistance until Pyongyang keeps its pledge to start dismantling its nuclear weapons programme.

"The North side has brought up the issue of humanitarian aid," a South Korean official told reporters in Pyongyang, where talks between the two Koreas stretched into a third day.

But the official, indicating the South's reluctance to provide the North most badly needed supplies, said that a draft agreement between the two sides "does not specifically mention rice and fertiliser aid." South Korea regularly sent aid to the impoverished North until last

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7



PHOTO: STAR

Police picked up former lawmaker Abdus Sattar in connection with assaulting on-duty policemen near the Supreme Court yesterday. The picture was taken from in front of Shahbagh Police Station.

Ex-AL MP held for assaulting cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former Awami League (AL) lawmaker was arrested yesterday for physically assaulting law enforcers and journalists as he was prevented from passing through an off-limit road near the Supreme Court by rickshaw.

On-duty traffic constable Liakat Ali stopped Abdus Sattar, 57, former MP of Mymensingh-8, who tried to pass by rickshaw through the road from Matsya Bhaban.

At this, the former lawmaker slapped the constable.

Liakat called and sought help from traffic Sergeant Saifur, who came forward and demanded an explanation for Sattar's behaviour.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Fake army alert

UNB, Dhaka

People have been advised to remain alert about fake army men, who blackmail unwary people or different organisations using the name of army.

An ISPR release yesterday said there has been a number of incidents recently in which certain self-seeking people, using the name and identity of army, threatened unwary people or different organisations by telephone, in person or by other means to extort money, grab land or unnecessarily harass them.

Such people, impersonating as members of the army or officers and even attired in fake army uniforms, have already been caught at some places in the country, the release said, calling upon everybody to remain alert about the traps laid by such impersonators.

The ISPR release said that everybody is requested to inform nearby camps of army, navy or joint forces immediately if they come to know about the presence of such suspicious people or if it is apparent that someone is resorting to the above mentioned mischief using the name of army.

BUILDING FIRE Industries ministry probe body may submit report today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The industries ministry probe body for investigating Monday's blaze at BSEC Bhaban at Karwan Bazar in the capital has almost finished its job and is likely to submit its report to the ministry today.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Prayer Timing		
March 2		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-10	5-45
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-07	6-11
Esha	7-30	8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation		

More CI sheets seized from BNP, Jamaat men's houses

STAR REPORT

Joint forces yesterday arrested Baufal upazila Jubo Dal president and a local Awami League leader of Noakhali and seized 159 corrugated iron (CI) sheets meant for relief mostly from the houses of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami workers in different places.

Police and Rapid Action Battalion personnel arrested 1,502 people including 19 convicts, 826 wanted criminals and six charged under Arms Act in 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday, home ministry sources said.

Members of the armed forces arrested 57 people including 25 criminals during the time.

In Dhaka, the joint forces arrested Salah Uddin, president of Jubo Dal's Baufal upazila (in Patuakhali) unit, from Sheorapara in

Mirpur in the early hours of yesterday, reports our correspondent.

He is accused in four cases including one filed for the murder of one Mosharraf.

In Noakhali, the joint forces arrested AL leader and Chairman of Kadir Hanif Union Parishad (UP) Jasim Uddin Mallick from Old Bus Stand area yesterday noon.

In Gazipur, police recovered 12 CI sheets from the house of Kaliganj upazila Jamaat Amir Akhtar Munshi and sealed off the house while the Jamaat leader had managed to flee sensing the presence of law enforcers.

He is accused in several cases including those for grabbing public land, police said.

In Satkhira, police recovered 23 CI sheets for relief from the house

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

Pak pace duo Akhtar, Asif left out of WC

REUTERS, Karachi

Pace bowlers Shoaib Akhtar and Mohammad Asif have been ruled out of the World Cup due to injury, a senior official of Pakistan Cricket Board said on Thursday.

The double withdrawal comes just five months after the pair tested positive for the anabolic steroid nandrolone and were banned by their national board before an appeal panel cleared them to play again.

Yasir Arafat and Mohammad

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

