

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 bail 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

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

Rajuk demolishes illegal parts of 2 commercial buildings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The eviction team of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartirakkha (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 store owner, 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

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Yunus asks researchers to solve problems with open mind

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged Bangladeshi researchers to get off the beaten track by keeping an open mind in their assessment of the country's problems and devising ingenious solutions.

"Reality has to be perceived with an open mind and only after we have seen reality for what it is without tainting it with our old mindsets, can we know the problems with reality and solve them," Yunus said while addressing a reception organised by the Asiatic Society to celebrate his Nobel Prize win.

"We cannot break through with new concepts if we are still stuck with old mindsets. That is why the youth have to think big, think ambitiously and think with courage," Yunus added.

Recalling the obstacles he had to overcome on his way to develop Grameen Bank, Yunus said rigid and narrow knowledge structures based on Western and old ideas prevented Bangladeshi researchers and policymakers from thinking outside the box.

"You have to see things through new lenses and cast away the old ones so that you can see things that the old lenses prevented you from seeing," he said.

Yunus said an open mind is required for considering new factors about economics, society, culture and politics. "If something is not considered, it will not be solved. It can only be solved after the problem is considered at length," he said.

An Asiatic Society Fellow

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

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

STAR REPORT

Joint forces yesterday arrested Baulup 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 Baulup 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 Akbar Munshi and sealed off the house while the Jamaat leader had managed to flee 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

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 Koreas, 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.

South Korea regularly sent aid to the impoverished North until last

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

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

10 JMB suspects held in Bagmara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police arrested 10 suspected activists of the banned Jamaatul Mujahideen, Bangladesh (JMB) including an alleged associate of Siddiqui Islam Bangla Bhai at Bagmara upazila in Rajshahi early yesterday.

The alleged close aide to Bangla Bhai, Abdus Sattar of Sakao in the district, was arrested twice before since the August 17, 2005 country-wide bombings. He was released on bail later on.

Sattar, also a teacher of Jatragachhi Fazil Madrasa, was allegedly reorganising absconding JMB militants.

Sattar is widely believed to have helped Bangla Bhai in his so-called anti-outlaw operations of Jagrata Muslim Janata, Bangladesh (JMJ) in Bagmara in 2004.

The other arrestees are: Lutfar Rahman, 35, Abdur Rashid, 36, Manik, 25, of Udpura, Masud Rana, 23, Abu Musa of Bishupara, Abdus Sobhan, 43 of Jatragachhi, Firoz,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

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

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 near Matsya Bhaban.

At this, the former lawmaker slapped the constable.

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

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3



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.