



SPA amended
reinstating
trial provision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government on Sunday brought an amendment to the Special Powers Act (SPA) 1974 with a provision to put any person on trial who is under preventive detention on suspicion of being a perceived threat to the state.

According to the amendment the person on trial can be imprisoned for a maximum of five years or fined, or both.

President Iajuddin Ahmed
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CTG AIRPORT OPERATIONS
Council decides
to review
handover deal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The council of advisers yesterday decided to review the 2005 deal to hand over the operational management of Chittagong Shah Amanat Airport to Thai Airways in light of the airport's recent adoption of the new Open Skies system.

The weekly council meeting also decided to ratify the Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) agreement on mutual administrative

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Huda, 9 other
BNP leaders
denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail petitions of detained former communications minister barrister Nazmul Huda and nine other BNP leaders arrested for their alleged involvement in activities against the state.

Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah of Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order following ten separate criminal appeals filed by the defence lawyers against the rejection orders of the lower court and also seeking bail for Huda and others.

The nine others are Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, parliamentary affairs adviser to the immediate past prime minister, three former state ministers Amanullah Aman, Mir Nasir and Iqbal Hasan Mahmud, four former BNP lawmakers M Nasir Rahman, SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Voter ID card to
take one year,
cost Tk 430cr
Says expert body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Preparing voter ID cards by visiting door-to-door would take at least one year and cost around Tk 430 crore, according to a report of an expert committee.

The 9-member committee submitted its report to the Ministry of Energy and Power recently.

Explaining the total process of the ID card preparation, Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, the committee chief, yesterday told BBC Bangla Service that four months would be needed for mobilisation and procurement while the rest of the eight months would require for data collection and process.

The committee prepared the report assuming 10 crore voters in Bangladesh, Chowdhury said.

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Delhi for power
links with
Dhaka, Colombo
PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India is exploring the prospect of establishing power transmission links with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka as part of regional energy cooperation within the Saarc, Indian Power Minister Shashi Kumar Shinde said in New Delhi yesterday.

At the inauguration of the two-day Saarc Energy Dialogue, Shinde said India already has grid interconnections with Nepal and Bhutan and technical studies were being conducted to explore the feasibility of similar transmission links with these two countries.

"We have several examples in the world where countries of a region have pooled their energy sources on the basis of

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Banks to freeze accounts of Moudud, family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday directed banks to freeze the accounts of former law minister barrister Moudud Ahmed and his wife.

It also instructed them to suspend the accounts of BNP leader Mazidul Islam and his wife and their two children.

The central authority for tax administration, the NBR asked for bank statements of those by March 8 and said the records should cover all transactions since opening of the accounts.

The decision was taken in the light of an ongoing investigation into their alleged tax evasion, according to the NBR directive.

However, sources said the move is part of the caretaker government's drive against politicians, bureaucrats and businessmen suspected of corruption.

Earlier on March 1, the NBR

asked all commercial banks to suspend immediately transactions of accounts of the 53 graft suspects.

"Accounts of more corruption suspects will be suspended soon," said an NBR source.

Identifying Moudud and Mazidul by tax identification numbers (TIN), in two separate letters

The CIC is convinced that if all confidential and yet-to-be-published information about the accounts held by them or their family members or under joint names is made available, these people might finish up owing the government huge sums in tax.

In this situation, the NBR requests the banks to suspend all types of withdrawal and transfers from the accounts.

It asks them to take the matter as a priority revenue collection activity.

Besides, the letters direct the

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