

## Huda denied bail

FROM PAGE 16  
petition of former communication minister Nazmul Huda in a foreign currency case, UNB reports.

A press release from the home ministry said Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and policemen arrested 1,508 people while army personnel arrested 11 including six listed criminals. The joint forces recovered 13 firearms during their drives.

Dharmundi police had filed the foreign currency case after foreign currencies were recovered from Nazmul Huda's Dharmundi residence.

The army-led joint force had arrested him during the crackdown on corrupt politicians and business tycoons soon after the present caretaker government took over on January 11.

Metropolitan magistrate on February 22 rejected another bail petition of Huda.

Joint forces arrested DCC Ward-9 Commissioner Rina Nasir Madhab, who was elected from a seat reserved for women, at her Mohammadpur residence in the capital early yesterday, our staff correspondent reports.

The joint forces later handed her over to Mohammadpur police around 5:00am.

Police produced her before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka yesterday with a home-ministry proposal for a month's detention.

Police in the forwarding report placed before the court said Rina spread propaganda and delivered provocative speeches against the

government. The police appealed to the court to issue an order to confine Rina to jail so that she could be prevented from indulging in such activities.

The court sent her to Dhaka Central Jail.

On Sunday joint forces arrested Rina's husband Nasiruddin, BNP general secretary of Ward-43, from their residence.

Meanwhile in Tangail, the joint forces arrested Sakhipur Municipality Chairman Sanwar Hossain Sajib after he surrendered to them, our Tangail correspondent reports.

Sanwar, who is also a leader of Kader Siddiqui-led Krishak Sramik Janata League (KSJL), surrendered to the joint forces at Sakhipur army camp around 2:00pm.

Sanwar, an accused in three criminal cases, had been absconding since the state of emergency was declared.

Joint forces team in Natore held two businessmen, one of them an Awami League (AL) leader, our staff correspondent Rajshahi reports.

The joint forces detained Chitta Ranjan Saha, district AL publicity secretary and Deb Raj Saha, son of influential businessman Mohini Saha.

They were picked up from their homes.

Sources said they were captured following allegations of their involvement in hundi (illegal money transfer) trade.

## Washington

FROM PAGE 16  
Hailing the ongoing drive against corrupt politicians and others, Weldon expressed hope that a fair and free election would be held in Bangladesh eventually.

Bangladesh is also important to the US because it is probably the only country in the world that has democracy with a Muslim-majority population, he noted.

"This is an exciting country with exciting people," Weldon said adding, "We are overwhelmed with the emotion of the people of Bangladesh."

The US congressman apologised that most of his colleagues are unaware of Bangladesh. "Out of 535 congressmen, probably 98 percent doesn't know about this beautiful country."

Replies to another question, Weldon said that democracy in US is not perfect always. "We have many imperfections, many of our people are not happy with the government policy."

Timothy D Ringgold, a US defence expert, Maj General (retd) Ron Bath, Asef Bar, co-chair of GAHS, among others, addressed at the press conference.

**WELDON MEETS BUSINESSMEN**  
Visiting US Congressman Curt Weldon termed the ongoing changes in Bangladesh 'healthy' for the country's democracy.

He also noted that political leadership is extremely important for guiding a nation.

Weldon was speaking at a meeting with the country's business leaders at the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) office.

## Bangabandhu Murder

FROM PAGE 1  
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Of them, three judges—Tafazzul Islam, Joybul Abedin and Hassan Ameen—can hear the Bangabandhu Murder Case as none of them felt embarrassed or heard the case before the HC.

Chief Justice Md Ruhul Amin and Mohammad Fazil Karim had heard the case while MM Ruhul Amin and Amirul Kabir Chowdhury felt embarrassed to hear it at the HC level.

The case was filed on October 2, 1996, 21 years after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family. A trial court on November 8, 1998, handed down death sentence to 15 retired and dismissed army personnel.

The HC upheld the punishment of 12. Of them, only four are behind bars, one has died and the rest are still at large.

Later, the four convicts filed petitions for leave to appeal against the HC verdict.

During hearing of the petition at the Appellate Division in August 2001 Justice Mohammad Gholam Rabani felt embarrassed. Soon the proceedings stalled as judges were not available to form a bench.

The then BN-led alliance government did not take any step to remove the hearing despite there being enough room to do so. The then law minister, Moudud Ahmed, repeatedly cited legal complexities as the reason for not seeking to start the trial over again.

Between 2001 and 2005, it would take only one judge appointed on ad hoc basis to meet the requirement of three judges for a bench. Later when Justice MA Aziz was appointed the chief election commissioner, the number rose to two.

Moudud on several occasions said the government could not appoint more than one judge on an ad hoc basis whereas legal experts all along maintained that it could appoint as many judges as it needed.

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## JMB cadres

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court of Magistrate Abdullah Harun. The court granted a fresh 5-day remand for grilling him.

Later, he was sent to Dhaka for interrogation under the Taskforce of Intelligence (TIF).

He is an accused in a case filed in Meherpur for his involvement in the serial bombings on August 17, 2005. Rab sources said.

Deputy inspector general (DIG) of police of Rajshahi Range had earlier declared a Tk 25,000 bounty for catching him, when the government had also put bounties on the heads of the JMB kingpins now in jail with death sentences.

## Reinvestigation ordered for 2003 Banskhali carnage

UNB, Ctg

A court here yesterday asked the inspector general of police (IGP) and district police administration to reinvestigate the Banskhali carnage that left 11 members of a family dead in 2003.

Judge ANM Bashirullah of the District and Sessions Judge's Court passed the order on a written protest submitted to the court on behalf of the plaintiff for dropping the names of some of the accused, including the main one, from the charge sheet.

A gang of criminals burnt 11 members of a family to death at Sadonpur village in Banskhali upazila on November 17, 2003. One of the family members, Dr Bimal Kanti Sushil, who escaped the carnage, later filed a case against 31 people.

Clarent Gomez, the then ASP of the district police (Satkhanda Circle), submitted a charge sheet against 15 on December 15, 2005 dropping the names of 19 of the accused, including the main accused.

Rana Das Gupta, on behalf of the plaintiff, submitted a written protest to the court on December 18, 2005, as the charge sheet did not contain the 19 names, including main accused Aminul Islam Chowdhury, brother of former state minister Jafarul Islam Chowdhury.

Eighteen of the accused are now in jail while 12 others absconding. Aminul Islam Chowdhury was arrested after the incident but released on bail later.

## Mohiuddin Chy denied bail

UNB, Ctg

A court here yesterday rejected the bail prayer of City Mayor and Awami League leader ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

Metropolitan Sessions Judge AKM Anwar Hossain rejected the bail prayer submitted on Sunday.

Advocate Ahsanul Haq Hena, who appeared for Mohiuddin, told the court that the mayor's bail prayer should be granted, as there is no specific allegation against him.

He said development activities in the port city are being hampered due to his absence. Besides, the mayor is a diabetic patient and has heart problems, he added.

The public prosecutor, however, said the mayor is accused of provoking port workers violating Section 144 during blockade programme last year. "The ongoing reforms in the port may be hampered if the mayor is released on bail," the public prosecutor told the court.

Joint forces detained ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury from his Chashma Hill residence in Sholashahar on March 7.

He was produced before the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on March 8 that sent him to jail rejecting his bail prayer.

Mayo Mohiuddin was shifted to Bandarban district jail from Chittagong Central Jail on March 9.

## Housing sector

FROM PAGE 1

He said around 2.5 crore people are directly and indirectly dependant on the housing sector in which 15 lakh skilled and semi-skilled people work.

Representing the cement industry, Holcim Bangladesh Managing Director PN Iyer said the sector has already been burdened with over-production and the problem further deepened with cement sales dropping by 10 percent due to the latest crisis in the housing sector.

Financial institution representative Yongbok Jo, deputy managing director of IDLC, said financial institutions have invested over Tk 500 crore in the housing sector but the collection from REHAB members dropped significantly.

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## Forest fire

FROM PAGE 1

However, bawalis and fishermen of Chandpuri range alleged that the forest officials neglected their duties and made unnecessary delays in reaching the spot, which is only 25 kilometres away from Mongla upazila.

No officials of the east wing of Sundarbans Forest Division could be contacted for their comments despite repeated attempts. However, an employee of the east wing of Sundarbans Forest Division requesting anonymity said the officials of the division heard about the fire yesterday morning and retorted to the spot.

This is the third fire incident in eight months in the mangrove forest.

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