



Monju quits politics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seasoned politician and Chairman of a faction of Jatiya Party (JP) Anwar Hossain Monju announced his retirement from politics yesterday.

The announcement, suddenness of which surprised the political arena, came amid a widespread rumour that a few senior political

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Judiciary not above criticism, says HC

Turns down petition seeking contempt charge against a newspaper

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court (HC) bench yesterday rejected a petition seeking contempt rule against a Bangla daily, saying the judiciary is not above criticism and should not be too sensitive either.

It also observed that democratic and constitutional institutions cannot flourish without freedom of press.

Responding to the petition for contempt proceedings against the Daily Manabzamin, the court said it would not issue any suo moto

(contempt) rule. The press is free and the HC does not intend to interfere.

The Bangla tabloid in a report on Wednesday questioned qualifications and integrity of judges and accused them of political leanings.

Barrister Masud Reza Sobhan on behalf of Advocate Tasadduk Hasan filed the petition on Wednesday and the hearing took place yesterday.

The bench comprising Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Syed Muhammad Ziaul Karim said the judges should rather exercise

more caution following newspaper reports questioning their honesty and efficiency. They should act to rid themselves of their shortcomings if there is any.

The report does not seem to have harmed the reputation of the judiciary, it added.

Referring to Justice Haque, one of the judges sitting on the bench yesterday, the counsel for the petitioner said his name too has been mentioned. In reply, the judge said, "so what?"

The HC bench observed that

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

ACC files cases against Wadud Bhuiyan, Lotus Kamal, Pankaj

STAR REPORT

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed graft cases against former BNP lawmaker Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, former Awami League lawmaker Mostafa Kamal alias Lotus Kamal and Awami Swechhasebak League General Secretary Pankaj Debnath.

ACC Deputy Director Nurul Alam lodged a case yesterday with Khagrachhari Police Station accusing Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan of illegally amassing wealth worth around Tk 6.15 crore.

In the case, the ACC official mentioned that Wadud provided false information in his wealth statement submitted to the commission on February 25.

Nurul Alam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, in the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Bird flu detected in Savar poultry farm

Council meeting told

UNB, Dhaka

Avian Influenza virus has been detected in a poultry farm at Savar on the outskirts of the capital, advisers told a special meeting of the council of advisers yesterday.

According to an official hand-out, Adviser for Health and Family Welfare Major General (ret'd) ASM Matur Rahman and Adviser for Agriculture, Fisheries and Livestock CS Karim informed the meeting that "Avian Influenza virus has been detected in a poultry farm in Savar recently".

Samples were sent on an urgent basis to Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute and also to the National Institute of Animal Health in Bangkok for confirmation.

"The results showed the existence of influenza virus of the H5N1 variety," the meeting was further informed.

However, poultry birds infected with H5N1 variety have not been detected anywhere else in the country other than Savar area.

Chaired by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, the meeting

held at his office was apprised that the government has initiated a number of "preemptive and proactive actions to eliminate any possibility of its further proliferation to other places".

The measures include: a) Destruction of poultry birds in the infected areas; b) Restricting the movement of poultry birds within 10-kilometre radius of the affected area;

c) Preventive measures including chemo-profiling of those handling poultry birds; d) Doctors have already been

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

14TH SAARC SUMMIT US, EU, China, Japan, ROK to attend as observers

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China, Japan, South Korea, the United States and the European Union will attend the 14th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) in Indian capital New Delhi on April 3-4 as observers.

For the first time since the creation of Saarc, observers are going to attend a summit, where Afghanistan will also formally join as the 8th member of the regional grouping.

The 13th Saarc summit in Dhaka approved the new membership to Afghanistan and observer status to China, Japan, South Korea, the USA and the EU.

Afghanistan has been participating in all regional meetings

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

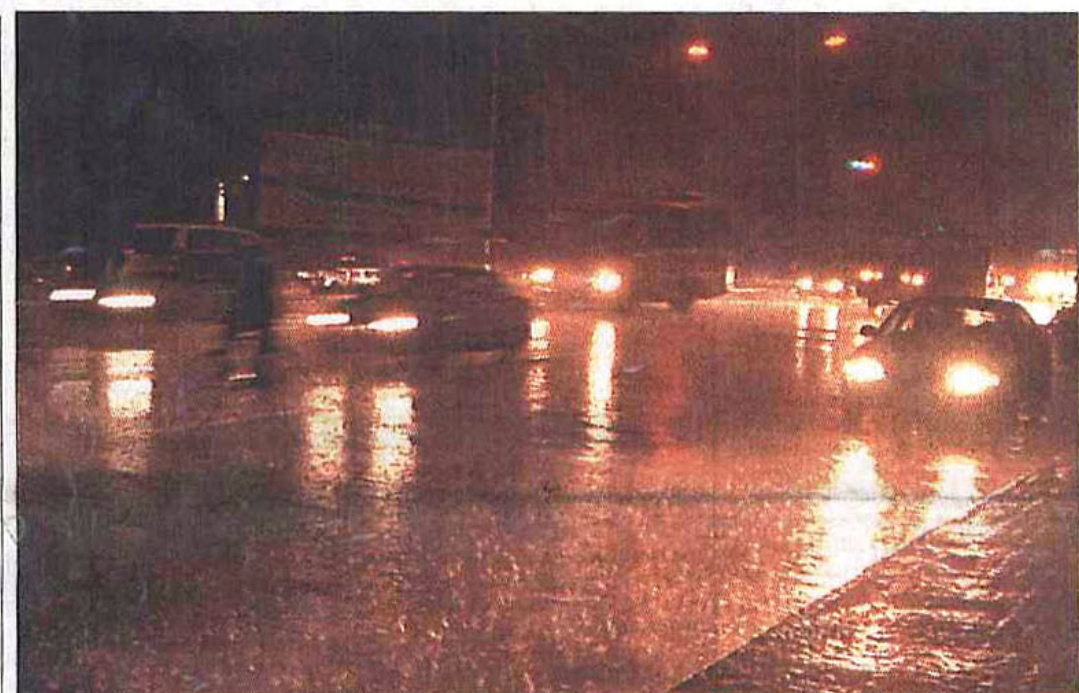


PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

The capital experiences a sudden spell of pre-season shower yesterday evening. The photo was taken at the Sonargaon Hotel intersection.

ACC to fix plan soon on confiscating assets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will fix a work plan within two to three days for confiscating assets of corruption suspects.

The work plan includes setting the procedures for seizing assets, arranging places to keep the assets, and deciding which authorities will help the ACC carry out these actions, ACC Commissioner Abul Hasan Manzoor Mannan said at a press briefing yesterday.

The government promulgated an amendment to the Emergency Powers Rules 2007 on Wednesday, giving the ACC sweeping powers to seize moveable and immovable

assets of corruption suspects without the permission of the government or officials appointed by the government.

The amendment now also allows the ACC to pursue seizure of the assets of 12 of the 50 corruption suspects who failed to submit their wealth statements within scheduled time. The ACC is also preparing to file cases against them for the failure.

The 12 persons are Harris Chowdhury, political secretary to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, Giasuddin Al-Mamun, business partner of Khaleda's son Tarique Rahman, former Awami League

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

6 JMB militants walk gallows Apr 13-19

IGP apprehends sporadic attacks

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Six condemned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) militants including its supremo Abdur Rahman and his second-in-command Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai will be executed between April 13 and 19.

The jail authorities yesterday received a copy of the president's rejection of the militants' mercy petitions and as per the jail code the execution will take place between 21st and 28th days from the date of receipt of the presi-

dent's decision. Inspector General of Police Noor Mohammad told The Daily Star last night that they are apprehending sporadic attacks by the militants as the day for the militants' execution nears.

Since the president's rejection of the militant convicts' mercy petition on March 5, police, Rab and intelligence agencies have taken adequate measures to prevent any attempted retaliation by the militants' followers, he added.

Meanwhile, the jail authorities have beefed up security in and

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Rejoinder, our reply

The Orion Group in a rejoinder differed with The Daily Star news headline "Meteoric rise of Orion on Hava clout" published on March 14.

The rejoinder signed by the group's Vice-president of Human Resources and Administration Masudul Islam refuted the report's allegation that Orion Group bagged various tenders for building car parking facility, flyover project, power project, large scale hospitality scheme, construction of parking facility at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, extension project of Sonargaon Hotel and cargo scanning facility at the Zia International Airport through political influence.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Agencies may probe Tarique's alleged link with Daud Ibrahim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Intelligence agencies may investigate alleged links between arrested Senior Joint Secretary General of BNP Tarique Rahman and Dubai-based Indian underworld don Daud Ibrahim.

Communications Adviser MA Matin made this comment to reporters yesterday when he was asked about a Kolkata-based newspaper report that quoted Indian intelligence agency officials as saying Tarique had close links with Ibrahim as well as the al-Qaeda.

"I saw this in newspapers but this is just a bit of information. Now it is the duty of the intelligence agencies to investigate the matter and find out the evidence," he said. The government will have to check the veracity of the report's claims, he added.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



"Tarique will be charged and legal action will be taken against him if the allegation is proved true," said Matin, also chairman of the National Coordination Committee to prevent grievous crimes.

Murder case filed against Dulu

SQ Chydenied bail

AGENCIES, Ctg and Natore

A murder case was filed against former deputy minister for land and BNP leader Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu with a court at Natore yesterday.

One Maznur Rahman filed the case with the cognizance court, accusing Dulu and 12 others of killing his brother on March 14, 2004, reports BSS.

In the case, Maznur alleged that his brother Saiful was murdered by Dulu's men, as he did not join the outlawed JMB as asked by the former deputy minister.

UNB adds: A court in Chittagong yesterday rejected the bail petition of Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, adviser to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, in an extortion case.

Judge ANM Bashirullah of the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



BRITISH COUNCIL



Education UK

Heading to the UK?

Then why not apply through PASS

(Professional Advisory Service for Students)

and win a £2,500 scholarship!

Email: education@bd.britishcouncil.org

For detailed information please contact:

British Council Dhaka
5 Fuller Road
Dhaka - 1000
Tel: 8618905-7, 8618867-8

British Council Chittagong
77/A East Nasirabad
Chittagong
(Behind Chittagong Shopping Complex)
Tel: 657884-6

www.britishcouncil.org/bangladesh

Factory owners asked to set up waste treatment plant by six months

UNB, Dhaka

As apparel factories without waste-treatment plants pollute environs, Adviser CS Karim yesterday said the government won't allow supplying fashion garments to the western consumers at the cost of food and clothing of its own people.

He asked the factory owners to set up effluent-treatment plant (ETP) within six months to neutralise the industrial wastes that affect the environment and people a lot.

The agriculture and environment adviser expressed government's view during his meeting with garment factory owners at his secretariat office on the issue of installing ETP at their industrial units, Industries.

Adviser Geeteara Safiya Chowdhury and Environment Secretary Nurul Amin were present.

"I am not in favour of supply of garments to the famous Hilfiger and Dockers that force my people to remain naked," he said.

The adviser made the remark as wastes from factories reportedly pollute local environment and river waters.

He asked the factory owners to set up ETP within six months to neutralise the industrial wastes that affect the environment and people a lot.

"Why are you so greedy? If the ETP seems to be too much costly for you and you cannot afford the cost, then leave the business. You don't have any right to pollute the environment and force the people of this country to remain in the hazardous situation," Karim told his audience from the country's highest export-earning sector.

When the factory owners pointed out that they did it mistakenly, he said, "This mistake was done deliberately. I will not offer fashionable garments to others that cause the destruction of our environment and lives of our people."

On repeated appeal from the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Star Cruise from Mumbai to Goa



JOHN & BIPASHA & YOU.

Buy CLEAR to win!