

## JOYDEVPUR-SEALDAH Council approves passenger train service

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Council of Advisers yesterday approved in principle the proposal to introduce Joydevpur-Sealdah passenger train service.

A meeting of the advisers with Chief Adviser Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair also approved proposals regarding establishment of the South Asian University (SAU) and Saarc Food Bank.

Bangladesh will sign the agreements on SAU and the Food Bank at the 14th Saarc Summit in New Delhi beginning Tuesday.

Briefing reporters last evening, Press Secretary to the Chief Adviser Syed Fahim Munaim said the chief adviser will leave for New Delhi on Monday to attend the summit.

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## EMERGENCY POWER RULES

# HC invites legal debate on bail revoking clause

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday invited a legal debate over the amended Emergency Power Rules (EPR) that have revoked the right to bail of those being arrested during the current operation against crime and corruption.

A High Court division bench sought opinions of senior lawyers, suspending its orders on bail petitions moved on behalf of bigwigs, including politicians, held on charges of corruption and serious crimes.

On the night of March 21, the

government issued a gazette notification to this effect under the Emergency Powers Ordinance 2007 with retrospective effect from February 13.

According to the amended law, an accused in such cases has been stripped of right to file a bail petition during the investigation or trial of a case.

Additionally, an accused cannot seek redress from any higher courts against any order given by any court or tribunal before or during the trial-until the delivery of the final verdict.

The HC bench, comprising

Justice Nozul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury, initiated the move when a number of petitions were placed before it for hearing by the counsel for the accused seeking bail and an attorney stood against.

Showing the EPR gazette, Deputy Attorney General Gholam Mohammad Chowdhury Alai told the court that it's a no-go area for them under the state of emergency.

He pointed out that Sections 19 Gha and Uma of the EPR revoked the right of an accused "to appeal for bail and seek redress from any

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## 3 more graft suspects submit wealth reports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more high profile corruption suspects yesterday submitted wealth statements to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) through their representatives following a High Court (HC) order.

They had defied the ACC's instructions to submit wealth statements in person within the stipulated time.

Representatives of Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan (Shah Alam), Awami League (AL) leader Jahangir Kabir Nanak and former AL lawmaker Mirza Azam submitted the statements.

On February 18, the ACC asked 50 high profile graft suspects including these three to submit

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# Court to decide April 5 if Tarique to be put on trial

Huda on four-day remand, 21-day remand sought for Mamun

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will decide on April 5 whether to put Tarique Rahman and his close aide Mian Nuruddin Apu on trial on charge of extortion.

Hearing date on charge framing was fixed yesterday when Tarique was taken to the court.

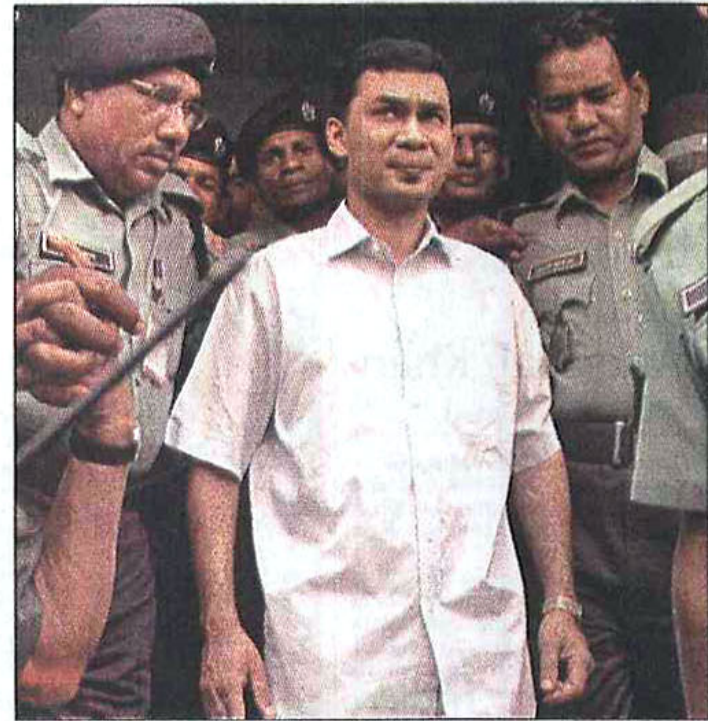
Besides, former minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, ntv Managing Director (MD) Enayetur Rahman, ex-BNP lawmaker Harunur Rashid and a car businessman were all placed on remands of various terms yesterday.

A Dhaka court rejected the petition filed by Tarique's lawyers challenging the legality of the investigation officer (IO) of the case submitting the charge sheet of the Tk 1-crore extortion case.

Tarique was shown arrested yesterday in the case filed with Gulshan Police Station in connection with extorting Tk 81 lakh from a businessman.

On the other hand, Tarique's close friend Giasuddin Al Mamun was shown arrested yesterday in three extortion cases filed with

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BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman being taken to a Dhaka court yesterday.

## VoIP equipment seized from Aktel office

Tk 180cr can be earned a year using the devices, Rab says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized sophisticated equipment used for running voice over internet protocol (VoIP) business illegally from the head office of private mobile phone operator Aktel.

The Rab said Tk 180 crore can be earned annually, depriving the government of the huge revenue, by using the equipment seized from the Aktel office at Uday Tower in Gulshan.

The equipment seized and sealed includes four STMs, four soft switches, gateways, and two racks that shelved the STMs. The Rab found the VoIP equipment on the 14th and 19th floors of the building.

The law enforcers, however, did not arrest any Aktel official. They were supposed to file a first information report (FIR) with the Gulshan Police Station last night.

The intelligence wing of the elite force conducted the daylong raid at

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Rapid Action Battalion personnel seize VoIP equipment at Aktel's head office on Gulshan Avenue in the capital yesterday.

## Commentary

# Give due respect to all our leaders and let the nation move on

The caretaker government should immediately correct our distorted history

MAHFUZ ANAM

It was not the main thrust of his speech. The Army Chief, Lt General Moeen U Ahmed hit a significant chord in the nation's psyche when he said that after 36 years of independence we still have not been able to honour the Father of the

Nation. We commend him for his courageous statement and urge the caretaker government to bury our murdered history forever and give our leaders their due places in our national history. This will unite us again as a people to concentrate fully on the task at hand, which is to take Bangladesh forward in eco-

nomie, social and cultural fields. We are no experts of history but facts for us are simple. Bangabandhu is the Father of the Nation. Of course, people are the main force of history -- they have always been and will continue to be. But it is the leader that

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## Mohiuddin's deportation not uncertain

Says foreign secy

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said Major (ret'd) Mohiuddin, the condemned killer of Bangabandhu, will be brought back to the country very soon.

"We don't have any information that suggests that Mohiuddin's deportation has become uncertain... We don't perceive any impediment," he told a press briefing at the foreign ministry.

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# ACC sues Abbas for graft in govt land sale

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas unlawfully allowed Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) to sell 18 abandoned houses at lower prices that caused a loss of Tk 127.64 crore to the government.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against Abbas and 11 engineers and officials of Rajuk and Public Works Department (PWD) in this connection.

On June 7 last year, Abbas told parliament that in accordance with the Bangladesh Abandoned Property (control, management

and disposal) Order 1972, the housing ministry is authorised for controlling, managing and disposing of abandoned houses.

But before informing the House of the legal aspect, Abbas had already allowed Rajuk to initiate measures to sell the abandoned houses. Rajuk published an auction notice in different daily newspapers on April 5, 2006 for selling 10 abandoned house, sources said.

Violating the authorities' direction for selling 18 abandoned government houses, they sold the houses on a "fake" auction at much lower prices that resulted in the government's loss of Tk 127 crore 64 lakh and 29 thousand.

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## Big powers' presence to make 14th Saarc summit a landmark event

REZAUL KARIM

The two-day 14th Saarc Summit, which kicks off in New Delhi Tuesday, is expected to be a "landmark" event seeing the inclusion of Afghanistan as new member in the regional grouping and the presence of the US, EU, China, Japan and South Korea as observers, first time in its 22-year history.

Officials said the presence of the five major economies from outside the region would extend the appeal

of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) to the larger international community as it enhances their interest in the functioning of the regional body.

There would be some power play as the super economic powers are coming in as observers, but the officials did not rule out the positive impact it would have on the region.

Chinese Foreign Minister Li

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## Air Commodore Ziaur Rahman new air chief

UNB, Dhaka

Air Commodore Shah Md Ziaur Rahman has been appointed chief of the air staff with effect from the forenoon of April 8.

According to a notification

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## NBR starts drive to tap new taxpayers

126 out of 226 shops surveyed have no TIN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the first day of the special survey to identify new taxpayers, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday found that 126 shops out of 226 they surveyed at the city's Bashundhara City Complex have no Tax Identification Number (TIN).

A team led by Asheque Hossain, member of tax survey and inspection, and Mohammad Khorshed Alam, commissioner of taxes, launched the survey aiming to bring all business houses and

professionals under the taxnet. The team found no owners present while visiting the 226 shops out of the total 1,600 shops at the mega shopping mall.

They handed over survey forms to the employees of these shops and briefed them on the rules for filling those up. The team also made them aware of the obligation of paying taxes.

Talking to the reporters, Asheque said that they have come to identify the new taxpayers. If any

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**বার্ড ফু পরিস্থিতিতেও রান্না করা মুরগির মাংস ও ডিম খাওয়া নিরাপদ। তবে অতিরিক্ত নিরাপত্তার জন্য নিম্নরূপ সাবধানতা অবলম্বন করবেন**

- ▼ সুস্থ ও তাজা দেখে মুরগি কিনুন।
- ▼ ভাল করে সিদ্ধ এবং রান্না করা ডিম ও মুরগির মাংস খান।
- ▼ মুরগি কাটা ও ধোয়ার পর সাবান ও পানি দিয়ে পরিষ্কার করে আপনার হাত ধুয়ে নেবেন।
- ▼ সম্ভব হলে মুরগি কাটা, ধোয়া এবং রান্নার সময় আলাদা ছুরি, বাঁটি ও হাড়িপাতিল ব্যবহার করুন।
- ▼ ব্যবহারের পরপরই ছুরি, বাঁটি আর হাড়িপাতিল সাবান দিয়ে ধুয়ে ফেলুন।
- ▼ ঘরে আনার পরপরই এবং রান্নার আগে সাবান-পানিতে ডিম ভালভাবে ধুয়ে নিন।
- ▼ শিশুদের হাঁস-মুরগি থেকে দূরে রাখুন। ওদেরকে হাঁস-মুরগির সংস্পর্শে আসতে দেবেন না।

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