

Move to honour language martyrs, Birshresthas  
Tk 3cr allocated for setting up museums, libraries  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to set up libraries and memorial museums at the houses of three language martyrs and seven Birshresthas to honour their sacrifices. A total of Tk 3 crore has been allotted for the task, to be carried out by the zila parishads concerned. The decision was made at an inter-ministerial meeting at the conference room of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) with its adviser Mohammad Anwarul Iqbal in the chair, according to sources. Besides, the government also decided to amend the City Corporation Act to nominate a panel of ward commissioners for

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# ACC chief seeks mass support to fight graft

UNB, Panchagarh

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Lt General (ret'd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday urged all to wage an all-out movement against corruption. "Corruption cannot be prevented only through curbing it. A movement has to be waged across the country against corruption," said the ACC chief while exchanging views with a cross-section of people at the district headquarters. On the first day of his mission outside the capital, General Mashhud visited four northern districts and held meetings with the local administrations, members of the civil society, journalists, lawyers, businessmen and field-level ACC officials. "We can take preventive measures at the grassroots level. As a

first step towards controlling corruption, we came to you," he told the audience. Terming corruption a problem, a stigma and a black stain, he sought assistance from all quarters in freeing the country from this menace. The ACC chairman said the present government has taken all-out steps and preparations against corruption, as it is pledge-bound to mop up the black stains. Calling upon all to build a united resistance against corruption, the anti-graft watchdog chief said: "A favourable political and social climate is now prevailing in the country. This opportunity cannot come three years later." He reminded that this hydra-headed problem can't be solved working in the capital. For this, everybody should be aware of and

build resistance against corruption. Referring to Bangladesh's position on the TIB corruption index, the ACC chairman wished that the country took the bottommost position in the corruption ratings in the future. He also expected that the stand of the district's people against corruption should be visible to spearhead the movement. Panchagarh Deputy Commissioner (DC) M Hafizuddin, Police Superintendent Haroon-or-Rashid, Panchagarh Chamber President Iqbal Kaiser Mintoo, Press Club President A Rahman Mukul, educationist Abu Zeker and lawyers Nazmul Huq and Mirza Amirul Islam were present. In Thakurgaon, the ACC chairman called upon all to be vocal

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Septuagenarian ex-teacher in custody  
Family alleges false case  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A seventy-two-year-old retired schoolteacher is now in custody following the filing of an alleged false case against him while his family members had to flee Gopalganj in the face of torture by a local police sub-inspector (SI). Munshi Abdur Rahman, a retired primary school headmaster, has been suffering from gastric ulcer and old age complications for last several years and police arrested him on April 4 and beat him up in presence of his family members, victim's family members said yesterday. "SI Emdad along with some police constables suddenly broke our door and entered the house on April 4 around 2:00am and dragged my husband out and beat him severely. Emdad also beat me and

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PHOTO: STAR

Joint forces recovered corrugated iron sheets meant for relief from a house in Baunia area of Pallabi in the capital. The photo was taken from Pallabi Police Station yesterday.

Defamation case filed against Prothom Alo  
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A member of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) yesterday filed a defamation case with a Dhaka court against the editor, the publisher and a reporter of the daily Prothom Alo for publishing two reports on BFF election and its ad hoc committee. Metropolitan Magistrate ABM Abdul Fattah issued summons upon the defendants -- the daily's editor Matir Rahman, publisher Mahfuz Anam and sports reporter Masudul Alam -- after the case filed by BFF member Prof Golam Rasul Mollah. In his complaint, Golam Rasul mentioned that the daily ran two news items headlined "Election of the BFF necessary to save the football" and "Ad-hoc committee w i t h

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# Call for small power plants of Palli Bidyut

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should frame a new policy under which small power plants could be installed selectively by Palli Bidyut Samities (PBS) of the country to overcome the existing power crisis, urged speakers at a seminar yesterday. "Rural Electrification Board (REB) wishes to be the government's power generation partner to help reduce the existing crisis. Power policy should be formulated considering generation and expansion of power supply in the country," said M Habib Ullah Majumdar, chairman of REB. The country has 70 PBSs, supplying power to more than 60 lakh customers.

The PBSs having sufficient manpower and technical support could be brought under different power generation projects including small power or least-cost-generation schemes, the speakers said at the seminar jointly organised by REB, Bangladesh Engineering and Technological Services Ltd and (BETS) and Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP). The seminar discussed the findings of a baseline study on Socio Economic Impact Evaluation of Rural Electrification Programme. Officials of Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies (BIDS), National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and Power Division also participated in the seminar.

"Policy makers' failure to maintain consistency between demand and supply of power as well as confusing energy policies has resulted in the existing crisis and hindered systematic progress of the country," said Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman, chairman of BUP and project director of BETS-BUP. Since the country cannot immediately extract enough coal or tap nuclear technology for power generation, the government may go for smaller scale hydropower and solar power schemes, the speakers said at the seminar held at Rural Electrification Board (REB) auditorium in the capital.

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DEPORTATION  
US court to decide hearing on Mohiuddin's petition soon  
UNB, Dhaka

The judges of the 9th US Circuit Court will sit in a couple of days for taking a decision on hearing of a petition filed by Bangabandhu's condemned killer AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed against his deportation. A spokesman for the foreign ministry, narrating the latest situation on deportation of Mohiuddin, said the former army officer appealed to the court on March 30 for a retrial of his deportation case. The judges will sit for a panel discussion within a day or two upon the appeal. They will take decision if the hearing of the case will be held or not. "The matter will be time-consuming for final settlement if the petition of Mohiuddin Ahmed is approved and hearing held

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ICC  
WORLD CUP 07

# The Irish keep it tight

SPORTS REPORTER

Ireland restricted New Zealand to 172 for five in 38.1 overs when rain stopped play for the second time in their Cricket World Cup Super Eight match at the Guyana National Stadium yesterday. Peter Fulton was the last Kiwi batsman on in the final ball before rain sent the players to the dressing rooms for the second time. Fulton, who topscored with 83 from 110 deliveries, was the only batsman who did not struggle against the impressive Irish band of steady medium-pacers after Steven Fleming had elected to bat on a flat batting track. After the first rain-interruption,

only ten deliveries were played with New Zealand losing opener Fulton, who mistimed a sweep against Kyle McCallan to be adjudged lbw. The towering Fulton, who hit nine fours, lent the innings some stability. Standing upright and using his reach to full effect, he was decisive with his footwork, getting fully forward or fully back and effecting some meaty drives and pulls. He found the gaps easily and picked off singles between the boundaries. Jacob Oram was batting on 14and waiting to resume the innings with Brendon McCullum. Agencies add: Opening bowler

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22 more fake students found at DU  
DU CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka University (DU) probe committee yesterday identified 22 more cases of forgery in admission at the Faculty of Social Sciences, raising the total number to 52. "We detected 22 more fake students and the investigation is on," DU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, also head of the committee formed to investigate cases of unlawful admission, told reporters after a meeting. He said the list of students taken on the basis of forged documents would be handed over to law enforcement agencies for further steps. Sources said most of the fake students are from economics department. The pro-VC neither admitted nor denied the possibility of coaching centres' involvement with the forgers. He said the committee has been

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Bangladeshi peacekeeper dies in Congo  
UNB, Dhaka

A Bangladeshi peacekeeper died in a road accident in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Sunday. An ISPR release said yesterday army man M Shahabuddin, 28, hailed from Nilphamari district, met with the tragic end while on patrol duty from Abhibha camp. Body of Shahabuddin will be brought back to the country under UN supervision. Nine Bangladeshi troops, who were working in the African country under UN peace mission, died in an ambush by the rebels on February 26, 2005.

Prayer Timing		
April 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-24	6-28
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		

# 60 militants killed or captured in Iraq

6 more US soldiers slain as Shias mark fall of Baghdad

AFP, AP, Diwaniyah/ Najaf

More than 60 Shia militants have been killed or captured in deadly battle with Iraqi and US forces in the central city of Diwaniyah, military officials said yesterday. Tens of thousands marched through the streets of two Shia holy cities yesterday to mark the fourth anniversary of Baghdad's fall. The rally was called for by powerful Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who commands an enormous following among Iraq's majority Shias and has close allies in the Shia-dominated government. A day earlier, the renegade cleric issued a statement ordering his militiamen to redouble their battle to oust American forces and argued that Iraq's army and police should

join him in defeating "your arch-enemy." On Monday, demonstrators marched from Kufa to neighbouring Najaf, 100 miles south of Baghdad, with two cordons of Iraqi police lining the route. Since Friday, around 3,300 US and Iraqi troops have clashed with Shia militants, largely believed to be from the Mahdi Army militia controlled by firebrand cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, in Diwaniyah, south of Baghdad. Polish Major General Pawel Lamla, a commanding general for US-led multinational forces, told a group of reporters in Diwaniyah that security forces had "killed or captured more than 60 of the terrorists." US commander Colonel Michael

Garrett said the fighters appeared to be from the Jaish al-Mahdi, the Arabic name for Mahdi Army. "We believe they are associated with the Jaish al-Mahdi," Garrett said. "I don't know enough to know if this is a splinter group or how committed they are to Jaish al-Mahdi. But it doesn't necessarily appear to be a splinter group. It appears to be an organised resistance." Since fighting broke out between the militiamen and security forces on Friday, the US military said it was an operation aimed at returning control of Diwaniyah to the Iraqi government. In the past year, Diwaniyah has

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# Iran enters 'new' nuke phase

Country claims to reach industrial level

AFP, Natanz

Iran yesterday again defied Western powers by announcing it has boosted its sensitive nuclear activities to an "industrial scale" as it marked a national day of atomic technology. "We have gathered here today to celebrate the entry of the uranium enrichment project into an industrial level, thanks to God's eternal blessing," head of its atomic energy

organisation Gholam Reza Aghazadeh told a ceremony at Iran's most sensitive nuclear plant. He added that Iran has also started mass-producing the centrifuges needed for the enrichment of uranium, a process the West wants Iran to halt over fears that it could be used to produce nuclear weapons. "Today, with the start of mass-producing centrifuges and the start of uranium enrichment on an

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PHOTO: STAR

This recent photo shows a fire, fuelled by gas from a possible reservoir, burning at Doilla in Khagrachhari. Locals claim the fire has been burning for decades.

# Burning away for decades, yet gas never explored

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

Far from the public gaze, a natural gas triggered fire is burning near a remote Tripura village Doilla under Matiranga Upazila in the hill district Khagrachhari for many generations. The villagers of Doilla call this fire "Haza", a tripura word for "a well of natural resources". This gas is coming out through at least four leakages within one kilometre of the village. Claiming that the fire has been burning for many generations, for about 200 years, they said they thought there is a huge natural gas reservoir below. According to geologists, the geological structure in the hill

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