

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 (retd) 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 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-ur-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 aware of and

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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.



Vehicles and pedestrians cross the worn out Della Bridge in Demra in the capital. The bridge has been in this state for over a year despite locals' plea for its repair.

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, haled from Nilphamari district, met with the tragic end while on patrol duty from Abiha 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/ Naja

join him in defeating "your archenemy."

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 Muktada 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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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 the 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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