

Court to hear charge-framing against Mamun April 15

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has fixed April 15 for hearing on charge framing against BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman's close friend and controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun in connection with the graft case filed against him.

The same court will decide on April 16 whether the properties of Harris Chowdhury, political secretary to former prime minister

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Arrest warrant issued against a dead man

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has issued arrest warrant against a dead man and ordered attachment of his properties, following extortion charges against the man who died six years ago.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Ruhul Amin, who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the extortion case filed with Jatrabari Police Station on March 4, pressed charges against six people including Harmuz Ali of Matuail Dhakkhinpara under Jatrabari in the capital on March 20.

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Prayer Timing		
April 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-24	6-28
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Iraqi parliament blast kills 2 MPs

10 die as truck bomber blows up key Baghdad bridge

AP, Baghdad

A bomb rocked Iraq's parliament building in the heavily fortified Green Zone yesterday, killing at least two lawmakers in a stunning security breach in the third month of a US-Iraqi crackdown on violence in the capital, officials said.

At least four other people were wounded in the blast, which shook a cafeteria while several lawmakers were eating lunch, initial media reports said.

Mohammed Awad, a member of the Sunni National Dialogue Front, was killed in the blast, said Saleh al-Mutlaq, the leader of the party, which holds 11 seats in Iraq's legislature. Another female Sunni lawmaker from the same list was wounded, he said.

A security official at the parliament building said a second lawmaker, a Shia member, also was killed. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Apparently concerned that an attack might take place, security officials at the parliament were using sniffer dogs earlier Thursday as people entered the building a rare precaution.

A spokesman for the US Embassy in Baghdad, which is also in the Green Zone, said no Americans were injured in the blast.

"We are aware of reports of an explosion in the Green Zone. We are investigating the nature and source of the explosion," spokesman Lou Fintor said. "No Embassy employees or US citizens were affected."

The attack came hours after a suicide truck bomb exploded on a major bridge in Baghdad, collapsing the steel structure and sending cars tumbling into the Tigris River below, police and witnesses said. At least 10 people were killed.

Hospital officials said another 26 were injured, and police were trying to rescue as many as 20

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Black clouds cover the sky over Dhaka yesterday afternoon just ahead of the Bangla month of Baishakh when nor'westers are

Local scientists develop diarrhoea vaccine

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Scientists in Bangladesh have developed a vaccine that can prevent diarrhoea caused by commonly found micro-organisms.

Experts described the achievement as a breakthrough in medical science as the vaccine will provide immunity from two most deadly and common bacteria—Vibrio cholerae and Enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli (ETEC).

These two bacteria cause about 55 percent diarrhoeal cases in the country, experts said at a press conference yesterday morning at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre at Agargaon in the capital.

Healthcare Pharmaceutical Ltd and SBL Vaccines of Sweden jointly organised the press conference.

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EC turns to foreign aid for voter project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) is now looking for foreign aid to implement its mega project for simultaneously preparing a voter list with photographs, national identity cards and introduction of e-governance in some selected organisations.

"At an inter-ministerial meeting, we will explore whether any foreign aid is available for the task," EC Secretary Humayun Kabir said yesterday at a weekly press briefing.

The EC has convened the inter-ministerial meeting on Sunday at its secretariat. The meeting will also discuss technical aspects of the mega project involving an estimated cost of Tk 350 crore.

Secretaries to the ministries of finance and science and information technology, and Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the

planning ministry have been asked to attend the meeting.

Meanwhile, no local or foreign consultant joined the EC Secretariat till yesterday to begin the task of preparing the project proposal for voter list.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda said on April 5 that six consultants including three from abroad would start work for the project proposal next week. An 18-month period required for the task will begin when they join their job, the CEC added.

The EC secretary however could not specify when the consultants will begin their work. "We hope they will come soon," he said.

Humayun avoided a reply when asked if the 18 months' time already began this week.

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GOVERNANCE REPORT

Army, Rab rated as 'most trusted institutions'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed forces and Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) are the most trusted institutions while the police, business community, government offices and political parties are the least trusted institutional actors.

This was revealed by the Bangladesh Governance Report' 2007, published yesterday by the non-governmental research body Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) with the assistance of NGO apex body Manusher Jonno.

The report was prepared on the basis of national governance survey 2006.

Out of 4530 persons participated in the survey conducted for preparing the report the armed forces were termed most trusted institutions by 81 per cent respondents. While 73

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Kiwis under pressure

SPORTS REPORTER

After Oram's departure, Muttiah Muralitharan (3-23 from 8 overs) snared quick wickets of Brendon McCullum and Daniel Vettori to put the Super Eights table toppers under more pressure.

Sri Lanka fielded Farveez Maharoof in absence of fast bowler Lasith Malinga, top of the tournament bowling averages, after he had sustained damage to his left ankle ligaments in training. However, Chaminda Vaas made up for his colleague's absence with

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