



14 EU MPs for lifting state of emergency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fourteen members of the European Parliament have urged the caretaker government to lift the state of emergency immediately and arrange for a free and fair parliamentary election as soon as possible.

In a joint statement, the lawmakers from different member states also asked the security personnel to respect human rights and use force only when required.

"As members of the European Parliament we are ready to support further enhanced cooperation with Bangladesh as a long-lasting development partner, if the present government restores civil and political liberties and arranges as soon as possible for free and fair democratic elections under the presence of international observers which will include a delegation from our European Parliament,"

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Shibir leader held while videoing army camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Army personnel arrested a Shibir leader while he along with his associate was taking video footages of an army camp in Chapainawabganj on Friday afternoon.

Police said the detainee, Abdur Rashid, was 'baitol malal' (treasury secretary) of Chapainawabganj municipality unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir.

However, Rashid's accomplice

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SADARGHAT MAYHEM 6 more bodies found

Rescue work called off as no one reported missing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six more bodies were recovered from the Buriganga yesterday, raising the death toll in the Friday night's clashes at Sadarghat to 10.

"We have pulled out seven bodies till 5:30am and wrapped up the rescue work at 10:00am as no one else was reported missing," said Selim Newaj Bhuiyan, deputy director of Fire Service and Civil Defence (Dhaka division).

Shortly after the fire brigade divers had packed up, locals recovered two more bodies. Earlier in the morning they hauled another one out of the water.

The government has formed a four-member probe committee. The team headed by a home ministry joint secretary has been given

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Relatives wail as the bodies of Friday night's clash at Sadarghat in the capital were recovered from the Buriganga.

PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka to sign Trans-Asian railway deal

UNB, Dhaka

the west and get out through a single gateway on the eastern front.

The meeting asked the foreign ministry to take necessary steps to sign the treaty, according to Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munain.

The three routes passing through Bangladesh under the treaty are 1) Gedi (West Bengal, India)-Darshana (Kushita, Bangladesh)-Iswardi-Jamuna Bridge-Joydevpur-Akhaura-Chittagong-Dohazari-Gundhum-Myanmar.

Eighteen countries, including China, Nepal, Iran and Indonesia, signed the deal in South Korea in 2006.

Myanmar, 2) Singabad (West Bengal)-Rajshahi (Bangladesh)-Iswardi-Jamuna Bridge-Joydevpur-Akhaura-Chittagong-Dohazari-Gundhum-Myanmar and 3) Radhikapur (West Bengal)-Dinajpur-Iswardi-Jamuna Bridge-Joydevpur-Akhaura-Chittagong-Dohazari-Gundhum-Myanmar.

Former education minister Dr M Osman Farruk yesterday categorically said the 'process and timing' of making BNP chairperson's brother Sayeed Iskandar a vice-president of the party were not appropriate.

He also said it is not acceptable if anyone in politics is promoted

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PHOTO: STAR

A man washes a drum that contained toxic chemical in the Buriganga near the second bridge on it yesterday as pollution level in the river already very high.

Mamun confesses to his, Tarique's involvement in Tk 81 lakh extortion

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Detained controversial businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun, a close friend of BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, yesterday confessed to a magistrate that Tarique and he were involved in the extortion of Tk 81 lakh from a businessman.

He told the magistrate that he along with four others including Tarique, now in detention, had extorted Tk 81 lakh on different dates from Harun Ferdousi, managing director of Judge Distilleries Ltd.

The three others are Babu Kazi, Enamul Hoque and Giasuddin Quaiyim, he said.

Mamun was placed on a four-day remand yesterday in connection with another case for extorting

Tk 4.89 crore from the owner of construction firm 'Acreen', a sister concern of Reza Construction and Al-Amin Construction.

Under heavy security, he was taken to the chamber of Metropolitan Magistrate Shamsul Alam around 2:30pm. The magistrate recorded his confessional statement for around four hours.

Of the Tk 81 lakh, Tarique took Tk 45 lakh, he took Tk 35 lakh and the three others shared Tk 1 lakh, Mamun said.

Earlier, he had made confessional statements to another magistrate on different dates in connection with six other extortion cases filed with Gulshan, Kafrol, Shahbagh and Dhammoli police stations.

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Trial of Harris in graft case begins today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court starts trial of a graft case filed against Harris Chowdhury, political secretary to former prime minister Khaleda Zia, in antisocial today.

The same court will also frame charges against three detained former state ministers in connection with three graft cases today.

HARRIS CASE
Judge Momin Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court will start trial with the deposition of complainant of the case, court sources said.

Earlier on April 30, the court framed charges against Harris in

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DU finds 24 more cases of forged admission

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University (DU) yesterday identified 24 more forgery cases in admission to the Faculty of Social Sciences, pushing the number to 76.

A probe committee yesterday submitted the list of 24 fake students before the syndicate.

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Hasina to fly in, wait for politics to start

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina returns home tomorrow with plans for now to wait for the emergency rule and the ban on political activities to go.

Hasina's lawyers served a legal notice on British Airways (BA) on Friday after the airline refused to let her board the April 23 flight to Dhaka, her secretary told AFP.

"BA did not give her a boarding pass, citing security reasons. It caused her immense mental stress and agony," Abdus Sobhan Golap said from London.

"We are seeking a million pounds (two million dollars) in damages," he said, adding that BA has two weeks to reply to the notice.

There was no immediate

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MANPOWER RECRUITING

Lax watch leads to cheating

 SHARIFUL ISLAM and
EMRAN HOSSAIN

Cases were filed with Paltan Police Station and 72 with Motijheel Police Station under sections 420 (cheating) and 406 (breach of trust) of the Penal Code, according to police.

The number of people cheated by manpower brokers is much more than the number of cases being filed, police think.

"Rate of filing of such cases is higher than any other type of cases," said Sub Inspector Nurjahan of Paltan Police Station.

Cases of such deception had decreased significantly as the law enforcers launched a crackdown on manpower agencies and brokers in 2005 and 2006 following the Mediterranean Sea tragedy in December 2005 that killed 11 foreign seekers from Bangladesh. A month after that, 24 other Bangladeshi fortune seekers returned from the jaws of death being dumped in the Sahara desert.

The law enforcers later slowed down their drive, and this prompted the dishonest agencies

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BIRD FLU
8,500 chickens culled in 3 Savar farms

UNB, Savar

Some 8,500 chickens were culled in three poultry farms here Friday evening following detection of bird flu in a nearby farm.

Joint forces and livestock officials culled 4,000 chickens in Masum Poultry Farm of Abdul Karim, 2,500 chickens in Lamia Poultry Farm of Anwar Hossain and 2,000 chickens in Patuakhali Poultry Farm-2 of Joyal Abedin.

On Thursday, 1,500 chickens were culled in Patuakhali Poultry Farm in Rajason area following detection of bird flu.

After that, the government took decision to cull the chickens of the farms within one-kilometre area of the affected farm and informed it to the farm owners through a notification.

It also imposed a ban of transportation of poultry products in the affected area.

On Thursday night, 2,000 of chickens of Khulna Poultry Farm of Maulana Alamgir Hossain at Rajason were also culled.

The farm owners, however, claimed the disease as "Ranikhet".

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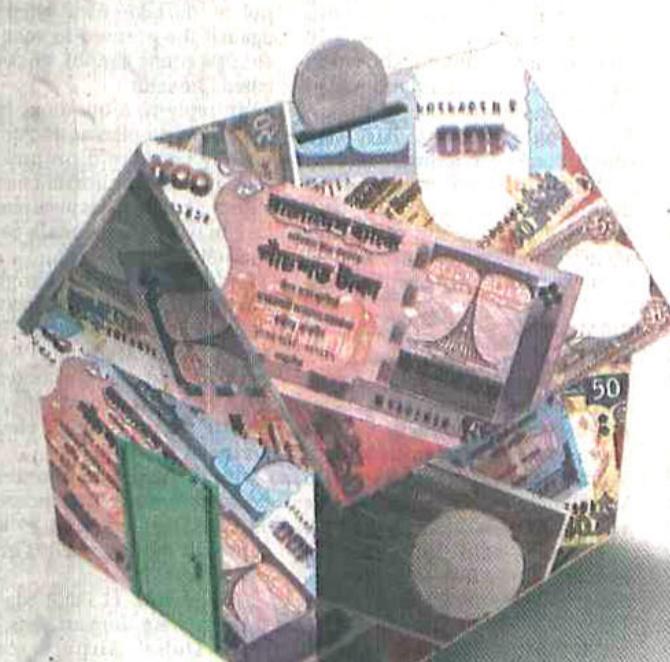
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