

Fakhruddin visits Sabina

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed visited ailing noted singer Sabina Yasmin at Labaid Specialised Hospital in the city yesterday afternoon.

He inquired about the condition of Sabina from the physician concerned and asked the hospital authorities to ensure her proper treatment.

The CA talked with the singer and wished her early recovery.

Family members appealed to the chief adviser for government cooperation in quick shifting of Sabina to Singapore for better treatment, Dr Lt Col (retd) Mofazzel Hossain, cancer and medicine expert, told reporters.

The head of the caretaker government assured them of extending all possible cooperation, he added.

DANIDA STAFF
Search on
to arrest
kidnappers

A CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Security forces in the rugged Bandarban hills are continuing their operations to capture the kidnappers of Danish International Development Agency (Danida) official Shahid Suman who was rescued Sunday.

Meanwhile, a Danish minister thanked the Bangladeshi government for its efforts in rescuing Suman.

Sources in the law enforcement agencies said their main objective is to capture the masterminds of the abduction. They claimed they are trying to zero in on the criminals by reducing the cordoned off area.

Security officials in the district said they sent more army personnel by helicopter to Yangrai, Choto Modok and Tindu areas in order to reinforce the army units there.

Eighteen people have been arrested since Suman was abducted on June 25. Interrogators said they found incriminating evidence that a number of them were involved with the abduction.

Non-government organisations have stopped their activities at Thanchi upazila and in some other areas of the district since Suman's abduction. However, law enforcers

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Faulty power plant to restart without power up system

STAR REPORT

The 100 MW Haripur Power Plant that broke down completely three years ago because of gross operational negligence is likely to be re-launched without any emergency power up system, sources said.

Power Development Board (PDB) sources said the project director for renovation of the three-unit plant last month sought the power ministry's nod to drop installation of an emergency diesel generator worth Tk 9 crore, and reallocate the same for other purposes.

The diesel generator is a universal device to start up a power plant

independently. This is especially required in case of blackouts or national grid failures. Yet, the project director has marked this device as unimportant saying that in case of a blackout, the plant could start up using power from an already started-up power plant connected to the national grid.

But PDB's power experts term this move 'suicidal' for Haripur plant which has already suffered a lot because of gross negligence. One expert pointed out that all power plants should be independently equipped to perform and this standard cannot be compromised.

Sources said the project director has made such a recommendation

because the PDB had previously made a mistake in outlining the cost of renovation that was approved by the ECNEC three years back.

The original approval outlines a total cost of Tk 17.16 crore for the renovation. But this amount did not include the cost of opening a letter of credit (L/C) for assigning a contractor for the job. The PDB assigned Japanese company Marubeni Corporation for the renovation work in 2006 and spent Tk 2.29 crore for opening the L/C.

Now, instead of explaining this mistake to the government and asking for an allocation for the L/C,

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10 shortlisted for Sonali, Janata MDs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The finance ministry has shortlisted 10 bankers from which the managing directors (MD) of the nationalised Sonali Bank and Janata Bank will be appointed.

The approximate monthly salary for the posts will be Tk 6 lakh.

The appointment of managing directors in two nationalised commercial banks on a competitive basis is part of the government's reform plans prescribed by the donors, sources said.

The list was drawn up from a total of 34 applications for the posts, an official of the finance ministry said.

A committee headed by Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam will choose two from the list as the managing directors of the banks," the official said.

The shortlisted candidates are incumbent managing directors of Sonali Bank SM Aminur Rahman, Mokhter Hossain of Janata Bank, M Amanullah of Shilpa Bank, Dewan

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PHOTO: STAR

A damaged corrugated iron sheet held with bamboo is all this family has for shelter after a fire gutted around 100 houses at Gudarghat of Mirpur in the capital Sunday night.



PHOTO: STAR

School children walk on the bricks laid down in stagnant rainwater in front of Bakchar High School at Shyampur in the capital yesterday while some of them climb the pylon to avoid the large puddle.

Army, cops quell fertiliser-hungry farmers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Scant stock of fertiliser forced a fertiliser dealer at Bidipur Matikata union in Godagari upazila to suspend sale of fertiliser yesterday when around 1,300 agitating farmers demanded sufficient supply.

Law enforcement officials including the army were called in to pacify the fertiliser-hungry farmers.

Meanwhile in Nakhole, the ministerial committee probing the July 4 Nakhole violence over fertiliser detected sheer mismanagement in fertiliser distribution system as one of the reasons that triggered the farmer unrest.

In Godagari, some 1,300 farmers gathered in front of fertiliser store of dealer Wali Ahad and became angry when they were told that only 280 sacks containing 50-kg urea each were available for distribution, said locals and government officials.

As the farmers strongly demanded fertiliser for all,

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DHAKA-KOLKATA TRAIN SERVICE

Frequency of trips yet to be decided

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India are likely to settle some unresolved issues regarding train service between the two neighbouring countries at their talks that began yesterday, Bangladesh Railway (BR) sources said.

Sources said the Indian team wanted Chittagong instead of Sealdah to be the last station on their side.

The timetable for first trial run of a Bangladesh train, which is likely this month, also figured at the discussion.

"We discussed some major issues throughout the day and hope to air some good news tomorrow", said Syed Abdul Mukit, BR assistant director.

A four-member technical committee from India held talks with a similar Bangladesh committee yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, Moitree Express, a passenger train from Kolkata, reached Dhaka Sunday afternoon.

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It's not always possible to go by constitution

Says Mainul

UNB, Dhaka

Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hosein yesterday said the country is not running in line with the normal rule of law because of the prevailing state of emergency under which it's not always possible to go by the constitution.

He made the observations while talking to reporters at his information ministry office about the achievements made by the caretaker government in the last six months.

"We are not always running the country towards the right track, but we are trying to do so," the adviser said, pointing to an unusual situation that brought them at the helm of power.

Frankly admitting the inability to keep the economy dynamic, Mainul said business and investment are discouraged in an atmosphere marked by apprehensions.

The adviser said the main achievement of the caretaker

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Musharraf gives clerics more time to negotiate

Pak mosque chief agrees to talks

AP, AFP, Islamabad

President Gen Pervez Musharraf yesterday gave clerics more time to persuade defiant militants to lay down their arms and surrender a mosque they have defended against thousands of government troops, security officials said.

A Pakistani cleric under siege in an Islamabad mosque agreed Monday to hold talks with seven top religious leaders, overseen by a former prime minister, officials and a mosque source said.

Abdul Rashid Ghazi made the concession after President Pervez Musharraf authorised Chaudhry

Shujaat Hussain, who served as premier for three months in 2004, to broker the "last-ditch" negotiations to end the week-long standoff.

"We have given seven names to the authorities through common friends and Ghazi says he will welcome them," an official at the mosque told AFP by telephone.

Religious leaders including those recommended by Ghazi held a lengthy meeting with Hussain and current Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz in Islamabad, a senior government official said.

The decision came at a high-level meeting grappling with how to crack the weeklong armed resis-

tance at the Lal Masjid, or Red Mosque, in the heart of the capital.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media, said among the mediators would be Taqi Usmani, a former teacher of the besieged mosque's senior cleric, Abdul Rashid Ghazi.

Some clerics, including Usmani, have attempted without success to persuade Ghazi to end the siege peacefully since the crisis erupted. The government claims the mosque is being defended by

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3 found guilty of London bomb plot

AFP, London

An English court found three defendants guilty yesterday over a failed Islamist plot to set off bombs in London on July 21, 2005, two weeks after suicide bombings which killed 52 commuters in the capital.

Muktar Said Ibrahim, Yassir Omar and Ramzi Mohammed were found guilty of conspiracy to murder after a six-month trial.

A jury which retired on June 28 has not yet reached verdicts on three other defendants allegedly behind a plot to blow up bombs on the London transport network.

The alleged conspiracy to explode home-made devices consisting of hydrogen peroxide and chapati flour in rucksacks came two weeks after the July 7 attacks that killed a total of 56

people, including the four bombers.

The partial verdict came on the seventh day of the jury's deliberations and amid intense media interest in Britain, which is on high alert following three failed car bombings in London and Glasgow, Scotland, last month.

Eight suspects are being held in connection with those incidents. One of the suspects, 27-year-old Iraqi doctor Bilal Abdulla, appeared in court in London Saturday charged with conspiring to cause explosions.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown attended a sombre, low-key memorial event on the second anniversary of the July 7 attacks on Saturday.

The July 21 accused, all of them originally from Africa but who lived

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Jessore editor's son 'murdered'

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

The son of former editor of Daily Runner, a local newspaper of Jessore, was found mortally wounded at his home in Jessore yesterday and the police are unsure whether it was a homicide or suicide.

Tanvir Hasan Anjan, 22, youngest son of late Saiful Alam Mukul, was found writhing in pain on the floor of a toilet in his house. He was rushed to a local hospital where

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Prayer Timing

July 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation