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Teachers to be 'freed'

Duta claims after talks with education adviser
detained DU students also to be released

DU CORRESPONDENT

All the detained teachers and students of Dhaka University (DU) and the convicted teachers of Rajshahi University (RU) will be released in the next two weeks, according to DU Teachers Association (Duta).

"On the basis of a clear assurance from the high-ups in the government and the negotiations with the education adviser, we have learnt that all the detainees and the convicted of both the universities will be released within two weeks," Acting President of DU Prof Tazmeri SA Islam told

reporters last night.

She, however, did not clarify the identities of the 'high-ups'. But, Duta said the day before that its representatives had a negotiation with some army officials on the DU campus on Saturday in presence of DU Vice-chancellor (VC) Prof SMA Faiz.

Later on Saturday, Education Adviser Aiyub Quadri talked to the DU VC, Prof Tazmeri and Duta's former president Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique over the phone.

The negotiations and over the phone talks were held after Duta on Friday had announced a two-day protest programme demanding

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ACC sues Akbar, family for having illegal wealth of Tk 600cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday evening filed a case against Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam, his wife, and their four sons on charges of amassing illegal wealth worth about Tk 600 crore from beyond the known sources of their earnings.

ACC Deputy Director Abdullah Al Zahid lodged the case with the capital's Ramna police station accusing Shah Alam, his wife Afroz Begum, and their sons Shahdat Sobhan, Safayat Sobhan, Sufian Sobhan, and Sufwan Sobhan.

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NIKO GAS DEAL Hasina, Khaleda, 10 others sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday sued former prime ministers Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina along with 10 others for inflicting an enormous loss to the state through awarding gas deals to Canadian gas exploration company Niko by abusing their power.

In two separate cases - one filed against Sheikh Hasina and six others, and the other against Khaleda Zia and four others -- complainants alleged that primary investigations found involvement of the accused in illegally awarding

contracts to Niko for exploring and developing three gas fields in the country.

ACC Deputy Director Sabir Hasan, in the case filed against Sheikh Hasina and her co-accused with Tejgaon police station, said the deal with Niko caused a loss of over Tk 13,630 crore to the government exchequer.

In the case against Khaleda Zia and her co-accused filed with the same police station, ACC Assistant Director Mahbubul Alam said although Khaleda Zia was the custodian of the country's wealth

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Trade deficit shot up by 223pc in 3 months

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

whereas food grains import in the same period of this fiscal year has increased by 239.7 percent due to shortfall in domestic production and higher price in the international market.

Import of other food items also increased by 51.6 percent in the same period.

The import growth of food items in the first quarter has been mainly because of sharp increase in imports of milk and cream (55.6 percent), spices (50 percent), edible oil (105.9 percent) and all sorts of pulses (32.4 percent).

Export decreased by 5.5 percent in the same period because of steep decline in readymade garment (RMG) exports.

The BB report said the main reasons for declining RMG export are fewer orders received from buyers during the third quarter of the last fiscal year due to political instability, labour unrest in the RMG sector, and fewer orders received from European buyers because of an unusually warm winter.

However, the central bank is not much worried about the pressure on the balance of payment as the growth in workers' remittances is healthy and it hoped the export

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4 killed, dozen feared trapped inside Rangs

Rescue operation stopped for fear of further collapse

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The death toll in Saturday night's Rangs Bhaban cave-in on the city's Bijoy Sarani rose to four yesterday while the fire service stopped

rescue operation on safety grounds.

As of last night, at least a dozen people were feared trapped inside.

Fire Service and Civil Defence has so far rescued 12. Of them, one

died at the city's orthopaedic hospital yesterday and the rest were undergoing treatment at different hospitals.

Meanwhile, the government has

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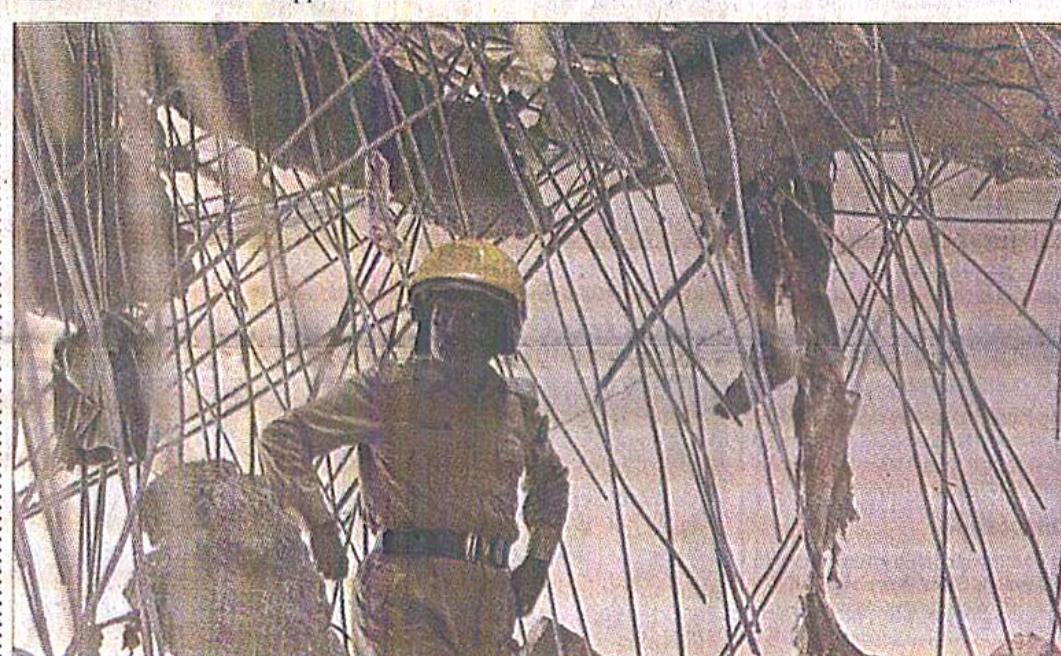


PHOTO: STAR

A fireman yesterday morning tries to figure out the best way to recover the mangled body of a demolition worker who died when several floors of the Rangs Bhaban caved in Saturday night.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

4 RU teachers
appeal against
verdict

300 teachers urge CA
for release of their
colleagues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The four convicted teachers of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday lodged an appeal with the District and Sessions Judge's Court challenging a lower court order that sentenced them to two years' rigorous imprisonment.

Judge AR Masud of the District and Sessions Judge's Court, Rajshahi admitted the criminal appeal petition and set December 27 for the hearing on the appeal. The judge also subpoenaed case documents from the lower court.

Advocate Golam Arif Tipu and Nurul Islam Sarker Aslam submitted the petition on behalf of the appellants who sought bail until

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Remains of war
hero Hamidur
due today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The remains of Birshreshtha Hamidur Rahman will finally reach his beloved homeland today, 36 years into his martyrdom during a battle with Pakistani occupation forces.

The remains will be brought from the Indian state of Tripura by road through Bibirbazar land port in Comilla at 3:00pm and will be received with a guard of honour.

Youngest among the seven Birshreshthas, the liberation war hero will be laid to rest tomorrow at Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at Mirpur in the capital with full state honour.

According to reports from India, the Tripura government yesterday formally handed over the remains

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SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

HC stays Hasina extortion case, court on JS premises

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed for three months the proceedings of the Tk 2.99 crore extortion case filed against former premier and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and two others.

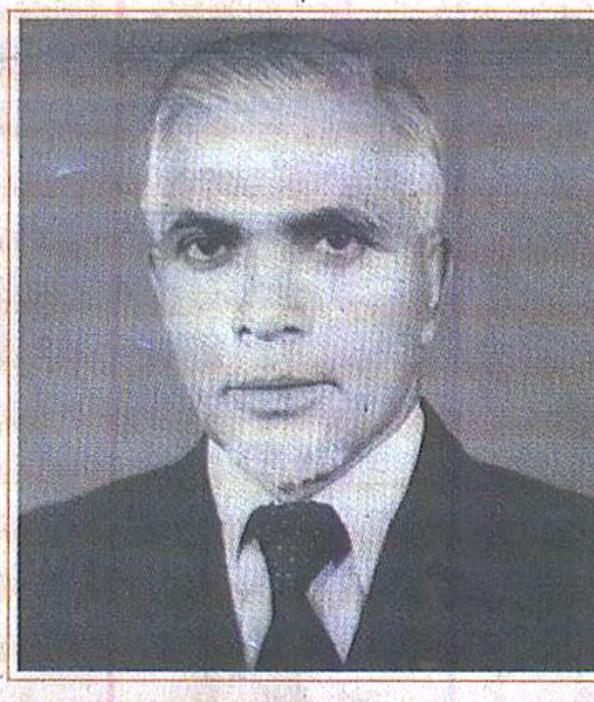
The HC also stayed for three months the operation of the November 26 gazette notification providing special arrangements for the trial of the case fixing the Sangsad Bhaban premises as the trial venue until a writ petition filed

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WE REMEMBER . . .

Our profound
admiration to
Late Mostafizur Rahman

The Founder Chairman of
Mostafa Group



on the occasion of the
2nd Death Anniversary

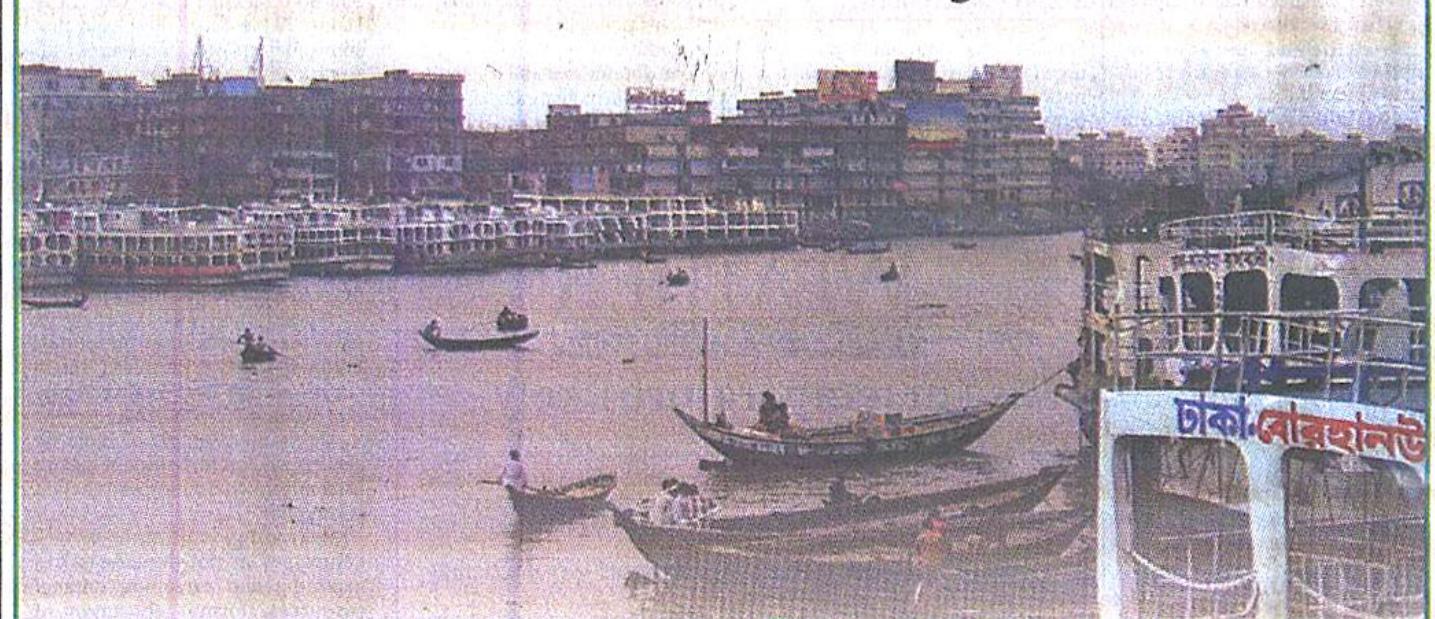
of our respected Chairman, today,
10 December 2007, we pray to Almighty Allah
for the salvation of his departed soul....



Family members of the Late Mostafizur Rahman, all employees and associates of Mostafa Group

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