



4 RU teachers freed from jail

Govt claims president pardoned them; academics unaware of their mercy petition

ANWAR ALI and ABU KALAM, Rajshahi

In the face of a rising public demand, the government finally freed the four convicted teachers of Rajshahi University from Rajshahi Central Jail yesterday afternoon.

The government claimed that the release came following a petition of mercy to the president from the convicted teachers. But the freed teachers rejected the government claim, saying they had not petitioned the president for mercy.

Moloy Kumar Bhoumik of the management department, and Dulal Chandra Biswas, Sayed Selim Reza Newton and Abdullah Al Mamun of the mass communications department came out of the jail around 3.45pm.

Maj. Hafizur Rahman Mollah, deputy inspector general (DIG) of prisons in Rajshahi division, told The Daily Star that the teachers were released following a clemency for them from the president.

"We (the jail authorities) received the president's faxed



FROM LEFT... Rajshahi University teachers Moloy Kumar Bhoumik, Dulal Chandra Biswas, Selim Reza Newton and Abdullah Al Mamun walk out of prison as they were released from Rajshahi Central Jail yesterday.

order through the home ministry at 3.08pm and the teachers were released at 3.40pm after necessary confirmation and formalities."

"Powered by Article no 49 of the Constitution of Bangladesh, the sentence of imprisonment and monetary fines of the four teachers were pardoned. If there is no other accusation against them, their immediate release is ordered," the DIG prisons quoted the presidential order as saying.

Last Tuesday a Rajshahi court sentenced the teachers to two years

rigorous imprisonment, and fined them Tk 1,000 each, in default of which each of them was to spend one more month of rigorous imprisonment, for violating the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) by bringing out a silent procession on the campus on August 21.

President's Secretary M Serajul Islam told journalists that President Iajuddin Ahmed at 12:35pm approved the clemency petitions filed by the wives of the teachers.

"The appeals of the RU teachers for pardon were forwarded to the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Mainul Hosein told reporters that following the arrests and sentencing of the four teachers, by law they may not keep their teaching jobs.

The president however might make a special exception allowing them to retain their posts, the law adviser added.

"Dignity and Justice for all of us."

Law Adviser Mainul Hosein, Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar

Many still don't have access to justice

Says chief adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhrudin Ahmed yesterday regretted that many economically and socially disadvantaged people still do not have access to justice to vindicate their rights, over three decades after the country's independence.

"They are often deprived of basic legal and other institutional services, which put them in a situation of vulnerability where their entitlement to fundamental rights, dignity and justice is compromised," he said.

The head of the caretaker government made the remarks while addressing a function in observance of the International Human Rights Day 2007 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital.

The Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs organised the function in collaboration with the United Nations. The theme of this year's Human Rights Day is

"Dignity and Justice for all of us."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

HIDING WEALTH

ACC sues Morshed Khan, family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed three cases against five people including former foreign minister M Morshed Khan and his family members for income beyond known sources and concealing wealth information.

ACC Assistant Director Talebor Rahman filed two cases—one against M Morshed Khan, his wife Nasrin Khan, and the other against Morshed Khan's son Foysal Morshed Khan and Foysal's wife Shyama Shezan Khan with Gulshan Police Station.

In the case against Morshed Khan, the complainant said the former foreign minister has concealed from the commission information about property worth Tk 91.34 lakh.

The first information report (FIR) mentions that the defendant has accumulated

property worth Tk 1.70 crore illegally.

His wife Nasrin Khan stands accused of aiding and abetting him in the illegal income.

In his declaration of assets, Morshed Khan showed his wealth to be worth Tk 2.34 crore.

In the case against Foysal Morshed Khan, the complainant said Foysal has kept back information about property worth Tk 6.40 crore.

According to the FIR, he has accumulated a Tk 7.10 crore wealth beyond his known sources of income.

Foysal's wife was accused in the case for aiding her husband in amassing illegal wealth, said police sources.

In another case filed with Gulshan Police Station, ACC Assistant Director Sheikh Faiyaz Alam accused businessman Girdhari Lal Modi of holding back information about property worth Tk 75.61 lakh.

Niko case might be brought under EPR

ACC mulls quizzing Hasina, Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) might question detained former premiers Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia in cases filed against them for 'illegal' deals with Canadian gas company Niko.

It is also likely to bring the cases under the emergency power rules.

ACC Director General (Admin) Col Hanif Iqbal yesterday said the question of quizzing comes when an investigation calls for a clear view of the allegation brought against an accused. The same is applicable here meaning the two [Hasina and Khaleda] might be quizzed if necessary.

He was speaking at a routine press briefing at the ACC headquarters.

Replies to a query, he said the commission will bring the cases under the emergency rules only if doing so is essential from a legal point of view.

About allegations of pressure in filing the cases, Hanif said, "The

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Govt to procure 43,000 tonnes of rice locally

UNB, Dhaka

The Advisory Committee on Public Purchase yesterday approved a proposal for procuring 43,000 tonnes of non-Basmati rice from the local suppliers.

According to the proposal placed by the food ministry, the local traders will supply the rice at the rates between Tk 25.49 and Tk 27.65 per kg. The total price of 43,000 tonnes of rice will be Tk 115.52 crore.

A meeting of the committee gave the nod to the purchase proposal.

Food ministry officials said the purchase is part of the government efforts to build up a good stock of rice to tackle any situation.

Earlier, the food adviser had said the government is trying to procure food grains from different sources to meet the demands in the days ahead.

As part of the move, the food

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Remains of Birshreshtha Hamidur brought home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The remains of Birshreshtha Hamidur Rahman were brought home yesterday, 36 years after he embraced martyrdom in a battle with Pakistani occupation forces.

Thousands of school students and villagers stood in line on both sides of the 15-kilometre road stretching from Bibir Bazar check post to Comilla town as the remains of the war hero were brought from Tripura, India. They showered Hamidur with flowers.

The coffin draped in national flag was brought through the check-post at about 2:50pm.

Hamidur was killed while fighting with Pakistani army on October 28, 1971. His fellow freedom fighters buried him at

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



Remains of Birshreshtha Hamidur Rahman being brought to Bangladesh at Bibir Bazar in Comilla from the Indian state of Tripura yesterday.

৬৯ তম শাখার যাত্রা শুরু
১১ই ডিসেম্বর ২০০৭ থেকে

বাণিজ্য বসতি...

ফটোক্রান্তি শীর্খি
এক মাসে, কলেজ রোড, ফটোক্রান্তি, চট্টগ্রাম-এ আইএফআইসি ব্যাংক-এর নতুন পথচালা।

SUNDARBANS AFTER SIDR Foresters' trick to finish it off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government ban on cutting trees in the Sidr-ravaged Sundarbans has apparently saved the forest as section of forest officials were ready to sell the damaged trees for their own benefit, witnesses said.

The forest officials had already

to chop off and sell those before the ban was imposed last week, the witnesses added.

Experts said the affected mangrove forest of the Sundarbans will naturally regenerate itself if it is left untouched.

Yet, the guardians of the World Heritage Site -- the forest department -- wasted no time in deploying

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PROFOUND GRATITUDE

Continental Insurance Limited announces with great pleasure that we have received share subscriptions to the tune of Tk. 111.37 Crores (Taka One Hundred Eleven Crores Thirty Seven Lacs) only as against public offer of Tk. 9.00 Crores (Taka Nine Crores) till closing date on 22.11.2007 which is 12.37 times of the required subscriptions. This is an exuberant reflection of confidence of our valued subscribers in our Company for which we express our sincere thanks and profound gratitude to all subscribers, patrons, well-wishers and concerned organizations for their overwhelming support in this regard.

কন্টিনেন্টাল ইন্সুরেন্স লিমিটেড
CONTINENTAL INSURANCE LIMITED

Head Office : Ideal Trade Centre (7th Floor), 102, Shahid Tajuddin Ahmed Sarani Tejgaon, Dhaka-1208; PHONE: 9139063, 8115679, 8124062, 8115811 Fax: 880-2-9146187
E-mail: cilh1@aitlbd.net, Website: www.cilbd.com

তাল, সুপারি ও নারকেল বাগানে ঘেরা লক্ষ্মীপুরের রামগঞ্জে আধুনিক সব ব্যাংকিং সুবিধা নিয়ে

পুরালী মানুষ লিমিটেড -এর

৩৫৮ তম শাখা

শুভ
পুরালী
মানুষ

আজ ১১ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৭

রামগঞ্জ শাখা

নূমগঞ্জ (২য় তলা)

রামগঞ্জ, লক্ষ্মীপুর।

শীঘ্ৰ আরও গুৰি নতুন শাখা খোলা হচ্ছে

১. রাউজান, চট্টগ্রাম ২. উত্তরা মালে টাউন, ঢাকা

৩. একচুনা বাজার, মোগোবাজার



পুরালী মানুষ লিমিটেড

প্রতিজ্ঞার পথ বেঁচে অধিবেক্ষক অঞ্চল

ওয়েবসাইট : www.pubalibangla.com