



# The Daily Star

Plus Star Lifestyle



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVII No. 323

DHAKA TUESDAY DECEMBER 11, 2007

People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

AGRAHAYAN 27, 1414 BS

ZILQAD 29, 1428 HIJRI

24 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00

## 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 Bhomik 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 from the president.

"We [the jail authorities] received the president's faxed



FROM LEFT... Rajshahi University teachers Moloy Kumar Bhomik, 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.

In an instant reaction to the presidential mercy, Law Adviser

Mainul Hossain 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.

Asked whether the freed teachers were innocent all along, Mainul said, "The court will decide that, not the president."

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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

### Many still don't have access to justice

Says chief adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin 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".

Law Adviser Mainul Hossain, Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar

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 Foyzal Morshed Khan and Foyzal'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 Foyzal Morshed Khan, the complainant said Foyzal has kept back information about property worth Tk 6.94 crore.

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

Foyzal'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 Giridhari Lal Modi of holding back information about property worth Tk 75.6 lakh.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

### Niko case might be brought under EPR

ACC mulls quizzing Hasina, Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) might question detained former premier 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.

Replying 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 Bibi Bazar check post to Comilla town as the remains of the war hero were brought from Tripura, India. They showered Hamidur's coffin 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



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

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

### 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 a section of forest officials were ready to sell the damaged trees for their own benefit, witnesses and experts said.

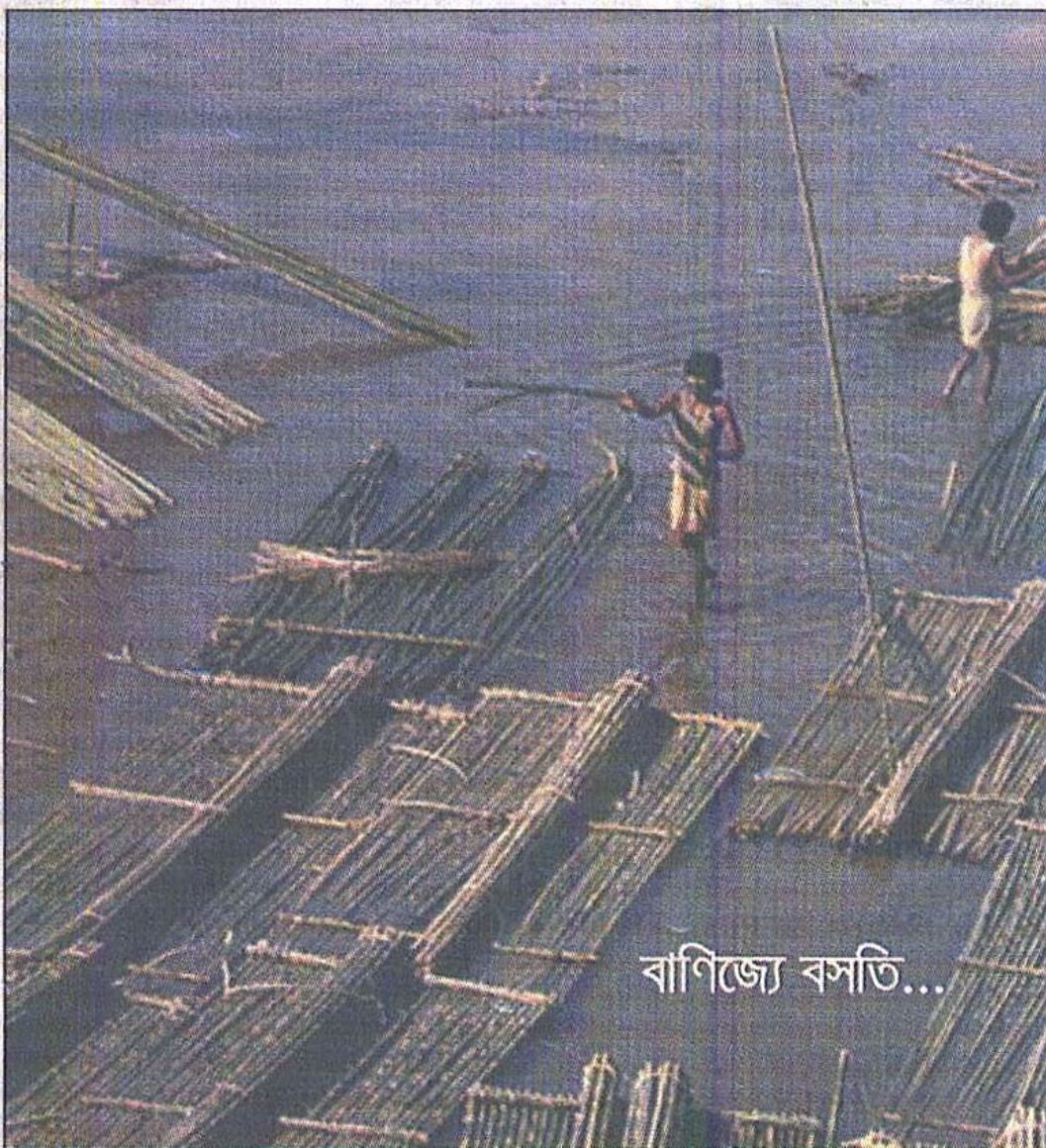
The forest officials had already started marking the damaged trees

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



বাণিজ্য বসতি...

৬৯ তম শাখার যাত্রা শুরু  
১১ই ডিসেম্বর ২০০৭ থেকে

ফটিকছড়ি শাখা  
হক মার্কেট, কলেজ রোড, ফটিকছড়ি, চট্টগ্রাম-এ আইএফআইসি ব্যাংক-এর নতুন পথচলা।

IFIC BANK LIMITED  
ইউরোপিয়ান, কনসাল্ট্যান্ট ইন্টারন্যাশনাল গ্রুপ অফ ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

www.ificbankbd.com



তাল, সুপারি ও নারকেল বাগানে ঘেরা লক্ষীপুরের রামগঞ্জ আধুনিক সব ব্যাকিং সুবিধা নিয়ে

পুরালী টাংক লিমিটেড -এর

৩৫৮ তম শাখার

শুধু  
ইন্ডোরিন

আজ ১১ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৭

রামগঞ্জ শাখা  
নূর প্লাজা (২য় তলা)  
রামগঞ্জ, লক্ষীপুর।

সীমাই আরও ৩টি নতুন শাখা খোলা হচ্ছে  
• রাউজান, চট্টগ্রাম • উত্তরা মডেল টাউন, ঢাকা  
• একটুনা বাজার, মৌলভীবাজার

- ✓ ১৯৫৯ সালে বাঙালী উদ্যোগে প্রতিষ্ঠিত এদেশের প্রথম ব্যাংক
- ✓ বাংলার প্রতিবেশে ব্যাপিত ব্যক্তিগত সর্বাধিক সম্প্রসারিত ব্যাংক
- ✓ সকল শাখাই কম্পিউটারাইজড



পুরালী টাংক লিমিটেড  
এতিহাসের পথ বেয়ে অবশেষে অগ্রগতি  
ওয়েব সাইট : www.puralibangla.com