

DHAKA-KOLKATA TRAIN Council okays construction of fencing boxes near zero line

UNB, Dhaka

The advisory council approved a proposal for constructing fencing boxes inside Bangladesh and India 150 yards from the zero point for operating passenger-train services between the two countries.

A weekly meeting of the council of advisers, chaired by Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, approved the proposal, incorporating the new provision in the draft agreement on cross-border passenger train movement.

The new provision says, "Considering the security of passengers and trains, the government of India and the government of Bangladesh

Criminal courts start in CHT in 10 days

Move to make justice easier for hill people

SHAMIM ASHRAF

In efforts to ensure access to justice for the hills people, sessions courts will start functioning in the three districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) within next 10 days.

To be set up as a stopgap measure, they will only deal with criminal charges while the divisional commissioner and deputy commissioners (DCs) will continue taking care of civil matters until the government introduces civil courts after amendments to the existing laws.

As part of the provisional arrangements, Chittagong district

judge, metropolitan sessions judge and special division anti-corruption judge might be assigned to run sessions court in Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari at least once a week. It will be in addition to their regular duties.

After meeting Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff and Supreme Court (SC) Registrar Ikhtedar Ahmed Wednesday, a delegation of CHT bar said the government had assured them of bringing about the necessary amendments in two months.

People in the hill tracts have little access to justice with no dis-

trict or sessions judge's court instituted even after 36 years of independence.

Though judicial power of the administrative officials ended with separation of the judiciary from the executive on November 1 last year, the DCs there still retain the civil judges' posts while the divisional commissioner acts as district and sessions judge as per the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation, 1900.

An amendment to the regulation in 2003 made it mandatory for the government to establish

LATE NIGHT DESPATCH HC decides not to extend detentions of SQ Chy, Salman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is becoming exceedingly difficult for the government to keep high profile corruption suspects in detentions as the High Court has decided not to extend the duration of a number of such detentions under Special Powers Act.

Prison authorities last night received letters from the home ministry which said two high profile corruption suspects' detentions had not been extended.

The two high profile corruption suspects however are to remain in jail since they are also under arrest in connection with several other cases against them.

Deputy Inspector General

TALKS WITH PARTIES BEGIN EC to ask govt to try war criminals

Specific poll date in a few more days, CEC assures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Responding favourably to a tidal rise of the demand for trial of war criminals, the Election Commission (EC) yesterday announced that it will make a recommendation to the caretaker government to initiate steps for the trials.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda disclosed the plan on the first day of the second round of electoral reform talks with parliamentary political parties yesterday.

The talks resumed without BNP

being on the list of invitees due to its unresolved factional feud, making its representation a matter of dispute between two rival factions, a settlement of which is currently pending in the High Court sans an amicable resolution.

In a bid to dispel the growing uncertainty in the public mind over holding of the stalled ninth parliamentary election according to the electoral roadmap, the EC sought the parties' suggestions on a tentative timeframe for the poll after having the voter list ready by the end of October this year.

Responding to the parties'

demand for a specific date for the stalled parliamentary election, the CEC said the commission will be able to announce a date after a few more days.

The EC already incorporated a provision disqualifying the war criminals from contesting in any election in its draft electoral reform proposal, but if they are not tried and convicted, the provision will lose its teeth even if the proposal is made into a law.

"We don't have the jurisdiction to try the war criminals. We will however make a recommendation

ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH Sheikh Helal jailed again for 13 years

Wife sentenced to three years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court dealing with corruption cases yesterday sentenced former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Sheikh Helaluddin to 13 years' imprisonment for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information about wealth from the ACC.

The court also sentenced his wife Rupa Chowdhury to three years' jail and fined her Tk 50,000, as she was found guilty of abetting her husband in accumulating the wealth. She would have to serve an additional month in jail if she failed to pay the fine.

Sheikh Helal, also a cousin of AL chief Sheikh Hasina, and his wife remain on the run and were tried in absentia.

The sentence will be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender, the court said.

Set up in the MP hostel of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban Complex, special court-6 of Tanzeena Ismail also directed the government to confiscate their wealth worth over Tk 7.60 crore, which is inconsistent with Helal's known sources of income.

Out of the 13-year imprisonment, the court handed down Helal 10 years' jail for amassing



BIRD FLU Over 58,000 fowls culled in 8 districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Authorities concerned culled 58,032 domestic fowls and destroyed 53,434 eggs in eight districts yesterday following detection of avian influenza.

With this 9,68,731 chickens have so far been culled and 11,71,636 eggs destroyed.

Sources at the bird flu control room said chickens were culled at Shila Poultry, where bird flu was detected, and 13 other poultry farms within its one-kilometre radius in Savar.

Chickens were also culled at farms in Jamalpur, Rajshahi, Thakurgaon, Feni, Gazipur, Bogra and Chandpur.

A correspondent from Thakurgaon reports: At least 9,585 domestic fowls—9,553 chickens, 29 ducks and three pigeons—were culled and 30,091 eggs were destroyed in Jakkha village of Pirganj upazila early yesterday.

District livestock officer Bimal

Chandra said they collected samples of some dead chickens from a poultry farm in the village on February 19 and detected infection of avian influenza.

Following the detection, six teams from the District Livestock Office conducted the culling drive in Jakkha village and the 1-square-kilometre adjoining area with the help of law enforcers and upazila administration.

A correspondent from Chandpur reports: Six thousand fowls were culled and huge number of eggs were destroyed at Shakharipara, Farajikandi and Tafadpara under Farajikandi union in Matlab.

Officials from the District Livestock Office conducted the drive in presence of the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) and police after a letter from the central disease investigation laboratory in Dhaka confirmed detection of bird flu in the regions.



A Dhaka City Corporation notice saying cooked chicken and boiled eggs are safe to eat is hung at a butcher's on Kazi Alauddin Road in Old Dhaka yesterday. However, the butcher is seen not wearing any protective gear.

Gen Moeen starts visit to India

UNB, New Delhi

Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed arrived in New Delhi yesterday on a weeklong visit to India at the invitation of Indian Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor.

Bangladesh high commissioner to India and representatives of Indian Armed Forces, among others, received Gen Moeen at the airport.

During his stay in the Indian capital, the army chief will call on India's External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and Defence Minister AK Antony. Besides, he will meet chiefs of the three services of India.

Gen Kapoor will host a dinner on Sunday evening in honour of Gen Moeen. He will be given six horses as a goodwill gesture.

The army chief will lay wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti this morning. He will also visit the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun, Ajmer Sharif and Goa.

On his way back, Gen Moeen



South Africa captain Graeme Smith (C) sweeps up as Bangladesh wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim and first slip Zunaed Siddiqui watch the ball during the third day of the first Test at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Kallis dashes hosts' hopes

SPORTS REPORTER

Jacques Kallis' five-for in the morning session all but shattered Bangladesh's dreams of setting a challenging target as South Africa finished the third day of the first Test on the verge of a win at the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium yesterday.

The sturdy right-arm paceman put an end to the two overnight batsmen's nearly hour-long resistance of Zunaed Siddiqui (74) to record-breaking wicketkeeper Mark Boucher.

It started a predictable collapse that saw the home team lose their last six wickets for just 34 runs.

Bangladesh's stumble in one session was nothing out of the ordinary but the credit should also go to Kallis who used the old ball brilliantly generating good reverse swing to dash the home side's hopes of batting at least two sessions.

Resuming the day on 125 for four, Bangladesh were bundled out for 182 on the stroke of lunch to set a 205-run winning target for the Proteas who survived from a mini collapse to finish the day on 178 for

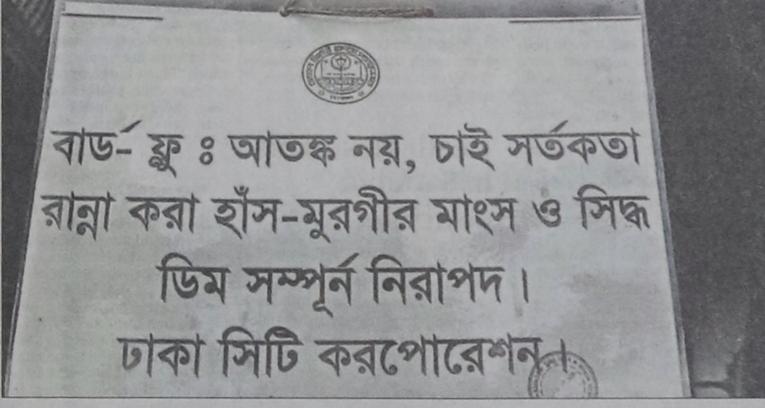
AUG 21 ATTACK 2 Huji men remanded

STAR REPORT

Two detained Harkatul Jihad Al Islami (Huji) militants who were involved in the August 21, 2004 grenade attacks were placed on three days' remand yesterday.

During the remand, the two detained Huji militants—Moulana Abul Kalam Azad alias Bulbul and Hossain Ahmed alias Tamim—will be quizzed in front of another detained Huji leader Mufi Moinuddin alias Abu Zandal for cross-checking the information earlier gleaned from Zandal, said investigators.

On February 21, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) filed petitions before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM)



A Dhaka City Corporation notice saying cooked chicken and boiled eggs are safe to eat is hung at a butcher's on Kazi Alauddin Road in Old Dhaka yesterday. However, the butcher is seen not wearing any protective gear.

The Daily Star means business!

Today we are launching a new Star Business, a four-page six-day a week supplement that will set new standards for business journalism in Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh economy has been growing strongly for the past decade, with the country's private sector leading the way. From garments to construction, agriculture to pharmaceuticals, Bangladeshi businesses are playing a vital part in the development of the country.

Star Business will cover not only the large companies, but reach down to the tens of thousands of individuals and firms whose endeavours are shaping the economic landscape. It will be a forum for economic debate and a place where the real triumphs and problems of business are told. With colour, features and new voices, Star Business will be the indispensable meeting place for finance, business and policy makers.

Just as a free press is essential in forming a vibrant democracy; strong, independent business journalism has a key role in the development of a more prosperous Bangladesh, a country able to lift more millions out of poverty.

EDITOR

KEPZ STARTS IN MAY Koreans plan world's biggest shoe factory

SHARIEF KHAN

The Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) is expected to begin its journey in a few months by starting to set up its first industrial unit, claimed to be the world's largest shoe manufacturing factory.

Kihak Sung, chairman of Korean company Youngone Corporation that owns the KEPZ, in an interview said depending on the market situation his company will pump in \$70-100 million to set up the factory in phases from May.

The factory with 72 assembly lines will employ 15,000 people when completed. It will produce more than 100,000 pairs of shoes every day—30 million pairs a year—for exporting.

According to Sung, this will be the world's biggest shoe factory.

"This will be a test case for the KEPZ. We have to see the glitches and problems that any new investor might face. We will correct them accordingly before opening the KEPZ for others," Sung said at his

Dhaka residence late last week.

"Why begin with a shoe factory? Because it involves many people," he said, emphasising that the success of the KEPZ depends on cooperation of the government and the locals.

Given licence to operate in May last year after an unusual delay of seven years, the KEPZ stands out from all other EPZs in the country. It plans to install 500 industrial units with an investment of \$1 billion. It would directly employ about 100,000 people.

Sung said a lot of infrastructure work needs to be done to launch the exclusive zone completely. Immediately, it needs a workable bridge connection and smooth supply of electricity and gas, he added.

The Chittagong region has been experiencing acute power and gas shortage for the last few years.

"This is another reason for picking up a shoe factory which does not demand huge electricity. I need 10 megawatts of good quality

25th February

Founders
Late Hamidur Rahaman Sinha
Late Noorjahan Sinha

The ACME Laboratories Ltd.

Today marks the 14th death anniversary of our founder, late Hamidur Rahman Sinha. On this day, we also remember late Noorjahan Sinha, his beloved wife, whose support and inspiration to her husband made foundation of The ACME Laboratories Ltd. possible in the year 1954. We invoke the blessings of almighty Allah for the salvation of the departed souls of both of them. "May Allah bless them with eternal peace along with those who have departed from this world."

Doa Mahfil has been arranged today Monday after Johr Prayer at his village home Dohuri, Kalma Union, P.S. Louhajong, Dist.: Munshiganj, Corporate Office: Court de la ACME, 1/4, Kallyanpur, Mirpur Road, Dhaka, Dhamrai factory and in all Sales centers through out the country. All relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the Doa Mahfil.

Members of The ACME Family