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HC bench of justice Nayeem, Shahidul stripped of writ powers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The writ powers of the High Court division bench of Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Shahidul Islam that recently handed down verdicts in a series of high-profile cases were taken away yesterday.

The division bench has been

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WB to help build railway bridge beside Jamuna Bridge

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank (WB) has assured the government of providing financial support for building a separate railway bridge beside the Jamuna Bridge.

The assurance came at a

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STOLEN ASSETS

WB for using recovered money for pro-poor programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting World Bank (WB) Managing Director Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala yesterday urged the government to form a team to recover stolen assets for using those to fund programmes for the poor.

Bangladesh should use the recovered assets for funding programmes for the poor, said Ngozi after a meeting with Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam.

She also cited the example of recovering stolen assets worth \$1.2 billion, which was used later for programmes for the poor, during her tenure as a minister in Nigeria.

The finance adviser said the recovered wealth would be incorporated into the national budget. But any specific sector for this is yet

PRE-BUDGET CONSULTATION

Food price hike major challenge, say economists

Finance adviser sees brighter picture of economy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam at a pre-budget consultation with leading economists yesterday said he is satisfied with the country's economic performance and there is no reason for alarm.

The economists attending the consultation, however, identified continuous price increase of food items as the major challenge of the moment saying, "... economic indicators will not feed the people."

Former finance ministers, advisers, finance secretaries, economists and academics were present at the meeting.

Government will have to take effective measures including safety net programmes to mitigate hardship of the mass, caused by the soaring prices of food items, said meeting sources quoting the econ-

omists. Economists also suggested that the government should bring more people under its VGF (vulnerable group feeding) programme with increased rice allocation for each VGF cardholder.

Adviser Aziz following the meeting told reporters, "The country's economic performance has not been discouraging so far, even though almost all other countries have revised down their growth forecasts by 0.5 percent to 1.0 percent."

The finance adviser blamed the media for not highlighting the positive indicators of the economy. "Political governments use their own channels to publicise these positive sides of the economy, but we don't have those means," he added.

Illustrating a bright picture of recent economic recovery, Aziz

said export growth reached around 10 percent during the July-January period of the current fiscal year, recovering from the negative growth until September 2007. Remittance also grew by 26 percent in July-February period, he added.

The adviser said private sector credit grew by 12.4 percent during the July-January period of FY08, compared to the same period of the previous year.

Aziz went on saying that net agricultural credit during July-February period of FY 08 increased to Tk 1,458 crore, compared to Tk 240 crore during the same period of the previous fiscal.

The net industrial term loan increased to Tk 3,727 crore in July-December 2007 period from Tk 1,730 crore during the same period of the previous fiscal year, he said.

The adviser, however, said

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HASINA'S RELEASE

Top AL leaders slated for not taking steps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local Awami League (AL) leaders yesterday criticised top party leaders for not taking necessary steps for getting AL President Sheikh Hasina released.

AL leaders of Tungipara and Gopalganj units launched the criticism at an informal meeting with key party leaders at Bangabandhu Bhaban in Tungipara of Gopalganj.

Top AL leaders including AL presidium members Amir Hossain Amu, Abdul Razzak, Tofail Ahmed and Kazi Zafarullah and acting general secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam visited Tungipara yesterday to place wreaths at the mazar of the father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of his 88th birth anniversary.

They were accompanied by AL leaders Mukul Bose, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan, Akhtaruzzaman, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed,

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Emon killed smuggler at Babar's 'directive'

The dreaded criminal tells CID

SHARIFUL ISLAM and KAILASH SARKAR

Dreaded criminal Sanjivul Islam Emon killed the member of a smuggling ring in 2000 'at the directive' of former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar for pocketing a consignment of the minister's smuggled goods.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) officials told The Daily Star yesterday Emon during his eight-day remand admitted that he had led a gang to Nikunja on a microbus and gunned down Abdul Rahim.

He told the CID interrogators Babar asked him to "shoot Rahim down" as he had misappropriated a consignment of cellphone sets, and wristwatches the minister "smuggled" into the country through Zia International Airport (ZIA).

Rahim was charged with bringing a consignment of smuggled items to a selected place in the capital from ZIA. But he pocketed

those, infuriating Babar," a CID official told The Daily Star quoting Emon.

The top criminal who has recently been deported by India told the CID interrogators Babar gave him the responsibility to carry the smuggled items to the destination safely from ZIA.

He told the interrogators though Rahim was a member of another ZIA-based smuggling ring he had a close link and good understanding with the smuggling racket led by Babar.

Rahim hailed from Noakhali and was a resident of Nikunja. Emon detailed the murder saying, "I along with five associates stopped in front of a fast food shop on Road 11 on a microbus and shot him dead on the spot."

CID sources said the then investigators submitted the charge sheet in the case against some other accused, allowing the real killers to stay off the scene.

Emon revealed various other

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Falu sued for swindling lender of Tk 70 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A case was filed yesterday with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka against detained former lawmaker also BNP leader Mosaddak Ali Falu, in connection with swindling a lending company of Tk 70 lakh.

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Import duty of some essentials might go

STAR REPORT

The government is mulling withdrawal of import duty on rice and other essential commodities, said Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman yesterday.

The government has been trying to take such measures to have a positive impact on the prices of essentials in local

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Election offices asked to publish draft voter rolls of 93 upazilas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has directed the field-level election offices to begin publishing the draft voter lists for the areas where voter registration is completed.

It has also instructed the officials concerned not to worry much about minor mistakes, and instead concentrate on deleting fake or duplicate names from the draft while including those who had missed to be on the list, said sources at the commission.

On completion of enumeration in 93 upazilas, the army personnel have already started handing over prints of draft voter rolls to the district election officers.

If everything goes according to the EC's plan, final voter lists for those upazilas would be ready by May, EC Secretariat officials said

adding that by this time voter registration would be over in a few more upazilas.

The district election officers will scrutinise and publish draft voter lists gradually in city corporations, municipalities, upazilas, thanas and union parishads within 4/5 days on receipt of the printed copies, says a circular issued by the EC Secretariat Sunday.

Dispatched to all officials concerned, the circular gives a schedule to follow in the process till publication of the final roll in accordance with the electoral rolls rules.

Once the draft list is unveiled, it will be on public display for 15 days at the offices of district and upazila election officers or assistant registration officers, union parishad, municipality, ward, and

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PHOTO: STAR

Leaders of Awami League place wreaths at the grave of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara on his 88th birth anniversary yesterday.

Correction

The Daily Star regrets the fact that the news report headlined 'Future nation-builders honoured: The Daily Star awards 911 O and A level students for outstanding performances', which was published on March 16, inadvertently failed to mention that Brac Bank and Grameen Phone were also the sponsors of the event, although it mentioned, 'Kaiser Tanvir Amin, acting managing director and CEO of Brac Bank, and Rubaba Dowla, director of Grameen Phone's

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Tigers' chance to bounce back

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh cricket team will look to salvage some pride against Ireland in the first one-day international at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur today.

The three-match series could be the perfect boost for the Tigers after their dismal showing against South Africa in both the Test and one-day

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রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ

ডিটেইল্ড এরিয়া প্ল্যান প্রকল্প অফিস, এ্যান্ড্রেন্স ভবন (৬ষ্ঠ তলা), দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০

ফোনঃ ৯১৬০৯৪ ফ্যাক্সঃ ৮৮০-২-৯৫৬৩৫৯১ ই-মেইলঃ tapanait@yahoo.com

www.rajukhaka.org

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্ব সাধারণকে অবহিত করার জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, রাজধানী উন্নয়ন কর্তৃপক্ষ (রাজউক) কর্তৃক ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটান ডেভেলপমেন্ট প্ল্যান এর আওতায় ঢাকা স্ট্রাকচার প্ল্যান (১৯৯৫-২০১৫) এবং আরবান এরিয়া প্ল্যান (১৯৯৫-২০০৭) প্রণয়নের কাজ ১৯৯২-১৯৯৫ সালে সম্পন্ন করা হয়। উক্ত মহাপরিকল্পনার আওতায় তৃতীয় ধাপ হিসেবে ঢাকা মহানগরীর ১৫২৮ বর্গ কিলোমিটার এলাকাব্যাপী ডিটেইল্ড এরিয়া প্ল্যান প্রণয়নের কাজ টেট্রাপের (ফপ-এ, ফপ-বি, ফপ-সি, ফপ-ডি এবং ফপ-ই) অধীনে সম্পন্ন করা হচ্ছে। এতে ঢাকা শহরের কেন্দ্রীয় এলাকা (ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশন এরিয়া), টংগী, গাজীপুর, কালীগঞ্জ, নারায়ণগঞ্জ, কদম রসুল পৌরসভা, ডিএনডি বাঁধের ভেতরের এলাকা, কেরানীগঞ্জ, সাভার, সাভার ইপিজেড এলাকা এবং তুরাগ নদীর অববাহিকা অন্তর্ভুক্ত রয়েছে। ডিটেইল্ড এরিয়া প্ল্যান এর কাজ ২০০৮ সালের আগস্ট মাস থেকে শুরু হয়েছে এবং তা জুন/২০০৮ নাগাদ সম্পন্ন হবে। ডিটেইল্ড এরিয়া প্ল্যান প্রকল্পের উদ্দেশ্যসমূহঃ

- ১) স্ট্রাকচার প্ল্যান (১৯৯৫-২০১৫) এবং আরবান এরিয়া প্ল্যান (১৯৯৫-২০০৭) এর দিক নির্দেশনা মোতাবেক ঢাকা মহানগরীর পরিকল্পিত উন্নয়ন নিশ্চিতকরণ;
- ২) মৌজা (সি এস ও আর এস) দাপে/প্লটে ভূমি ব্যবহার অর্থাৎ আবাসিক এলাকা, শিল্প এলাকা, বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, রাস্তাঘাট, শপিং ব্লক, কৃষি এলাকা, বন্যা প্রবাহ এলাকা, উন্মুক্ত স্থান, খেলার মাঠ, পার্ক, সংরক্ষিত জলাধার, ঐতিহাসিক স্থানসমূহ, ইত্যাদি সুনির্দিষ্টভাবে চিহ্নিত করা;
- ৩) প্রত্যাশিত এবং উপযুক্ত পরিবেশ বজায় রাখার জন্য জলাশয়, পার্ক ও উন্মুক্ত স্থানসমূহ সংরক্ষণের ব্যবস্থা করা;
- ৪) বিনিয়োগ পরিকল্পনায় সুনির্দিষ্ট দিক নির্দেশনা প্রদান;
- ৫) প্রণীত ডিটেইল্ড এরিয়া প্ল্যান বাস্তবায়নে আইন, বিধি ও প্রাতিষ্ঠানিক ব্যবস্থা নির্ধারণে সঠিক দিক নির্দেশনা প্রদান করা;

এই প্রকল্প প্রণয়ন ও বাস্তবায়নে জনগণের অংশগ্রহণ নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্যে এ পর্যায়ে গণশুনানীর (Public Hearing) সুযোগ রয়েছে। গণশুনানীর তারিখ ও স্থান পরবর্তীতে যথারীতি বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের মাধ্যমে জানানো হবে।

তপন কুমার নাথ

পরিচালক (পরিকল্পনা প্রণয়ন)

এবং

প্রকল্প পরিচালক (ডিটেইল্ড এরিয়া প্ল্যান)

ফোনঃ ৯১৬০৯৪

মোবাইলঃ ০১৭১৫৪৫৮৪৭৯,

০১৭৩০০১৩৯৬

জিডি-১২৯৪

College teacher killed in bomb attack in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A college teacher has been killed and another injured in a bomb attack near Kumraghata Bazar in Jessore.

The dead was identified as Sanjoy Kumar Halder, 45, son of Sunil Halder of Rozipur village and a teacher of Moshihati Degree College in Monirampur Upazila of Jessore. He was also an activist of Awami League.

Police said Sanjoy along with vegetable trader Mozam Biswas was returning home from Kumraghata bazar at about 11:00pm on Sunday.

When they reached a place about 50 yards off the bazar, unidentified criminals hurled two bombs at them leaving the two injured.

Sanjoy was rushed to Monirampur Health Complex. Later, he was shifted to Jessore

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Prayer Timing

March 18

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-18
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation



PAKISTAN PARLIAMENT MEETS Musharraf opponents vow to end his dictatorship

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's new parliament met for the first time yesterday, with opponents of President Pervez Musharraf vowing to end his "dictatorship" after trouncing his allies in elections.

Slain opposition leader Benazir

Bhutto's party will head a hostile coalition government after winning the most seats in the February 18 vote, with the grouping of former premier Nawaz Sharif as its junior partner.

Nine years after he ousted Sharif in a military coup, Musharraf now

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Suicide attack kills 36 near Karbala shrine

AFP, Baghdad

A suicide attack near a Shia shrine killed at least 36 people yesterday in the central Iraqi city of Karbala, a health official told AFP.

The attack came as US Vice President Dick Cheney visited Baghdad on a surprise trip and met several US and Iraqi leaders to discuss the recent improvement in security across the country.

At least 50 people were wounded in the blast which occurred near the revered Imam

Hussein shrine, said Alaa Hamud Dadair, head of Karbala's health directorate.

Witnesses said the attacker was a female suicide bomber, Dadair said.

An AFP correspondent at the site said several ambulances and police vehicles were ferrying victims to hospital following the blast which occurred around 100 metres (yards) from the shrine, located in the centre of the city.

Soon after the attack Karbala

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Wishes Success To The Seminar On Public Private Partnership for Housing Development in Bangladesh

On Wednesday, March 19, 2008 | At 9:30 AM in Dhaka Westin, Dhaka

Chief Guest **Dr. A. B. Mirza Md. Azizul Islam**
Honorable Advisor of Finance & Planning
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Key Note Paper Presentation **Professor Anwar Hossain**
Pro-Vice Chancellor, American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB)

Moderator **Professor Ataur Rahman PhD.**
Department of Political Science, University of Dhaka

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