



Track your shipment any time from any where...

Simply log on to www.fedex.com/bd

Every Package Matters



Colour Television
DVD Player and
Mini Home Theatre System



Sadar Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206, Customer Care Center: 8855366-8, 01712-685463

B Chy says sorry for not bringing war criminals to book

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikolpadhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday sought apology for their failure to try the war criminals while he was part of the government.

"We apologise we could not hold the trial of the war criminals while in power," Prof Badruddoza said at a discussion meeting at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the city.

Bikolpadhara Bangladesh organised the programme to mark the 38th anniversary of the country's independence.

"Seeking apology is not the end," Badruddoza said, adding that his party strongly demands that the trial of war criminals be held.

"We could not bring the war criminals to book so far, but this government can take this initiative," the former president said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

3,000 Bangladeshis lead 'slave life' in Yemen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 3,000 Bangladeshis who were hired for jobs in Yemen are now working there in conditions close to indentured servitude.

This came to light after Immigration Department of Yemen arrested 15 Bangladeshis at the Yemeni city of Sana'a for not having proper permits, reported Yemen Times Wednesday.

However, the daily on Sunday received a letter titled "Bangladeshis nationals are suffering" that referred to the 15 arrested Bangladeshis and provided details on how Bangladeshis are cheated and left in bad conditions.

The letter said a number of Bangladeshis brokers with the support of Yemeni sponsors were bringing in job seekers from Bangladesh with tourist visas promising high salaries of up to \$500 per month.

"After bringing these potential workers to Yemen, brokers engage them in inferior jobs illegally, which don't match what they were

offered," the paper quoting the letter said.

"However, they mostly find themselves working as cleaners at restaurants and companies or construction workers," the letter said, adding, "Most of the time, they don't provide work at all."

The letter revealed the names of four major Bangladeshi brokers: Kabir Hussein, Anamul Hoque, Harunur Rashid and A Rahman.

According to a reliable Bangladesh source in Yemen, the brokers receive \$4,000 for each Bangladeshi worker.

The source requesting anonymity to Yemen Times said at present there are at least 3,000 illegal Bangladeshi workers in Yemen who ended up taking menial jobs because they have no other choice. They receive between \$100 and \$130 per month, approximately three dollars a day.

According to Yemeni labour laws, foreigners are not allowed to work in Yemen without proper labour permits issued by the Yemeni govern-

ment. In cases like these, foreigners are frequently arrested and deported.

"For this reason, so many poor Bangladeshis innocent people are suffering in Yemen," said the source. "Some of them are unemployed and some are working illegally on very low wages, which aren't sufficient for their livelihood."

The source added that a number of these Bangladeshis flee to neighbouring countries like Saudi Arabia through dangerous and often illegal ways, hiring smugglers to help them cross the Yemen-Saudi border.

"The immigration of Bangladesh workers started increasing from September 2007," said the source. "Every week, 20 to 30 Bangladeshi workers come into the country."

The Yemen Times contacted the department of immigration in Yemen but representatives from the department refused to comment on the issue.

Accused dies in police custody

Suicide alleged
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man accused of murder reportedly committed suicide by hanging himself from the toilet ceiling of Mirpur Police Station early yesterday.

He was identified as Manirul Islam alias Mashiur Rahman, 25, a resident of Bharatpur in Jessore's Manirampur upazila.

Family and police sources said he was accused in a case filed with Manirampur Police Station on charge of killing a man on March 11.

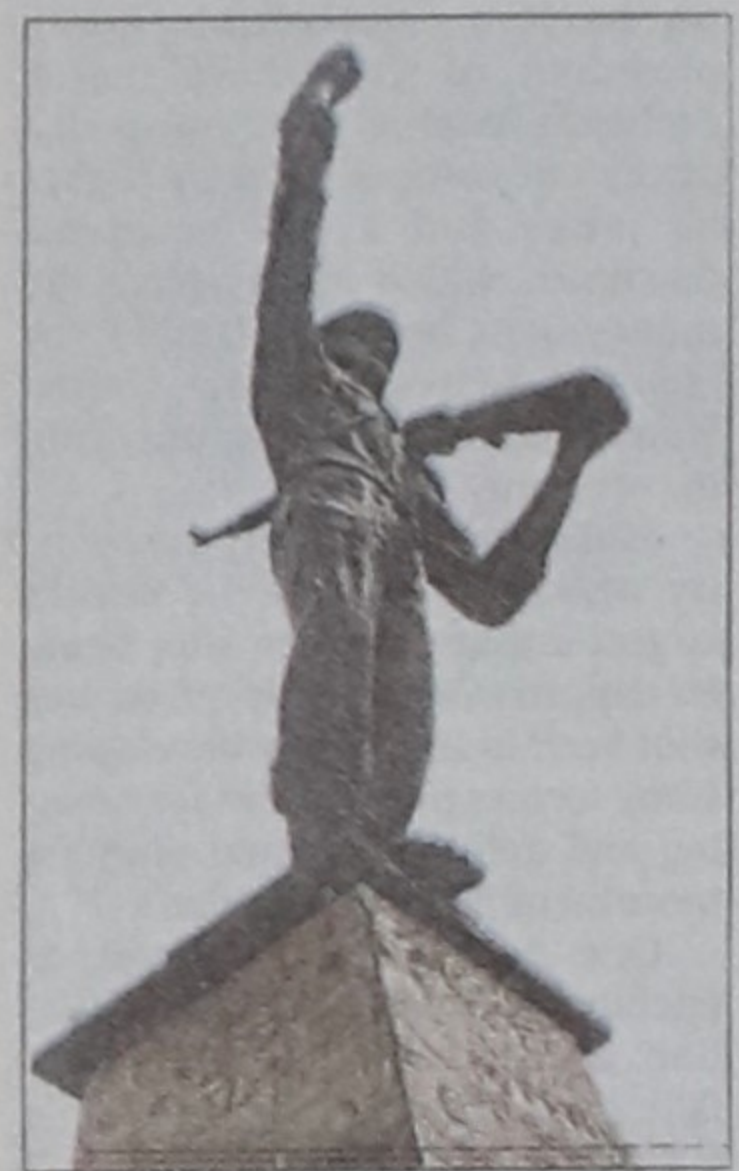
On Thursday morning, Manirul's brothers handed him over to Manirampur police at Gabtali in the city after luring him there.

Manirampur police kept him under the custody of Mirpur police. He was found hanging from the toilet ceiling at about 1:30am yesterday.

A three-member committee has been formed to investigate the death of Manirul. The committee will submit its reports in three days.



A farmer yesterday inspects damage to his crops caused by a Nor'wester on Thursday. The storm flattened Boro paddy over a vast area in Savar, awaiting harvest next month.



Birer Prottyabartan opens today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A monument, commemorating the 37th anniversary of independence of the country, will be inaugurated at Badda in the city today.

Named "Birer Prottyabartan" (Return of the Hero), the 61-feet high monument is adorned with terracotta images of history-making independence heroes dating from 1857 to 1971.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury will inaugurate it which also depicts the achievements and successes of independent Bangladesh.

The monument, located at Fazilartek Shaoratala under Bhatarata union, houses a library and a museum inside its altar, says a press release of the Birer Prottyabartan Construction Project.

On the occasion, a discussion

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Keramat Ali of Bagerhat wins Channel i Krishi Padak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The farmers have been playing a vital role in building the country's economy by providing food since independence, but the nation is yet to recognise their contributions, speakers at a ceremony yesterday said.

They were speaking at the 3rd Channel i Krishi Padak 2008 giving ceremony, organised on the fifth anniversary of "Hridoye Mati O

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Keramat Ali, centre, receives the Channel i Krishi Padak from Managing Director Faridur Reza Sagor, left, and Director News Shykh Siraj of the TV channel.

Angry N Korea tests short-range missiles

AP, Seoul

North Korea underscored its anger over South Korea's tough new stance toward the communist country with the test-firing of short-range missiles.

The launches Thursday night also came as the North issued a stern rebuke to Washington over an impasse at nuclear disarmament talks, warning the Americans' attitude could "seriously" affect the continuing disablement of Pyongyang's atomic facilities.

The missile tests were part of routine training, South Korean presidential spokesman Lee Dong-kwan said, declining to give further details on the type of rockets fired. He told reporters Seoul was

"closely monitoring the situation." "I believe North Korea would also not want a strain in inter-Korean relations," Lee said.

South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, a conservative who took office last month, has said he would take a harder policy line on the North a change from a decade of liberal Seoul governments who avoided confrontation to maintain a "sunshine policy" of engagement.

The South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the North's "short-range guided missile" firing was believed to be aimed at testing and improving the missile's performance. It did not give specifics, including exactly how many missiles were fired, saying such information

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Prayer Timing		
March 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Try war criminals without delay

Sector commanders tell reunion of FFs at Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Leaders of Sector Commanders Forum and local freedom fighters yesterday demanded that the government begin the trial of the war criminals as soon as possible.

They proposed arranging the trial with the help of the United Nations. They referred to countries like Kosovo, Cambodia and Germany that have carried out such trials with UN help.

They were speaking at a reunion of freedom fighters organised by the Patuakhali unit of Bangladesh Mukti Joddha Sangsad at the local Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

The leaders of Sector Commanders Forum said they are trying to create public opinion on the issue across the country and the demand for the war criminals' trial is now a demand of people

from all classes and strata of the society.

Sector Commanders Forum leaders AK Khandker, Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafiullah, Maj Gen (ret'd) CR Dutta, Lt Gen (ret'd) Md Harun Or Rashid and Maj Gen (ret'd) Masudur Rahman attended the reunion programme.

Advocate Habibur Rahman Shawkat presided over a discussion meeting at the programme.

Former lawmaker ASM Feroz, Sardar Abdur Rashid, Galachipa upazila commander Nazrul Islam, Kalapara commander AKM Afzal Hossain, Baufal upazila commander Ojir Rahman, Altaf Hossain, Khan Mosharraf Hossain, Zafar Ullah, Abu Zafar Khan, Kazi Alamgir Hossain, Principal Delwar Hossain, central Awami League leader Afzal Hossain, Advocate

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Sehwag hits fastest triple-ton

AGENCIES, Chennai


India opener Virender Sehwag hit the fastest recorded triple-century in Test history -- in terms of balls faced -- on day three of the first Test against South Africa yesterday.

Sehwag made 100 before lunch and 200 in the post-lunch session before passing 300 from 278 balls in the final session at the Chidambaram Stadium.

Matthew Hayden of Australia


SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

1st Death Anniversary



MR. KUTUBUL ALAM CHOWDHURY, Director, East Coast Group of Companies, left for his eternal abode in heaven on 29th March, 2007. We his family members, friends, colleagues and associates were shocked and numbed at his sudden and premature death. He left behind his foot prints on the sands of time.

We always remember him with a deep sense of affection and admiration. May Allah bless his soul with eternal peace.



Management & Employees of
East Coast Group of Companies



Prof Asaduzzaman passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) Prof Mohammad Asaduzzaman died of cardiac arrest at Birdem Hospital yesterday morning. He was 60.

A teacher of the Public Administration Department of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



cellbazaar.com

Help: 01713238381-5

Explore the rhythm in your soul

bally sagoo and you

NOKIA Nseries



Nokia N95 8GB Nokia N76 Nokia N73 Music Edition Nokia N70 Music Edition

Buy a Nokia Nseries device and get free unlimited internet service from your Grameenphone connection for a month. Win a chance to be at the party of the season with Bally Sagoo, and get his video, ringtone and wallpaper for free. What's more, you could also win BOSE headphones and other exciting prizes.*

*Conditions Apply

Always insist on Nokia original warranty with seal of protection on pack to safeguard against buying unauthorised, used, refurbished, or tampered phones. Nokia original warranty is applicable only for phones imported by authorised distributors.