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Nurul Haque gets bail after 15yrs in jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Fifteen years into his arrest on robbery charges, a 63-year-old at last posted bail yesterday.

Judge Kiran Shankar Halder of the First Assistant Sessions Judge's Court granted bail to Nurul Haque following bail petitions moved by his lawyers.

The court, however, refused bail to three other accused in the case -- Sirajul Islam, Alauddin and Abul Kalam.

The Daily Star on April 16 published a story on their long confinement without conviction.

Moving the bail petitions, the defence lawyers said though their clients were arrested 25 years ago in connection with the robbery case and have since been held in prison, the prosecution failed to produce the investigation officer and other prosecution witnesses before the court for quick disposal of the case.

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WOMEN POLICY

Cancellation of review body demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of socio-cultural organisations, political parties and non-government organisations (NGO) have demanded cancellation of the committee formed to review the Women Development Policy 2008 and immediate implementation of the policy.

Samajik Protirodh Committee at a protest meeting yesterday urged the chief adviser to implement the Women Development Policy after cancelling the review committee, ban political activities in religious institutions, and clarify the stance of the government

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IOJ demands ban on demo near Baitul Mukarram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A faction of the Bangladesh Islamic Oikkyo Jote (IOJ) yesterday demanded that the government ban all kinds of meeting and procession in front of the Baitul Mukarram Mosque and its adjoining areas.

"The so-called Islamic scholars backed by war criminals dishonoured the national mosque while

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Prayer Timing		
April 18		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-24	6-28
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

AIDS patients deprived of proper care

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

The number of people living with HIV/AIDS is increasing in the country but they are not getting proper treatment as the lone Infectious Diseases Hospital (IDH) is yet to provide antiretroviral (ARV) therapy for these patients since it is very expensive.

The IDH is providing treatment guidelines for HIV/AIDS patients since 1989. But the government-owned Essential Drugs Company does not produce ARV, and it is not supplied to the IDH due to its high price, hospital sources said.

"A person living with HIV/AIDS needs antiretroviral worth Tk 6,000 to Tk 10,000 every month. But the hospital does not have any special funds for HIV/AIDS patients, and it is not possible for the hospital with its limited funds to spend the huge

amount of money needed for them," said infectious diseases specialist Dr Selimuzzaman of the IDH.

"We just provide them treatment for opportunistic infections that occur due to collapse of the immune system of HIV/AIDS patients although they need psychological and nutritional support, opportunistic infection management and antiretroviral therapy at a time," he said. The IDH can provide around 50 percent of drugs required for AIDS patients, he added.

Non-government organisations (NGOs) working with people having HIV/AIDS however reported that patients get only 20-30 percent drugs for opportunistic infections, and no ARV, at the IDH.

"Worldwide there are 20 types of ARV for treatment of HIV/AIDS

patients. But we can provide only four types of ARV to our patients with interrupted supply. And there are at least 100 registered patients who need ARV badly but we cannot provide it," said Asma Parvin, programme manager of Ashar Alo Society (AAS).

"Antiretroviral drugs should be included in the essential drugs list," said Lazeena Muna, social mobilisation and partnerships adviser of UNAIDS. An ARV drug policy is needed immediately for uninterrupted flow of these drugs, she stressed.

She pointed out that a draft ARV drug policy was crafted a few months ago with no further progress in this regard.

The IDH does not have even the machine for counting CD 4 cells that determine immune status of a

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Father kills 2 babies, makes suicide attempt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A father drowned his two infant daughters in a pond and made a suicide attempt afterwards at Paschimbag village in Puthia upazila yesterday.

Locals retrieved the dead bodies from the pond and found the father, Bablur Rahman, 35, beside the pond in a critical state. He is currently undergoing treatment for poisoning at Puthia Health Complex.

The victims are identified as Rehana, 1-½, and Sohana, 3.

Bablur used to be a day labourer

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Two lawyers allowed to meet Khaleda

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday gave permission to two defence lawyers of detained former premier Khaleda Zia to see her at the sub-jail at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar MP Hostel and to talk about the Niko graft case.

Advocate Masud Ahmed Talukder and barrister Nawshad Jasim Sirker out of eight lawyers got the permission from the court after they submitted a petition to meet their client.

Masud told The Daily Star that they would meet Khaleda at the

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Oil price hits record \$115

AFP, London

The price of New York oil hit a record high 115.54 dollars per barrel on Thursday, boosted by falling US energy reserves and a weak dollar which attracts investors into commodities, analysts said.

New York's main oil futures contract, light sweet crude for delivery in May, later stood at 115.23 dollars, up 30 cents from Wednesday's close.

At the same time, Brent North Sea crude for June delivery soared to a historic peak of 113.38 dollars on Thursday. It later stood at 113.08 dollars, up 42 cents from Wednesday.

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BIBRIEY

Pabna jail super, 2 others sued by jail keeper

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A jail keeper has filed a case with Pabna Police Station against Pabna Jail Super and two other Jail officials stating that the accused have received bribes to let people visit a detained municipality chairman.

Jail Keeper Md Akteruzzaman in the complainant stated that Pabna Jail Super Md Rezaul Karim, Subedar Md Ishaq Ali and Jail Keeper Md Azizul Islam took Tk 1 lakh and let the relatives and some

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PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

A brick kiln operating in a forest of Teknaf in Cox's Bazar despite the Environment Directorate's ban on such activities in the protected forest zone.

Suicide bomber kills 51 Iraqi mourners

AFP, Kirkuk

A suicide bomber blew himself up in a crowd of mourners north of Baghdad yesterday, killing at least 51 people in one of the biggest insurgent attacks in violence-ravaged Iraq this year.

The bomber detonated an explosives vest in the Sunni Arab village of Bu Mohammed, near the town of Adhaim in Diyala province north of Baghdad at around 11:00 am (0800 GMT), police captain Najim Abdullah said from Diyala.

Bu Mohammed is located between Baquba, Diyala's provincial capital, and the northern oil

hub of Kirkuk. The area between the two cities is a known al-Qaeda in Iraq stronghold, security officials said.

"At least 51 people have been killed and 22 others wounded," Abdullah told AFP.

Doctor Jawdat Abdullah from the hospital in Al-Tuz, near Bu Mohammed, confirmed the attack, saying his facility was receiving wounded victims, some of whom were seriously injured.

Another police captain, Abdullah Jassim, said the attack came after a crowd gathered to present condolences over the deaths of two members of a local

group fighting al-Qaeda who were killed two days ago.

An Iraqi security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said al-Qaeda had warned the relatives of the two dead men not to hold the condolence meeting.

"But they still went ahead with it. Only 10 days ago the locals here formed an anti-Qaeda group."

Tens of thousands of Sunni Arabs have formed local groups across Iraq backed by the US military to battle al-Qaeda militants.

These groups, mostly former allies of al-Qaeda, have been increasingly targeted by the

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TRAIN-BUS COLLISION

Desolate families mourn their loss

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The villages of Rampur and Mominagar are resonant with the wailing of grieving families.

The train-bus collision at the Elenga Razarbari rail crossing on the Tangail-Mymensingh highway on Wednesday morning, allegedly caused by a negligent gateman, brought an end to the lives of 14 weavers, leaving their families to a seemingly bleak future.

Janu Begum, 36, wife of handloom trader Dulal who died in the accident, has been crying non-

stop since she heard the tragic news. Added to the grief of her own widowhood is the worry about the future of her three daughters -- Dulon, 12, Sampa, 9, and Shahanoor, 5.

"What will I do? How will I feed these children? My daughters have no future now," wailed Janu as her children too cried for the loss of their father.

Shyamoli Begum, 25, also of Rampur, has been dumbstruck by news of her husband Monir Hossain's death. Her three-year-old

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Probe finds gatemen, faulty signal responsible

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The two-member probe committee formed by the Tangail district administration following the ghastly train-bus collision at Elenga Razarbari rail crossing in Tangail on Wednesday morning submitted its report to the district commissioner (DC) yesterday.

Pointing to three factors behind the accident, the report said the two gatemen, who went into hiding after the accident, were asleep during the collision.

Besides, the signal lamps at the

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Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited

SHARE DEPARTMENT, HEAD OFFICE
63, DILKUSHA C/A (5th Floor), DHAKA.

PRICE SENSITIVE DISCLOSURE

This is for kind information of IBBLPBOND holders of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited that the Board of Directors of the Bank in its 158th Meeting held on 17th April 2008 took the following Price Sensitive decisions :-

SL.No.	Particulars	Decisions
01	Date of Profit distribution to MPB (IBBLPBOND) holders.	Within 60 (sixty) days from holding of Annual General Meeting of IBBL which will be held on 29-08-2008.
02	Record Date for entitlement of profit of IBBLPBOND holders.	29-07-2008
03	Proposal for declaration of dividend for share holders for the year 2007.	Stock Dividend 25% (subject to approval of Annual General Meeting of IBBL)
04	Rate of profit for IBBLPBOND for the year 2007.	i. Final rate of Annual profit of MSB (8 years term) 10.14% ii. 10% of the rate of declared dividend 2.50% iii. Annual Profit rate for the IBBLPBOND (i+ii) 12.64%

As the trade of IBBLPBOND in Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd. & Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd. was started simultaneously from 25-11-2007, bond holders are entitled to receive profit for 37 (thirty seven) days i.e. from 25-11-2007 to 31-12-2007 for the year 2007 and from the year 2008, profit will be paid for the whole year.

Date : Dhaka, April 17, 2008

By Order of the Board
Md. Shouquat Ali
Executive Vice President & Secretary

Abbas calls for ME confce in Moscow

Gaza braces for more violence after 21 killed

AFP, Moscow/ Gaza City

Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas called here Thursday for a Middle East peace conference in Moscow "as soon as possible," saying this was needed to spur talks with Israel that were moving too slowly.

"We want the Moscow conference to be held as soon as possible and we hope that it will succeed in pushing the peace process forward," Abbas said in a lecture to Moscow university students.

He said a new impetus was needed to follow on from a conference last November hosted by US President George W. Bush in Annapolis, in the United States.

"I regret to say that there are obstacles hindering the application of what was agreed upon in Annapolis," said Abbas, who was in the Russian capital on a visit intended to lay the ground for the conference.

"The negotiations are not

advancing at the required pace or yielding the progress necessary for us to reach the agreed objectives by the agreed dates."

Palestinian officials have mentioned June as a possible date for the conference, but Abbas said no date had yet been set.

"We will push as hard as we can for it to be held as soon as possible."

"We think it is an important conference and we count on it to push forward the peace process between us and the Israelis," said Abbas, who was to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday.

At last November's Annapolis meeting, Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert formally restarted negotiations after a seven-year freeze in the peace process, aiming to conclude a comprehensive agreement by the end of 2008 -- just before Bush leaves office.

But the negotiations have been

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Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited
Shariah Based Islami Bank
Head Office, Printers Building, 5 Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000.

Price Sensitive Information

This is for kind information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of the Company in its 57th meeting held on Thursday, April 17, 2008, has taken the following price sensitive decisions, at 1:30 P.M. details as under:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01. Recommendation as to Dividend for the year ended 31st December 2007 | : The Board of Directors recommended for declaration of Cash Dividend @7% per share of Tk.100.00 each and Stock Dividend @25% [i.e. 01(One) bonus share for every 04(Four) ordinary shares of Tk.100.00 each] for the year ended 31 st December 2007 subject to the approval of the Shareholders in the ensuing 9 th AGM of the Company. |
| 02. Date & Time of 9th AGM | : Tuesday, August 26, 2008 at 11:00 A.M. |
| 03. Venue of 9th AGM | : Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Sher-E-Banglanagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207 |
| 04. Record Date | : Tuesday, June 17, 2008 (The shareholders, whose names would appear as shareholders in the Register of Members on the Record Date, shall be entitled to receive the Dividend, if approved as above.) |

By Order of the Board
Sd/-
(Md. Golam Mahub)
Company Secretary

Dated: April 17, 2008