

Parents of murdered

FROM PAGE 16
The reason behind their death is not yet known, but police suspect that both boys were physically abused before being murdered.

The loss of their beloved children, and their inability to come to terms with the shocking murders of their children, is also holding the parents from returning to their jobs, leading to them often going without food.

Jewel's nicksaw-puller father Alal Uddin and housemaid mother Josna Begum, say they are unable to deal with the shock.

"How can I think of work when I have lost my child forever? Josna Begum wailed.

"The only thing I wish for is that my son's killers are arrested. Because I need to ask his killers what my nine-year-old did wrong that he had to take his life," Alal told The Daily Star as he broke down into sobs.

Jewel's mother said they took out Tk 7,000 in loan from locals to look for their son, when he first went missing, and then subsequently to bury him in their village home at Muktagachha in Mymensingh.

"The lenders are already pressing us to pay back the loan, but we don't have the mental strength to work," Josna said wiping the tears off her face.

She said no one in her family had gone to school before, but they had put Jewel into one and he would have made them proud by being the only literate person in their entire family.

She can only cry now as she thinks of her son.

Bilki's mother Bilkis Begum and father Siddiq, a private car driver, are also struggling to return to work, neighbours told The Daily Star.

Bilkis sits and stares blankly at the roadside where, her neighbours point out, her son used to play. She doesn't answer any questions, just stares speechlessly.

Siddiq wants justice for his young son's death.

Both sets of parents said they could get some consolation if the killers were arrested and brought to justice.

Businesses decry

FROM PAGE 16
By the requirement of payment of licence fees," the chamber and association leaders said in a joint statement released yesterday.

The statement was signed by Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry President Anisul Huq, International Chamber of Manufacturers President Chittagong Mahbubur Rahman, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Latifur Rahman, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Hossain Khaled, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, Bangladesh Textiles Mills Association Chairman Abdul Hai Sarker, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association President Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury, and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association President Fazlu Hoque.

Tata restart

FROM PAGE 16
Power plant, a steel mill with an annual production capability of 420,000 tonnes and a fertiliser factory with one million tonne production capability.

The negotiations reached a stalemate in 2006 even though significant progress was made.

Both sides provisionally agreed on a 15-year guarantee of 1.25 TCF gas supply to Tata and around 3 million tonnes of annual coal supply. They also agreed on upgrading the gas pipeline to 30-inch diameter from 24-inch diameter.

The Asian Development Bank had agreed to provide financial support for developing the gas pipeline.

A 10-year tax holiday for Tata and guarantee for uninterrupted gas supply was also agreed on.

The two sides then agreed on awarding Tata coal mines in Phulbari and Barapukuria to extract around three million tonnes of coal a year.

However, the decisions were never approved at the ministry level.

The previous BNP-led government was unwilling to make a decision before the scheduled general election.

Tata has launched major investment projects in other parts of the world.

Hasina asks AL men

FROM PAGE 1
"There is no alternative to launching a movement to realise the five-point demand. And obviously there is no alternative to a transparent, impartial and credible national election to establish democracy, human rights and rule of law," her lawyer Kamrul Islam quoted her as saying.

Kamrul told the media that the AL chief has urged the senior leaders of the party to mobilise public support in pressing the government to concede the five-point demand that first came up in the pre-election talks between AL and advisers to the caretaker government.

An end to price spiral of essentials, announcement of an election schedule without delay and trial of the war criminals are the other three demands.

Earlier on May 4, the AL president said the formal dialogue with the government could go ahead in her absence.

About the planned talks with the government, she was yesterday quoted by the lawyer as saying, "They [AL leaders] must know the government's agenda before attending the dialogue and make it successful at any cost."

She said the caretaker government's tenure cannot exceed the 90-day period while the state of emergency cannot be in force for more than 120 days. An exception to this is against the constitution.

She said a failure to hand over power to an elected government will plunge the nation into a dangerous situation.

Six of the seven charge-sheeted accused including Hasina were present in the dock yesterday when Mustafizur Rahman's lawyer moved a petition seeking a four-week adjournment on grounds of his client's illness.

Without passing any rule regarding the petition, the court adjourned the hearing till May 19.

Under the new ordinance, the period of trade suspension has been extended to 45 days and another 45 days, if necessary, from the existing 14 days and another 14 days.

In the ordinance a provision has been included that, if a person or institution is accused of an offense, the person or the institution will have to give bank-account information to the probe committee to be formed by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

There is a provision that a portion of the fined money from person or institution for violating the rules of the SEC will be compensated to affected investors on the basis of the level of losses. Presently, the fined money is deposited with the fund of the SEC.

The council of advisers also approved in principle The Bangla Academy Ordinance 2008 aiming to make the institution more dynamic and time-befitting.

Members of the Advisory Council attended the meeting at the CA's office. Cabinet Secretary, CA's Press Secretary and Secretaries concerned were also present.

Arab foreign ministers for end to Lebanon violence

FROM PAGE 1
Earlier on April 27, the hearing was suspended after Mustafizur's lawyer declined to present submission in his absence.

The hearing was supposed to begin on April 20, but the court called a recess till April 27 as Hasina could not be produced because of illness.

The other accused in the case are former air force chief Jamaluddin Ahmed, air commodore (ret'd) Mirza Akhter Maruf, former joint secretary Mohammad Hossain Serniabat, former defence secretary Syed Yusuf Hossain and Managing Director of Unique Group Nur Ali.

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"In view of the danger of the situation in Lebanon, the council of ministers sends out an urgent appeal for an immediate end to violence in Mount Lebanon (Druze regions) and other areas," Ahmed bin Hilli, assistant secretary general for political affairs, said reading from a statement.

The meeting follows days of lethal street battles in Lebanon which have stoked fears that a protracted political feud could break out into a repeat of the 1975-1990 civil war.

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Pak judges

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