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Ex-MP Gias out on bail stayed by SC

Authorities asked to arrest him, send to jail right away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP lawmaker of Narayanganj-4 Md Giasuddin has managed to suppress a Supreme Court (SC) order that stayed his bail and got out of prison on February 18 "on bail" in an extortion case against him.

This came to the government's notice a few days back. When the attorney general's office verified how Giasuddin came out of the jail, the office became surprised and filed a petition with the Appellate Division.

A four-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin yesterday directed Narayanganj District and Sessions Judge's court to take steps immediately to arrest and send Giasuddin to jail.

"Giasuddin is now a fugitive in the eye

of law and he should be arrested and sent to jail immediately," Additional Attorney General M Enayetur Rahim, who represented the government, told The Daily Star.

He added that the Chamber Judge's bench of the Supreme Court had stayed a bail order of the High Court (HC) for Giasuddin on November 16. This stay order was instantly conveyed to the authorities concerned for appropriate action.

"It is now a matter of investigation how Giasuddin managed to get released from jail when his bail remains invalid due to the stay order," he said.

Giasuddin's lawyer advocate Abdul Baset Majumder said the police authorities should have examined the Chamber Judge's order that stayed the HC order granting bail to Giasuddin before releasing him from jail.

He, however, said his client will now surrender before the district and sessions judge's court in connection with the case and also pray for bail to that court.

Upon a bail prayer, the HC on November 9 last year granted bail for three months to Giasuddin in the extortion case.

The government filed a petition with the SC to stay the HC order. After hearing the petition, chamber bench of the Appellate Division stayed the HC order on November 16, 2008.

While the chamber bench's order was operative, Giasuddin's lawyers and guarantors furnished bail bond at the trial court with the HC order and on February 18 this year he got released from Kashimpur jail in Gazipur.

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RESERVED SEATS EC cancels 2 nominations, clears 44

UNB, Dhaka

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday rejected the nominations of two of the candidates for election to the 45 reserved seats for women in parliament, finding one as telephone bill defaulter and fault in the proposer's signature for the other.

After scrutiny of the nomination papers at the EC secretariat in the afternoon, EC Deputy Secretary Jasmine Tuli, also returning officer for the polls, informed reporters that the commission received a total of 46 nominations against the 45 reserved seats.

The ruling Awami League (AL) nominated 36 candidates while BNP and Jatiya Party five each.

Tuli said among the 36 AL nominees, the nomination of Saleha Mosharrar was rejected

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CTG ARMS HAUL

NSI official called for questioning

Coastguards, security personnel to be quizzed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has asked the former assistant director of National Security Intelligence (NSI) for Chittagong to appear before investigators of the sensational Chittagong arms haul case for interrogation.

Sources said the first two investigation officers of the case would also be quizzed soon. The CID will also quiz Coast Guard and other security personnel who were on duty early April 2, 2004, when 10 truckloads of arms and ammunition were being offloaded at the jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL). The process to find out who were on duty that night is under way.

Meanwhile, the CID investigators have appealed to a Chittagong court to place the then CUFL managing director Mohsin Talukder and general manager (admin) Enamul Haq on a

five-day remand each. The court is likely to decide on the appeal today.

The investigators issued a notice upon former NSI assistant director Mohammad Ali Chowdhury to appear at the CID Chittagong Divisional Headquarters at Dampara Police Line for questioning.

Mohammad Ali is now serving as the deputy director of NSI at Gulshan in the capital.

Sources said the investigators have sent a letter to Bangladesh Coast Guard, eastern zone, for names and addresses of the Coast Guard men who were on duty around CUFL, Bay of Bengal near Chittagong Port and offshore islands of Teknaf and Kutubdia on that April night.

They said the investigators would be interrogating at least 30 persons mentioned in the statements of the accused and witnesses in the arms case. A special wing of the CID headquarters in Dhaka has already prepared the

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Security to be beefed up at power stations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has directed the local administration to deploy law-enforcers at the country's power stations to safeguard those from being attacked by the angry mobs in the wake of the ongoing frequent load-shedding.

Talking to the reporters at the Secretariat yesterday, State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Shamsul Haque Tuku said the directive was given upon receiving letters from deputy commissioners (DCs) of the districts in this regard.

Ministries concerned have received a number of letters

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EU ambassadors meet Khaleda

Hope for neutral probe into BDR massacre

UNB, Dhaka

Ambassador Stefan Frowein, head of the delegation of the European Union (EU) countries' envoys yesterday hoped that there would be a neutral investigation into BDR massacre as people want to know what really happened.

He made the remarks to reporters after an hour-long meeting with BNP Chairperson and Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan office.

Frowein said instead of considering the number, the very presence of the

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Koko's parole extended by a month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday extended the parole of Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of BNP Chairperson and Opposition Leader in Parliament Khaleda Zia, for another month on medical ground.

The home ministry extended the parole from March 17 to April 16, 2008 following a petition by Koko's lawyer, said a home ministry

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Prayer Timing		
March 16		
	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		



PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

Every hour 40 to 45 diarrhoea patients, 60 percent of whom are children, are seeking admission to the ICDDR,B in the capital following an early outbreak of the disease this year.

Lankan troops kill 32 more rebels

Supply dearth stop surgeries at war zone hospital

AFP, AP, Colombo

Government forces shot dead at least 32 Tamil Tiger rebels in north-eastern Sri Lanka, the defence ministry said on Sunday, as troops moved closer to finally defeating the separatist guerrillas.

About 30 rebels were killed on Friday in the Puthukkudiruppu area, the last stronghold of the Tigers, while another two were killed on Saturday, the ministry said.

"Infantrymen further advanced into LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) hiding areas... inflicting heavy damages to terrorists," it said in a statement.

There was no comment from the Tigers, but the pro-rebel Tamilnet website said 69 civilians, including 19 children, were killed by military shelling in an area designated as a "safe zone" by the government.

Sri Lanka's army denies targeting the "safe zone" and in turn accuses the Tigers of fabricating reports of large scale civilian deaths.

Independent verification of the casualty figures is not possible as the government prevents most journalists, aid workers

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RU VIOLENCE Probe starts; admission process on

RU CORRESPONDENT

The admission process of honours and masters courses of Rajshahi University (RU) would continue as per schedule, said a RU press release yesterday.

Meanwhile, police yesterday started investigation of the case filed against 33 Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) men with Mother police station for the killing of RU unit Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) General Secretary Sharifuzzaman Noman.

Police visited the spot of murder and collected some evidences. Investigation Officer (IO) of the case SM Rakibul Haque said.

The daily life of the city

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Budget on June 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League-led government is likely to place the national budget of 2009-10 fiscal year in parliament on June 11, Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali said yesterday.

"The next session of the parliament will convene in the first week of June and it will be the budget session," the deputy speaker told reporters emerging from the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee (Bac).

The Bac at its meeting chaired by Speaker Abdul Hamid, however, did not fix the specific timeframe for the current session in absence of the Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Shawkat said the meeting authorised the Speaker to fix the tenure of the current

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Eden College admission in a mess

BCL demands 300 seats under political quota

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Eden Women University College authorities could not resume the first year honours course admission process yesterday due to the agitation by students of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Eden College unit for 'political quota'.

The admission process of the college has remained postponed since March 9 as the college authorities refused BCL demands for 300 seats under political quota.

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BDR CARNAGE

20 stolen cellphones still in use at times

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Immediate after the mutiny broke out at BDR Headquarters, cellphone was the only means of communication for the trapped army officers most of who were killed in the next hours.

Reports of the army officers contacting their families were frequent until 11:00am on February 25. The phones later went off as the mutiny degenerated into a bloodbath and over 50 officers were killed.

Bodies of the killed officers were later recovered from the mass graves and sewage, but there cellphones went missing. This prompted the investigators to find out what happened to their mobile phones.

Twenty of the phones are still found on sometimes and the investigators are trying to track down the users.

So far only four such users have been trapped. Investigation sources say they suspect the devices have been either handed to mutineers' family members or sold out.

They say the task of tracking down the missing cellphone users has become time consuming as many of them stay outside Dhaka.

The investigators have however confirmed that none of the mutineers are using the missing cellphones.

Of the four trapped, Biplob, son of former BDR cook Mohammad Farid, of Hazaribagh was held with the cellphone of killed Maj Humayun Haider. Earlier on February 27, Biplob was picked up by Rab and remanded for three days.

Biplob allegedly had involvement with the mutineers and was also seen in BDR uniform

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Journalism evolving, though newspapers fighting for survival

AFP, Austin, Texas

Newspapers are dying but journalism is evolving, an acclaimed science writer told a gathering of the techno-hip at South By South West Interactive Festival on Friday.

Steven Johnson equated newspapers to old growth forests, saying that under the canopy of that aged ecosystem blogging, citizen journalism, Twittering and other Internet-age information sharing is taking root.

"I'm bullish on the future of news," Johnson said.

"I am not bullish on what is happening in the newspaper industry; it is ugly and it is going to get uglier. Great journalists are going to lose their jobs and cities are going to lose their newspapers."

The shift was foreseeable but ignored, resulting in changes that should have happened gradually over a decade being crammed into a year or two with some pressure from the global economic meltdown, according to Johnson.

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DEFAMATION

Arrest warrant issued against Tanbir's son

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against BNP leader Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky's son Chowdhury Irad Ahmed Siddiky in a defamation case filed on charges of making derogatory remarks about former prime minister Khaleda Zia and several others including her political adviser ASM Hannan Shah.

Brigadier General (rtd) ASM Hannan Shah, also a former jute minister, filed the case against Irad with the Chief Metropolitan

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This street near Sayedabad bus terminal is left in an appalling state due to lack of repair and plying of heavy vehicles. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR