

TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS
Names of probe agency, prosecutors in 2 days
Says state minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The names of investigation agency and prosecutors will be announced within a day or two for the trial of war criminals, said State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Captain (ret'd) Tajul Islam yesterday.

1971 Liberation War Lt Gen (ret'd) Jagjit Singh Aurora at Suhrawardy Udyan in the city. It was organised by Bangladesh Mukti Juddha Foundation (BMF).
Tajul said the government is working to bring back home the fugitive war criminals from abroad.

Lt General (ret'd) Aurora will be observed with special importance next year.
"We have to honour those who helped us in liberating our country. If we fail to honour them, we will not get the right direction from our history," said KM Shafiullah, chairman of the BMF and Sector Commanders' Forum.



Bangladesh Mukti Juddha Foundation places a wreath at Mukti Juddha Complex at Suhrawardy Udyan in the city yesterday on the occasion of the 4th death anniversary of Commander of the India-Bangladesh Joint Forces during the Liberation War in 1971 Lt Gen (ret'd) Jagjit Singh Aurora.

ARMS CASES AGAINST DIPJOL
SC stays HC orders for three weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday stayed for three weeks the High Court (HC) orders that quashed two arms cases against actor and Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) ward councillor Monwar Hossain Dipjol, in which he was sentenced in absentia to 24 years' imprisonment by the trial court.

Upon two separate petitions filed by the government, chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Md Abdul Aziz also asked the government to file regular leave to appeal petitions with the SC against the HC verdicts within three weeks.
The HC on April 26 delivered the verdicts quashing two arms cases against Dipjol following his two separate quashment petitions.

On December 10 last year, Dipjol, also a BNP leader, was sent to jail, a day after he was arrested from a house at Adabar in the city after two years in hiding.

Dipjol, who went into hiding after January 11, 2007, was earlier given 45 years' imprisonment for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition and dodging income tax while his wife Romana, now on bail, was given seven years' jail for the same offences.

Additional Attorney General M Enayetur Rahim appeared for the government.

Faruq BJA chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Sheikh Faruq Hossain was elected chairman of the executive committee of Bangladesh Jute Association (BJA) for the term 2009-10, says a press release.

Other office-bearers are S Niaz Ahmed - senior vice-chairman and Abdus Sobhan - vice-chairman.
Members of the body are Rezaul Karim, Tareq Afzal, Firoz Alam, Sheikh Zahurul Islam, Jahidul Islam, Sirajul Islam Molla, Nando Kishor Agarwal, Sheikh Syed Ali, Sheikh Kawsar Ali, Alhaj Hatunur Rashid, Madhusudan Shaha, Delwar Hossain, Khandaker Alamgir Kabir, KB Jaman and Chaitanya Kumar Sarkar.

Strengthen vigilance on Indian terrorists
Delhi urges Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
India has called on Bangladesh government to strengthen its surveillance on Indian terrorists hiding inside the country in view of the ongoing general election in the northeastern states of India.

Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarti made the request during a meeting with the State Minister for Home Affairs Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj at the latter's office yesterday.
Talking to reporters after the meeting, Pinak said, "We have requested the Bangladesh government to intensify its vigilance on terrorists hiding here."

Pinak's request follows a similar request from the Indian Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon during his visit to Bangladesh recently.

At yesterday's meeting, the Indian envoy handed over a list of the top Indian terrorists thought to be hiding in Bangladesh.

The state minister assured the Indian high commissioner of taking necessary steps in this regard. Sohel Taj told the envoy that Bangladesh would not allow any criminals to use her soil against any of its neighbours, especially India, meeting sources said.

Talking to reporters later, Sohel Taj said a good number of Bangladeshi terrorists are also in hiding in India and he discussed

their extradition with the Indian diplomat. They discussed matters regarding extradition of intruders from both countries, he said.
The Indian high commissioner said that a secretary-level meeting would be held soon, after the inception of the new government in India, in which ways to tackle regional terrorism will be discussed. Extradition of those staying illegally will also be discussed at the time, he said.

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain within three weeks why it (government) should not be directed to establish family courts in three hill districts of the country.

An HC bench of Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Mamtazuddin Ahmed issued the rule upon a writ petition jointly filed by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK).

The petitioners stated in the petition that the government will set up family courts in all the districts except three hill districts as per Section 1(2) of the Family Courts Ordinance 1985 which is inconsistent with the Constitution of the republic.

The government has established judge's courts in the three hill districts as per the HC verdict, but the family courts cannot be established in those districts due to the Section 1(2) of the Family Courts Ordinance 1985, the petition said.

It also said that 89.35 percent of the total people in the hill districts are of Muslim and other communities and they are being deprived of justice in family related cases.

Advocate Idrisur Rahman, assisted by Advocate Toufiqul Islam and Advocate Hafizur Rahman, moved the petition.

'Protect dignity of Aparajeyo Bangla'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Students and teachers of the department of Development Studies at Dhaka University yesterday urged all not to paste posters on the Aparajeyo Bangla to protect its dignity, says a press release.

They also called on all not to throw rubbish at the altar of the sculpture as it reflects the national unity and it is part of the glorious history of the country.

They made the call while conducting a cleanliness drive at its altar.
Students of the department started the drive at around 9.30am. Chairman of the department Dr Taibur Rahman and two teachers of the department took part in the drive.

Five DU teachers fired for overstaying abroad

DU CORRESPONDENT
Five Dhaka University (DU) teachers have been terminated for overstaying in foreign countries without taking permission from the concerned authorities.

The decision was taken at a syndicate meeting on April 22 with DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique in the chair.
The teachers who were terminated include Assistant Prof Md Aminul Islam Mollik and Lecturer Md Nazrul Islam of Applied Chemistry and Chemical Technology department, Assistant Prof Enamul Karim and Farjana Mithun of Computer Science and Technology department and Assistant Prof Md Ekramun Nobi of Chemistry department.

Sources said the syndicate also accepted a resignation letter submitted by Assistant Prof Omar Faruq of Finance department in response to a notice sent by the authorities asking him of rejoining his department. The teacher was on extra leave while he was staying outside the country without informing the authorities.

Nazrul Islam had enjoyed six year's permitted leave from April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2008 and since then he was absent from DU, while Aminul Islam was absent in the last 10 years without taking the permission.

The six-year leave of Enamul Karim ended on January 2008. Since then, he did not come back to his department and even inform anything to the authorities, sources added.

Another teacher Ekramun Nobi was overstaying outside the country after completing his legal leave since January 1, 2007.

Sources further said that separate notices were served on each of the teachers after completion of their leave asking them to return to their respective departments. But none of them responded to the notices.

HC rule on govt to explain

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stands in silence after placing a wreath at the mazar of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Tungipara in Gopalganj yesterday.

Govt to work for all irrespective of party, belief: Hasina

UNB, Tungipara
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said her government would ensure development of all people irrespective of party and belief, no matter who voted for it and who did not.

"The present government believes in balanced development. We will not treat people from the considerations of who voted for us and who didn't. The government will work for everyone of the country," she said.

Hasina was addressing a view exchange meeting with government officials and local people at Bangabandhu Bhaban at Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Mazar Complex at noon.

Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen after the meeting.
Earlier in the morning, Hasina placed a wreath at Bangabandhu's mazar. After placing the wreath, the PM stood in solemn silence for a few moments and offered special prayers for salvation of the departed soul of the Father of the Nation.

A smartly turned-out contingent of the Armed Forces presented salute in honour of the great leader.
During the meeting, Hasina said Gopalganj, the birthplace of Bangabandhu, remained neglected for long, resulting in lack of development at desired level in the district.

"However, the present government will chalk out its

development programmes keeping in view the whole of the country," she said.
She said the government will dredge the major rivers to increase the navigability of the streams, a need of the time to save river bank people from disastrous erosion and flooding.

As the problems of poor sections of people, including fishermen, were raised during the programme, she said the government is pledge-bound to make sure welfare of the mass people.

The local people demanded of the PM to fully

activate the Sheikh Russel Poor Children Rehabilitation Centre.
PM's younger sister Sheikh Rehana accompanied her during the visit.

Commerce Minister Faruq Khan, Adviser to the Prime Minister Major General (Ret'd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, Awami League advisory council member Kazi Akramuddin Ahmed, Gopalganj district AL President Mohammad Ali Khan Abu Miah and General Secretary Emdadul Haque Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

Nat'l cell to monitor acid throwing cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The home ministry yesterday formed a national cell to monitor the progress in disposing of the acid throwing cases.

A joint secretary (police) of the ministry will head the cell, said Home Minister Sahara Khatun while talking to reporters after a meeting of the National Acid Control Council at the ministry.

The government formed another committee consisting of representatives from police, law ministry, women and children affairs ministry which would suggest necessary amendments to Acid Control Act.

A joint secretary of the home

ministry would head the committee.
Sahara said only 195 cases were disposed of among 1611 cases related to acid violence filed to date from 2002.

"During the period, 449 people were arrested on charges of having involvement in acid throwing," she added.
The home minister said 3212 people were accused of such crime during the period.

Of them, 12 were sentenced to death, 93 given lifetime imprisonment while 155 got other punishment.
She said 12 crore taka would be allocated for legal assistance, treatment and rehabilitation of the acid victims.

Two JS bodies formed

FROM PAGE 1
committee on power and energy sector formed a three-member sub-committee, led by Brig (ret'd) Enamul Haq, while Prof Amanullah will lead a three-member sub-committee formed by the standing committee on health ministry.

Chief of the standing committee on energy and power Shubid Ali Bhuiyan said a new power plant will start operation in June and will add around 1,000 megawatt (MW) to the national grid to help ease the present power crisis.

He, however, did not say which plant was coming into operations and on which day.

Mongla Port new chairman takes over

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
Commodore M Faruk of Bangladesh Navy has taken over charge as chairman of Mongla Port Authority on deputation.

The under-staffed Mongla Port Authority (MPA) has been in grip of temporary officials and officials on deputation since last three years. It does not have necessary manpower to run the administration smoothly and properly.

Bhuiyan refuted the former premier Khaleda Zia's claim that the BNP-led alliance government added 1,280MW electricity to the national grid when they were calling the shots.

Chairman of the committee Shubid Ali Bhuiyan, after a three-hour meeting at the parliament building, said the BNP chairperson's claim at Paltan Maidan Saturday about power generation during her tenure was "political speech".

He also said they recommended the government to waive all import taxes on equipment related to power and energy sectors. The committee also recommended bringing transparency in the sector to get rid of the "bad image".

The committee also made recommendations for relaxing conditions of tender for power projects to speed up the process.

"We have formed a three-member sub-committee and assigned it to investigate alleged irregularities and misappropriation of money during the BNP-led government," Shubid Ali said, adding that the sub-committee has also been asked to look into the tenure of the caretaker government.

The two other members of the committee are Fazle Nur Taposh and Mujibur Rahman Fakir.

The standing committee

will take its next course of action based on the report of the sub-committee, said Shubid Ali.

The committee also asked the authorities concerned to disconnect all illegal electricity connections.

It also asked the authorities to take steps to reduce systems loss, including frequent inspections at industries and better power management.

"We will visit different power plants in phases to observe how they are working to reduce systems loss," Shubid Ali said. At present, systems loss is about 15 percent, he added.

Shubid Ali said they recommended that the government encourage people to use solar power to reduce pressure on conventionally generated electricity.

The committee in the meeting expressed hope that the power crisis will ease up as irrigation for boro rice, which consumed a large chunk of power, is over.

The committee chief claimed that about 4,162MW of power was generated Saturday, which is a record.

The parliamentary standing committee on health sector yesterday formed the three-member sub-committee to investigate alleged irregularities and corruption in health sector especially in the purchase of medical materials and equipment.

BNP's MAY DAY RALLY
AL men blamed for creating obstacle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
BNP leaders yesterday alleged that ruling party cadres and law enforcers created obstacles to its leaders and workers in different areas on way to the Saturday's May Day rally so that many people could not turn up at the meeting.

"The government launched drives in different places in the city on Friday night to arrest BNP leaders and workers so that the rally could not succeed, but failed," Rizvi Ahmed said while talking to reporters at the party chairperson's Gulshan office.

Criticising the government for creating obstacles, he said many people from adjacent districts of the capital could not attend the rally which was organised by Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal, labouring of BNP.

Jubo Dal General Secretary Moazzem Hossain Alal was present.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Advocate Altaf Hossain, former lawmaker from Bagerhat and central committee member of BNP, passed away at Bangladesh Medical College and Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 75, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.
He was buried at Banani graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Banani Chairmanbari mosque yesterday.

Shahar Banu, a senior teacher at Engineering University Dhaka Secondary School and wife of late Prof ABM Khalid, former dean of the Faculty of Business Studies of Dhaka University, passed away at Gleneagles Hospital in Singapore on Saturday at the age of 60.

She left behind two daughters, sons-in-law, a grandchild and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Her body was flown to Dhaka yesterday evening.
Her body would be taken to Engineering University Higher Secondary School at 10:00am this morning to enable the students, teachers and staffs of the school to pay their last respect.

Her namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Taqwa Mosque (adjacent to Dhanmondi Lake) in the city after Zohr prayers today and then she will be laid to rest at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at Mirpur in the city in the afternoon.

Mahfuza Khatun Lily
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Mahfuza Khatun Lily, former assistant headmistress of Little Angels' Kindergarten School and wife of former Public Service Commission member late Ekramul Huq, passed away at her residence at Sir Syed Road at Mohamadpur in the city last night at the age of 95, says a press release.

She will be laid to rest at Mirpur Martyred Intellectual Graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Iqbal Road mosque after Zohr prayers today.

Ahmed Salek
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh
Ahmed Salek, a Language Movement veteran and educationist, passed away due to old-age complications at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital yesterday morning at the age of 72.

He left behind his wife, five sons, two daughters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

He was buried at Golbari graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Government Ananda Mohan College ground after Asr prayers.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka
Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna.

Barisal and Chittagong divisions in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.
Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:29pm today and rises at 5:21am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 38.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 19.9 degrees Celsius at Feni.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.