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Proposed salaries to be slashed off a little

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The finance ministry plans to cut 10 to 20 percent of the Pay Commission's recommended scales for 20 grades of government employees.

Sources say the ministry is now looking for ways to cut Tk 2,000-2,500 crore of the commission's recommended expenditure for paying government employees.

They said the ministry is currently examining what amount of money they will save by slashing 10 to 20 percent of the recommended salaries of each grade.

In 2004, the government increased pay, cutting 14 to 18 percent of the fourth pay commission's recommended wage structure.

This time the government will need an additional fund between Tk 6,600 crore and Tk 8,400 crore each year to implement the pay hike.

The 13-member Pay Commission

PROPOSED PAY SCALE		
PRESENT SCALE	2009 (PROPOSED)	PROPOSED INCREMENT
23,000	45,000	Fixed
19,300	37,750	980
16,800	32,600	900
15,000	28,850	840

MORE DATA ON PAGE 15 COL 4

headed by former chairman of Revenue Reform Commission Mustafizur Rahman last month recommended salary hike by 82 to 95 percent for grades 1 to 10 and by 66 to 70 percent for grades 11 to 20.

If the government implements the recommendations without amending them, this will push the annual recurring expense to a maximum of Tk 29,063 crore from the current Tk 20,661 crore.

And this is not all; the government's

recurring expenses will increase more as it is expected to implement recommendations of a separate pay commission for the Armed Forces Division. This commission submitted its report to the prime minister recently.

The newly formed Judicial Service Pay Commission has also raised its voice about having a new and enhanced pay structure for the lower court.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

BDR probe body takes more time to report

Deadline expires today

STAR REPORT

The government probe committee formed to investigate BDR rebellion and massacre of army officers at Palkhona BDR headquarters may take a few more days to submit its report, the deadline for which expires today.

"We are very close to finalising the report and it may take three to four more days to complete," a member of the probe committee told The Daily Star yesterday.

Requesting not to be named, he said they have investigated the incident in details. He, however, refused

SEE PAGE 12 COL 2

2,000 civilians killed in Lankan shelling

Military rules out Tamil Tiger claim

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels yesterday accused the government of killing more than 2,000 civilians in 24 hours of artillery attacks, but the military denied the allegations.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a statement posted on the Tamilnet website that the army had unleashed a devastating offensive on the small coastal patch of land that the rebels still control.

"More than 2,000 innocent civilians have been killed in the last 24 hours," Tamilnet quoted S. Pathmanathan, the rebels' chief arms smuggler, as saying.

The website said 257 bodies had been brought to a makeshift hospital that was overwhelmed with hundreds of injured casualties.

Many of the dead were "found in bunkers and inside the tarpaulin tents," it said.

The military dismissed the claims as propaganda, and said the guerrillas themselves had

carried out the attack using mortars "to tarnish the image of the security forces in the eyes of the public nationally and internationally."

Sunday's conflicting claims were characteristic of the war, in which independent reporting is impossible as journalists are banned from travelling freely in the area.

A British television news team was expelled from Sri Lanka on Sunday after it broadcast allegations of poor treatment of the 200,000 Tamils who are being held in state-run camps after fleeing the fighting.

The report, shown on Channel 4, contained allegations of sexual abuse and claims of dead bodies being left where they fell, as well as water and food shortages -- all of which Colombo has denied.

Sri Lanka's leaders believe the military is on the verge of defeating the Tamil rebels, who are holed up on the northeastern coast of the island, after 37 years of conflict.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Dr Wazed laid to rest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Wazed Miah, an internationally renowned nuclear scientist and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's husband, was laid to eternal rest yesterday at his family graveyard at Fatehpur of Pirganj upazila in Rangpur at about 3:00pm.

Three namaz-e-janasas, one in Dhaka and two in Pirganj, were held before he was buried with state honour.

Dr Wazed died at the age of 67 at the city's Square Hospital Saturday afternoon after prolonged illness. He had been suffering from multiple health complications for long including kidney and cardiac problems.

The qulqhwani of Dr Wazed will be held at prime minister's official residence Jamuna on Thursday after Asr prayers.

President Zillur Rahman, Speaker Abdul Hamid, Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali, ministers, lawmakers, leaders of different political parties,

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other family members, friends and well-wishers offer prayers after nuclear scientist Dr Wazed Miah was laid to eternal rest at his ancestral graveyard in Pirganj, Rangpur, yesterday.

PHOTO COURTESY

WITHDRAWAL PLEA: Cases against Khaleda to be examined

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The metropolitan public prosecutor (MPP) today starts examining the 20 cases against BNP chief Khaleda Zia and her two sons to form his opinion on whether to recommend withdrawal of the cases.

"I received the case dockets and will start examining those tomorrow," MPP Abdullah Abu told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon. "I will soon send my opinion--whether it is positive or negative--to dispose the petitions for withdrawal of the cases," he added.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court yesterday allowed the government to file a regular appeal against the HC verdict that earlier quashed the airbus purchase scam case against Khaleda.

Earlier yesterday, the office of the Dhaka district magistrate sent the case documents

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

CANTONMENT HOUSE ALLOTMENT: Third HC bench embarrassed

CJ refers Khaleda's writ petition to another bench for hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yet another High Court (HC) bench yesterday felt embarrassed to hear BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's writ petition challenging the legality of the government decision to cancel allotment of her cantonment residence.

In response to the developments, Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin referred the petition to the bench of Justice Mohammad Anwarul Haque and Justice Farah Mahbub.

Including yesterday's, so far three benches have shied away from hearing the former prime minister's petition.

Meanwhile, Khaleda's lawyer and BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed last night told The Daily Star that in a day or two they will serve a legal notice on the government to withdraw the latest notice on the BNP chief.

Earlier in the day, Khaleda's counsels moved the petition before the bench of Justice Zinat Ara and Justice AKM Abdul Hakim.

At around noon, principal counsel TH Khan sought seven days' time to file a supplementary petition challenging the government's second notice upon his client.

At that point, Justice Zinat Ara said her fellow Justice AKM Abdul Hakim had been feeling embarrassed to hear the petition. She, however, did not explain the reason for his feeling so.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Morshed Khan sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former foreign minister M Morshed Khan was sent to jail after he surrendered before a Dhaka court yesterday in connection with a graft case in which he was sentenced to 13 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) in absentia.

Special Court-7 Judge Mohammad Sirajul Islam passed the order rejecting the former minister's bail prayer while he appeared before it.

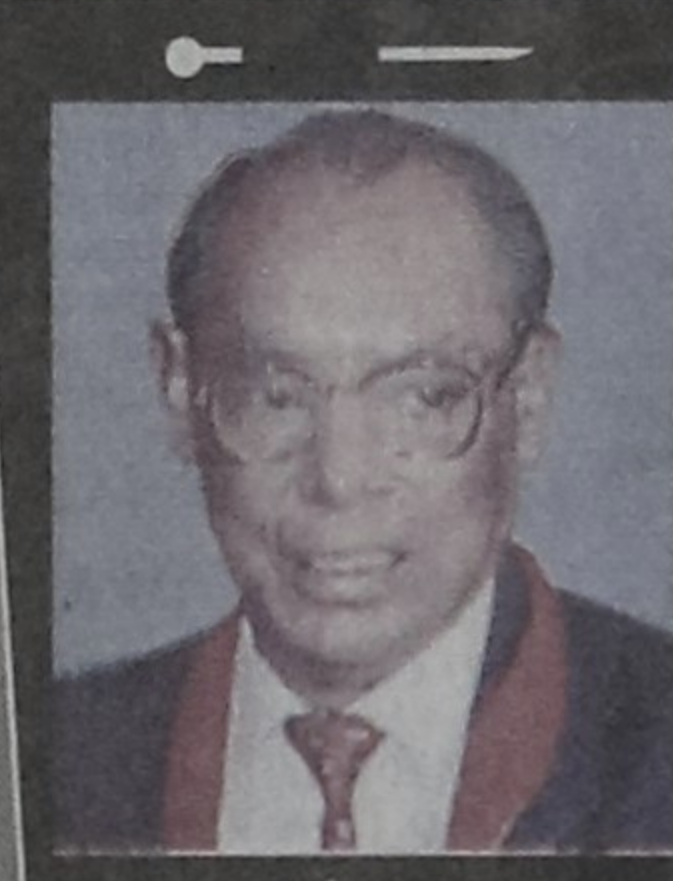
On August 4 last year, Morshed Khan was

given 13 years' RI and fined Tk 10 lakh in connection with the case filed for amassing wealth of Tk 1.67 crore through illegal means and concealing information in his wealth statement submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Morshed's lawyers submitted two petitions--one for bail and another for providing him with treatment and first class division in the jail.

Moving the petitions, lawyers told the court

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5



মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার স্বামী, আন্তর্জাতিক খ্যাতিসম্পন্ন পরমাণুবিজ্ঞানী ও বাংলাদেশ আণবিক শক্তি কমিশনের সাবেক চেয়ারম্যান ডঃ ওয়াজেদ মিয়া'র মৃত্যুতে আমরা গভীরভাবে শোকাহত

মহান আল্লাহর দরবারে মরহমের রুহের মাগফিরাত কামনা করি এবং তাঁর শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি জানাই গভীর সমবেদনা।

বাংলাদেশ ফ্রোজেন ফুডস এক্সপোর্টার্স এসোসিয়েশন

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার স্বামী আন্তর্জাতিক খ্যাতিসম্পন্ন বিশিষ্ট পরমাণু বিজ্ঞানী আণবিক শক্তি কমিশনের সাবেক চেয়ারম্যান ড. এম. এ. ওয়াজেদ মিয়া

০৯/০৫/০৯ তারিখে ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইন্নালিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন) আমরা তাঁর মৃত্যুতে গভীরভাবে শোকাহত এবং মর্মান্বিত। মহান আল্লাহর দরবারে মরহমের রুহের মাগফিরাত কামনা করছি এবং তাঁর শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি।

স্ট্যাভার্ড ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
ব্যাংকিং সেবায় আনলো নতুন মান

Shake-up in police

35 high officials transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a latest reshuffle in the police administration, a total of 35 high police officials including two additional deputy inspector generals were transferred.

Of the transferred officers, 33 are superintendents of police (SP), Kamrul Hasan,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

OnlinePoll

Do you think that Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) should lift the ban on Bangladeshi cricketers playing in ICL tournament?

Yes (63.90%)
No (34.94%)
No Comments! (1.17%)

Total votes: 770

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Bangladesh should go for nuclear energy?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা, মরহমের পুত্র ও কন্যাসহ সকল আত্মীয় স্বজনকে এ শোক সহিবর শক্তি মহান রাকুল আলমীন দান করুক। আমরা তার বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফিরাত কামনা করছি।

বিটিএমএ'র পরিচালনা পর্ষদ ও সদস্যবৃন্দের পক্ষে
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