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Prove innocence in war crime

Court orders Ghulam Azam, Nizami, Mojahid, SQ Chy, 32 others; asks why they should not be barred from polls

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and SHAKHAWAT LITON

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned Jamaat leaders Ghulam Azam, Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid, BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, and 32 others to appear before it on July 20 to explain why they should not be declared war criminals for committing crimes against humanity during Bangladesh's liberation war in 1971.

According to the court order, Jamaat's former ameer Ghulam Azam, incumbent chief Nizami, Secretary General Mojahid, senior BNP leader Salauddin, and the 32 other accused will also have to explain why they should not be disqualified from contesting in elections on charges of war crimes.

The 32 other defendants include Jamaat's senior central leaders Abdus

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Motiur Rahman Nizami



Ali Ahsan M Mojahid



Delwar Hossain Saydee



SQ Chowdhury

Focus back on, 8yrs after

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Former Jamaat ameer Ghulam Azam stayed out of focus since he disappeared from open politics of Jamaat-e-Islami eight years ago. One of the front men of 1971 who actively helped Pakistani occupation forces' attempts to foil the birth of Bangladesh, he was brought to spotlight once again after yesterday's court order.

Ghulam Azam, who was hyperac-



Ghulam Azam

tive against the Liberation War and became a symbol of alleged war criminals, said in 1971, "Pakistan is the

house of Islam for the world Muslims. Therefore, Jamaat activists don't justify living if Pakistan disintegrated." (Source: Jamaat's mouthpiece the daily Sangram, 1971).

Ghulam Azam met Pakistani General Tikka Khan, who was known as "butcher of Beluchistan" 10 days after the war started and earned the same title "butcher" as an architect of the genocide launched at the night of

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Govt worried at low price of paddy

Raises purchase target

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday expressed concern over the farmers not getting fair prices of rice and paddy despite fixation of rate at Tk 22 and Tk 14 for a kilo of husked and unhusked rice.

Against this backdrop, the government decided to buy more rice and paddy than the targeted 12 lakh metric tonnes of rice and paddy for stockpiling.

"We are concerned that the farmers are not getting fair

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HOUSE ALLOTMENT

4th HC bench declines to hear Khaleda's petition

CJ refers it to another bench

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This time a High Court (HC) bench assigned by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin has declined to hear BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's writ petition challenging the legality of the government decision to cancel the allotment of her cantonment house.

Three HC benches had already shied away from hearing the former prime minister's petition, and the court of Justice M Anwarul Haque and Justice Farah Mahub followed suit yesterday.

This prompted the chief justice to refer the matter to the bench of Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Moyeenul Islam

Chowdhury. This was the second time in two days that he has done so.

Meanwhile, Khaleda Zia in a notice on Sunday night gave the government five days' time to withdraw its May 7 supplementary notice asking her to show cause within 15 days why she should not be directed to return the cantonment house.

Her lawyer Mahbubuddin Khokon said the notice is a reply to the show cause notice.

The former prime minister's lawyers placed the writ petition before Justice M Anwarul Haque and Justice Farah Mahub at around 11:15am yesterday.

But senior judge of the bench, Anwarul

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2 killed in Rangamati gunfight

Arms, ammo seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Two activists of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) were killed in a gun battle with army members during a raid at Badalchhari under sadar upazila yesterday.

The army men rounded up two UPDF activists in the predawn raid. A huge number of arms and ammunition were also recovered from the UPDF hideout, 30 kilometres off the district town.

Acting on a tip off, a team of army from Sadar Zone led by Maj Sheikh Jilur Rahman

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\$150M GAS COMPRESSOR PROJECT GTCL goes for 'forced' re-tender for 3rd time

Lowest bidder disqualified; tender evaluation committee's views ignored

SHARIEF KHAN

Going against its tender evaluation committee and a project consultant, the Gas Transmission Company Ltd (GTCL) board headed by the Petrobangla chairman disqualified the lowest bid of a crucial \$150 million gas compressor project.

The project is aimed at improving gas supply pressure and flow, sources said.

During the GTCL board meeting Saturday, which saw heated arguments for and against this disqualification, the board and GTCL chiefs made the decision saying that the government did not have enough fund to implement this project.

The board directed the GTCL to go for a third tender on this project and inform the project's financier Asian Development Bank (ADB)

about this development. The first tender for this project was held in 2006.

The re-tender will cause several years of delay in installing the compressors. It also means that the existing gas consumers including power plants and industries in many areas will continue to suffer from unstable gas pressure affecting their productivity.

This decision also overturns a primary decision of the energy ministry made in March to go for the lowest bid of \$150 million of Korean company Hyundai to install three compressors. However, as there was fund constraint, the ministry opined in favour of installing two compressors and stagger the three pipeline projects, giving GTCL some time to obtain more funds to complete the project in the near future.

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Demand for 100pc duty on newsprint import a conspiracy

Says Noab, asks govt to keep zero tariff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As Bangladesh Paper Mills Association's demanded 100 percent duty on newsprint imports, Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) yesterday urged the government to keep zero tariff on newsprint imports to ensure press freedom and free flow of information.

Expressing concern, Noab in a statement said the demand for imposing 100 percent duty on newsprint import is part of a

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think Bangladesh should go for nuclear energy?

Yes (84.24%)
No (14.87%)
No Comments (0.88%)

Total votes: 679

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think large billboards in Dhaka city are posing threat to public and should be dismantled?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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NUCLEAR ENERGY Russian team due tomorrow to sign MoU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-member Russian delegation will arrive in Dhaka tomorrow to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on peaceful use of nuclear energy in Bangladesh, science and ICT ministry officials said yesterday.

The team, headed by a secretary-level official, is expected to sign the MoU the same day as the two countries earlier reached an understanding over exchange of nuclear technology for setting up nuclear power plants in Bangladesh.

The Memorandum of

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200 BDR men held in 7 dists

Sedition cases being filed for mutiny outside HQ

STAR REPORT

About 200 suspected BDR rebels were arrested from different sectors, battalions and camps in seven northern districts yesterday as the police started filing sedition cases against the border troops across the country for staging February 25-26 mutiny.

Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) assisted by army personnel arrested suspected mutineers from different BDR units as courts concerned issued warrant against them following filing of the cases.

Later police hauled the BDR jawans before the courts in the districts concerned which ordered to send them to jails.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court placed 37 suspected BDR mutineers on a five-day remand each yesterday in connection with the carnage in the Pilkhana headquarters.

Of the arrestees, 51 were detained in Dinajpur, 20 in Joypurhat, 25 in Thakurgaon, 22 in Panchagarh, 33 in Rangpur, 34 in Kurigram and 15 in Lalmonirhat.

Earlier, law enforcers prepared a list of BDR jawans who looted arms from armouries and came out of their camps to stage mutiny across the country. The home ministry finally approved 40 sedition cases in 27 districts in connection with the mutinies at different BDR units.

Earlier on Sunday, 149 BDR jawans were rounded up from

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We Mourn

We are deeply shocked at the sad demise of the country's eminent nuclear scientist and former Chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission **Dr. M. A. Wazed Miah.** May Allah grant his soul eternal peace.

We also extend our heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Bank Asia Limited

We Mourn

We deeply condole the sad demise of **Dr. M. A. Wazed Miah,** an internationally renowned nuclear scientist and former Chairman of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission and husband of **Sheikh Hasina,** Hon'ble Prime Minister of Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

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