



BB appoints observer at Premier Bank

Asked the bank to explain irregularities
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has asked the Premier Bank to explain why it has appointed two consultants with high salaries and other benefits violating its guidelines. To see if there are any other irregularities in the bank, the central bank yesterday appointed its General Manager Moniruzzaman as an observer there. The BB sent a letter seeking Premier Bank's explanation on Thursday. BB sources said Premier Bank appointed Sheikh Nadir Hossain and Syed Rana Mustafi as consultants in

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Bombs being made for JMB operation

Confesses 'Boma' Mizan but claims he's not aware of targets of attack

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) had been planning terrorist attacks and asked its now detained explosives expert 'Boma Mizan' to have some bombs ready for use. Mizan, now on remand, has disclosed this to Rab interrogators. He, however, claims he knows nothing about the targets.

In interrogation, he also said the JMB top brass were supposed to firm up the plans at a meeting on May 15, the day

after he was captured from Taltola in the city.

The meeting was to be held in Joypurhat. Moulana Saidur Rahman, who is now at the JMB helm, was supposed to be in attendance, one of the Rab officials quizzing Mizan told The Daily Star yesterday.

"He said he doesn't know anything about the targets, as he was arrested before the planned meeting," said the Rab official requesting not to be named.

Saidur's son Bashar, who too is a key figure in JMB, met Mizan at Gulistan on

May 8 and asked to make bombs.

The detained JMB explosives expert also told the interrogators that his deputy Shishir or the outfit's military wing commander Sohel Mahfuz alias 'Hatkata Mahfuz' might fill in for him.

He also said the JMB high command would give him Tk 30,000 a month to cover personal and organisational expenses. Bashar and Sohel Mahfuz would hand him the money.

Investigators said lately they have gathered that the militants are most

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INDIAN ELECTION

Congress starts talks to form new govt

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

With a clear electoral mandate, India's ruling Congress yesterday set in motion the process of forming the government and indicated that it may include only pre-poll allies, leaving out Samajwadi Party and RJD, which had parted ways just before the Lok Sabha polls.

The party's highest decision-making body, the Congress Working Committee, discussed the scenario after the announcement of the poll results but there was no specific mention of parties or individuals such as Samajwadi Party or RJD chief Lalu Prasad.

However, it said discussions would be held on Tuesday with "pre-poll allies", parties like DMK, Trinamool Congress and NCP, regarding how to go about forming the government.

The hour-long meeting took place immediately after the Samajwadi Party and former

prime minister HD Deve Gowda's JD(S) had offered to support the Congress-led UPA, which is 11 seats short of 272 majority in the 545-member Lok Sabha.

The general view in Congress is that Samajwadi Party should be kept out of government although it has 23 seats.

Congress spokesman Janardhan Dwivedi said there was no discussion on specific individual or party at the Working Committee meeting.

Lalu Prasad, whose RJD has four seats, has meanwhile indicated keenness to stay in the new government.

Dwivedi said the Congress Parliamentary Party would meet Tuesday to elect its leader and chairperson after which talks will be held with "pre-poll allies" on formalities of government formation.

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Policemen at Shahbagh Police Station count money they seized from a car last night near Bangla Motor intersection. They held the driver (in red shirt) of the car during a search at a check post. PHOTO: STAR

CIB grapples with clearance pleas

60,000 applications pending with BB's credit information wing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 60,000 appeals from commercial banks for clearance of the credit information bureau (CIB) of Bangladesh Bank (BB) remain unsettled because of shortage of manpower that continues to hamper the banks' activities including disbursement of credit.

The central bank has hired some students of Dhaka University (DU) on part time basis for three months to help out.

A BB high official said commercial banks send about 3,700 names for clearance to the CIB every day while the central bank has the manpower to settle 2,800.

The backlog at the CIB increased further due to the last national and upazila polls.

The decision of hiring some DU students for clearing the pending appeals was made with the Board's approval during the tenure of former BB governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed.

A letter was sent to the DU vice-chancellor informing him that the central bank would like to appoint some students of the university on part time basis for the job.

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BOU removing Zia's mural

Plans to replace it with 'original one'; present mural distorts history, authorities say

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

The Bangladesh Open University (BOU) authorities Saturday night began to remove a mural from the campus to replace it with a new one.

The university authorities decided to replace the mural with the original one designed by sculptor Abdur Razzaq, said BOU Registrar Manjur-e-Khoda Tarafder.

He also said the mural was being removed following the decision of the board of governance, as the present mural is the distortion of the history of the liberation war.

University and police sources said that 10 to 12 people were found removing the mural adjacent to the main entrance of the university at 11:00 pm Saturday.

Local BNP leaders alleged the university authorities damaged the portraits of Ziaur Rahman and former premier Khaleda Zia in the mural.

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Currencies worth Tk 1.65 crore seized in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police seized different currencies worth around Tk 1.65 crore from a car and detained its driver at a check post near Bangla Motor intersection last night.

Detained driver Mohammad Mintu was taken to Shahbagh Police Station for questioning.

Two people who were in the car managed to run away when police stopped the

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Intense battles in Taliban stronghold

Over 1,000 militants killed in offensive so far

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistan's military said 'intense' battles had broken out Sunday as it advanced on a key Taliban stronghold in a fierce offensive that has scattered more than a million terrified civilians.

Ground forces entered Matta and Kanju towns in the scenic Swat valley, a bastion of firebrand Taliban commander Maulana Fazlullah who is behind a nearly two-year uprising that has devastated the area, security officials said.

Under pressure from Washington, Pakistan's military began pounding Taliban positions in Lower Dir, Buner and Swat districts three weeks ago after the rebels advanced to within 100 kilometres (60 miles) of Islamabad.

"Security forces have surrounded and entered the town(s) of Matta and Kanju to eliminate miscreants-terrorists from the

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Govt to resolve longstanding issues with India: Hasan

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh is 'serious' about resolving all longstanding issues with India including construction of Tipaimukh dam and sharing of waters of 54 common rivers through discussions.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Hasan Mahmud told this to reporters at the foreign ministry yesterday.

"India would have a stable government and contribute positively to the democratic process in the region," Hasan hoped.

He said that bilateral relations between Dhaka and New Delhi would also deepen further with the new governments in Bangladesh and India.

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Australia hikes aid despite slowdown

SYED ASHFAQUL HAQUE, back from Australia

Australia boosted development assistance to Bangladesh for 2009-10 by nearly 10 million Australian dollars despite its own economy's plunge to a 27-year low amid a global recession.

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) will now funnel Au\$61.2 million to be spent mainly on education, health and poverty eradication programmes.

It provided Au\$52 million in 2008-09, and was planning to raise the amount further before the economic downturn set in.

"Our plan was to double the aid. But, for

now, it is to stay as it was for the recession," Elaine Ward, AusAID director for South Asia, told The Daily Star in Canberra recently. "Our commitment for Bangladesh remains high despite the fact recession is there."

Australia has maintained a healthy aid flow in order to help a developing country like Bangladesh tackle the impact of global recession.

Bangladesh is AusAID's largest programme, run through a number of partner organisations including the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef), Brac—the largest NGO in the country—and the International Centre for Health and

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Extortion case against Hasina withdrawn

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Tk 2.99 crore extortion case filed by businessman Azam J Chowdhury against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was yesterday withdrawn.

Judge (in charge) Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of the Special Court-5 allowed the case to be withdrawn after Metropolitan Public Prosecutor (MPP) Abdullah Abu on May 14 submitted an application along with the government's

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ডায়েরিয়া!

ডায়েরিয়ায় আক্রান্ত রোগীদের চিকিৎসার জন্য সকল সরকারি হাসপাতালে বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে

- প্যাকেট স্যালাইন ও অন্যান্য তরল খাবার যেমন- ডাবের পানি, চিড়ার পানি ও ডালের পানি, ভাতের মাড়, চালের গুড়ার জাউ ডায়েরিয়া আক্রান্ত রোগীকে খেতে দিন
- রোগীকে স্বাভাবিক খাবারও খাওয়ান
- ডায়েরিয়া আক্রান্ত শিশুকে মায়ের দুধসহ অন্যান্য খাবার বারে বারে খেতে দিন
- ডায়েরিয়া বেশী হলে রোগীকে অবশ্যই হাসপাতালে নিন।

স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা বুরো, স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর
স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়

স্বাস্থ্যকর্মী: স্বাস্থ্য/সামাজিক/বিজ্ঞান/০৩/১৮/০২২ জাতিসংঘ: ৯/৫/২০০৯ ইং

GD-2545

Prayer Timing		
	May 18	
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation