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গান্ধী-কুমারসান্দর্-স্টার্ট, ডিকিট/আকর্ষণীয়

কৃত হাউ এক বেঞ্জিনারের নির্দিষ্ট মডেল এর সাথে নির্ভিত হলে

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Part of BDR probe report to be made public thru' JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan yesterday said 'necessary parts' of the national probe committee's report on the BDR carnage would be made public through parliament.

"The government is currently examining the report," he told reporters after meeting a delegation of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) at his secretariat office.

He also said charge sheet in the mutiny case would be submitted within a month or two.

On receiving the 309-page report on May 21, Home Minister Sahara Khatun said the government would soon

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Bashundhara chief, family surrender

Court allows them to stay free till June 25; attorney general surprised

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an order saying Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar Sobhan Shah Alam, his wife, and their two sons will remain free till June 25 in connection with a tax evasion case in which they had been convicted and sentenced to imprisonment in absentia.

Attorney General (AG) Mahbubey Alam however noted that Shah Alam and his family members must go to jail in connection with the case as they had been convicted and sentenced.

Judge Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge's Court-3 yesterday issued the order after Shah Alam, his wife Afroza Begum, and their

sons Sadat Sobhan and Sayem Sobhan surrendered before it and sought bail in the case in which they had earlier been convicted and sentenced to eight years of imprisonment each.

In his order, the judge said he was letting convicted Shah Alam and his family to stay free until June 25 because the High Court (HC) had earlier stayed the proceedings of the case till that date, and had asked them to surrender to the trial court after expiry of the period.

The HC had also directed law enforcement agencies not to arrest or harass the convicted during the period.

The prosecution did not oppose the defendants' bail petitions as the HC had earlier stayed the proceedings of the case too.

On September 30, 2007, Shah Alam and his

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CANTT HOUSE Hearing on Khaleda's writ petition adjourned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday adjourned until 2:00pm today the hearing on the writ petition filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia concerning her Dhaka Cantonment house.

The hearing was due to be held yesterday morning at an HC bench comprised of Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury.

But it was adjourned as Khaleda's counsel TH Khan prayed for time to file a supplementary petition against the government's third notice asking the leader of the opposition in parliament to vacate the house by June 30.

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JS body moves to save grabbed rivers

RASHIDUL HASAN

The parliamentary standing committee on environment and forest ministry yesterday formed a sub-committee to take necessary steps to save the country's rivers especially the Buriganga, Turag, Balu and Shitalakhya from pollution and grabbers.

The committee at its four-hour long meeting at the parliament building said they will take all possible steps to save rivers of the country specially the four major rivers surrounding the capital city.

"Newspapers are writing on the worse condition of the rivers and we are also worried to see the sorry state of our rivers. A four-member sub-committee has been formed to work out the way to save rivers from pollution and grabbers," Abdul Momin Talukder, chairman of the committee, told reporters at his office in parliament after the meeting.

The sub-committee will also work on how to recover 1.32 lakh acres of forestland, which has already been grabbed, he said.

"Headed by Saber Hossain Chowdhury, the sub-committee has been asked to prepare recommendations on how to save rivers and to place its report before the committee within the next two months," said Abdul Momin.

The sub-committee members will visit the rivers to get a first hand experience and sit with media and environment personalities before preparing their report, he added.

The standing committee chief said, "At least 567 industries are yet to set up Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and it is one of the major reasons for river pollution."

"After taking initiative to save rivers from pollution, we may face adverse reaction from them (industrialists). Therefore the standing committee will sit with them to jointly work on this issue," Abdul Momin said.

"Water of Dhaka city rivers is so polluted that even mosquitoes cannot breed on it," observed Abdul Momin.

"The committee members Monday expressed their deep concern over the sorry

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New ACC chief says he won't bow to pressure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"I want to ensure independent functioning of the commission," said newly-appointed Chairman of Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) Ghulam Rahman, adding that he would not bow to any pressure from the government.

Ghulam Rahman said this during an interview with private TV channel Desh TV.

Ghulam is now the chairman of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission and is yet to join the ACC. He said he is going to become the ACC chief soon and has sent a letter to the president seeking relief from his current post so that he could join the ACC.

Once the president

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Pak forces eye control of Swat within 10 days

2.38 million people flee northwest offensive

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistan's military said yesterday it was facing "stiff resistance" as it battled to wrest Swat valley out of Taliban hands, in an offensive that has now scattered 2.38 million terrified civilians.

Military spokesman Major General Athar Abbas told AFP it could take up to 10 days to regain control of Swat's capital Mingora, as the punishing assault across three rugged north-west districts entered a fifth week.

Ground forces have been fighting street-by-street with Taliban fighters in Mingora, the business and administrative hub of the scenic Swat region which has been ripped apart by a two-year insurgency by the Islamist extremists.

"It may take seven to 10 days to clear Mingora town of militants," Abbas said. Troops first entered Mingora on Saturday.

"The operation may be a little slow to avoid civilian casualties, damage and destruction to property. There are also improvised explosive

devices (IEDs) planted in Mingora, and we have to clear these IEDs as well."

On Monday, the military claimed to have secured Malam Jabba, a Taliban bastion in Swat once popular with tourists for its pristine ski slopes, and to have made gains in several key Mingora neighbourhoods.

"Security forces are facing stiff resistance," a military statement said, adding that four suspected militants had been killed in the last 24 hours.

A security official said earlier that troops were still battling on the streets of Mingora, which has seen Taliban fighters armed with guns and rocket launchers patrol the streets in the past weeks.

"Militants are retreating from different fronts but we are still receiving fire from some pockets of resistance," the official said.

The battles across the northwest have sent panicked civilians fleeing their homes, crowding into refugee camps or huddling with relatives.

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Dinajpur spells bad news for litchi lovers

Yield to be 80pc less for lack of rain

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Production of litchi in the northern region is likely to be less by 80 percent compared to the previous years due to prolonged dry spells during sprouting of season's most mouth-watering fruit.

Litchi growers and traders of the district have become upset experiencing less production of the delicious fruit this year. Farmers said they did not experience such fall in production of litchi in last one decade.

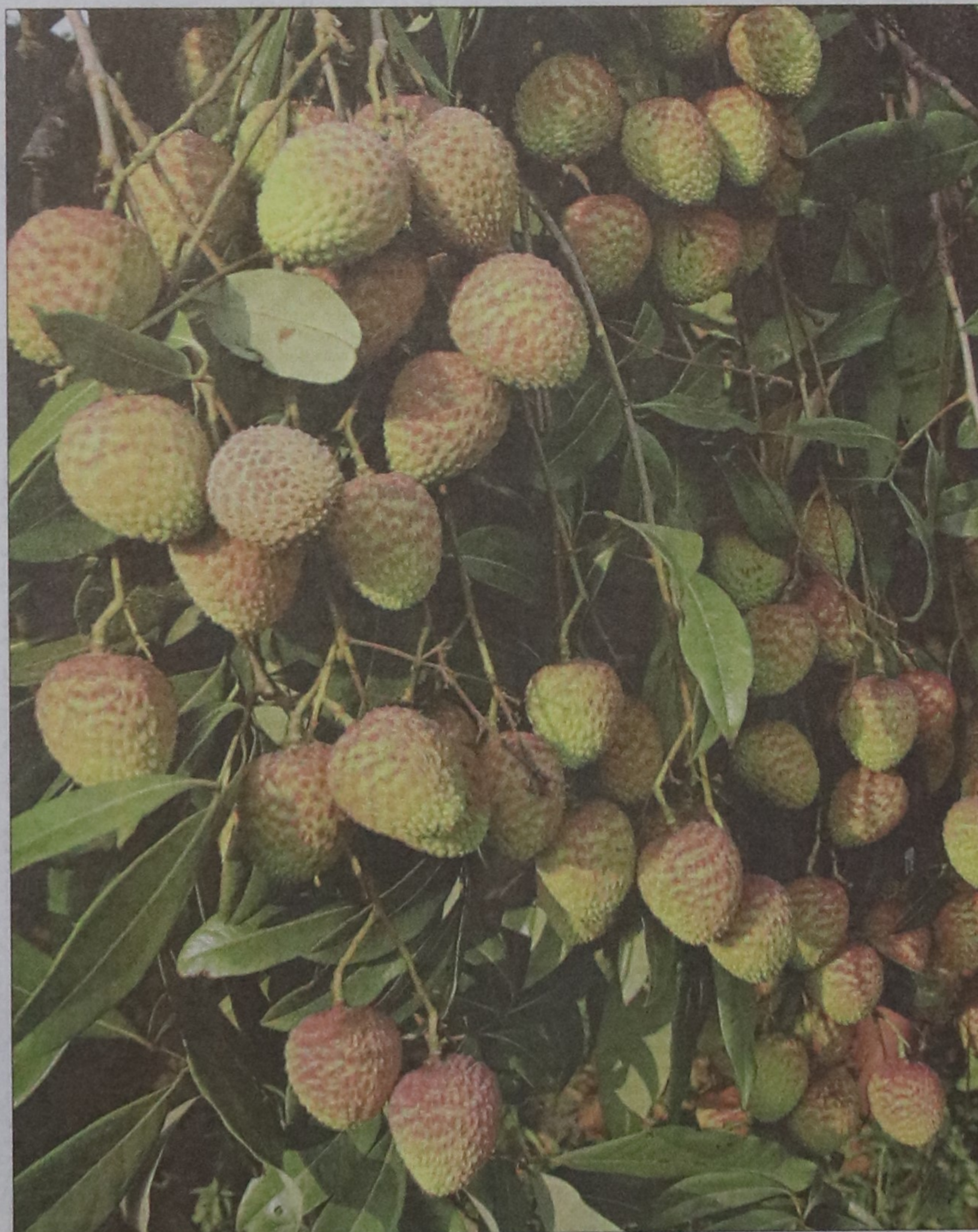
Though the rains have been lashed early this month in the district, the drought has already affected the litchi production, litchi traders and growers said.

Seventy to 80 percent buds of litchi in the region has been damaged due to absence of adequate rainfall. Farmers said the litchi trees were seen with full of buds but the production target seemed doomed by unfavourable weather.

M Nurul Islam, a litchi grower of Madhabhati village in Biral upazila of the district, observed that the litchi trees require a huge moisture after flowering but this year most litchi flowers were damaged as there was not enough rain since February that has marred the chance of bumper production.

Besides, the farmers of Mashimpur in Sadar upazila said they will get only about 20 percent litchi this year in

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Litchi growers say that size and taste of season's most mouth-watering fruit depend on adequate rainfall and favourable weather. This photo shows small size of litchis in the tree at mature stage due to prolonged hot spell.

PHOTO: STAR

2 killed in Punjab as Sikhs protest killing in Austria

Curfew in 3 Indian cities

AFP, Amritsar, India

Two protesters were killed in India's Punjab state yesterday in fierce rioting sparked by the shooting dead of a guru in fighting between rival Sikh communities in Austria, police said.

The two men were killed in separate incidents when police opened fire to disperse angry crowds who rioted in cities and towns across the northwestern state.

They were protesting against the death of Sant Rama Nand, who was killed by fellow Sikhs in a temple in the Austrian capital of Vienna on Sunday as he addressed 200 worshippers.

Demonstrators in Punjab torched four train carriages in the city of Jalandhar, police said, despite a curfew imposed to halt the violence.

Curfews were also in place in the cities of Phagwara and Hoshiarpur, with more than 900 troops deployed to control the situation.

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MP Bodi this time assaults lawyer

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Awami League (AL) lawmaker Abdur Rahman Bodi from Cox's Bazar-4 constituency has manhandled lawyer and rights activist of the district advocate Rakhil Mitra.

The incident occurred at Pizza Palace restaurant at Saikat Market at Jautola at 10:00pm Sunday.

Different organisations yesterday held rallies protesting the incident and demanded Bodi's punishment. Rakhil said, "I went to Pizza Palace to buy biscuit at around 10 pm where I met Bodi. After exchange of greetings as I reminded him of his poll pledge of power facility at the crematorium, Bodi got infuriated and swooped on me."

"Bodi caught hold of my shirt collar, punched and kicked me and as I was sick I just slipped out of the restaurant," he added.

Rakhil in a letter to the president and the general secretary of Cox's Bazar District Bar Association informed about the incident and urged them to take legal action against him.

Bodi, on the other hand, denied the allegation and said, "Rakhil was intoxicated when he entered Pizza Palace. He began to converse with me about power supply to the crematorium. At one stage he started pushing and shoving me."

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SSC, Dakhil results today

BSS, Dhaka

The results of 'this year's Secondary School Certificate (SSC), SSC (vocational) and Dakhil examinations under eight education boards, Technical Education Board and Madrasa Education Board will be published simultaneously today across the country.

The candidates can collect the results, which will be published at 5:00pm, from their respective schools or examination centres. They can also receive the results

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OnlinePoll ✓

Do you support the gov't's decision to connect Bangladesh to the Asian Highway Network (AHN) through the present route?

Yes (47.87%)

No (50.68%)

No Comments (1.46%)

Total votes: 961

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government should audit the parliament expenditure annually and make it public to tackle corruption such as paying fuel bill for Tarique Rahman?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

May 26

| | Azan | Jamaat |
|---------|-------|--------|
| Fajr | 4-05 | 4-40 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 5-00 | 5-15 |
| Maghrib | 6-40 | 6-45 |
| Esha | 8-00 | 8-30 |

Source: Islamic Foundation