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Photographs of Bangabandhu, PM torn, burnt  
A CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj

Miscrants ransacked and burnt the photographs of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Mukudpur early morning yesterday.

Police arrested Noor Mohammad Nuru Gazi, 28, on charges of involvement in the incident.

Officer-In-Charge (OC) of Mukudpur Police Station AKM Liakat Ali said a seditious case had been filed in this connection.

Seven youths of Maharajpur union broke in the Bangabandhu Club at Banogram Bazar under Mukudpur upazila at around 2:00am yesterday. The club has been used as the office of Union Awami League.

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## Move on to clip ACC wings

### Bureaucrats, MPs, policymakers get immunity in draft proposals; Anti-Corruption Commission chief terms it wishful thinking

EMRAN HOSSAIN

The government plans to curb the Anti-Corruption Commission's mandate so it cannot act unilaterally to file graft cases against public officials, policymakers, lawmakers and other representatives.

The cabinet committee, formed in March to review the ACC act and recommend changes necessary to make the anti-graft body more effective and pro-people, has already drafted some proposals to that end and forwarded those to the commission for opinion.

It suggests the graft busters should be obliged to take permission from the government to bring proceedings in certain circumstances and against someone believed to have "committed the

offence in good faith".

At present, the anti-corruption act allows ACC to initiate probe and file a case if the offence is included in its schedule.

About the cabinet body's recommendations, ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman said, "They are nothing but wishful thinking. I don't think a democratic government would pass laws to clip the ACC wings."

He said any suggestion for change to the anti-graft law should be made available online for open discussion since the matter concerns public interests.

"Everyone with interest in the ACC activities should have a chance to air their views on the matter," Rahman added.

ACC sources said bureaucrats are

the brains behind the amendment proposals. They have come up with those to shield themselves from prosecution on graft charges.

But as the proposals would not be passed by parliament only for their sake, they have taken aboard lawmakers and policymakers, added the sources.

ACC has not yet formed formal opinions over the recommendations brought forward by the committee comprised of representatives from law, home, establishment and finance ministries, ACC, Bangladesh Bank, National Board of Revenue (NBR) and Internal Resources Division.

Cabinet division's Additional Secretary Tariqul Islam, also chief of the committee, said he does not

know much about the proposals as he has joined office only recently and attended one out of the five meetings held so far.

He however noted it should not take long to bring the amendments, as the committee has been working on those for quite some time, and parliament too is in full swing.

Requesting anonymity, a member of the committee said the recommendations have been geared to check misuse of power by ACC.

The provisions proposed to shield government officials would not be unique to the ACC act. Many existing laws in the country have similar provisions, he added.

The other recommendations include specifying in the law that the anti-graft body must be accountable to the president. Currently, ACC

only has to submit its annual report to the president.

The graft watchdog will suffer another blow if the government implements the proposal for leaving it to NBR's discretion whether to furnish ACC with the documents it should ask for.

Under the present anti-corruption law, ACC can have access to public documents preserved at any government office.

Once ACC gives its opinion on the matter, the committee will firm up the proposals and send those to the cabinet. The cabinet division will then take necessary measures.

Of the proposals, one suggests assigning the ACC secretary with the responsibilities of the commission's principal accountant as well.

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### Micro-credit system of NGOs slated

UNB, Chittagong

Criticising the NGOs' micro-credit system, Social Welfare Minister Enamul Huq Mostafa Shaheed yesterday said their loan distribution could not bring any remarkable change in the lives of the deprived, underprivileged and handicapped people of the country.

"An economist of the country has won the Nobel Peace Prize for his micro-credit initiatives, but the question is has there been any change in the lives of the country's poor? ...this needs to be analysed," he told a meeting at Chittagong Circuit House.

The meeting was arranged for exchange of views with representatives of the NGOs being run in the Chittagong division.

Enamul Huq said the activities of the NGOs which work

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## Troops all alert on Myanmar front

### Leaves of BDR men restricted; Nasaka round up 10,000 Rohingyas for push-in

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and AHMEDE HUSSAIN

In the wake of the mobilisation of a huge number of Myanmar troops along the border, Bangladesh is making all-out preparations to thwart any incursion attempt by them, highly placed sources in the government said.

Bangladesh has already sent three army brigades to its hilly border with Myanmar and has readied another brigade following the deliberate provocative moves the latter, sources said.

Intelligence officials said Bangladesh Armed Forces are taking special exercises to handle any eventualities if all diplomatic channels to resolve the conflict are exhausted.

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) has imposed restriction on all kinds of leaves, a move which

is taken only in 'abnormal' situation, BDR Director General (DG) Major General Mainul Islam said.

A Foreign Ministry official, however, said Bangladesh believes that all crises with its neighbours could be solved through diplomatic means. "But that does not mean that we will remain idle if the country's territorial sovereignty is at stake," he said.

The DG of the country's border forces said, "This is an abnormal situation. No country generally deploys its armed forces on the border. We don't like the erection of barbed-wire fences by the engineering corps of the Myanmar army."

He said his forces are always on war footing. "Our boys will just open fire in case of incursion

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Myanmar authorities continue erecting concrete pillars for barbed wire fence along Myanmar border at Naikhangchhari in Bandarban.

PHOTO: STAR

## Outlaw killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A regional leader of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) was killed in a 'shootout' between his cohorts and police at Barabaria village under Mirpur upazila in Kushtia yesterday.

The deceased, Maznu Mondol alias Abdullah, 36, son of late Sawdagar Mondol of Chakmondolpur of Mirpur upazila was accused in six cases, including two for murder, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint team from detective branch and Mirpur police raided Barabaria graveyard where some BCP cadres were holding a meeting around 4:30am.

The outlaws defied orders of the law enforcers to surrender and opened fire forcing

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## Information Commission left out in the cold

### Formed 3 months back, it is yet to get office, logistics

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The Information Commission formed more than three months ago is facing difficulties in enforcing the Right to Information (RTI) Act since it is yet to have a permanent office, required manpower and logistics.

The government has not also framed rules necessary for proper implementation of the act that came into effect on 1 July to ensure people's access to information.

Setting up of an information delivery unit in every government office and appointment of an officer to provide citizens with their required information are also going on at a slow pace. The RTI act provides for these.

The Awami League government formed the three-member commission, and is supposed to provide it a permanent office, a 78-member staff and logistics including transport for its smooth functioning.

Asked about it yesterday, Chief

Information Commissioner M Azizur Rahman said, "We are slow but steady." He however added delay in implementation of the act will only delay people's right to information.

Two other information commissioners are retired secretary Mohammad Abu Taher and Prof Sadeka Halim of sociology department of Dhaka University.

The commission started work at the National Institute of Mass Communications.

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## Militants take hostage at Pak army HQs

### Four assailants, 6 soldiers killed in fierce fighting

AP, AFP, Rawalpindi/ Islamabad

Several gunmen who escaped after the attack last morning on the Pakistan army HQ near Islamabad had taken some security personnel hostage and were encircled by troops, a military spokesman said.

"There are more than two terrorists who have taken some security personnel as hostages. Efforts are under way for their safe recovery," army spokesman

Major General Athar Abbas told state-run Pakistan television.

"Security forces have surrounded the terrorists. We are trying to recover the hostages safely," he added.

Earlier gunmen wearing military uniforms and wielding assault rifles and grenades attacked Pakistan's army headquarters, sparking a ferocious gunbattle outside the capital that left four of the assailants and six soldiers dead, authorities said.

Two of the attackers managed to infiltrate the heavily fortified compound in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, and troops were trying to flush them out hours after the initial assault, an intelligence official said. An Associated Press reporter at the scene heard four gunshots from inside the compound long after an army spokesman said the situation was under control.

The audacious assault was the third

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An urchin stands at the centre of the Nagor Dola ride at Shishu Academy in the capital while children of the academy get to enjoy the ride. The academy organised several programmes for children yesterday to observe the world children's day and children's rights week.

PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

## Free secretariat for judiciary soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said an independent secretariat for the judiciary would be set up under the Supreme Court soon to fully implement the process of the separation of the judiciary from the executive.

The government will take necessary steps soon to set up the secretariat after consultation with the chief justice, he said while talking to journalists after inauguration of a training programme at the Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI) in the city.

A total of 22 joint judges and sessions judges are participating in the 91st judicial administration training course that will continue till October 29.

Replying to a question, the minister said the government is working for setting up well-protected rooms for holding trial of

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## 1,173 more get plots in Purbachal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) announced the names of 1,173 plot winners in three categories for Purbachal New Town Project yesterday.

The three categories are private service holder, businessman and lawyer. Private service holders got 10 percent of the total allocation, businessmen eight percent and the lawyers two percent.

Rajuk officials said over

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