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Lawmakers debate over repression of journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The atmosphere in parliament heated up once again yesterday as treasury and opposition bench lawmakers locked horns and accused each other of torturing journalists.

Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and BNP lawmaker Moudud Ahmed engaged in the debate on the issue. They were backed up by their fellow lawmakers, who thumped desks and shouted at the top of their voice.

Later, taking part in the discussion on the thanksgiving motion on the

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

5 rental power deals deviate from rules

One power deal being cancelled; other projects delayed

SHARIER KHAN

The power board's move to have five rental power projects totalling 340 megawatt capacity within this year looks bleak as the contractual obligations are now being deviated from, according to documents obtained by The Daily Star.

Local companies Rahimafrooz, Otobi and Coastal Saba were awarded contracts to set up diesel-based and furnace oil-based rental power projects for three to five years. Now they either want to change power plant equipment configuration or have not submitted performance security

deposit (PSD) or have deferred the PSD payment.

All of these are severe violations of contractual terms for which the Power Development Board (PDB) can terminate their contracts.

According to correspondence with PDB, Rahimafrooz attributed the cause of deviation to the Board's delay in completing the tender process. On the other hand, both Otobi and Coastal Saba argued unless the power plant equipment is changed from the proposed one, it will give rise to technical problems.

There appears to be a lack of seriousness in implementing these projects. In fact, one of them has expressed inability to sign one contract involving a 30mw plant, which is now facing cancellation, says a PDB source.

The cabinet purchase committee approved these five projects in mid-January hoping that the diesel-based plants would come into operation by May-June and furnace oil-based plants from October-November.

These companies were supposed to sign contracts with PDB within January 27. But the bid winners were delaying

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

GD can be filed online

Services of city's 41 police stations to be available on the web

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Online service including filing of general diaries on the web will be provided from today at all 41 police stations under Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun inaugurated the service at her office yesterday. Uttara Police Station was the first to have equipped with the facility.

Registration of foreigners visiting Bangladesh and filling up of immigration forms on both arrival and departure can be done online, Assistant Inspector General (AIG-ICT) of Police Mohammad Shah Alam told The Daily Star.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

HEROIN SMUGGLING CID seeks to quiz BD Foods chief

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department yesterday sought permission to interrogate BD Foods Ltd Chairman Badruddoza Chowdhury Momen and five others in connection with 54 kilograms of heroin smuggling case.

CID Assistant Superintendent of Police Arshad Ali, also the investigation officer of the case, appealed to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka to unearth how and from where the accused had brought heroin

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

PM pledges pro-people edn admin

UNB, Sangsad Bhaban

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in parliament yesterday said the government is going to formulate an education policy to provide modern and service-oriented education on knowledge and technology through a corruption free, pro-people and dynamic education administration.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

University student murdered

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Alleged drug peddlers stabbed a university student to death at Harua in Kishoreganj yesterday.

Victim Fakhrul Islam Shovon, 20, son of banker Nazrul Islam of Harua, was a student of University of Development Alternative at

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Changes in HSC exam schedule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to bring some partial changes in the exam schedule of the upcoming Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations with a view to ensuring participation of the candidates in the exams with appropriate preparations.

A number of HSC examinees from different colleges in the city phoned

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



People returning home from workplaces suffer a lot as Jubo League stages a rally in the city's Muktangan area yesterday afternoon blocking the road. The rally was held in protest of filing a case against its general secretary Mirza Azam.

PHOTO: STAR

Nightingale Medical College's approval cancelled

All students to be migrated to other pvt medical colleges

ALPHA ARZU

The government has cancelled approval of the Nightingale Medical College at Ashulia on the ground of non-compliance of certain terms and conditions, said a high official of the health and family welfare ministry yesterday.

It also decided to migrate its 165 students to other private medical colleges from this

academic session, said the official.

The government has cancelled the permission, as the college authorities did not establish hospital, which is mandatory and even it has not required number of teachers and adequate lab facilities. Irregularities have also been found in college management board, said Prof Khandaker M Shefayet Ullah, director (medical education) of Directorate

General of Health Services (DGHS).

The college also has violated the Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council Act.

As per the Guidelines for Establishing Private Medical College and BMDC act, a private medical college has to run a general or specialised hospital and the ratio for students' seats and bed should be 1:5,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

5 'muggers' hurt in Rab gun battles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three separate gun battles between Rapid Action Battalion personnel and alleged muggers left at least five people with bullet injuries Tuesday night.

The battles took place between 8:00pm and 2:00am in Dhaka city and Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital, Rab sources said.

Alleged muggers Shafiqul Islam, 26, and Harunar

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

A hill town of accused

One-third of Khagrachhari people sued for Feb 23 violence

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

About one-third of Khagrachhari municipality residents have been accused in six cases filed in connection with February 23 violence. As a result, many innocent people, both Bangalee and indigenous, have been arrested in the drives of joint forces since February 23.

All six cases were filed with the Khagrachhari Sadar Police Station for murder, arson and riots in the areas.

Bureau of Khagrachhari Statistics Office quoting 2001 census said there are 38,879 people in Khagrachhari municipality area.

Mohammad Ali, statistical investigator, said that the figure might have risen to 60,000 by now.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

INDO-BANGLA JOINT COMMUNIQUE

Govt to fix time for completing key tasks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday decided to fix a timeframe to implement the key tasks of India-Bangladesh joint communiqué.

The issues include river dredging, tackling cross-border crimes, setting up railway and electricity lines and sharing waters of the river Teesta.

The decision came at a high-profile meeting at the Prime Minister's Office with PM's Economic Adviser Moshirur Rahman in the chair. The meeting decided to implement the key issues on priority basis from this year.

This was the first meeting that elaborately discussed the implementation and progress of the joint communiqué since

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

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OnlinePoll

Do you think the government should introduce stiff penalties for jaywalking in the capital?

Yes (74.6%) No (20.9%) No Comments (4.5%)

Total votes: 971

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think there should be more forms of punishment other than death sentence for killing after rape?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

March 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

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