

# G20 labour ministers to meet despite Europeans' absence

AFP, Washington  
US Labor Secretary Hilda Solis pressed ahead yesterday with plans for a first-ever meeting of her G20 counterparts, despite the absence of ministers from Britain, France, Germany and the European Commission because of disrupted air travel to and from Europe.

Solis said the "historic" meeting would go ahead in Washington on Tuesday and Wednesday as planned without European ministers caught up by the ban on airline travel caused by an ash cloud from Iceland. "We do know that there are a few ministers who will not be able to make it obviously, because of the volcanic eruption," she said adding that European ministers would send surrogates.

Despite the chaos wrought by volcano Eyjafjoell, which has spewed ash across swathes of northern Europe, Solis said the meeting would achieve "concrete results."

The meeting was set up during a Pittsburgh meeting of

G20 leaders in September at the behest of President Barack Obama, who faces a tough domestic challenge in putting millions of Americans back to work.

Solis said the meeting would "ensure that employment issues and the challenges that the economic crisis is posing for working families is kept front and center in our mission."

The International Labor Organization has estimated that 20 million jobs have been saved or created by government stimulus spending in 2009 and 2010.

### Youth shot dead

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Locals said the criminals were led by Farid who was a former Juba Dal leader and joined the Awami League after AL-led grand alliance came to power.

There had been rivalry between Farid and Ripon for several years, they added.

None was arrested and no case was filed in this connection till filing the report at 10:00pm, police said.

# 56 BDR rebels

FROM PAGE 1  
Twenty-four BDR men were jailed for seven years, four for five years, three for four years and a half, five for four years, three for three years, one for two years and a half, four for two years, two for one year and a half, six for thirteen months, one for six months and three for four months.

The court also fined Tk 100 each of the convicts.

DG Mainul Islam read out the verdict to each of the convicts separately. Before delivering the judgment, he said all the facts and evidence proved mutiny in Nildumur battalion took place on February 26 last year.

The convicts handed down seven years are Subedar Masuduzzaman, Abdus Salam, Abdul Kader, Jasim Uddin, Mosharraf Hossain, Sohag Hossain, Abul Hossain Mia, Shah Alam, Golam Mustafa, Abul Kalam Azad, Abul Khair, Thoai Lau Marma, Delwar Hossain, Maksud Khan, Akhtar Hossain, Khondakar Md Waliullah, Sajedul Islam, Shariful Islam, Helal Uddin, Masud Karim, Abu Naser, Kawsar Ahmed, Abu Zafar Mohammad Fayjul Islam and Emdadul Haque Khan.

The mutineers jailed for five years are Saidul Islam, SM Jahangir Alam, Minhaj Uddin Mondal and Abdur Rahim Sarkar.

Sepoys Ataur Rahman, Akmal Hossain and Anwar Hossain were handed down four years and six months' imprisonment each, while sepoy Yusuf Nur, Ziaur Rahman, Abu Yusuf Fakir, Abdul Baten Bhuiyan and Didarul Alam got four years' rigorous imprisonment.

Those who were sentenced to three years' imprisonment are Mahsin Ali, Mamun Ar Rashid and Shahadat Hossain. Habildar Jahangir Hossain was awarded two years and six

months' rigorous imprisonment, while sepoy Sumon Rahman, Abdullah Al Momin, Ashiqur Rahman and Abdus Samad were jailed for two years.

Habildar Abdul Quddus Mia and Abul Kashem were jailed for one year and six months, while sepoy Yakub Ali, Delwar Hossain, Yunus Ali, Abdul Jalil, AKM Anisur Rahman and Abul Kashem were sentenced to thirteen months' imprisonment.

Sheikh Tahmid Hossain was awarded six months' imprisonment, while Nur Hossain, Binoy Chandra Das and Babul Mia got four months'.

The court awarded lesser punishment to 16 convicts as they sought mercy confessing to their offence on January 20 which saved time for the court proceedings.

Terming the judgment day remarkable in the history of 7 Rifle Battalion, Gen Mainul said all legal proceedings were maintained as per the BDR Act.

He also mentioned that the accused were given 40 days instead of the minimum provision of 27 days for preparing their defence as per the law.

The trial began on December 7 last year and journalists and visitors were allowed to observe the proceedings. The court recorded statements of 27 prosecution witnesses in the case.

The convicts cried out loud soon after Mainul delivered the judgment and left the courtroom. Many of them alleged they have been punished for nothing and the real culprits are still at large.

The mutiny spread in different barracks of the BDR across the country including 7 Rifle Battalion the next day of the bloody mutiny in BDR headquarters in Pikhana on February 25 last year.

# Tk 1 lakh bid

FROM PAGE 16  
Ali informed Rab personnel of the matter who advised him to hold a mock arbitration, Ali said.

Following Rab's directions, Ali assured the four that he would opt for a settlement.

The Rab men positioned themselves near the venue of the mock arbitration on April 18 and arrested the four criminals on their arrival, Major Islam said.

Later at a press conference held at Rab-3 headquarters in Tikatuli the four confessed to have committed the heinous crime.

Ali said the arrestees were taxi drivers and had previous records of stalking female garment workers during their commute to work.

THE INCIDENT  
Like any other night, the victim was on her way home at Matirmasjid from the garment factory on DIT Road in Malibagh around 10:30pm.

threatened her not to disclose it, she said.

She returned home and went to see Ali immediately with her roommate. She lived in a rented room at Matirmasjid area.

Ali asked her to come back in the morning.

The following day, the criminals went to her home and made threats so that she leaves her place, she said, adding that the threats became so frequent that she had to leave home and take shelter at Ali's.

VICTIM'S FAMILY  
The victim, daughter of a labourer who died a few years ago, is the youngest of four siblings.

She helps her mother, who works as a domestic help, to run the family as all her siblings are physically challenged.

The victim said, "My mother along with my brother and sisters live in Mehendiganj of Barisal," adding, "I came to Dhaka about a year ago to support my family."

# ACC sends final notice to Khaleda today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission will issue its fourth and final notice on former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia today seeking appointment with her for questioning on two allegations against her now being probed.

In reply to the ACC's earlier three notices, Khaleda had said she needed to go through documents concerning the allegations before being questioned.

Each time the anti-graft body assured the former premier that it would let her do so before questioning starts.

Sources said, the last letter would request the former premier to give her statement saying that the ACC would not send further letter if she refuses this time and it would be considered that she is not willing to give her statement regarding the allegations.

ACC sources pointed out that law does not allow them to send documents and papers to Khaleda. The ACC has recently decided to give the former premier last chance through its final notice.

The allegations concern laundering of about Tk 7.5 crore of public money for purchasing land for Zia Charitable Trust and misappropriation of funds for construction of Bhairab Bridge, causing a loss of Tk 100 crore to the state when she was prime minister, sources mentioned.

The money laundering probe also involves Khaleda's sons Tarique Rahman, senior vice-chairman of BNP, and Arafat Rahman Koko as they are also trustees of the charitable trust.

### RMG factory

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law-enforcers. The workers then took to the street and blocked the highway at about 8:30am.

Police resorted to baton charge again on the demonstrators that triggered a fierce clash, leaving at least 40 people.

Police fired 12 bullets, 171 rubber bullets and 16 teargas canisters during the clash to bring the situation under control.

Witnesses said several hundred vehicles remained stranded on the road from 8:30am to 12 noon due to the barricade, causing immense sufferings to people.

Senior manager (marketing) of the factory Nazmul Huq Khan termed the incident a conspiracy saying, "A vested quarter might have fuelled the incident while some outsiders stormed into the factory and looted its valuables."

He claimed that around five lakh pieces of T-shirts were looted from the factory.

Sonargaon police filed a case against around 5,000 workers for attacking a temporary police camp and damaging vehicles on the road. Police picked up 16 garment workers from the spot.

Of the damaged vehicles, two were set fire by the workers. The injured were admitted to local clinics and hospitals.

### Jamaat

FROM PAGE 16  
opined that it would be wise for the party to relinquish the leaders, with war-crime allegation against them, for the greater interest of the party.

They think if those leaders are removed from the party's portfolio the party might not face any difficulty rather it would improve its image. It is hard to make such a decision as most of the top-ranking leaders were allegedly involved in war crimes and they have strong influence in the party.

Jamaat leaders say if chief Matiur Rahman Nazimi is arrested then the next in line to lead is Nayebe Ameer Moulana Yusuf or Delwar Hossain Sayedee. Both of them have allegation of war crimes against them. If all of them are arrested, Jamaat decided that the third Nayebe Ameer Makbul Ahmed would be the acting ameer of Jamaat.

There is a similar problem in the second most important post in Jamaat, Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and three assistant secretaries general - M o h a m m a d Qamaruzzaman, Abdul Kader Mollah and ATM Azharul Islam - also have war crimes allegations against them and all of them could be arrested.

In this context, Jamaat leaders are considering another assistant secretary general barrister Abdur Razzak who would step in as secretary general.

# Allegations not true

FROM PAGE 1  
On Sunday, the chief justice swore in 15 of the 17 newly appointed HC judges, leaving out Ruhul Quddus Babu and Md Khasruzzaman as per his earlier decision.

The allegations against the two are that Ruhul Quddus was an accused in a case and Khasruzzaman had kicked the entrance to the attorney general's office building on November 30 in 2006.

Replying to a query, Shafiqe said all the newly appointed judges are efficient and honest.

Meanwhile, the launching of the book titled Bangabandhu Swadhinatar Ghoshana: High Courter Oitihashik Rai, published by Subarna Prakashani, was held at the Liberation War Museum in the city. The book is based on the HC verdict that said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman is the proclaimer of independence.

Speakers at the launching ceremony said terming any one other than Bangabandhu proclaimer of independence is a violation of the constitution.

Those who spoke included Awami League lawmaker Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Prof Muntasir Mamun, artist Belal Mohammad, Shahriar Kabir and advocate Manzill Murshed. Justice Golam Rabbani presided.

### RECONSTITUTE HC BENCHES: PRO-BNP LAWYERS

A group of pro-BNP lawyers yesterday urged the chief justice to reconstitute some High Court benches with senior judges for

### UNOs

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expressed strong resentment at this and they feel humiliated as the UNOs would exercise more authority and the elected representatives would have less power in implementing decisions.

Sources said the upazila chairmen would sit today in the capital to discuss what they would do.

Rangpur's Badarganj upazila Chairman Biswanath Sarker Bitu told The Daily Star that disputes between the UNO and the elected representatives would increase if the bills made a law and a "dual rule" would be established in upazilas. He said this would harm the government's initiatives to strengthen local government.

Sources in the cabinet said the government made the proposal under the impression that the differences between upazila chairmen and UNOs would persist and there is no way to get rid of this.

Zakir Hossain Sarker, upazila chairman of Mithapukur upazila of Rangpur, said all power of the upazila parishad should be in the hands of the chairman, which would make the local government stronger.

"The government approval to the proposal is welcome," said a UNO while talking to The Daily Star preferring not to be named.

According to another proposal at the cabinet, officers-in-charge of every police station now have to be present at the upazila parishad law and order committee meetings. Earlier, OCS did not attend the meetings as their status was that of a second-class government official.

Talking to The Daily Star a cabinet member said the coordination between the UNO, upazila chairman and law enforcers in an upazila would help improve law and order.

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hearing and disposing the important cases including the writ and bail petitions.

The senior lawyers made the appeal at a meeting with chief justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim at his Supreme Court office in the afternoon.

The chief justice assured them of looking into the matter, a lawyer, who was present at the meeting, told reporters.

The lawyers included TH Khan, Moudud Ahmed, Jamiruddin Sircar, Rafiqul Islam Mia, and Supreme Court Bar Association President Khandaker Mahub Hossain and its secretary Badruddoza Badal.

The chief justice recently reconstituted some 32 benches of the HC following the appointment of 15 new judges.

### Cabinet decisions

FROM PAGE 1  
Cabinet Division of the Secretariat.

Azad said the cabinet approved 106 bills in its 62 meetings until now.

So far, the current parliament passed 89 bills. Seventeen other bills are under consideration of parliament and different ministries, he said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who presided over the meeting, expressed her satisfaction over the progress of implementation. She urged the ministers and secretaries to perform their duties sincerely to implement more decisions.

Azad said the last BNP-Jamaat government took 200 decisions during their first 15 months of its tenure and implemented only 139, which rated 69 percent.

### Sylhet power

FROM PAGE 1  
of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecnc).

The project was first approved in April 2001 at an estimated cost of Tk 342 crore, and it was to be completed by 2004.

According to a report of the planning ministry, the project was not implemented at that time as no foreign aid agencies came forward.

Later, it was decided that the project would be implemented with suppliers' credit. Accordingly the project got approval for the second time in July 2004 at an estimated cost of Tk 404 crore.

But this time also, the project did not see any implementation because of the complexity in getting suppliers' credit and delay by the government to invite tenders.

Then the caretaker government decided that the government would fund the project. But it could not finalise the setting up of the power plant during its tenure.

After the present government assumed power, it took an initiative to implement the project, and the purchase committee has approved the project in favour of Chinese company Shanghai Electric Group Co Ltd.

The planning ministry report said due to increase in the price of goods, salaries of employees as per new pay scale, the cost of the project goes up.

It also mentioned that the delay involves not only short of foreign assistance but also lack of coordination between the implementing agencies.

The agencies wasted time in formulating tender documents and evaluating tender bids.

# Collaborator held

FROM PAGE 1  
Bangladesh Collaborators (Special Tribunal) Order, 1972 on charge of collaborating with Pakistani occupying forces during the Liberation War.

Mowla joined the Awami League in presence of the party's advisory council member and veteran politician Tofail Ahmed alongside many other BNP leaders at a campaign rally.

Local Awami League had organised the rally on April 11 at Tajumuddin upazila under Bhola-3 parliamentary constituency.

When asked, former minister Tofail expressed surprise. "Many people are joining us due to their resentment for BNP candidate Major (ret'd) Hafiz. I don't know whether any controversial person joined Awami League taking this chance."

"I will ask our leaders to enquire into the matter. He [Mowla] will be ousted from the party if the allegation proves to be true," he said while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

A number of local Awami League leaders, however,

apparently defended Mowla. They said he is not an important person of the area and he did not commit any serious offence during the Liberation War.

"He is a simple insignificant person of our area. He might have hoisted the flag (Pakistani flag) at his home during the war," said Nurul Momin, organising secretary of Tajumuddin upazila Awami League.

Momin, also a lecturer of Tajumuddin Degree College, said he did not hear any serious allegation against Mowla. "You will understand how simple he is when you see him," he told The Daily Star.

While talking to The Daily Star over the phone, Golam Mowla yesterday said, "I was in Patuakhali jail for one-and-a-half months under Collaborators Act, 1972."

He claimed that after the Liberation War the then magistrate of Patuakhali filed a case against him due to personal enmity but he could not prove anything against him and that is why was released.

He refuted the allegation of collaborating with the Pakistani forces.

### ADB

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transport connectivity, power exchange and port development, among other areas," it said.

It also said the ADB will initiate efforts to promote PPPs through support for institution development, and project development in key infrastructure sectors.

For Padma Bridge, ADB allocation in 2010 is \$615 million and for Padma rail link \$130 million in 2013.

For regional cooperation, the ADB will give \$23 million for sub-regional transport project preparatory facility in 2010, \$120 million for regional transport connectivity in 2012, \$335 million for regional power generation and transmission sector in 2013 and \$275 million for transport corridors in 2011 and 2013.

Under the PPP initiative Public-Private infrastructure Development facility ADB proposed \$300 million for 2011 and 2012.

According to ADB proposals, 33 percent of total loan would go to transport and ICT sector, 17 percent to water supply and other infrastructure and 13 percent each to agriculture, education and energy sectors.

The ADB will now send aide memoire to each ministry and after receiving their opinions, finalise it by July.

In 2007-09, the ADB approved loans totalling \$2.6 billion for Bangladesh, and the highest allocation of 34 percent went to public sector management.

### Fire kills 3

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under Dumuria upazila of the district yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Paromita Biswas, 54, wife of Aboni Biswas, Tapash Biswas, 32, son of Paromita and her five-year-old grandchild Arpa Biswas.

Injured Aboni and Pali Biswas, wife of victim Tapash, were rushed to the Khulna Medical College Hospital with severe burn injuries.

The fire erupted from the fuel shop of Aboni, which is adjacent to his residence around 7:00pm, sources said.

"Aboni was selling fuels using the light of a kerosene lantern as load shedding was taking place there. At one stage, the lantern fell inside a patrol canister and it blasted," said a witness.

The fire soon engulfed the shop and spread to the adjacent house of Aboni that killed the three on the spot.

A team of fire fighters from Dumuria fire brigade doused the flame with the help of locals after 40-minute hectic effort.

### Caught in air

FROM PAGE 1  
All of them were passengers of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd.

The passengers ended up at Brussels as a London-bound flight of Biman was diverted to the capital of Belgium due to the ash cloud, said Biman officials.

Meanwhile, Biman yesterday cancelled three of its flights to London after delaying them several times.

The cancelled flights are BG-017, scheduled to fly on April 21 and BG-005 and BG-001 scheduled to fly today.

"We were left with no choice but to cancel the London flights as we had already delayed two of the flights for 36 to 72 hours. Moreover, the Heathrow Airport authorities have not yet given the green signal to use their airspace," a Biman official told The Daily Star last night.

The national flag carrier, however, resumed its Rome flights from yesterday ending the 30-hour wait of 300 passengers.

About the stranded passengers in Brussels, Deputy General Manager (public relations) of Biman Mohammad Nasim said, "We assume that the remaining passengers are taking care of their journey on their own."

The stranded London-bound plane was carrying 319 passengers, he said. Officials said travellers who had Schengen visas were the only ones to let cross the Brussels immigration.

But around 200 passengers got stuck inside the airport for the second day (Friday), reports AFP quoting a spokesman for Brussels Airport.

The Red Cross provided camp beds for the passengers Thursday night.

Biman in cooperation from the Bangladesh Embassy in Belgium was able to obtain temporary visas for the travellers to get them to hotels.

"We arranged buses to take the passengers to London in phases after accommodating them at three hotels in Brussels, said Nasim.

# Drug case

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Judge Mohammad Abdul Majid of the Drug Court asked complainant Drug Superintendent Abul Khair Chowdhury to appear before the court on June 2 to complete his statement.

Several officials of Adflame Pharmaceuticals were charged with adulteration of paracetamol syrup in the case filed 18 years ago.

Abul Khair earlier gave his deposition partially on July 23, 1994 before the case was stayed by the High Court.

The Dhaka court yesterday also directed the officer-in-charge of Dhanmondi Police Station to submit a report by June 2 on execution of an arrest warrant against Azfar Pasha, one of the directors of the company.

The same court on February 9 cancelled Pasha's bail and ordered his arrest as his bail guarantors failed to produce him before the court on three consecutive dates.

However, another Adflame Director Dr Helena Pasha and Manager Mizanur Rahman, both accused of the same charge and now out on bail, were present at the court during hearing yesterday.

On December 23, 1992, the Directorate of Drug Administration filed the case against five Adflame Pharmaceuticals officials on charge of producing adulterated paracetamol syrup under the name 'Flammolol', which was tested positive for the

deadly chemical diethylene glycol.

The court framed charges against the accused on May 28, 1994.

The proceedings were, however, brought to a halt in 1994 as the HC issued a temporary stay order, which was never challenged.

Although the HC lifted the stay two years ago, the Drug Court was unaware of it until The Daily Star during its recent investigation revealed the fact.

Azfar Pasha, Helena Pasha and Mizanur Rahman got bail right after the case was filed. The other two accused Nrigendra Nath Bala and Md Noman have been absconding since then.

Seventy-six children reportedly died after intake of poisonous Flammolol.

# Bus kills biker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The pillion passenger of a motorcycle died and the biker was seriously wounded on Airport Road in the capital last night when a bus hit the bike.

The bus caught fire from the spark as it dragged the bike along for some distance.

The deceased was identified as Nasiruddin, 30. Injured Jubair was rushed to a hospital in Uttara.

They were going to Mohammadpur from Uttara around 10:30pm, sources said.

# JS body

FROM PAGE 16  
health directorate and respective project directors between 2003 and 2004 on charges of misappropriation and wasting of public money.

The parliamentary watchdog asked the health ministry to realise Tk 8 crore from the erstwhile minister and state minister for health and the then health secretary and other top officials responsible for the misappropriation and wasting money.

The committee chief yesterday made the recommendations after discussing audit objection reports on power and health ministry for 2003-06 and 2003-04 respectively. Comptroller and auditor general's office prepared the reports.