

Plundering

FROM PAGE 1
Hasan Khan, said they need the new building to ensure facilities of international standard.

He said they could not construct the new headquarters at the present location, as it would disrupt day-to-day work.

An evaluation committee comprised of CAAAB Superintendent Engineer (Current Charge) Shahidul Afroz, and Prof Shahidul Ameen and Dr Ishtiaque Ahmed of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology selected the design submitted by M/s Tarique Hassan and Associates Ltd, out of six contesting submissions.

Architect Minhasur Rahman of Architekton-Dexterous that took part in the competition lodged a formal complaint with CAAAB and the civil aviation ministry, saying Prof Ameen has business relation with Tarique Hassan.

Both Ameen and Hassan have business interest in Asset Developments and Holdings Ltd. Ameen is an architectural adviser for the firm, and Hassan is one of its directors, said Minhasur.

With such a relation, according to the Public Procurement Rules, Ameen cannot act as a juror for proposal evaluation when Hassan is a contestant, Minhasur said in the complaint.

Following the complaint, CAAAB in last November constituted a three-member technical sub-committee (TSC) led by ASM Ismail, the chief architect of the government's Department of Architecture to re-evaluate the proposed designs.

The committee including President of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh Mubasshar Hussein, and the chief engineer of public works department, submitted the evaluation report in last December.

But CAAAB rejected the report without even opening the sealed envelope, and adhered to its earlier design selection.

ASM Ismail said, "CAAAB itself formed the committee involving us, and then rejected the report without even looking at it."

Mubasshar Hussein said, "CAAAB officials from the very beginning were making frantic attempts to persuade us into approving the design selected by them."

The TSC judged all six proposed designs on the basis of competence, keeping in mind the existing rules of CAAAB and the Public Procurement Rules, said Mubasshar.

In the TSC evaluation, architect firm Sthapati Sangsad stood first scoring 81 points out of 100, Architekton-Dexterous secured the second position with 75 points, and Tarique Hassan and Associates became third with 57 points, while the qualifying mark was 60.

M Saiful of CAAAB said, "We

Solar panel

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The government decided to install solar systems in government buildings, he said.

"We hope that there will be no problem in marketing locally-assembled solar panels," Tawfiq said.

ESPL, a sister concern of Electro Group, was established in 2009. The company will import solar cells and other accessories, and assemble them, said its officials.

The plant has the capacity to assemble solar charger, battery and other accessories for solar home systems.

Ansar Uddin, managing director of ESPL, said they hope that their initiative would help ease the ongoing power crisis a bit.

War crimes

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ATN Bangla.

He said one of the investigators is yet to join the probe agency because of his reservation about Matin's appointment as its chief.

Vision 24 organised the roundtable "Trial of War Criminals in the International Context" at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

7 BCL men

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they are leaders of two Chhatra League factions of Bangabandhu Hall.

The injured were rushed to the university medical centre and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The clash erupted as two Chhatra League factions led by Shamim and Sami went to congratulate the newly elected pro-Awami League senate members.

Law enforcers were deployed on the campus to avert any further untoward incidents.

did not open the committee report because it would then be obligatory upon us."

"Prof Ameen said he previously had a relation with Asset, but at present he doesn't," said Saiful adding, "It appeared to be acceptable to us."

Prof Ameen said, "I drew designs for a number of Asset projects, and I still do that if they seek my service."

"I would have declared my business relation with Tarique Hassan, if Asset had participated in the competition," he said.

Regarding building approval, Shahidul Afroz of CAAAB claimed, "CAAAB never took approval from Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha so far for constructing any building adjacent to the airport."

Authorised officer of Rajuk for 2/A (Uttara), Taher Azad Shebby, said CAAAB needs to obtain approval as per the Building Construction Act.

Regarding anomalies in the design evaluation process, CAAAB Chairman Air Commodore Sakib Iqbal Khan said, "It is a dead case; it is already resolved."

Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Shafique Alam Mehedi however said they will take into cognisance the anomalies, if any news report is run on the issue.

Pakistani suspect in Mumbai attacks faces court verdict

AFP, Mumbai

A Pakistani man accused of being part of a militant commando group that carried out a three-day orgy of violence in Mumbai nearly 18 months ago is due to learn his fate in court next week.

Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab, said to be the lone surviving gunman, was arrested during the rampage in India's financial capital that began on November 26, 2008, leaving 166 people dead and injuring more than 300 others.

India blamed the operation, which traumatised the nation, on the banned Pakistan-based Islamist group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), straining already tense diplomatic ties with its neighbour.

Judge M.L. Tahalyani has spent the past month considering the case against 22-year-old Kasab, who faces a string of charges including "waging war against India", murder and offences under the explosives act.

The court reconvenes on Monday at the high-security prison where Kasab is being held, with the defendant facing a possible death sentence.

India has been praised for holding a public trial despite widespread calls in the immediate aftermath of the attacks for Kasab to be hanged without trial, and intimidation of lawyers prepared to represent him.

A guilty verdict and death sentence could lead to a lengthy appeal through the higher courts and an indeterminate wait on death row.

State prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam has said there is "overwhelming" proof of Kasab's involvement, including fingerprint and DNA evidence, security camera footage and photographs of him carrying a powerful AK-47 assault rifle.

He and an accomplice are alleged to have carried out the bloodiest episode of the attacks, throwing hand grenades and opening fire at unsuspecting commuters on the concourse of Mumbai's main railway station.

Last murder

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Baitta Zakir alias Selim on Tuesday night and Ali Ahmad alias Haider on April 24.

Zakir was placed on a four-day and Haider on a three-day remand on Thursday.

On April 26, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-10) personnel arrested another Haider and another Kailla Zakir with links to the murder.

Later, Rab handed over the two suspects to DB. They are now facing interrogation by DB police after being taken on a four-day remand on Thursday.

However, a senior DB official last night said those arrested by the Rab-10 personnel were not the real culprits.

As the controversy arose over the arrests made by DB and Rab, police headquarters formed a high-powered monitoring committee headed by CID chief on Tuesday to investigate the incident.

Unidentified gunmen killed Gautam and wounded his hotelier friend Mohammad Shamim near Mohiuddin Market at Dholaikhal on April 20.

Indian army foils Kashmir infiltration bid: 3 dead

AFP, Srinagar, India

The Indian military yesterday said it had killed three suspected militants and foiled an attempt by rebels to enter Indian Kashmir from the Pakistani side of the disputed region.

The fresh violence came a day after the prime ministers of India and Pakistan agreed to work towards resuming their frozen peace dialogue when they met in Bhutan for their first direct talks in nine months.

"The army has foiled an attempt by militants to infiltrate into (Indian) Kashmir from across the Line of Control (LoC) by killing three militants," army spokesman Lieutenant Colonel J.S. Brar told AFP.

He said the clash took place early Friday in the northern sector of Machil.

The heavily militarised 760-kilometer (470 mile) LoC divides Kashmir between nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan, who both claim the whole territory and have fought two wars over it.

The army says militant attempts to cross the ceasefire line into Indian Kashmir increase in the summer as snow melts on mountain passes.

Islamabad denies New Delhi's charges of arming and funding the militants, and has pledged to do its best to stop insurgents from crossing over.

The insurgency launched against Indian rule in 1989 has claimed more than 47,000 lives by the official count.

3 children

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Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj district.

Sub Inspector of Madhabpur Police Station Al-Mamun said driver of the microbus, which was carrying Francisco and his female companion Manila back to the capital, ran over the children while they were waiting for a bus. The vehicle then hit two roadside trees.

Manila and the driver Saiful Islam were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital, police added.

Nasheed

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Airport at 12:10pm (local time) and landed at the Shahjalal Airport at 12:50pm.

Bhutanese premier Jigmi Y Thinley saw the Bangladesh prime minister off at the Paro International Airport.

At the Shahjalal Airport, Hasina came out of the aircraft first and later received Maldives president and his spouse Laila Ali Abdulla at the VIP lounge.

Both Hasina and Nasheed attended the 16th Saarc Summit held in Thimpu on April 28-29 that adopted a 36-point "Thimpu Silver Jubilee Declaration" endorsing Bangladesh's proposal for a "Charter of Democracy" for regional cooperation aimed at strengthening good governance.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said during his brief meeting with the Bangladesh premier, Nasheed thanked her for her visionary leading role to make the 16th summit a successful event.

In reply, Hasina wished success of the 17th Summit of Saarc to be held in the Maldives.

Nasheed said Hasina through her wisdom and prudence always guides the South Asian countries and other countries of the world towards the proper path of development, addressing properly and effectively the global crisis like climate change.

He also invited Hasina to visit Maldives at her convenience, Dipu Moni said.

Hasina and Nasheed further expressed hope that the existing friendly bilateral relation between Bangladesh and Maldives will be further strengthened in the future.

Later, at about 1:50pm, Dipu Moni saw the Maldives president off at the Shahjalal Airport.

President Nasheed came here to catch a connecting flight to Shanghai, the commercial city of China, via Thailand and Singapore.

Criminals

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they know of.

Officer-in-Charge Shahin Mandal of Kalabagan Police Station said rivalry in the jhut business might be the cause behind the killing. Deceased Babu was accused in an arms case, he added.

New policy

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is now set to have a national-level consultation meeting early May. Afterwards, the ministry would forward the draft to the cabinet for approval, officials said. Approval of the policy would trigger review of different laws that define various ages of childhood.

The draft policy proposes gradual eradication of child labour from the country, but does not give any road map.

Aminul Islam, a child protection specialist of Unicef Bangladesh, observes the policy should indicate a time bound working plan in this regard, devoid of which the policy would become vague on the issue of eradicating child labour.

"In a country like ours where many children are involved with child labour, are also vulnerable to risk of different sort of exploitation, drugs abuse, sexual harassments, trafficking and violence, but the draft policy hardly has any defined instruction in ensuring the security of the children," says advocate Salma Ali.

Regarding the disabled children the policy says state shall take appropriate measures to identify and prevent disability among children and shall provide required assistance to the families with such kids.

Besides, institutional programmes will be adapted for the health, education, training and rehabilitation of the children with disabilities.

Again, state would make special arrangements for the disabled children who cannot

Engr suspended

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of Kishoreganj were damaged in flash floods, which inundated boro crops on some 30,000 hectares of land.

"Flaws in the embankments led to their destruction so easily," said an upazila chairman of the affected areas.

Farmers of the areas now apprehend that the remaining fields may go under water anytime. Things are getting worse for them as labourers for harvest are becoming really difficult to find.

Recently, vast areas of land with boro crop in Netrakona also went under water due to floods.

May Day today

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The Hay Market incident was a source of inspiration for people around the globe. As such, May Day has become an international celebration of the social and economic achievements of the labour movement.

The day is a public holiday. President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages greeted the working class people of the country and wished their overall welfare, reports BSS.

Zillur said safe environment-friendly working atmosphere, living wages, training, raising benefits and facilities and friendly owner-worker relations are necessary for establishing the rights of workers and ensuring their welfare.

Hasina, in her message, has called for forging unity between owners and workers, and show mutual respect and compassion to build a "Digital Bangladesh," reports UNB.

"Forge unity between owners and workers, build Digital Bangladesh," she said. Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia also congratulated the working class people on the occasion of May Day.

In her message, she alleged that the government's wrong policy and extortion by ruling party activists led to the closure of many mills and factories leaving thousands of workers jobless.

The prime minister will open the May Day programmes at 10:00am in the Osmani Memorial Hall. The programmes include discussion, seminar, cultural func-

Kuril flyover

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subject to the beginning of the work, said a Rajuk official.

The one-way flyover with four loops will be 6.7 to 9.7 metres wide and 48 feet high.

A 13 km long and 300 feet wide link road is also being developed as part of the Purbachal project.

The road would connect Kuril on the Airport Road, which is already serving as a major gateway for the northern districts, added the official.

The objectives of the flyover are to ease traffic congestion at Kuril intersection and on Airport Road, reduce vehicular movement on it and save travel time.

be brought to mainstream education for special requirements, says the policy.

On the positive side, the draft realises the rights of the children of ethnic minority underscoring importance of obtaining education in their mother languages.

The amended policy says on taking proactive measures to protect children from impact of emergency, disaster and climate change.

The policy has instructions on the rights of children in participation and holding opinion, education, health and entertainment, and it also provides an individual section on the rights and development of adolescents.

But the draft policy left uncared for the right to education of working children and do not have suggestions for incorporating the non-formal education to the mainstream education.

Explaining why the government was updating the policy, Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, state minister for MoWCA, told The Daily Star, "Since 1994 when the first children policy was formulated, the society has undergone enormous changes bringing new issues that need to be addressed. At the same time the need for development has increased manifold -- making it very necessary for us to update the policy."

Jamaat rally

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Thereafter at a press conference as former lawmaker and Nayabe Ameer of Rajapur Moulana Abdus Subhan's house Jamaat claimed that police injured at least 15 to 20 of its activists.

Meanwhile, BCL and Jubo League also assembled at Mohendrapur village and held a protest meeting demanding immediate punishment to identified war criminals.

Pabna Superintendent of Police Jamil Ahmed said police barred the gatherings of both the political parties to avoid untoward situation. Police requested Jamaat and BCL and Jubo League activists to stop but they did not pay heed to it. Police then took action to disperse the activists, he added.

tion and a three-day fair.

Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television (BTV) will air the inaugural programmes live from the Osmani Memorial Hall.

Labour and Employment Ministry has undertaken a three-day colourful programme to observe the day at the state level.

A colourful rally will be brought out at 8:00am from the premises of Shram Bhaban in Motijheel area. Labour and Employment and Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Engineer Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain will lead the rally.

Newspapers will publish special supplements, while Bangladesh Betar, BTV and private TV channels will air special programmes highlighting the significance of the day.

Different political and labour organisations, particularly the labour wings of political parties, professional bodies and cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to celebrate the day.

Top outlaw

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cordoned off the area. Sensing presence of the law enforcers, the outlaws opened fire, prompting them to fire back.

At one stage, the criminals managed to flee the scene. Later, the bullet-hit body of Gias Uddin was found on the spot, the OC said adding that Gias was rushed to Shailokupa upazila health complex where doctors declared him dead.

At least 40 rounds of bullet were exchanged during the gunfight.

A case was filed with the police in this connection and the body was sent to Jhenaidah Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police also recovered two guns and three rounds of bullets from the spot.

Gias Uddin was an accused of seven cases, including murders, police said.

The OC said after serving about 20 years imprisonment in separate cases, Gias was released about two years back.

Soon after he was released from jail, he got involved with robberies, lootings, killings and other anti-social activities in Jhenaidah and the neighbouring Magura district, he added.

10-Pt DEMAND Private jute mill workers start agitation today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 30,000 workers of 17 private jute mills of the south-western districts of the country are set to go for a movement from today to press home their 10-point demand.

Leaders of Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) and non-CBA Action committee called the movement.

Their programmes include protest rallies, roads and railway blockades and meetings under the Action committee banner.

Convener of the Action Committee Md Wahid Murad said their ten-point demand includes announcement of wages, gratuity, service benefits, festival bonus, insurance, rationing system, medical allowance, abolition of laws that go against the workers, payments of all arrears at a time and making their service permanent according to seniority and efficiency.

These jute, yarn and textile mills are located in Khulna, Jessore, Satkhira, Kushtia and Faridpur districts.

Convener Wahid Murad also threatened to paralyse the entire south-western region if the government attempts to foil the movement.

400 teachers

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two assistant headmasters while the single-shift school has one, the data said.

Sources said that only 67 institutions have the headmasters. As the assistant headmasters are running the rest of the schools as acting headmasters, a good number of posts of assistant headmasters fell vacant, they said.

On the other hand, there are 9,000 posts of assistant teachers in the country and their promotion was stopped back in 2004 due to a recruitment rule.

Changes have been made in the rule recently, said sources.

"It is indeed a good initiative as the assistant teachers were due for promotion much earlier," said Shamsul Hoque, an assistant teacher of Mirpur Government High School, Dhaka and president of Bangladesh Government Teachers' Association.

Of those who will get promotion 218 are male and 190 female teachers.

10 more RMG

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Meanwhile, 10 of the 20 garment factories in Kafrul, which remained closed for three days, resumed production yesterday.

Delwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station, said unruly employees of some garment factories tried to put barricade on the road to press home their demand for pay rise.

Several law-enforcers were injured as unruly workers attacked them for trying to disperse the agitators, Delwar said.

On Thursday, local lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumdar had talks with several labour leaders and the owners of a few garment factories on Ali Hossain High Schoolfield.

He urged the agitating workers to return to their work assuring them that he would discuss their demands with the owners of garment factories in his constituency.

The lawmaker also asked them to refrain from any act of vandalism or putting blockades on the road.

The workers welcomed the lawmaker's assurance but demanded a concrete statement from the factory owners.

Labour leader Atiq Ullah told The Daily Star, "We want a specific declaration from the factory owners. Our agitation will continue until they make a commitment."

12 Tahrir

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minister among the Muslim devotees after the Jumma prayers.

Mohammadpur police arrested four Hizb-ut Tahrir men from Lalmatia area, Dhanmondi police arrested five while Tejgaon, Palatan and Sutrapur police arrested one each from their areas.

Meanwhile, Chittagong Metropolitan Police arrested three activists of the banned organisation on similar charges in different places of the port city yesterday, reports BSS.

Police arrested Rashed from Baitul Kader Jame Mosque at Baluchara, Minhaj from Ferojshah Jame Mosque premises and Manik from Golarasul market of Reazuddinbazar area.

Sources said most of the arrestees are students of private universities.

T20 Word Cup

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Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi and Abdul Razzaq managed just nine runs between them.

Failing in a warm-up match is no barrier to the duo coming good when it matters most, but Pakistan have lost the steady influence of Younus Khan, their captain at last year's World Twenty20: he was one of several players punished after the team's poor tours of Australia, New Zealand and the UAE.

In his case, it was an indefinite ban.

The fall-out has meant they have come to the Caribbean without Shoaib Malik, newly married to Indian tennis pin-up Sania Mirza, and Rana Navedul Hasan, both banned for a year.

The net effect has been to up the expectations on Afridi and Razzaq.

Leg-spinner Afridi did at least take four wickets against Zimbabwe and few bowlers can match his ability to cause batting collapses in this format.

And Pakistan great Wasim Akram, speaking before Thursday's match, was adamant Afridi was the right man to lead the side in this type of cricket.

"You need someone like Afridi as captain in Twenty20 cricket. He has aggression needed in a leader and in a short Twenty20 match he will always sparkle," said Wasim, a member of Pakistan's 50-over World Cup winning team in 1992.

For all Pakistan's problems, the odds are still against Bangladesh who won just three matches -- against Kenya, Zimbabwe and the West Indies.

Shipping agent

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"This company, however, is not registered with the Department of Shipping," he said.

The DG said they were trying to find out the agents that sent the seamen there and will collect the airfare from them for the crewmen's return home.

Around 60 Bangladeshi seamen went to Benin December last year, but their Greek employer Golden Shipping SA did not pay them salary.

The company later gave some seamen air tickets in phases for their return home. But 27 seamen still remain stranded in eight ships in the Atlantic.

Bangladesh's charge d'affaires in Morocco, Lutfar Rahman, had already arrived in Benin and was in talks with Benin's foreign ministry and the port authority for bringing the seamen to mainland.

The foreign ministry was working with the Department of Shipping to realise airfare from the shipping agents that sent the seamen to Benin, said Saida Muna Tasneem, director general of the external publicity wing of the ministry.

Shanghai hosts

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paraded through the giant hall.

Hong Kong action film star Jackie Chan serenaded thousands of guests including 20 world leaders to open