

BCL crimes

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face stern departmental actions."

Earlier on Thursday, Mahbul Alam Hanif, prime minister's special assistant, conveyed prime minister's directives to police and Rapid Action Battalion officials.

"They [police] have been asked not to consider requests by any minister, lawmaker and party leader in favour of Chhatra League wrongdoers," he told The Daily Star that day.

Meanwhile, top brass of the police have asked officers to tackle violence by ruling party men professionally.

They have told their grass-roots level colleagues that maintaining law and order is a challenge they must see off. They should not be cowed and compromised by political influence.

At a police conference in the capital on May 4-5, officers from the districts blamed the ruling party men for the deteriorating law and order situation.

Referring not to be named, an additional inspector general of police on Thursday told The Daily Star, "We told our field level officers that interference from ministers, ruling party lawmakers and influential leaders is nothing new. We have to work professionally throughout it."

The same day, Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad told The Daily Star, "As the IGP, it is my job to ensure that my subordinates work professionally braving all difficulties."

Participants at the conference also observed that a

Youth stabbed

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and back Thursday at 3:00pm. He was soon shifted to the surgery department where he succumbed to his injuries at 11:45pm.

Hospital sources said Saju came to the hospital alone by a CNG-run auto rickshaw. He only managed to tell his name and address, they added.

Father of the deceased said Saju was never involved in politics.

Officer in Charge (OC) of Sylhet Kotwali Police Station Mohammad Ali Bhuiyan went with the claim of Saju's father but said that Saju was a charge sheeted accused in a robbery case.

He said, "Saju was stabbed in a different incident." Police found a six-inch knife and two mobile phones sets with him, added the OC.

After autopsy, Saju's body was sent to his village under police guard yesterday afternoon.

Sylhet District JCD Vice-president Abdul Ahad Khan Jamal, also one of the Ilyus A-liaction leaders, claimed that their rival group stabbed Saju at the city's Taltola area Thursday afternoon.

The leaders and workers of this faction also tried to get hold of the body from the hospital but their attempt fell flat due to police obstruction. Police also foiled their attempt to bring out a procession.

Meanwhile, a Sylhet magistrate court sent 13 people, who were arrested during the clash, to jail.

Police said they are processing a case against 24 JCD activists and around a hundred unidentified people in this connection.

Photojournalist of a local newspaper Shyamol Sylhet Sabbar Ahmed Foyez also filed a case against 10 to 12 persons for snatching his camera during the clash.

Delwar protests

FROM PAGE 1
BNP Chairperson's advisory council, said Khaleda hadn't whitened a single taka and the government and revenue board has no document either.

About Khaleda's whitening black money BNP senior joint secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday at a programme, however, said that everything had been done lawfully.

While addressing a public meeting at Barguna on Thursday Sheikh Hasina alleged that Khaleda and her two sons had whitened black money in the past.

"Without corruption how could you get this huge money?" she questioned.

BNP leaders also lambasted Hasina for giving 'false statement' regarding power generation during the BNP regime.

Sheikh Hasina in her Barguna address blamed the then BNP-Jamaat government for power and gas crises in the country.

Referring to Economic Survey of Bangladesh published by the finance ministry, former state minister for power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku claimed at the press conference that 1277 Megawatt power was added to the national grid during the

section of police officers enjoy political blessings, which is a threat to the chain of command.

Asked about it, the IGP said, "It is my responsibility to maintain the departmental chain of command and the government has nothing to do in this regard."

Replying to another query, he said, "Some actions have already been taken in response to allegations of disobedience against a number of OCs."

"From now on, I will directly see to every allegation of influence and political blessings to policemen."

On condition of anonymity, another additional IGP said they were trying to give the field level officers a signal that the government is against unscrupulous leaders and their cadres and also rogue cops.

An SP from a northern district told The Daily Star, "Our bosses have asked us to maintain closer ties with people. They also directed us to make sure none of us takes undue benefits and blessings from any quarters."

Another SP said, "It's true that political leaders have OCs transferred at will. But we must not deny that some crooked officials at the police headquarters are also involved in the transfer trade."

Delay for faulty

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The design was first revised in February 2008, keeping unchanged the original estimated cost Tk 20 crore.

In the original design the main bridge was 42 metres long, and there were 215 metres long approach roads at both ends. Through the revision the length of the main bridge was increased to 350 metres, and the approach roads were shortened to 100 metres each, said Nazrul.

The first revision was brought due to protests from the local people, as the support walls of the original approach roads would block traffic between the adjoining areas for too long a stretch, said Sayad Sekandar Ali, Deputy Project Director of MIR Akhtar DIRD JV, the contractor.

The work was delayed again for three months for a second revision of the design, he said.

The second revision came in October 2009 adding some new components to the project including beautification of the overpass and its adjoining areas, illumination, and construction of bus bays and service drains, increasing the government funded project's cost to around Tk 24 crore.

The amount of dust the local residents and traders had to inhale every day due to the prolonged construction work resulted in an increase of asthma cases in the area, said Giasuddin, who owns a shop in Aziz Super Market in Natun Bazar.

Rezaul Karim, a resident of Haidrabad in Gazipur, said traffic congestion in the area increased since the construction started.

"A 10-minute distance between Station Road and Majukhan Bazar take about an hour to cover now due to the traffic congestion," said Alamgir Sarkar, another Haidrabad resident.

Raju Ahmed, the owner of Aziz Super Market, said the number of shoppers in his market dropped by ninety percent since the start of the construction, due to traffic jams and dust.

He became Asia's first Nobel laureate after winning the Nobel Prize in literature for his book Gitanjali in 1913.

Two songs from his canon are now the national anthems of Bangladesh and India -- Amar Sonar Bangla and Jana Gana Mana, respectively.

His verse, short stories, and novels, which often exhibited rhythmic lyricism, colloquial language, meditative naturalism, and philosophical contemplation, received global acclaim.

CCC aspirants

FROM PAGE 16
Giasuddin may file nomination to run in the mayoral race, if senior leaders like Noman and Khosru don't vie for the post, said a source in BNP.

Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami are likely to lend support separately to a few candidates in the CCC poll.

Meanwhile, Chittagong Divisional Deputy Election Commissioner SM Ezharul Haq said they are preparing a panel of 14,931 polling officials in line with the directive of the Election Commission secretary.

He said they have already asked different government organisations and educational institutes to arrange officials for the panel.

The election schedule could be announced any time with at least 15-day gap between the polling date and the last date for withdrawal of nomination papers, he said.

A total of 674 polling centres would be set up. The number of voters is 16, 94,955 in the CCC, according to the voter list finalised on April 15, said District Election Officer Dulal Talukder.

Expressing her gratitude to the expatriate Bangladeshis and people and her party at home for launching movement and mounting pressure on the caretaker government, Hasina said some 100 expatriate Bangladeshis accompanied her from London to Dhaka.

"I was told that I will be kidnapped on my arrival and kept confined untraced," she said, adding that the threat of the caretaker government and unflinching support of the people encouraged her to

BLASTS AT FAIR Benapole OC suspended

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Officer-in-Charge of Benapole Land Port Police Station Aslam Khan yesterday was suspended for his failure to properly investigate the two bomb attacks on a concert in a Baishakhi Mela.

Sources said the attacks killed one Zia, 26, on the spot and injured 10 others who were admitted to a local hospital.

Police said the fair was arranged without the permission of the district administration.

The fair started on the first day of Pahela Baishakh, which was stopped after the attack, said the sources.

The attacks took place following a dispute over distribution of money among Chhatra League and Juba League men.

Police arrested four people in this connection.

Later, they arrested Sweet, a Juba League member, of village Dighir paar upon information of the arrestees.

Sweet said he made the attack as the fair committee refused to pay him toll.

Tagore's birth

FROM PAGE 16
President Zillur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have given special messages highlighting the colourful life of the poet and his contributions to Bengali language and literature.

In a message, the president said, "Our bonds with Rabindranath are getting closer with the passage of time as his literature has become a source of inspiration and courage for us during the days of our any crisis or debacle."

The prime minister, in a separate message, said the people of Bangladesh greatly owe to Rabindranath as his writings inspired the nation in all its movement including in the War of Liberation, reports BSS.

As part of the national celebrations, Bangla Academy and Shilpakala Academy will organise programmes based on various creative works of the great poet.

Besides, various programmes have been chalked out to mark the day at Shilaidah in Kushtia, Patisar in Naogala and Dakshindih in Phultola upazila of Khulna --- the three districts that harbour the memories of Tagore.

Local administrations across the country will arrange programmes marking the day.

Bangladesh missions abroad will also celebrate the day holding various programmes.

Tagore, born in 1861 at Jorasanko mansion in Kolkata, was a poet, visual artist, playwright, novelist, and composer whose works reshaped Bengali literature and music in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

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Pending district

FROM PAGE 16
Of the 16 units, three important ones -- Dhaka city, Dhaka and Manikganj units-- even do not have convening committees to run organisational activities.

BNP sources said Chairperson Khaleda Zia herself is likely to supervise election of leadership of these units.

They also said organising secretaries of the party will take necessary steps to hold councils of 13 district units after the party's grand rally in the capital scheduled for May 19.

Contacted, Senior Joint Secretary General of the party Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said, "After the grand rally on May 19, we will hold councils of district units which have no committees."

Replying to a query on Dhaka city unit, he said they are working on it. "A convening committee or council preparatory committee or even a full-fledged committee might be announced after our decision is finalised."

Besides, the seven organising secretaries of the party have been asked to submit organisational reports on the district units they are responsible for.

Party sources mentioned that only the names of president and general secretary were announced at the councils of many of the district units but their full-fledged committees are yet to be formed.

After the Dhaka grand rally, initiative will be taken for holding council of 13 district units. These Comilla (north), Joypurhat, Bogra, Sylhet city, Rangpur, Chapainawabganj, Narail, Patuakhali, Barisal city, Barisal (south), Pirojpur, Netrokona and Rajbari units.

Party insiders said the process of forming committees of Dhaka city, Dhaka and Manikganj units will start soon under the direct supervision of party chief Khaleda Zia as many influential leaders are involved in conflicts for establishment.

Outlaw

FROM PAGE 16
Pranami of Alokdiar village in Santhia upazila.

Officer in Charge of Ataikula Police Station Sirajul Islam Chowdhury said a group of cadres of outlawed PBCP's Janajudha faction hurled bombs at Mithu Thursday night when he was on the way to Binnabari field of Vulbaria Union in Ataikula at 7:00pm. He died on the spot.

On information, police rushed to the spot the same night and sent the body to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy on Friday.

Mithu was accused in several cases.

Pabna Superintendent of Police Jamil Ahmed said the victim was an associate of Abdur Rashid, chief of Red Flag faction.

The internal feud is the reason behind the incident, the SP said.

Hasina sees

FROM PAGE 1
return home at any cost.

"I took a vow if I were to die I will die on the soil of my country," she said.

Hasina said some leaders of AL had threatened that those who would go to airport to receive me would be expelled from the party.

"Taking life-risk I returned home only for the sake of the people and democracy. I knew if I didn't return, democracy will be killed forever."

She said that being scared many did not protest against wrong and injustice. "But I raised my voice. Whenever I was brought to court I protested the wrongdoings. I protested the arrest of unmarried girl without warrant."

She said she was arrested when she protested against the torture unleashed by an intelligence agency.

The PM alleged that the BNP-led alliance wanted to retain power by stealing votes in 2007. There were 1.23 crore fake voters on the voters' list. In the face of the AL's demand, the election commission was reconstituted.

Hasina reiterated her pledge to ensure economic emancipation of each citizen and their voting rights, which would lay strong foundation of democracy in the country. "Without democracy, no country can achieve development," she said.

The prime minister said that after receiving the massive electoral mandate in 2008 elections, it is the responsibility of the AL-led grand alliance government to improve socio-economic status of the people and establish digital Bangladesh by 2021.

AL leaders Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Suranjit Sengupta, Matia Chowdhury, among others, were present.

lishing their supremacy in these units.

Party unit in Manikganj, home district of BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, is running without any committee since 2002. Many locals however said the unit has no committee since 1998.

A six-member committee for Dhaka district unit headed by Nazmul Huda for a two-year term was announced in 2002. But it could not form a full-fledged committee in the last eight years.

Gamblers beat up cops

Torch their bikes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Gamblers beat up two assistant sub-inspectors and a constable, and burnt down their motorbikes in Kaunia upazila of the district Thursday night.

A police team rescued the injured--ASI Rashid Kundu and Ataur Rahman, and constable Kabir Hossain--from Char Chatura village of Haragachh union in Kaunia upazila early yesterday.

The police arrested three alleged gamblers, Emdadul Islam, Rezaul Karim and Emdadul Karim, yesterday in connection with the incident.

Officer-in-Charge of Kaunia Police Station Rezaul Huq said the gamblers attacked the policemen when they went to the village to stop gambling.

Earlier on Monday, the policemen stopped gambling and warned the gamblers of strong action if they repeat the same, the OC added.

However, villagers of Char Chotura said police collect toll from gamblers very often.

Thursday night the policemen demanded a large amount of money. When the gamblers refused to pay the amount, the policemen stopped gambling. The gamblers then attacked them and set fire to their motorbikes.

Kim's regime which is flailing from years of international sanctions and a recent failed currency revaluation has grown ever more dependent on Chinese aid and diplomatic support. Beijing appears eager to provide such support to prevent his impoverished country's implosion, which could touch off severe unrest on its border.

The visit began Monday and has been shrouded in secrecy, as is typical whenever Kim travels. In footage run by Chinese state broadcaster CCTV on Friday, Kim, 68, who reportedly suffered a stroke in 2008, appeared thin but relatively vigorous in meetings with Chinese President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao, and other officials. The footage was the first official Chinese confirmation that Kim had visited the

UK election

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election campaign.

Conservative leader David Cameron has offered to make a deal with the Liberal Democrats to form a government, and Brown has agreed to wait for those talks, while holding out a hand to the Lib Dems in case they fail.

The result was predicted by polls but Britain has not had a hung parliament since 1974 and the next few days are highly uncertain, with some commentators already forecasting another election if no government is formed.

Conservative leader David Cameron said Labour had lost their right to power, after the Tories gained the most seats in the election.

He promised to act in "the national interest" to bring "strong, stable, decisive and good" leadership, as the UK appeared set for a hung parliament.

Gordon Brown has promised to play his part in securing "a stable, strong and principled government" after the UK election resulted in a hung parliament.

Labour won fewer seats than the Tories but nobody gained a majority.

Nick Clegg said the election result was "a disappointment" for the Lib Dems, and it was for the Tories to prove they were "capable of seeking to govern".

He acknowledged many voters "decided to stick with what they knew best", despite his pre-election surge in the polls after the leaders' TV debates.

Meanwhile, the "special relationship" between the United States and Britain will not be affected by the uncertainty over the outcome of the British elections, the White House said Friday.

"We look forward to working with whoever is the prime minister," said White House spokesman Robert Gibbs, after a knife-edge election left Britain in political limbo.

He added that US President Barack Obama had seen the reports of the outcome of Thursday's parliamentary elections, which showed the opposition Conservatives had won 306 seats, just short of the 326 needed to govern alone.

The Conservatives were seeking a power-sharing deal with the small Liberal Democrat party, after the ruling Labour Party of Prime Minister Gordon Brown won 258 seats. The Liberal Democrats won 57 seats.

Ex-army

FROM PAGE 16
Qur'an. I did it as the criminals held all my family members hostage by pointing sharp weapons," Lt Col (ret'd) Faizul Huq said last night.

Faizul said: "The criminals looted gold ornaments and cash and then asked us to take the holy Quran for the swearing. They also threatened us with death if we go to police."

"I don't care for the threats but what bothers me is the swearing," he said.

Kafrul police said two of the robbers entered the ground floor of the three-storey building by cutting open grills of the balcony.

The criminals held the 11-year-old daughter of Faizul hostage by pointing a sharp weapon at her throat around 3:00am.

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Kim reaffirms nuke talks on trip to China

AP, Beijing