

Did you know? Tarbela Dam is a large dam on the Indus River in Pakistan. The dam is 485 feet (148 m) high above the riverbed. The roughly 250-square-kilometre Tarbela Reservoir is the largest in the world formed by an earthen dam.

The fascinating world of construction. Brought to you by:

BSRM
the ultimate steel

TURN ON DIGITAL

SAMSUNG
TURN ON TOMORROW

Experience a brand new range of Samsung Electronics & Appliances at Transcom Digital

TRANSCOM
DIGITAL
think electronic... think DIGITAL

Iqbal, Shaon set free

Govt drops charges against them in 2001 Malibagh killing case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday withdrew charges against 14 people including former Awami League lawmaker HBM Iqbal and AL MP Mohammad Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon in 2001 Malibagh killing case considering it "politically motivated and meant for harassment".

Judge Shamsunnahar of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 passed the order following an application submitted by Special Public Prosecutor Abu Abdullah.

The 12 others against whom the charges have been dropped are: Shawkat Hossain Nannu, Kabir Uddin Ahmed, Abdus Salam, Munshi

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



Political label keeps justice at bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The dropping of charges against a ruling party lawmaker and an ex-lawmaker in connection with a 2001 killing case raised many eyebrows yesterday as people are well acquainted with the way law is enforced in favour of the party in power.

A Dhaka court dropped all charges against 14 people including former Awami League lawmaker Dr HBM Iqbal and AL MP Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon in the sensational Malibagh killing that had claimed four lives. The court order came in line with an August 17, 2009 home ministry decision that found the charges "politically motivated".

On February 13, 2001, during hartal an anti-hartal group led by Iqbal shot at pro-hartal demonstrators gunning down four people including a cop in city's Malibagh intersection, said witnesses.

The incident occurred in presence of law enforcers and various newspapers were splashed with images of Iqbal and other AL activists brandishing firearms on the following day.

A case was lodged with Motijheel Police Station. Later,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



PHOTOS FROM THE INCIDENT

Clockwise from top, Awami League MP Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon (circled left) and the then lawmaker HBM Iqbal (circled right) at an anti-hartal procession in the city's Malibagh area on February 13, 2001. A cadre from the procession brandishes pistol as they were locked in a clash with pro-hartal BNP men. Shooting by AL men. A man lies dead on the ground after the fight.



Nazrul's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 34th death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be observed across the country today with due respect.

Nazrul, who enriched the Bangla literature with his genius, died on Bhadro 12 of Bangla calendar (August 29, 1976) at the age of 77.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Pre-primary schooling from next January

WASIM BIN HABIB

The government for the first time is going to introduce pre-primary education formally in all government primary schools from next January.

Children above five years will participate in the one-year-long pre-primary education course and will learn basic knowledge through playing with their peers in a joyous environment.

"The pre-primary education will be introduced in all government primary schools from next January. It will help reduce school-phobia among the kids as well as create interest about education," said Abu Alam Mohammad Shahid Khan, secretary of the primary and mass education ministry.

"The kids will come to school, play with their peers and get the basic learning. Gradually, a tendency to go to school

would grow among them," he told The Daily Star recently.

The primary and mass education ministry has already taken initiative to recruit over 37,000 teachers for the pre-primary course, he said.

This would be the first formal start of pre-school education in country's 37,672 government primary schools though privately run schools including NGO-operated educational institutions already offer such schooling across the country, ministry officials said.

It is one of the major initiatives of the government, which has been taken as part of the implementation of National Education Policy 2010 that reads, "This preparatory education with other kids together would be helpful for creating interest among the children about education."

A majority of children in rural areas do

not get the opportunity to have a preparation for primary schools at homes as a large number of their guardians are illiterate, the ministry officials said.

School-phobia grows among the kids when they start attending the primary school for the first time and this makes them disinterested in attending the school, they said.

Such disinterest is the reason behind drop out in primary schools, they added.

The ministry officials believe the pre-education would attract the kids to school and help reduce the drop out rate.

The preschool would also prepare them for the primary education and encourage them to stay in the school, they observed.

Regarding teacher recruitment, the secretary said, "The establishment ministry has already given their nod in this

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

CAMPUS VIOLENCE JU expels 23 BCL activists

UNB, Jahangirnagar University

Jahangirnagar University yesterday expelled six BCL activists for life and 17 others for various terms for violence on the campus on July 5 that left about 100 students injured.

The decision was taken at a syndicate meeting on recommendations of the disciplinary committee.

Six students expelled for life are Sahadat Reza, Arif Hossain, Subhshis Kundu, Uzzal Kumar, Alamgir Hossain and Hasnain Nahian Sajib, all resident students of the university.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Cars vandalised after DU prof hurt in crash

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Dhaka University students vandalised over a dozen vehicles on the streets of the campus as a professor of the university received injuries in a road crash yesterday.

Prof Sukomol Barua of Pali and Buddhist Studies department sustained injuries to his head when a private car rammed into his rickshaw from behind near Teacher

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

OnlinePoll

Do you think Hajj pilgrims might face harassment following the home minister's order to prevent war crimes suspects, Rohingyas and militants from leaving the country in guise of pilgrims?

Yes (59.5%)
 No (38.4%)
 No Comments (2.1%)

Total votes: 432

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Additional Attorney General MK Rahman that HM Ershad should be punished for illegal takeover?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Masjid Council

a trustworthy organization strives to poverty eradication and rehabilitation of the abandoned children utilizing Zakah, Sadakah & other donations.

Phone: 8954305; 01711854816; 01819227671; 01711593139;

www.masjidcouncilbd.org

Bank Account: MSA 10262; IBBL, Uttara Branch, Dhaka

BANGABANDHU BRIDGE Govt seeks further opinion of Prof Reza about cracks

UNB, Dhaka

Instead of awarding contract to a Chinese contractor, the Cabinet Committee on Public Purchase yesterday decided to take further opinion of Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury regarding the repair of cracks in the Bangabandhu Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge.

"Neither we accepted the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

FURNACE EXPLOSION Another dies at hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another injured in Hasan Steel Mill furnace explosion incident at Kadamtoli succumbed to his injuries at City Hospital in Mohammadpur yesterday, raising the death toll to two.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

IBRAHIM 'MURDER' No fingerprint on Shaon's gun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminal Investigation Department failed to detect any fingerprint on lawmaker Nurunnabi Chowdhury Shaon's firearm to ascertain the shooter responsible for Awami League activist Ibrahim Ahmed's death.

On Wednesday CID gave the ballistic and DNA test reports to Detective Branch of police who are investigating the case.

According to the ballistic report, the bullet went off Shaon's gun, said Deputy Commissioner of DB Mahbubur Rahman, adding the DNA test confirmed Ibrahim's blood clot on Shaon's car.

"As Shaon's firearm was not handled properly and was touched by several persons, fingerprint on it was erased," said the DB official. "We have received all the reports -- forensic and ballistic, and our investigation is nearly complete."

Detectives said they summoned several persons including Shaon's driver Kala and personal secretary Sohail and now they will verify the information gleaned from the persons interrogated.

"We are preparing our investigation report and will submit it to court as per instructions," said Mahbubur.

On August 13, some people left Ibrahim at Dhaka Medical College Hospital with a gunshot wound to his head. Driver Kala filed an unnatural death case with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station. The case said Ibrahim was sitting in the lawmaker's car parked near the parliament building. When he was handling Shaon's gun, it went off at one stage and killed him.

Five days after the incident, Ibrahim's family filed a murder case with a Dhaka court accusing Shaon and 15 others.

REFUNDING TK 297CR Govt to appeal against HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will appeal against the High Court verdict that directed it to return the Tk 297 crore realised from two private companies during the immediate past caretaker government rule, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Standard Chartered **saadiq** Islamic Financial Services

Iftar & Sehri timing for Dhaka & neighbouring areas

Today's Iftar

Ending time for tomorrow's sehri

Prayer Timing August 27		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-17	4-27
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-25	6-35
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

For details, call 123

100 SMS only Tk 5 Dial *8444*11#

10 MMS only Tk 5 Dial *8444*12#

রবি

Eid Gift for Special Person

Tk 50,000/= Only

Diamond Ear Ring Tk. 8,500/= Diamond Ear Ring Tk. 9,500/= Diamond Ring Tk. 10,000/= Diamond Ring Tk. 7,000/= Diamond Nose Pin Tk. 1,800/= Diamond Pendant Set Tk. 28,000/= Diamond Nose Pin Tk. 5,000/=

Diamond Pendant Set Tk. 25,000/= Diamond Pendant Set Tk. 35,000/= Diamond Set Tk. 90,000/= Diamond Pendant Set Tk. 12,000/= Diamond Ring Tk. 13,000/= Diamond Locket Tk. 4,000/= Diamond Ring Tk. 14,000/=

Diamond Pendant Set Tk. 18,000/= Diamond Ring Tk. 16,000/= Diamond Locket Tk. 11,000/= Diamond Ear Ring Tk. 20,000/= Diamond Ear Ring Tk. 19,000/= Diamond Locket Tk. 16,500/= Diamond Ring Tk. 18,000/=

* Based on product availability

DIAMOND WORLD LTD. the art of beauty

68/1, Gulshan Avenue (2nd Floor), Gulshan-1, Dhaka

01713-199279, 01713-199270, 01614-396753, Tel: 8860845, 9898228, 8850040 www.diamondworldtd.com