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in Short

HC scraps Shamim's jail sentence
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday scrapped the three-year jail sentence against former Awami League lawmaker AKM Shamim Osman in a corruption case.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury delivered the verdict following

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Rainfall rise brings relief

Irrigation gets more electricity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rise in rainfall has given the farmers a respite from their dependence on electricity and diesel-based irrigation, allowing people to get more power supply.

The level of load-shedding dropped to 500 megawatt early last week from more than 1,200 MW in early and mid-March, according to Power Development Board (PDB).

This was possible because of an increase in power generation and a decrease in demand, thanks to the rise in rainfall last month.

The monthly average-actual rainfall rose to 44.3 millimetres in March this year from 24.4 millimetres of the same month last year due to sporadic nor'westers and thunder-showers in different parts of the country, according to Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) statistics.

However, the amount of monsoon rain was 17 percent below the expected normal average rainfall last month.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 6



The sign says "No Parking" in large bold letters, but buses stop regularly at this point at Farmgate in the city to pick up and drop passengers. Erratic driving, illegal parking and haphazard stopping of buses are largely blamed for tailbacks on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

JCD activists assault general secretary
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

General Secretary of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Amirul Islam Alim was beaten up by his fellow activists at Shahjahanpur in the capital yesterday afternoon after a demonstration protesting Tuesday's

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

IVORY COAST CONFLICT

Fresh assault on Gbagbo's residence

AGENCIES

Forces loyal to Ivory Coast presidential claimant Alassane Ouattara launched a heavy attack yesterday on the bunker where Laurent Gbagbo was defying efforts to force him to cede power, residents said.

A spokeswoman for Ouattara said on France-24 television that pro-Ouattara forces had entered the gates of Laurent Gbagbo's residence, reports AP.

"At the current moment they have not yet captured Gbagbo but it will happen

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

STOCKMARKET CRASH
Probe report comes to light today
REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The investigation committee on share market debacle will submit its report to the finance minister today.

The four-member committee, headed by Krishi

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Rab firing questioned

Family of Limon wonders who to seek justice from; HR watchdog chief worried

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Relatives of Limon Hossain wonder where to seek justice when the members of Rapid Action Battalion had already shot and maimed the college student without proper verification.

Rab shot Limon in the left leg at his village Chhaturia in Rajapur of Jhalakathi

in the afternoon of March 23 when he was taking his cows to the field.

Limon bled for three hours on the bank of river Sandhya before the Rab members realised that the boy immediately needed medical attention. The law enforcers then

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

QURAN IN DEMO
Jamaat leader thinks it's a crime
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami acting General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam said yesterday staging demonstrations holding the Quran in hands, and attacks on demonstrators are similar crimes.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5



Chittagong police seize 200 sacks of rice from Haque Market in Bahaddarhat of the city. The rice was meant for open market sale.

OMS rice goes to Ctg market

200 sacks seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police seized 200 sacks of Open Market Sale (OMS) rice worth Tk 2.4 lakh from a store at Bahaddarhat Haque Market in the port city yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a team led by Chandgaon Police Station Sub-inspector Md Elias Khan conducted the drive at Joy Trading of the market around 1:00pm, police said.

However, Joy Trading's owner Titu Chowdhury and his employees fled the spot apprehending the drive.

The police team seized 100 sacks of rice when labourers were unloading those from a truck. The labourers were hired by Titu, police said.

Another 100 sacks were recovered from the godown of Joy Trading.

Elias said they are investigating how the OMS rice went to Joy Trading's store.

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam that main opposition BNP and its ally Jamaat-e-Islami sponsored the countrywide hartal on April 4?

Yes (44.5%)
No (53.2%)
No Comments (2.3%)

TOTAL VOTES: 568

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the government's embargo on giving domestic gas connections and encouraging homeowners to use LPG?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING April 7

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 4-40	5-15
Zohr 12-45	1-15
Asr 4-45	5-00
Maghrib 6-21	6-24
Esha 7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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