

20th Anniversary

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From positive reader responses through intellectual appreciation to satisfaction conveyed by our patrons and well-wishers, the feedback is an inspiring recognition of the wealth of reading material we delivered at your doorsteps. As many as 112 writers, scholars, specialists, professionals and practitioners covering almost the whole spectrum of political, constitutional, social, economic, educational, cultural and connectivity landscapes helped us weld the series together. We believe it has added value and perspective to the contemporary knowledge-based society. The journalistic planning and input that went into the finished products we leave for the readers to judge.

We tapped in on all conceivable sources to produce something of value. Our purpose consciously has been to create informed public opinion on where we stand after 40 years of independence, how we go forward from here, and what role independent journalism could play in helping to shape the destiny of the country.

We may have overwhelmed you with the outpourings. But that you would like to keep and preserve the supplements for reference as well as further reading and research seems rather obvious. Actually, we have received more than a thousand requests to reproduce the supplement series in book form to enable you keep it handy. In response to such demands, we do pledge to present to you a book of anthology of the supplements in a few weeks time, and which would be on sale separately.

-- Editor

Road crash

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Chowdhury Bappi, 25, a fourth year student of Marketing Department of Jagannath University, died on the spot after a bus hit his rickshaw from behind near the bridge at about 6:30am.

Tayeb was heading for a local bus stand to catch a bus, said Shahriar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kanchpur highway police outpost.

Following the incident, hundreds of students of the university thronged the bridge area and blocked the two highways from 11:00am to 12:00noon disrupting the traffic movement, police said.

Locals managed to catch the bus but its driver fled the scene.

The students removed the barricades after police assured them of punishing the bus driver.

The traffic movement resumed at about 12:10pm, the OC added.

Jail order

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Nurul Islam later surrendered to the same court at 5:30pm.

Court sources and witnesses said a group of lawyers appeared before the court at about 2:00pm, and submitted bail petition for Nurul Islam in a fraud case.

After hearing the petition, the magistrate asked the lawyers to wait for a while for order. About half an hour later, a group of Nurul Islam's colleagues appeared before the court and asked the magistrate about the delay in passing the order.

The lawyers alleged that the magistrate misbehaved with them, turned down their colleague's bail prayer and ordered sending him to jail. The aggrieved lawyers then raised a hue and cry over it and took away the accused lawyer, one lawyer said, seeking anonymity.

Following this, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) AKM Enamul Haque and several other magistrates went there and tried to bring the situation under control. The officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station also visited the spot.

The CMM and his colleagues had a meeting with members of the Dhaka Bar Association led by its President Sheikh Hemayet Hossain and General Secretary Iqbal Hossain for settling the matter amicably, court sources said.

When asked, Iqbal Hossain said they requested the CMM not to proceed with the matter.

Kotwali police said they did not get any complaint about vandalism in court.

Omnibus account

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stockmarket through omnibus accounts during market swings, said the four-member committee headed by Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled.

"It is for sure that most big traders made transactions through the omnibus accounts of the ICB during the sessions of gain and loss," said the probe report.

The probe body had problems in identifying a number of influential and powerful traders, who are suspected of using omnibus accounts to elude detection of foul play.

An omnibus account is a stock holding account that involves more than 10,000 investors. Although actual shareholders, individual investors don't have the accounts in their names.

Most big players chose omnibus accounts to gamble in the market, as it's not possible to find out issue-wise or client-wise transactions of actual number of shares from omnibus accounts.

The committee sampled 10 players and examined their accounts from which transactions between Tk 21 crore and Tk 900 crore were made.

There was no transparency in transactions from these hidden accounts. The account holders, although well-known figures, traded through omnibus accounts, not beneficiary owner (BO) accounts, said the probe body.

The traders are Mosaddeq Ali Falu (Southeast Capital Services), Unique Hotel and

Resorts Ltd (Southeast Capital Services), Dr HBM Iqbal (Prime Bank Investment Ltd), Moniruddin Ahmad (Southeast Capital Services), Roksana Amjad and Mohammad Amjad Hossain (AB Investment and Prime Bank Investment), Golam Mostafa (Prime Bank Investment Ltd), Ahsan Iman and Mahjabeen Mostafa Imam (South East Bank Capital and AB Investment Ltd), Yakub Ali Khandaker and Sarah Khandaker (Prime Bank Investment Ltd), New England Equity Ltd, Md Lutfor Rahman Badal and Soma Alam Rahman (South East Bank Capital).

They did most of the trading during the ups and downs in the capital market.

The probe committee has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to investigate some top traders, who made transactions between December 2010 and January 2011, for market manipulation.

Of them, AB Bank made sales of Tk 433 crore, AKM Arifur Rahman Tk 350 crore, Amin Rezvani Tk 94 crore, Eliza Rahman Tk 39 crore, Mohammad Bhai and Nurjahan Huda Tk 45 crore, Md Khaliluzzaman Tk 107 crore, Rehana Khan Majlish Tk 45 crore, Nripen Chowdhury Tk 166 crore, Richard De Rozario Tk 77 crore, Sarah Khandaker, Yakub Ali Khandaker and Dream Holdings Tk 158 crore, Syed Abu Zafar Tk 47 crore, Syed Sirajuddowla and Rasheda Akhter Maya Tk 290 crore.

Flew higher

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report submitted to Finance Minister AMA Muhith Thursday.

Surprisingly, the shares of GMG Airlines were compared to those of Samorita Hospital, Eastern Housing, Summit Alliance Port and Ocean Container, which are completely different type of stocks.

"It was a comparison between a sparrow and an elephant," observed the report.

This comparison has helped the shares to be overpriced, and neither the issue manager nor the SEC raised any question on it. The indicative price of a share of GMG Airlines was set at Tk 150.

According to the balance sheet submitted to the issue manager and the SEC, sales revenue for the first nine months of 2010 grew by 35 percent compared to the entire 2009 (12 months).

On the other hand, travel agency commission and Vat and tax went down by 60 percent to Tk 6 crore only.

"This is unrealistic as a rise in sales will also mean more commission and tax. Otherwise, the company has evaded tax," cited the probe report.

Gross and net profits of the company were shown to have increased by 120 percent and 133 percent respectively during the first nine months of 2010 compared to those of 2009. Nine percent and 92 percent reduction in operating and phone-fax expenses also did not match the booming profit of the company.

Accordingly, earning per share (EPS) was shown at Tk 10.31 for 2010 by inflating the income and reducing the expenses. The company's EPS was at Tk 0.26 and Tk 0.31 in 2006 and 2007 respectively. The probe body found EPS at Tk 7.69 for 2009 was also inaccurate.

The report also revealed that two issue managers had declined to manage the GMG shares due to the serious price manipulation.

These two managers set the indicative price at Tk 70 considering the EPS and book

BSF kills 1

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leaving Sanaullah dead on the spot. The traders were returning home with cattle from India, said Lt Col Anwar Shafique of 46 battalion of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

The Indian border guards took Sanaullah's body into their territory near main pillar no 228, he added.

Nazmul however, managed to escape the scene and later was taken to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Two Shia activists die in Bahraini custody

AFP, Dubai

Two Bahraini Shia activists detained in the wake of anti-regime protests have died in detention, the Gulf kingdom's interior ministry said yesterday.

Ali Issa Saqer, 31, died at the hands of prison security guards after "causing chaos in detention", police said in a statement posted on the interior ministry's Twitter page.

"Security men had to intervene to restore security ... but he resisted, forcing them to engage him, which resulted in him receiving several wounds," it said.

He died in hospital, police said, without specifying whether he was shot or had suffered other injuries.

Police said Saqer was arrested on suspicion of having killed policemen by running them over with a car.

The ministry said another detainee, Zakaraya Rashed Hassan, 40, arrested on April 2 for "inciting hatred against the regime and spreading fabricated news", had been "found dead" in his prison cell.

A post-mortem examination showed sickle cell disease was the cause of death.

Human Rights Watch, meanwhile, said a leading opposition figure and rights activist, Abdul Hadi al-Khawaja, was beaten up and arrested on Saturday in Manama.

Govt to ban

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Jonno Foundation and Plan Bangladesh at the LGED Auditorium in the capital.

Child Parliament is an organisation where children discuss their rights and demands at national level and place their suggestions before the authorities concerned.

Some 84 child representatives, including 64 child parliamentarians from every districts in the country, posing as members of government and non-government organisations participated in the programme. The parliamentarians talked elaborately about the teaching process at schools, management, infrastructural problems and school environment.

Last year's survey report of the Child Parliament pointed out that around 74 percent teachers use mobile phones during class. In this year's report, the child parliamentarians found the number increased by one percent.

At yesterday's session, the child parliamentarians called upon the government to give constitutional recognition to education as a basic right. They said the school authorities charge extra fees ahead of examinations.

Sriti, a child parliamentarian from Joypurhat, said teachers' involvement in government and their own activities hamper educational activities in schools.

Pavel, from Madaripur, alleged that teachers very often threaten candidates of government exams that they would not give them marks for practical tests unless they have the teacher as their private tutor.

The children stressed the need for stronger government monitoring of schools and their activities. They also sought proper gaming equipment and asked to ensure participation of all handicapped children in classes.

The education minister said stern action would be taken against schools that charge extra for any kind of exams.

On making education a basic right, he said he would inform the special committee on constitutional amendment in parliament of the matter.

Nahid also urged the media not to run advertisements of notebooks.

Country Director of Save the Children Michael McGrath said the quality of education would drop if teachers do not give due concentration on teaching in classrooms.

Gaddafi forces

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killed in fighting on Saturday, with one of the rebels shot in the forehead by a sniper.

Another rebel, Muftah, said: "There are Gaddafi forces inside Ajdabiyah in sand-coloured Land Cruisers and we know there are snipers in civilian clothing in the city as well."

Gaddafi's artillery shelled the western approaches all morning and two rockets landed in the centre in the middle of the day. There were long exchanges of small arms fire.

The streets were deserted as insurgents guarded various crossroads and dashed around in pickups.

The mostly untrained rebels have tried to reorganize and re-equip but were unable to hold ground last week against Gaddafi's better-armed forces in the fight for Brega.

AFRICAN UNION MISSION

A high-level African Union delegation led by South African President Jacob Zuma was due in Tripoli yesterday to try to kindle peace talks between the two sides.

South African officials said the delegation, which also included the leaders of Mauritania, Congo, Mali and Uganda, would meet rebel leaders in Benghazi after talking to Gaddafi.

Western officials have acknowledged that their air power will not be enough to help the rag-tag rebels overthrow Gaddafi by force and they are now emphasizing a political solution.

But a rebel spokesman rejected a negotiated outcome in the conflict, the bloodiest in a series of pro-democracy revolts across the Arab world that have already dethroned the leaders of Tunisia and Egypt.

"There is no other solution than the military solution, because this dictator's language is annihilation, and people who speak this language only understand this language," spokesman

Ahmad Bani told al Jazeera television.

Analysts predict a long, low-level conflict possibly leading to partition between east and west in the sprawling North African Arab country.

Gaddafi's government sought to showcase a reform-friendly face on Sunday, gathering foreign journalists in the early hours of the morning to unveil a "Libyan version" of democracy.

Details were vague and officials could not explain what Gaddafi's role would be, but it was clear he would continue to play a leading role. Insurgents say they want democracy in Libya without Gaddafi, who has ruled with an iron hand for 41 years.

The fight for Ajdabiyah yesterday followed pitched battles on Saturday when rebels fought off a heavy assault by government forces on the besieged western coastal city of Misrata.

One insurgent there said 30 fighters were killed but another said there were eight confirmed dead and 10 unconfirmed.

Rebels in Misrata, a lone rebel bastion in western Libya which has been under siege for six weeks, hailed more muscular Nato operations against Gaddafi's besieging forces.

The alliance confirmed an increased tempo of attacks and said it had destroyed 17 government tanks between Friday and Saturday, 15 near Misrata and two south of Brega.

Gaddafi's forces appear bent on seizing Misrata and crucially its port, which some analysts say is vital if Gaddafi is to survive because it supplies the capital Tripoli.

Rebel spokesman Mustafa Abdulrahman said by telephone that Saturday's Misrata fighting centred on a road to the port, where a Red Cross vessel brought in badly needed medical supplies earlier in the day.

As fighting raged on for the coastal town, where conditions are said to be

desperate, a buoyant Muammar Gaddafi made his first television appearance for five days on Saturday.

Wearing his trademark brown robes and dark glasses, he was shown smiling and pumping his fists in the air at a school where he was welcomed ecstatically. Women ululated, one wept with emotion and pupils chanted anti-western slogans.

Gaddafi looked relaxed, confirming the impression among analysts that his administration has emerged from a period of paralysis and is hunkering down for a long campaign.

INCREASED NATO STRIKES

Nato's commander of Libyan operations said the alliance, which took over air strikes against Gaddafi from three Western powers on March 31, had destroyed "a significant percentage" of his armoured forces and ammunition stockpiles east of Tripoli.

Canadian Lieutenant General Charles Bouchard also accused Gaddafi's forces of using civilians as human shields, adding to similar charges made by other Western commanders.

"We have observed horrific examples of regime forces deliberately placing their weapons systems close to civilians, their homes and even their places of worship," Bouchard said in a statement yesterday.

Tigers eye

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showing in today's game at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Australia, on the other hand, will look to wrap up the series as their skipper Michael Clarke looks in good touch after the century in the first one-day.

They have one selection worry with the middle-order batsman Cameron White not firing since the end of the Australian summer.

The match will be telecast live on NEO Cricket and BTV from 9:30am.

Retirement

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be given special facilities as research works or researchers do not have any specific timetable.

Hasina said despite limited resources, the government is committed to provide special facilities to the researchers.

The government is working to build a modern and educated Bangladesh which will be economically prosperous and environmentally safe, she added.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Education Adviser to the PM Prof Alauddin Ahmed were present.

Bangladeshis

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home today. Flight schedule for the rest is yet to be announced.

The foreign ministry sources said the 36 migrants entered the African country on Saturday.

The ministry's consular team at Ras Jdir border point has been receiving frequent calls from a number of Bangladeshi families in Libya, seeking advice about their return, added the sources.

The team is advising them to take a safe route to Ras Jdir and coordinating their time of crossing the border with available flights, said a foreign ministry press release.

In Greece, one Bangladeshi still remains missing at Hania, Crete Island.

As reported earlier, eight Bangladeshi nationals arrived at Corfu Port of the island's western end. The Bangladesh embassy in Athens will repatriate them after their identification.

In Italy, the press release said, no casualty of any Bangladeshi has been reported in the shipwreck near Lampedusa. However, a Bangladeshi national named Saiful Alam, 29, is among the 51 persons rescued so far.

Limon's mother

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capital, where his left leg was amputated on March 27.

Inspector General of Police Hasan Mahmud Khandaker yesterday said the shooting of Limon will be probed.

To the press at the police headquarters, he said he has asked the director general of Rab to submit a report on the matter.

The report will help find whether the Rab men are responsible or not, he mentioned adding, nobody would be spared if found guilty.

The police chief was briefing the press on the security measures adopted for the upcoming Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bengali New Year.

Limon's father Tofazzal Hossain alleged Rab disabled his innocent son by shooting him. After seriously injuring Limon, the law enforcers labelled him a criminal and filed two cases against him, he added.

Rab, however, claimed he 'received' the bullet in a 'shootout' between them and Limon's cohorts.

Amini's son

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denying that they have his son.

Talking to The Daily Star, Amini said, "A team of plain-clothes law enforcers picked up my younger son Abul Hasanat from Dholaikhal where he went to get his car repaired around 11:00am."

"They picked up my son in front of two of his friends," said Amini, adding, "I am not sure whether Rab or the police took my son. I do not know why they picked him up and where are they keeping him."

Amini's elder son Abul Farah told The Daily Star that five to six people with firearms and wireless sets picked up his brother and took him away on a sports utility vehicle that had tinted windows.

Contacted, Wari Division Deputy Commissioner of Police Gazi Mozammel Huq, DC Md Monirul Islam of Detective Branch (south) and Commander M Sohail, Legal and Media Wing of Rab, said they did not arrest any of Amini's sons.

No gas remedy

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\$110 million funding from the ADB.

Three companies participated in the tender that sought the bidders initially to technically qualify. These are Sinopac of China, Hyundai of Korea and Fernas of Turkey. Of them, Hyundai won the second tender that was cancelled in 2009.

Since then eight months have elapsed, but the GTCL could not finalise the companies that would be considered qualified for the project.

Sources said the delay was taking place because the GTCL Technical Evaluation Committee disqualified two out of the three bidders. The local agents of the disqualified companies were using their political and business connections to change the evaluation.

One source said, "If they fail to change the evaluation, they will push the authorities to cancel the tender again on ground of lack of participation."

Till now the GTCL considered only Hyundai as quali-

fied since it "satisfactorily submitted documentary evidence of the conformity of the plant and services offered in its bid." It (GTCL) maintains that both Sinopac and Fernas were not qualified in terms of their technical capabilities or experience.

Prime Minister's Energy Adviser Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury notes, "Since this project has faced a lot of troubles in the past, I am now personally supervising its progress. I have asked the GTCL authorities and the ADB to discuss the matter and quickly finalise the selection so that we do not lose valuable time later."

He said completion of the first part of the tender (bidder technically qualifying for the project) is expected to be completed within this month.

The energy adviser mentioned that a meeting between the GTCL and the project's financier ADB was held last week, but it could not come to any decision.

An official said, "The next GTCL board meeting will

take place this week. The agenda of this meeting excludes the tender for the compressors. That means the decision will be delayed further."

Even if the authorities could take a quick decision now, it will take at least two years to install the compressors.

Compressors are installed in gas transmission pipeline to keep gas pressure stable and the flow intense. In the recent years, due to excessive demand from different types of gas consumers, the flow pressure has become unstable. As a result, many consumers do not get adequate gas to run their installations including power plants and industries.

The first tender was cancelled by the ADB in 2006 when it smelt foul play in the GTCL tender process. Back then, the ADB investigated the process, and based on its finding, it blacklisted a foreign compressor manufacturing company from future participation in the ADB funded projects.

Change constitution

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constitutional amendments can be made effective without bringing further amendments. The parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment should make their priorities clear to the people and hear their voices," he observed.

"Every citizen has the right to give opinions on the issue of constitutional amendment," added Dr Kamal, who was the chairman of the committee for drafting the first constitution in 1972.

Shujan President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, who chaired the discussion, said the court's verdict regarding the constitutional amendments should be implemented first; then the amendments that have damaged its basic spirit should be done away with; and finally, necessary laws should be passed in parliament to protect the constitution.

"We now need a constitutional commission. Also a people's commission should be formed to keep pressure on the MPs to form the constitution commission," Prof Muzaffer added.

Another eminent jurist Amirul Islam said all the amendments to the constitution are controversial. "To resist unconstitutional takeover of power, a total unequivocal will of the citizens is needed that they will not accept any unconstitutional amendments," he said.

stitutional government," he said.

Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University said the constitution of 1972 was the best for the country, but it was destroyed by subsequent governments.

Shujan General Secretary Dr Badiul Alam Majumder said any amendment to the constitution should be brought through a national consensus. If it is done unilaterally, problems will arise, he observed.

Eminent lawyer Shahdin Malik presented the keynote paper in which he discussed the way the process of constitutional amendments is progressing.