

## Cops beat up

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primary treatment at Al-Razi Hospital at Farmgate. Witnesses, most of them pedestrians, confined the two policemen -- Constables Fayeze Ahmed and Abdul Aziz -- for about half an hour following the incident.

Ariful told this correspondent he was on his way home at Begun Bazar around 9:00pm after selling *chanachur* at Mirpur for all day. Some customers stopped him near Tejaon Govt Girls' High School and asked some *chanachur*. Soon after the two policemen appeared and asked Tk 100, he alleged. "I refused to pay, saying that I would leave the place at once. But they kept insisting for the money.

Finally, they demanded Tk 20 but I refused to pay. At this, one of the policemen started beating with a stick," he said. Constable Fayeze Ahmed confessed to beating Ariful, but refuted the allegation of demanding money. He claimed he had twice evicted Ariful from the spot while patrolling the area. He beat Ariful as he returned for a third time.

"It was just a misunderstanding. We'll bear the expenses of his [Ariful's] treatment. Don't take this seriously," said Abdur Razzak, sub-inspector of Tejaon Police Station.

Later, the police team took the victim for treatment.

Alamgir Hossain, who was selling bags just beside scene, said all the hawkers had to pay money to police every day for sitting there.

"Constables Fayeze and Abdul Aziz took Tk 40 from me just before they asked money from the *chanachur* vendor," he alleged.

Contacted, Tejaon Police Station Officer-in-charge Mahubur Rahman said, "The allegation of demanding extortion is not true. Police drove out the vendors, as they have no right to sell goods on the footpath of VIP a road. He [Ariful] was hurt during a scuffle."

## HC asks

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murdered at their West Rajabazar residence in the city on February 11.

The HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim came up with the order yesterday while hearing a rule earlier issued by it.

Earlier, the Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh filed a writ petition with the High Court as no visible progress was made in the probe.

On February 28, the bench issued the rule asking the home secretary and IGP to explain within two weeks why they should not be directed to find out the motive for the murder of the journalist couple and bring the killers to justice.

The court on that day also directed the IGP to submit a progress report on the investigation into the killing before it in two weeks. Deputy Attorney General (DAG) ABM Altaf Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday. During yesterday's proceedings, the judges enquired the DAG about the compliance of the rule and order.

DAG Altaf said that his office had not got any compliance report from the authorities concerned of the government till yesterday.

The court then told the DAG that the government has failed to comply with its order, and also asked him to inform the government about its concern.

After the court passed the order, DAG Altaf informed the IGP office about HC order for submitting the report on the progress of investigation into the Sagar-Runi murder case by tomorrow.

The IGP office told him (DAG) that they did not get the copy of February 28 order of the HC till date, DAG Altaf told this correspondent.

## 8th Wage Board

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"Forming a new wage board three and a half years after the seventh wage board award will put the newspaper industry into a big crisis," Noab said in a statement on Monday, urging the government to reconsider the matter.

But the leaders of the associations described the Noab statement as a "violation of related laws and also a punishable offence," said a press release of Bangladesh Sangbadik Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP).

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), Bangladesh Sangbadipatra Press Sramik Federation and Bangladesh Sangbadipatra Karmachari Federation, that are members of SSKOP, jointly made the call on the Noab.

Under the 1974 law, seven wage boards have been formed so far and implementation of wage board is mandatory, the journalist leaders said, adding that the owners' association in the past was compelled to implement the wage boards after losing legal battles.

The prime minister has

announced the formation of the eighth wage board realising the rationale for the salary increase of the journalists, press workers and employees of the industry.

Noab's statement opposing the decision is "unacceptable and motivated" at a time when appointment of the board chairman has been finalised and BFUJ, Sramik Federation and Karmachari Federation have sent the list of their representatives to the board.

"Taking a stance against the formation of the eighth wage board is a violation of the prime minister's clear direction and it goes against the interest of the journalists and all those working in the industry," the statement said.

Journalist leaders urged the Noab to send their representatives to the wage board instead of opposing it.

The statement was signed by Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Ruhul Amin Gazi, Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Shawkat Mahmud, Omar Faruque, Abdus Shahid, Shaban Mahmud, Baker Hossain, Matur Rahman Talukdar, Khairul Islam, Alamgir Hossain Khan and Kamaluddin.

## ETV chairman

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before the court on April 10. Judge (In-charge) Mohammad Akhteruzzaman passed the order after Abu Sayeed Soheli, deputy tax commissioner of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), filed the case with the Senior Special Judge's Court.

According to the case statement, the duo did not submit their income tax returns for the fiscal years 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 within the stipulated time even though they had repeatedly been served with notices.

The complainant said the NBR served them notices on January 29, 31 and February 15 this year asking them to submit their income tax returns. But they did not appear before the NBR to explain why they had failed to submit their returns in time.

Even their representatives did not take any steps on their behalf during their absence. Moreover, they did not seek more time for submitting their income tax returns, the complainant alleged.

Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu and additional public prosecutors Shah Alam Talukdar and Taposh Kumar Paul appeared for the NBR.

ETV'S VERSION  
The ETV authorities, in a written statement, yesterday said they are working to open their initial public offering (IPO) subscription to the public, and their audit reports are in process as part of this work.

For this reason, the authorities could not submit their income tax returns for the fiscal years 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, it said.

A representative of the ETV is maintaining a regular contact with the NBR authorities in this respect. The NBR one-sidedly fined the ETV authorities and intentionally filed a case only to harass them, it added.

## India

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"India was the world's largest recipient of arms, accounting for 10 percent of global arms imports between 2007 to 2011," the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPI) said on Monday in its latest report.

The four next largest recipients of arms in the same period were South Korea (6 percent of arms transfers), Pakistan (5 percent), China (5 percent) and Singapore (4 percent).

The figures were not surprising given India's huge reliance on imports, at about 70 percent of its total defence requirements. Since the Kargil conflict of 1999, India has been steadily buying up arms and ammunition from foreign suppliers, and has consistently been among the top defence importers of the world.

The most visible trend during 2007-11 was how China, which was the largest recipient of arms exports in 2002-2006, fell to fourth position in 2007-11. The decline in Chinese imports coincided with significant growth of the Asian giant's indigenous arms industry and its rising arms exports, the report said.

"India's imports of major weapons increased by 38 percent between 2002-06 and 2007-11," SIPI said.

"Notable deliveries of combat aircraft during 2007-11 included 120 Su-30MKs and 16 MiG-29Ks from Russia and 20 Jaguar Ss from the United Kingdom," it said.

"Between 2002-2006 and 2007-11, the volume of Chinese arms exports increased by 95 percent. China now ranks as the sixth largest supplier of arms in the world, narrowly trailing the United Kingdom," SIPI said.

And the report also noted that Asia leads the world when it comes to weapon imports.

Asia and Oceania accounted for 44 percent of global arms imports, followed by Europe (19 percent), the Middle East (17 percent), the Americas (11 percent) and Africa (9 percent), the think tank said.

Globally the volume of international transfers of major conventional weapons was 24 percent higher in the period 2007-11 compared to the 2002-06 period, the report said.

Over the past five years, Asia and Oceania accounted for 44 percent in volume of conventional arms imports, the institutes said.

## Resolve caretaker

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caretaker government. Otherwise, there will be no polls in the country and you [the government] will have to quit power," Khaleda said while speaking on the thanksgiving motion on the president's address in parliament yesterday.

"Still there is time... accept people's demand for restoration of the caretaker government system... don't force us to go for movement."

The leader of the opposition hoped that the government would meet the opposition's demand for restoring the caretaker system and ensure people's right to vote.

On a rare occasion, she lauded the government's role in securing a victory over Myanmar in a maritime boundary dispute case at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

Khaleda congratulated the prime minister, the foreign minister and officials at the foreign ministry on the success.

She, however, slammed the government for its failure to stop border killings by Indian Border Security Force, sign a treaty on the Teesta water sharing with India and settle the Tipaimukh dam issue.

Khaleda said her party is

ready to cooperate with the government on these issues if it raises voice against India.

In her two-hour speech, the opposition leader also blasted the government for price hike of essentials, deterioration in law and order, killings of journalist couple Sagar and Runi, the murder of a Saudi Embassy official, and alleged corruption in the power sector.

On the caretaker system, Khaleda said, "Since the Election Commission is not strong enough to hold a free and fair election, it is imperative to restore the caretaker government system."

Khaleda also spoke about what she said "oppression," "corruption" and "misrule" during the post-independence rule of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The BNP chief said consensus is the essence of democracy but the government wants to do everything by "muscle power" instead of trying to reach a consensus. It will destroy democracy in the country, she said.

The leader of the opposition also termed the current parliament dysfunctional.

"If the leader of the House (Sheikh Hasina) and her deputies use indecent words in parliament, what will new lawmakers learn in

parliament?"

Khaleda said her party's lawmakers could not play their due role in the House, as they were not allowed to speak about people's sufferings and the government's misrule.

"What is the use of attending parliament if we are not allowed to speak in the country's interest?"

"Our lawmakers have submitted more than 700 notices in parliament calling for discussions on issues of public interest. But not a single notice was accepted. Should we attend the House proceedings just to listen to speeches in praise of the government?"

Pointing at Speaker Abdul Hamid, she said, "You invite us to parliament but do not allow us to speak. This is nothing but a double standard."

The BNP chairperson claimed that her government had generated more than 4,000 megawatt electricity between 2001 and 2006.

Earlier, speaking on the thanksgiving motion on the president's address, BNP stalwart Moudud Ahmed said: "Nothing will go unchallenged. We will protest inside and outside parliament if the government does not pay heed to our demands."

## Tigers in final

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a scene that will stay on with those lucky enough to witness it.

The unbroken sixth wicket pair of Nasir Hossain and Mahmudullah Riyad added 77 precious runs after Shakib Al Hasan and Tamim Iqbal, the real architects of this victory, both fell within the 24th over.

Tamim hammered 59 off 56 balls with the help of nine glorious boundaries, but his stay ended through a very good catch at point by Lahiru Thirime from off-spinner Sachithra Senanayake in the 20th over with the team on 116 for four. Five of his boundaries were through the leg-side while four came on the off-side. Some of his shots, the chipped drive over the bowler's head, the straight drive through his partner Shakib's legs at the other end, the flicks past mid-wicket's right and left, all oozed class. He reached fifty off 46 balls with a stunning straight-drive. But unfortunately, he couldn't latch on to the one life he got, a dropped catch by Senanayake.

Shakib too was excellent and once again delivered under duress. He cracked seven boundaries in his 46-ball 56 before becoming Senanayake's second victim.

The all-rounder added 76 with Tamim but played in his unique way, hammering boundaries, top-edging some and even mistiming a lot early in the innings. In the eleventh over, Shakib opened his proper repertoire with a cover drive and a cut but it was the 21st over, bowled by the young offie, that showed what Shakib was really made of. After chipping one softly but safely, between cover and extra-cover he saw one fall short

of the bowler after managing only to get a leading-edge on another. He followed it up with a cut boundary, before being beaten but still finished the over by reaching his half-century off 43 balls with a chipped drive over extra-cover's head.

Senanayake finished as the best bowler on show for the Lankans with 2-38 from eight overs but the pacemen were handled quite well by the Tigers' batsmen who have showed rare consistency in attitude and performance in this tournament.

Earlier though, it was Nazmul who was the undoubted hero with the ball. Starting off with the wicket of Mahela Jayawardene with a beautiful in-ducker that came in just as much was required to sneak in between the Sri Lanka captain's bat and pad, the 24-year-old was on fire. Kumar Sangakkara hammered a checked cover-drive into Nazimuddin's lap to become Nazmul's second while Dilshan dragged the ball to the stumps to make it 32 for three in the tenth over.

The man from Habiganj may have been the man with the wickets but it was Mashrafe Bin Mortaza who kept things under control throughout his three spells. He ended up with a wicket from his 9.5 overs, the wicket becoming the last ball of the Sri Lanka innings in the 50th over but it was his discipline that paid off. His performance with the ball so far has been a tribute to his rehabilitation efforts over the past eleven months.

Abdur Razzak continued to be steady, giving away only 40-off from ten overs but this time he took two

wickets (both however down to luck), while Shakib and Shahadat Hossain were slightly expensive but still had their moments.

After the three quick losses, Chamara Kapugedera and Lahiru Thirime staged a fight-back of sorts by adding 88 runs for the fourth wicket. It was broken by the freak stumping of the left-hander Thirime by wicketkeeper Mushfiqur, who found out the Gary Player way of luck in sports (the more you practice, the luckier you get); his left pad helping him out with the ricochet that caught the batsman, who made 48 off 73 balls, out of the crease.

Kapugedera had another solid batsman at the other end as Upul Tharanga helped him add 49 runs for the fifth wicket. The right-hander struck his first fifty in almost two years, hammering 62 off 92 balls with the help of four boundaries; Shakib bringing an end to his stay with an excellent low catch at cover. The left-hander at the other end, Tharanga, took the side past the 200-run mark but couldn't reach another half-century, falling two short. He struck five fours and a six in his 44-ball knock.

Tributes were flowing in even as the Tigers left the stadium after a remarkable effort. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was among the first to congratulate the team, having watched most of the Bangladesh innings at the stadium. According to her press secretary, the Prime Minister personally congratulated each member of the team and reiterated that the country was overjoyed at the victory. She also wished them luck for the final on Thursday.

## Correction

In the penultimate paragraph of the report headlined "Past of Ctg holds hope for economy", published in the March 18 issue of The Daily Star, it was mentioned that Md Mahbul Hoque, assistant professor of History Department at Chittagong University, was a presenter of a programme. He was actually not present in that session of the programme. We regret the inadvertent error.

## Tail-up

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Many ruling party leaders believe the recent news centring the allegation of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's receiving Rs 50 million from the Pakistani spy agency ISI ahead of the 1991 parliamentary polls is also another plus point for the ruling party.

On Wednesday, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea in its verdict favoured Bangladesh's claim to 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic and territorial rights in the Bay of Bengal.

"We have decided to celebrate our victory," Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury told The Daily Star at her secretariat office. She said the date would be finalised later.

The cabinet at a meeting on Monday discussed the nature of maritime win celebrations.

A central AL leader said the opposition parties, including BNP, congratulated the government for the outcome in the international court.

"We also believe that people who were frustrated at the government steps ahead of the BNP's rally on March 12 have forgotten those and they are now praising it for the achievement."

"It's a big achievement for both the government and the country. As a party, we will reap benefit once we conduct a massive campaign across the country on the issue," AL Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif told The Daily Star.

He said they would chalk out programmes for the campaign soon.

Besides, he claimed, supporters were losing confidence in BNP as its chief Khaleda Zia had "received money ahead of the 1991 elections from the defeated force of the Liberation War".

"Definitely the achievement is big. This will have a positive impact on the government and Awami League," Prof Dr Harun-or-Rashid of Dhaka University, told The Daily Star.

But public perception on the government would largely depend on how it acts over the rest of its term, he said.

Over the ISI issue, Harun, pro-vice chancellor of DU, said many people think BNP is a pro-Pakistani party and this perception has got a firm base after the news of ISI funding.

## Islamic

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crore or 0.93 percent at the end of 2009, added the governor.

This funding is growing due to avid participation of the Islamic banks in the financial inclusion campaign, observed Atiur.

"I believe there is ample room for Islamic microfinance to flourish further as it is gaining popularity both among the Muslims and non-Muslims."

The BB has been encouraging the development of an Islamic money market in the country, he said, adding, the central bank has already approved a proposal by Islamic Development Bank to set up an Islamic microfinance institution in the country.

WIEF Foundation of Malaysia and SEACO Foundation of Bangladesh jointly organised the roundtable in collaboration with the Bangladesh Federation of Women Entrepreneurs, Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the High Commission of Malaysia in Dhaka.

## Bhutto in Dhaka

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in conversation with Tajuddin Ahmed. Bangabandhu informed Hossain that he had been giving serious thought to the question of a transfer of power and from a strategic point of view he had come to the conclusion that a formation of governments in Pakistan's five provinces would be in order. Judging by the way the situation was developing, Bangabandhu believed that it would not be wise for the Awami League to take power at the centre at that point.

It was Kamal Hossain's view that General Yahya Khan himself was contemplating a transfer of power to the provinces because he

was keen about keeping the presidency for himself. This attitude only spurred Mujib and Tajuddin into having another meeting with the president, to let him know that in the prevailing circumstances it was important for arrangements to be made for a setting up of elected governments in the provinces. On the same day, the junta let it be known to the Awami League that a draft proclamation had been prepared, a copy of which was made available to the party. The Awami League thought the draft proclamation had quite a few serious loopholes in it and therefore made its own suggestions, the gist of which was that the proclamation should come

into force seven days after it was issued or seven days after five new governors for the provinces took the oath of office.

A significant development of the day was the arrival in Dhaka of Pakistan People's Party chairman Zulfikar Ali Bhutto at the head of a large team. The conclusion was drawn that he had been asked by President Yahya Khan to come to Dhaka and join the negotiations the regime was conducting with the Awami League. Soon after his arrival, Bhutto met Yahya, who apprised him of the talks he had been having with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman since March 16.