

13 BCL men

FROM PAGE 1
brought to justice too, said Mamun, who teaches law at a private university in Sylhet.

Sub-Inspector Mir Shahin Shah Parvez of Ashulia Police Station, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court of Dhaka on Saturday.

The accused are Khandaker Ashikul Islam alias Ashik, Khan Mohammad Rais and Zahid Hasan of Zoology department, Rashidul Islam and Ishtiaq Mehbub (Arup) of Philosophy department, Mahabub Akram of Government and Politics department, and Najmus Sakib Topu of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology department.

The others are Majharul Islam and Mahamudul Hasan Masud of History department, Kamruzzaman Sohag of Philosophy, Najmul Hossein Plabon of Public Administration, and Shafiu Alam Setu and Abhinandan Kundu of Statistics department.

All of them are final year students.

Of the accused, Ashik, Mahbub, Topu and Zahid are now in custody while the nine others have been shown fugitives in the charge sheet.

While submitting the charge sheet, the IO sought issuance of arrest warrant against the nine fugitives and an order to attach their moveable and immoveable properties.

During the investigation, Mahbub, Topu and Zahid gave confessional statements before magistrates on different dates.

The IO said the charges brought against the accused were primarily proved and they should be brought under trial.

The university Syndicate on January 30 expelled seven of the 13 accused for life and six others for two years after a probe committee found their involvement with the killing.

The students who were expelled for life are Ashik, Rais, Zahid, Rashidul, Arup, Akram and Topu. The six others are Majharul, Masud, Sohag, Plabon, Setu and Abhinandan.

Following the death of Zubair, Deputy Registrar Hamidur Rahman filed a case with Ashulia Police Station against Ashik, Rais and Rashidul along with 10 to 12 unnamed students as accused.

Later, police included the names of 10 others that were provided by the university authorities.

Zubair's friends said he was killed because of old enmity with the opponent faction of Chhatra League -- allegedly patronised by the university's vice chancellor.

Zubair was loyal to Shafin-Sammo group which was ousted from the campus in August 2010 centring a fierce clash between the two factions.

4 electrocuted

FROM PAGE 1
single-storey building on Sher-e-Bangla Road around 9:30am.

They were electrocuted when one of the tin sheets touched the wire, said Abdul Karim, a co-worker. A fire followed the incident.

Didar died on the spot while a critically injured Firoz was taken to DMCH where doctors declared him dead, Karim added.

Locals managed to douse the fire before a fire brigade unit from Palashi reached the spot.

In Kafrul, construction worker Mohammad Liton, 27, was electrocuted at Bhasantek slum while switching on the power to watch television around 1:00am, police said.

Meanwhile, security guard Nur Nabi, 25, died instantly after a 20-feet-long iron pipe used for piling fell on him around 9:30am yesterday.

Construction workers at a Banasri Project were carrying the pipe when it slipped and dropped on Nabi, injuring him in the head and spine, said Ziaur Rahman, sub-inspector of Rampura Police Station.

Nabi was declared dead at DMCH.

Nod to 6 more

FROM PAGE 1

Ershad, former military dictator and chief of AL's ally Jatiya Party, is a director of the bank and JP International Affairs Secretary Golam Masih is among its 19 shareholders. Shahidul Alam has been named the chairman.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's close relative and AL lawmaker Fazley Noor Taposh is among the 38 sponsor shareholders of Modhumati Bank Ltd. Humayun Kabir is its proposed chairman.

There are 22 sponsor shareholders of Meghna Bank. Prominent among them are HN Ashikur Rahman, a ruling party MP from Rangpur-5 constituency, and Nasrul Hamid, AL lawmaker from Dhaka-3.

The 13 directors of Farmers' Bank Ltd include Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, AL lawmaker and a parliamentary standing committee chairman.

South Bangla Agriculture and Commerce Bank has Dhaka University teacher and Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee leader Abdul Mannan Chowdhury as one of its 14 directors. Another director, Kazi Abdul Mazid, worked as managing director of different banks, Premiere Bank being the latest.

The number of Midland Bank's directors is 32. Its main sponsor is M Maniruzzaman Khandker, the prime minister's income tax adviser and chairman of Karmasangsthan Bank.

Yesterday, Deputy Governor Sitangshu Kumar told reporters that the applicants, who got the Bangladesh Bank nod, will be given licences if they submit necessary papers in the next six months.

The banks will be told to set up their head offices outside the capital, he said.

Due to pressure from the

government high ups, the central bank at the end of the last year against its will invited applications seeking licences for new banks, sources said.

Of the 37 applications submitted, 16 were short-listed. Finally, a BB Board meeting with Governor Atiur Rahman in chair picked the six yesterday, a top central bank official said.

Earlier on Thursday, the central bank also approved three other banks sponsored by non-resident Bangladeshis.

Two board members Mohammad Tareque and Prof Sanat Kumar Saha were not present at yesterday's meet. They also did not attend the earlier board meeting where approval to new banks was discussed.

The BB placed to the board a number of justifications behind allowing new banks. It said since bank licences were last issued in 2000-01, there had been many significant developments in economy.

In FY2000-2001, the country's GDP was Tk2,160 billion which increased to Tk 3,850 billion in FY 2010-11 at constant market price, it added.

Data on import, export and remittance in the last 10 years was also presented in the meeting.

The BB said the economy has grown and the banking system has become more competitive. But still a large number of people are under-banked in Bangladesh.

According to a recent survey of Institute of Microfinance, only 45 percent of nearly 9,000 households surveyed have access to loans from banks and micro-finance institutions.

The central bank said the new banks would help improve the service quality of banking by increasing competition in this sector.

Khoka

FROM PAGE 20

months in a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

The ACC filed the case with Shahbag Police Station against Khoka and Land Reform Board Chairman Nurul Huq and five others on March 29 on charge of causing a loss of damaging Tk 827 crore to the national exchequer through graft in a multi-storey car park project at Dilkusha in Dhaka.

The corruption took place between 2007 and 2009, according to the case statement.

The five other accused are DCC's Superintendent Engineer Shehab Uddowla, who is also the director of Faith-DCC Project; DCC's Executive Engineer Mansur Ahmed, acting executive engineer Mafizur Rahman, Deputy Assistant Engineer (DCC zone-8) Aminur Rahman Chowdhury and proprietor of Nirman Trading Mohammad Mizanur Rahman.

The HC bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan yesterday also granted bail to Shehab Uddowla and Mizanur Rahman following separate petitions submitted by them seeking bail in the case.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq and advocate AFM Mesbahuddin appeared for the petitioners, while advocate Khurshid Alam Khan argued for ACC and Deputy Attorney General Khondker Dilruzzaman represented the government.

HC rule

FROM PAGE 20

students filed the writ petition with the HC, seeking its directives on the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to hold Ducsu election.

The petitioners said they are being deprived of their democratic rights since the election was not held in the last 20 years.

The education secretary and the vice chancellor, proctor, treasurer and registrar of DU have been made respondents to the rule.

During a hearing on March 22, the HC bench fixed April 8 (yesterday) for passing order on the petition.

Advocate Manzill Murshid appeared for the petitioners while Attorney General Mahbubey Alam opposed the petition.

Earlier on March 11, Manzill Murshid served a legal notice on the DU authorities to take immediate steps for holding Ducsu election.

Fake cellphone

FROM PAGE 20

Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Chairman Maj Gen (ret'd) Zia Ahmed told BSS in the evening.

A BTRC official who took part in the drive said that M Hossain Electronics imported 42,000 counterfeit handsets while Top Star Enterprise 20,000 and Raha Enterprise 20,000.

The estimated price of seized handsets is Taka 20 crore, he said.

The BTRC informed the airport authority earlier not to issue release order for the imported handsets.

The regulatory body chairman said legal action would be taken against the involved companies.

The regulatory body officials said 30 percent of the imported mobile phone handsets are fake.

According to the BTRC and mobile phone importers, approximately one crore handsets are imported every year in the country, 30 percent of which is marketed under renowned brands.

Officials said different companies often open LC (Letter of Credit) in the name of renowned brands like Nokia, Samsung, LG, but later they import standard handsets from China.

According to the law, the importer company has to collect prior permission from the regulatory body for handset imports.

They have also to submit the IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) number of the handsets to the BTRC.

Ctg holds key

FROM PAGE 1

He said two issues -- quality education and healthcare -- need to be given priority in the country's development.

"Our thought on development is not one-dimensional. It is multi-dimensional."

Referring to the aspirations during the Liberation War, he said the dream then was to achieve the development of the whole of Bangladesh.

But that has changed since the independence and Dhaka has become the centre of urbanization, business and industrial development, said Zillur.

It is important to materialise that dream through regional development, he said.

Chittagong's development should be given priority, as the port city has the capacity to become the regional economic gateway of South and Southeast Asia, said Zillur.

The former adviser said in order to make the port city a connectivity hub, port management has to be improved and the port must be linked with Myanmar and Northeast India.

A holistic approach has to be taken for the port's development, he said.

"We are focusing on a deep sea port. But there should be space for Chittagong port's expansion."

On building a coal-fired power plant on the land reserved for the port, he said, "It is a security threat to the port. It is alarming. Imported coal is likely to increase traffic congestion in the port."

Discussants at the conference also stressed the need for building deeper ties with natural-resource-rich Myanmar for future development of Bangladesh.

Zillur said, "Myanmar is likely to become an eco-

nomie powerhouse. We should give importance to relationship with Myanmar."

Priority should be given to solving the power crisis for faster industrialisation around Chittagong city. For this purpose, building economic zones in the area, better land management and proper utilisation of land should also get priority, he said.

On urban planning, Zillur said suburbs should be developed. "If Chittagong is to become a future economic driver, city life here has to be attractive," he said. "To have a global port, Chittagong needs to be turned into a global city" that has better facilities for its dwellers like quality education, healthcare and other amenities, he said.

For making the push for quick development of Chittagong, discussants also stressed the need for building a unified platform with the civil society members, business people and others.

Lawmaker Anisul Islam Mahmud said the future of Bangladesh lies with the future of Chittagong. He said development of the port city was important for taking Bangladesh forward.

"...Chittagong is the only viable port in the region," said Anisul referring to forecasts that Asia would lead the global growth in the 21st century. Southeast and South Asia would lead in making this growth, he said.

"Chittagong sits in the middle of two regions. That's why, we need to plan for future," said Anisul, also a former foreign minister.

On yet-to-be-built deep sea port in Chittagong, he said Bangladesh needs China and Myanmar to tag along to make the deep sea port viable.

Anisul said Chittagong

should take the lead in building deeper ties with the people of Myanmar.

"Once Chittagong had many industries...but we have centralised everything through wrong policies. Industries are now established even in Mymensingh although they are far away from Chittagong Port," he said.

Anisul said Chittagong loses investor's appeal due to its failure to develop adequate infrastructure.

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said he has high hope on Bangladesh's entrepreneurs who are showcasing the country to the rest of world by exporting garments and other goods.

Quoting a McKinsey report, Mahfuz said Bangladesh has the prospect to export \$60 billion worth of garments by 2020 from less than \$18 billion now. He also said it is a reflection of the trust on Bangladeshis when technologically-advanced Germany buys ships from the country.

"But \$60 billion worth of exports will not happen automatically. The government has to support the businesses with policies and required infrastructure," he pointed out.

On the power crisis, he said it is a matter of immense urgency. "I would suggest a follow-up discussion to be held immediately on how to solve power crisis in Chittagong."

The editor also reiterated the commitment of the paper to continue to highlight the issues and problems of Chittagong and to do everything in its power to the help Chittagonians solve their problems.

GM Kader, the commerce minister, was scheduled to be the chief guest on the occasion, but could not do so due to indisposition.

Universal cancer vaccine developed

THE HINDU ONLINE

Scientists claim to have developed a universal cancer vaccine that can train patients' own bodies to seek out and destroy tumour cells.

A team from Tel Aviv University and drug company Vaxil Biotherapeutics say the therapy targets a molecule found in 90 per cent of all cancers, and could soon pave the way for a universal injection that allows patients' immune systems to fight off common cancers including breast and prostate cancer.

Preliminary results from early clinical trials have shown that the vaccine can trigger an immune response in patients and reduce levels of disease, The Sunday Telegraph reported.

Now, the scientists hope to conduct larger trials in patients to prove it can be effective against a range of different cancers.

Destiny

FROM PAGE 20

probing his company.

His counsel Mizan Sayeed told reporters the hearing of the petition might be held today.

The BB report revealed last month said the cooperative, a concern Destiny Group, has seen an astronomical rise in its capital, shareholders, profit and investment since 2009.

Following the report, which was sent to the finance ministry last month, various newspapers ran reports on numerous irregularities of the company.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka Court yesterday summoned the editors and publishers of four Bangla dailies, including Prothom Alo, to appear before it on June 10 to explain their roles in connection with a defamation case filed by Destiny-2000 Ltd.

The order came hours after Rafiqul Amin filed the case with the Fourth Joint District Judges' Court of Dhaka against the editors, publishers and reporters concerned of four newspapers, claiming Tk 5,000 crore in compensation for "damaging" his organisation's reputation by publishing reports.

He said the defendants had earlier published news items under different headlines on different dates in their dailies which are false, fabricated and defamatory. They had published the stories just to damage the company's image and reputation socially and economically.

The defendants are Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiar Rahman, its reporter Fakhrul Islam and the daily's printing company Transcraft Ltd, Naya Diganta Editor Alamgir Mohiuddin, its Publisher Shamsul Huda, reporter Syed Shamsuzzaman Nipu and Diganta Printers' Ltd, Jugantor Editor and Publisher Salma Islam, its Executive Editor Saiful Alam, its reporter Golam Maula and Jamuna Printers' Ltd and Jai Jai Din Editorial Board President and Publisher Syed Hossain Chowdhury and its acting editor Kazi Rukunuddin Ahmed.

According to the BB report, Destiny cooperative's paid-up capital has increased to nearly Tk 300 crore in 2009-10 from Tk 5.53 crore a year ago. The figure jumped to nearly Tk 1,200 crore in 2010-11.

The central bank probed the activities of Destiny Multipurpose Cooperative Society Ltd (DMCSL) on instructions from the finance ministry.

In the last 10 months alone, the cooperative bought all or most of the shares of 29 companies at over Tk 356.64 crore, according to a document of the Department of Cooperatives under which DMCSL is registered.

Currently, DMCSL has 6.5 lakh members with about Tk 3,000 crore in assets.

Oust-govt movement

FROM PAGE 1

at the chairperson's Gulshan office had been involved in unethical practices exploiting the privileges of the office. They observed the party should also stay alert to those who are engaged in extortion using the chairperson's name.

BNP's acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir delivered the welcome address at the meeting, presided over by Khaleda Zia.

It was the third meeting since the 386-member executive committee was formed in December 2009. It first met on July 31, 2010, and then on April 23 last year.

Addressing the morning session yesterday, Khaleda said that "some harmful changes" had been made to the country's constitution through the 15th amendment. "If voted back to power, BNP will scrap the amendment," she added.

She claimed the government brought the changes to the constitution before getting the full text of the court verdict on the caretaker government system. "And they [government] did so even though the court suggested the next two parliamentary elections might be held under caretaker governments."

At a March 12 rally in the capital, the BNP chief gave the Hasina administration a 90-day ultimatum to announce the restoration of the caretaker system.

Asadul Habib Dulu, president of Lalmonirhat district BNP, was the first to address the closed-door session.

Mohammad Shahjahan, BNP organising secretary, said the party should participate in the DCC elections. "If necessary, we will have to follow the strategy we adopted in Chittagong polls. We must not leave the field for Awami League."

In Chittagong city mayoral polls, BNP leader M Manjur Alam contested as a candidate of Nagorik Committee and defeated AL stalwart ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury by a landslide.

Khulna district BNP president Nazrul Islam Manju also spoke in favour of participating in the DCC elections.

Khagrachhari district

BNP president Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan said Tarique Rahman should be brought back to the country. "The party will be even stronger if he returns. It doesn't matter if he is in jail or outside."

Mozaher Hossain, leader of the party's Panchagarh district unit, said the BNP needed a permanent secretary general.

Feni BNP leader and lawmaker Rehana Akhter Ranu and Narayanganj district BNP President Taimur Alam Khandaker proposed that the party's Dhaka city units be made stronger ahead of the one-point movement.

Taimur also said that the party should not boycott any local government polls.

Abul Khayer Bhuiyan, a lawmaker from Laxmipur district, alleged that a clique at the chairperson's Gulshan office was creating a gap between the party chief and other leaders.

Syeda Asifa Ashrafi Papia MP, also general secretary of Chapainawabganj district BNP, urged the chairperson not to nominate businessmen as candidates in the next general election.

BNP president Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan said Tarique Rahman should be brought back to the country. "The party will be even stronger if he returns. It doesn't matter if he is in jail or outside."

Mozaher Hossain, leader of the party's Panchagarh district unit, said the BNP needed a permanent secretary general.

Feni BNP leader and lawmaker Rehana Akhter Ranu and Narayanganj district BNP President Taimur Alam Khandaker proposed that the party's Dhaka city units be made stronger ahead of the one-point movement.

Taimur also said that the party should not boycott any local government polls.

Abul Khayer Bhuiyan, a lawmaker from Laxmipur district, alleged that a clique at the chairperson's Gulshan office was creating a gap between the party chief and other leaders.

Syeda Asifa Ashrafi Papia MP, also general secretary of Chapainawabganj district BNP, urged the chairperson not to nominate businessmen as candidates in the next general election.

Suu Kyi meets Karen ethnic rebels

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi met yesterday with Karen ethnic minority rebels in her first significant foray into politics since her election to public office a week earlier.

The Nobel Peace Prize laureate, who won her first-ever seat in parliament in April 1 by-elections, held about two hours of talks with delegates from the Karen National Union in Yangon.

The National League for Democracy (NLD) leader described the meeting as a "significant event" that would help to foster national reconciliation.

She added: "As the NLD's goal is to have true democratic unity, we believe all ethnicities should be included in this process together."