

ICT asks for progress report on charges against Azharul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday asked the prosecution to submit a progress report to it on March 13 on the ongoing investigation or formal charges against the war crimes suspect, ATM Azharul Islam.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir gave the order following prosecution's prayer for time extension. Tribunal-1 also allowed prosecution's another petition on quizzing Azhar at safe home.

Justice Kabir said the investigation agency would have to quiz him at safe home on a day among the next ten days beginning from yesterday.

A defence counsel is allowed to be present during the interrogation. The tribunal asked the investigation agency to inform the defence in advance.

Defence counsel for the war crimes suspects, Ghulam Azam and Motiur Rahman Nizami, yesterday prayed to the tribunal for adjourning the day's proceedings, as the conducting lawyer and the defence witness could not attend the tribunal due to hartal.

The tribunal granted their prayers and adjourned Ghulam Azam's case until today and Nizami's case until February 7.

The three Jamaat-e-Islami leaders are facing trial on charges of crimes against humanity during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia greets the party Acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir as he visits her at the Gulshan office after being released from prison yesterday.



PHOTO: BNP

NEWS IN brief

Kabori given two Rajuk plots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League MP Sarah Begum Kabori has been allocated two Rajuk plots in Gulshan and Uttara ignoring the Rajuk policy to this regard.

According to a list placed by State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan in parliament yesterday, Kabori was allocated the plots under different names.

She was allocated a six katha plot in Gulshan under the name Sarah Kabori, her stage name, while she got a three katha plot in Uttara under the name Sayoara Begum Kabori.

Sonali Bank ex-director to face ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday summoned state run Sonali Bank's former board director and ruling Awami League leader Saimum Sarwar Chowdhury Kamol on February 13 for grilling in connection with Hall Mark loan scam.

A notice in this regard was sent to Kamol at his address at Fatekharkul in Ramu upazila of Cox's Bazar yesterday, said ACC sources.

Kamol was summoned as Hall Mark Managing Director Tanvir Mahmud in his confessional statement admitted that Kamol received Tk 3 crore as bribe to facilitate him (Tanvir) in availing the loan, said an ACC high official.

Earlier on October 4 last year, ACC filed 11 cases against 27 top officials of Sonali Bank and Hall-Mark Group for misappropriating over Tk 1,568

95 DU students get Dean's Award

BSS, Dhaka

Ninety-five students of Biological Sciences Faculty of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday received Dean's Award for their outstanding results in honours examinations of 2009-10 and 2010-11 academic sessions.

Vice-Chancellor Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique handed over the crests and certificates to the awardees at a colourful function at Senate Bhaban on the campus.

The faculty Dean Prof Imdadul Huq chaired the function while Pro-Vice Chancellor (academic) Prof Nasreen Ahmad and Treasurer Prof Kamal

DRUMCS installation event Feb 13

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The installation ceremony of the newly-elected executive committee of Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) Multipurpose Cooperatives Society, which was scheduled for yesterday, will be held at 11:00am on February 13.

The programme was postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

Rohingyas still using Bangladeshi passport

Eight arrested at Shahjalal airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rohingyas have continued their frantic efforts to travel abroad with fake or genuine Bangladeshi passports and documents.

Armed Police Battalion (APBn) and immigration police on Monday night arrested eight such Rohingyas, including two females, at Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

They were trying to go to Kuwait and Malaysia, pasting their photographs on valid passports.

ABM Atiqur Rahman, senior assistant superintendent of the APBn, said the force arrested 50 Rohingyas at the airport last year. The number of arrests was six last month, he added.

Once abroad, a number of Rohingyas

commit different kinds of crime, tarnishing the image of Bangladesh. The problem has remained unaddressed for a long time.

Police sources said they caught six of the Rohingyas in the transit point of the immigration terminal area around 5:00pm. They were to go to Kuwait.

The six arrested men are Noor Alam, 26, Zaber, 32, Ilias, 20, Md Rafique, 32, Shahidul Amin, 20, and Faruque, 22. ASP Atiqur said they admitted that they gave a broker handsome amounts of money for arranging the passports with fake photographs.

The two Rohingya women--Saleha Khatun, 23, and Yasmin Begum, 19--were arrested at a check-in row. They tried to travel to Malaysia.

Schoolgirl raped by trucker, 3 cohorts

Victim rescued from resort

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Police rescued a 15-year-old rape victim from Emang Resort and Restaurant in Alutla tourist area in Sadar upazila of Khagrachhari yesterday.

She was taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital after receiving first aid from Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital, said hospital sources.

The victim's family said on Monday, a truck driver and his three associates picked up the schoolgirl from College Gate area in Ramgarh upazila of the district where she was waiting for a bus to go to her relative's house. They then took her to the resort and with assistance from the hotel's manager raped her.

The girl tried to escape by jumping from the second floor balcony and injured herself yesterday morning.

However, the perpetrators caught her and locked her up in one of the rooms. Hearing her shouts, locals informed police who rescued her at about 12:30pm. The criminals managed to flee the scene, said police.

Mostafizur Rahman, OC of Khagrachhari Police Station, said they arrested the night guard of the resort, Rahul Tripura, 30. A case was filed in this connection.

PADMA GRAFT CONSPIRACY

2 officials get bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to former secretary of Bridges Division Mosharrif Hossain Bhuiyan and Superintendent Engineer of Bangladesh Bridge Authority Kazi Mohammad Ferdous in the Padma bridge graft case.

Judge Md Zohurul Haque of Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after the duo's lawyer submitted a petition seeking bail against the rejection order of a lower court.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka on January 15 had rejected their bail petition.

In the order, the judge said Mosharrif is an ex-secretary while Ferdous is a superintendent engineer and they have high social status. They will not flee if granted bail in the case. Therefore, the two arrestees are granted bail on a bond of Tk 10,000 with two guarantors.

On December 17 last year, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Banani Police Station against seven people, including the two, for conspiring to commit bribery in the Padma bridge project.

An ACC team led by its Director Mohammad Tahidul Islam arrested the duo in front of the National Museum at Shahbagh on December 26.

The two were placed on seven days' remand the following day.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid hands over gold medal to a student at the second convocation of Primeasia University at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday.

DHAKA TODAY

Policy Dialogue
Bangladesh Parliament Secretariat and UNFPA will jointly hold a dialogue on population policy. Time: 9:45am. Venue: Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Workshop
ILO and Human Development Research Centre (HDRC) will hold a daylong workshop on migrant workers' rights. Time: 9:00am. Venue: Biam Auditorium.

Discussion
Dhaka Wasa will hold a dialogue on

Bangladesh-Bharat Sampriti Parishad will hold a discussion. Time: 3:30pm. Venue: Dhaka University senate building.

Protest Rally
Bangladesh Chhatra Moitri will hold a rally protesting the verdict against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Qaader Mollah. Time: 11:00am. Venue: Dhaka University.

Dialogue
Dhaka Wasa will hold a dialogue on

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloud sky over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

Night and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:48pm and rises tomorrow at 6:37am.

Country's highest temperature 32.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 10.8 degrees at Srirangal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.2	15.4	65	53
Chittagong	29.0	15.2	81	55
Rajshahi	29.6	12.4	69	58
Rangpur	28.2	14.8	68	68
Khulna	30.8	14.0	86	61
Barisal	30.0	13.3	89	71
Sylhet	32.0	16.1	55	47

DoE fines 5 factories for pollution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) on Monday fined five factories around Tk 77 lakh at Ashulia and Savar on the outskirts of the capital for polluting environment.

The factories are Al-Muslim Washing Ltd, Anlima Textile Mills Ltd, Surma Garments Ltd (Dyeing and Knitting), Pearls and Pouch Ltd and Laundry Industries Ltd, said a DoE statement.

A DoE team found that the factories were polluting the Bongshi river and the Turag river by discharging waste.

Md Alamgir, DoE director (enforcement), summoned the representatives of the industries to its Dhaka office and fined them.

ABU DHABI ROAD ACCIDENT

18 Bangladeshis identified

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Mission in Abu Dhabi in UAE has identified 18 Bangladeshis among the 22 workers who died in a tragic road accident on Sunday in the middle-eastern country.

The foreign ministry has published a list of the deceased Bangladeshis.

Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan, secretary at the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, told The Daily Star that they were working with local authorities and the Bangladesh embassy there to ensure that the deceased workers' family receive proper compensation.

"If they were working legally there, the families are entitled to compensation," he confirmed.

He added that the government would give Tk 2 lakh to each victim's family along with money for burial purposes.

Foreign ministry sources said it

would take at least seven to ten days to process everything and bring the bodies back home.

A total of 22 people died and 24 were injured when a bus carrying the workers collided with a truck filled with construction materials.

The names of the deceased are: Shahjahan Mollah, son of Samad Mollah of Bagarkandi in Boalmari upazila of Faridpur, Bashar, son of Sheikh Alif of Madan Khali in Srinagar upazila of Munshiganj, Md Borhan Uddin, son of Md Shah Alam of Khas Khama in Anwara upazila of Chittagong, Md Arif, son of Abdul Ghoni of Uttar Paingong in Fatikchari upazila of Chittagong, Nur-Alam, son of Abul Hossain of Narrar-par in Monohorganj upazila of Comilla, Md Alauddin, son of late Abdul Motaleb of Dakshin Paingong in Fatikchari upazila of Chittagong, Wasir Ali, son of Hazi Wahab Ali of Gollashanganj in Baro lekha upazila of Moulvi Bazar, Md Faruque

Hossain, son of Md Ruhul Amin of Char Falcon in Kamalnagar of Lakshipur, Uzzal Mia, son of Ruzz Ali of Bawshi in Barhata upazila of Netrokona, Rokon Munshi, son of Jahur Uddin Munshi of MunshiKandi in Sadarpur upazila of Faridpur, Anwar Hossain, son of Sundar Ali of Alir Char in Muradnagar upazila of Comilla, Jainal Kabiraj, son of Kashem Kabiraj of Ramkantapur in Rajbari Sadar upazila of Rajbari, Md Hashem, son of Ali Hossain of Dharmapur in Fatikchari upazila of Chittagong, Habibur Rahman, son of Md Malu Mia of Hirapur in Muradnagar upazila of Comilla, Md Sirajul Islam Majumder, son of late Nazir Mia of Roypur in Fatikchari upazila of Chittagong, Uzzal Biswas, son of Tapan but his village home was unknown, Korshed Alam, son of Md Idris from Raojan, and Nurul Alam, son of Amiul Haq of Fatikchari upazila of Chittagong.

Convocation of Primeasia University held

METRO DESK

The second convocation of Primeasia University was held at Bangabandhu International Convention Centre in the capital yesterday.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid chaired the ceremony and distributed certificates.

Four hundred students were awarded graduation and post-graduation degrees, among them three students received the chancellor's gold medal while seven received the vice chancellor's gold medal.

Noted educationist Prof Dr Pabitra Sarkar, chairman and vice-chairman of the university's Board of Trustees MA Waheb and KM Khaled, Abdul Matin, founder of the university, and MA Khaleque, treasurer, were also present.