

MISAPPROPRIATING MONEY  
ACC set to file  
case against 2  
KPM officials  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has given approval to file two cases against Golam Faruque, additional chief auditor of Karnaphuli Paper Mills Ltd in Rangamati and another person for misappropriation of money from a project of the mill. According to an ACC enquiry, Faruque and his colleague Abul Kalam Azad, assistant chief accounts officer in league misappropriated or caused a damage of around Tk 3 crore to the project in August and October in 2011. The duo abused their power to make delay in releasing the imported pulps to be benefited personally, it said.

US training for  
Bangladesh  
law enforcers  
starts  
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States started a training programme for law enforcement agencies of Bangladesh in North Carolina yesterday to enhance their skills focusing on post blast investigation. The US Department of State's Antiterrorism Assistance (ATA) Programme and the US Embassy's Regional Security Office, is conducting the training which will continue till May 1 in Moyock, said a press release. 24 officers from detective branch, special branch, criminal investigation department of police and Chittagong Metropolitan Police are participating in the training. The training includes investigating explosions and terrorist crime scenes and investigative techniques, crime scene management, material identification methods, and evidence collection and analysis.



Participants of Gonojagoron Mancha in the capital's Shahbagh usher in the Bangla New Year by lighting lamps (Mangal Pradeep) on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh on Sunday.

PHOTO:  
PALASH KHAN

## Bangla New Year celebrated

STAR REPORT

The country ushered in Nababarsha, the Bangla New Year, with characteristic gusto and carnival-like festivals, bidding farewell to the past year's tribulations and hoping that 1420 would bring peace, prosperity and harmony. In Dhaka, lakhs of people in the traditional red and white attire poured into open spaces and streets on the April 14 national holiday from morning till night for Bangladesh's biggest secular celebration. The focal point for Pahela Baishakh celebrations, as in the last three decades, was Ramna Batamul, the defining symbol of Bangalee liberalism and secularism, as Chhayanaut performers began programmes at sunrise with an instrumental song. Around 9:00am, the trademark Mangal Shobhajatra was brought out by students and teachers of Dhaka University's Faculty of Fine Arts featuring popular motifs from Bangla folklore and culture. Accompanying them were former Jamaat ameer Ghulam Azam's demonic effigy, symbolising the atrocities of war criminals, and a 50-foot dragon, signifying the "dark forces" out to annihilate the Liberation War's spirit, in tune with this year's theme "Razakar Mukto Bangladesh, Muktijuddho Onishesh" (Razakar-free Bangladesh, endless struggle for freedom). Intricate motifs on Manik Mia Avenue and other roads turned the concrete streets into giant canvases while many enjoyed the traditional panta bhat (rice soaked in water overnight) with fried Hilsa and other traditional foods. Noted singers, including Rezwana Chowdhury Bonna, Firoza Begum and Ayyub Bachchu, performed at a programme Channel i organised at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. Chattagram Samity-Dhaka organised a cultural programme from 10:00am at its auditorium where noted artists, rhymesters and poets from Chittagong performed, reports our Chittagong correspondent.

Jubo Dal, JCD  
call hartal in  
Sylhet city  
for today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Sylhet

Sylhet city and district units of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal yesterday called for a daylong hartal for today in the city to protest sending of 2 BNP leaders to jail. The leaders are Shahriar Hossain Chowdhury, central committee member; and Rezaul Hasan Lodi alias Koyes Lodi, the city unit organising secretary. The hartal was announced after a procession of BNP, its front organisation, and the party backed JCD in the city, said district Jubo Dal General Secretary Mamunur Rashid. Earlier, Sylhet chief judicial magistrate ordered to send the two to jail as they attended the court in a case filed against them over vandalism of Sylhet Central Shahid Minar.

## Govt won't let recruiters fleece foreign job seekers

Says minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will not allow the recruiting agencies to charge foreign job seekers irrationally, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said yesterday. "We cannot let the private recruiting agencies commit 'dacoity' in the name of migration cost. They (agencies) had been asked to take Tk from 70,000 to Tk 80,000 from each job seeker but they did not obey it," he told The Daily Star. About the government's ongoing discord with the recruiting agencies' association, Baira, he said the Baira would again charge a job seeker Tk 4 lakh though they were asked to take Tk 40,000 for Malaysia. "We want to create awareness among people that the migration charges taken by the recruiting agencies are unreason-

able and that migration can be less costly." The minister said the recruiting agencies would send workers to any country, including Malaysia, when the manpower sector would come under accountability. The Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) launched an indefinite strike by suspending its manpower export on April 8 to protest the government's decision, taken last year, to send workers to Malaysia under state arrangements to curb the involvement of middlemen. Baira President M Shahjalal Mazumder said they would continue the strike unless the government allowed them to send workers abroad. He also said the Baira was ready to cooperate in ensuring transparency in the recruitment process. Mazumder denied overcharging job seekers.

Hindu temple  
vandalised in  
Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Sylhet

Unknown people vandalised six earthen idols at a Hindu temple in Zakiganj upazila on Saturday night. Police said the miscreants entered Amolshid Kali Mandir by breaking the lock of the temple's collapsible gate. Nobody was sued or arrested in this connection. Superintendent of Police, Sylhet Mohammad Shakhawat Hossain said a three-member committee was appointed to investigate the incident, and compensation would be given to the temple on the basis of the report. In protest of the attack, Barothakuri union residents will rally at Amolshid bus stand today.

BLAST CASES  
6 opposition  
leaders seek  
bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six detained opposition leaders have filed 12 petitions with the High Court seeking bail in two cases lodged on charges of attacking law enforcers and blasting cocktails during a rally in front of the BNP's Naya Paltan office on March 11. The petitioners are BNP leaders Zainul Abdin Farroque, Rizvi Ahmed, Amanullah Aman, Md Shahjahan, ZM Zahid Hossain and Jatiya Gonotantrik Party Chief Shafiu Alam Pradhan. In the petitions, they claimed that they were not involved in the offences.

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