

Politics

FROM PAGE 1
could manage to speed away.

Anjan has insurance coverage for the car but that does not cover damage from such political demonstrations, he said. "I had to spend Tk 20,000 to repair the damage."

Even though he had been reading about violence and observing more severe incidents, he wondered what these people gained from such attacks.

"Who are these hooligans? Do they really belong to any political party or are they just anti-social elements? If they have any political affiliations, do their leaders instruct them to destroy properties this way? Do they have a daily target to achieve in such destruction?" he asked.

Many more questions, such as, "What if they or their comrades get hurt in such actions?" and "Are they fighting a war against some foreign intrusion?" came to his mind.

Requesting the political leaders to plead with their party men and sympathisers not to resort to violence, he said, "There is a lot of scope and many avenues where these 'yuva sakti' can be positively used for the benefit of the country and all its people."

Greek court

FROM PAGE 20
Bangladeshis at the Greek facilities where the doctors said they were improving but their full recovery might take a few more days.

"I also visited the workers' makeshift living quarters [at the farm] that were like tents.... Some 150 Bangladeshis live there in a miserable condition as they have not been paid their salaries for the past six months," the envoy said.

He said the Bangladesh mission provided them with food for 15 days at the farm, which is about 260 kilometres south-west of Athens.

Earlier reports said the four men were arrested in the Peloponnese peninsula last week after the shooting that wounded the 32 Bangladeshi strawberry pickers.

The Supreme Court prosecutor, meanwhile, said the victims would be granted special protection yesterday to prevent their deportation so that they can testify.

The attack occurred on April 17 in the village of Manolada in the west of the peninsula, one of the main areas of strawberry production in Greece.

The three foremen, two of whom are brothers, are accused of firing at a crowd of 200 migrant workers who had gathered to demand payments which in some cases were six months in arrears.

The three foremen, however, told the court that they had acted in self-defence as the crowd had become hostile.

Greek police said one of the shooting suspects was involved in another attack last year on an Egyptian labourer, who was dragged out of a car and injured in a similar dispute over pay.

According to reports, several attacks on migrant strawberry workers there have been recorded in recent years, but the last week's was the worst so far.

Life stops

FROM PAGE 1
the doctors referred Salma to the National Institute of Ophthalmology in Dhaka.

She was admitted to the institute the same day. As her condition deteriorated, Salma was shifted to Shishu Hospital in Dhaka on April 8.

The wound in her left eye got infected and she had high fever because of pneumonia, said the doctors.

Salma, the only child of farmer Wasim Mia, was buried at her ancestral home in Laksam after an autopsy was performed on her at Comilla Medical College yesterday.

Salma's grandfather Imran Ali filed a case with the Laksam Police Station against seven activists of Jubo Dal, said Abul Khair, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Police arrested Jubo Dal activist Jahangir Alam, an accused in the case, early this month in Laksam. The other accused in the case are on the run.

Software makes

FROM PAGE 20

A computer model of lung cancer made consistently better predictions of the future symptoms suffered by a set of patients undergoing radiotherapy or chemotherapy than the doctors who actually treated them, scientists said, in a study that demonstrates the increasingly important role of mathematics in cancer medicine.

Personal medical details and the treatment history of each patient were fed into the computer model, which then gave a better assessment than experienced radiation oncologists of how individuals were likely to respond over a two-year period, researchers said.

"If models based on a patient, tumour and treatment characteristics already out-perform the doctors, then it is unethical to make treatment decisions based solely on the doctors' opinion. We believe models should be implemented in clinical practice to guide decisions," said Dr Cary Oberije of Maastricht University Medical Hospital in The Netherlands.

Computer models and the mathematical analysis of cancer data is becoming increasingly important as more and more data is collected on individual patients, whether it is information from sophisticated computer scans or data on a person's genetic makeup.

Researchers have also shown that cancer tumours differ from person to person and so require different treatments depending on a person's genes and the type or stage of each individual's cancer – a process that also requires complex mathematical analysis.

Dr Oberije and colleagues used their mathematical model to make predictions of how many lung cancer patients in a group of 121 would still be alive after two years, how many will suffer breathing difficulties and how many will find it difficult to swallow.

For all three outcomes the model proved significantly better than the patient's own doctors at making the correct prognosis, with the doctors' predictions being little better than those expected by chance.

"In our opinion, individualised treatment can only succeed if prediction models are used in clinical practice. We have shown that current models already outperform doctors. Therefore, this study can be used as a strong argument in favour of using prediction models and changing current clinical practice," Dr Oberije said.

"We know that there are many factors that play a role in the prognosis of patients and prediction models can combine them all... Our study shows that it is very unlikely that a doctor can outperform a model," she added.

As well as helping decide on treatment options for patients, good predictions are also important in deciding which patients can be used in clinical trials for new drugs,

she said.

"They are not perfect, but neither are humans and models are better than humans. They are a tool to help doctors, not to replace them," Dr Oberije said.

Professor Alan Ashworth, chief executive of the Institute of Cancer Research in London, said that mathematical modelling and computational science is becoming increasingly important as more and more data is collected on cancer diagnostics and genetics.

AL advises

FROM PAGE 1
possibility of restoring the caretaker government system ahead of the next parliamentary elections and came down hard on several formulas recently floated by different organisations in this regard.

"Those who are floating formulas want to assume power for three months through an unelected government. When people can keep their confidence in an elected government for five years, why must power be handed over to an undemocratic government for three months?" questioned Hanif.

The next election, he said, will be held in the country in the way elections are held in other democracies across the world.

The BNP has been enforcing hartals to stop the trial of war criminals, complained the AL leader.

A special assistant to the prime minister, Hanif regretted the arrests of senior opposition leaders, including BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

"It is more regrettable because of the reason why they have been arrested. They violated laws, instigated violence and have been arrested consequently," he mentioned.

About a dialogue with the BNP, he said talks could be held anytime. He suggested that the BNP give a written proposal to the government for talks.

Asked whether the dialogue is possible keeping senior BNP leaders behind bars, Hanif said a dialogue could be held after they were freed.

He hoped the opposition leaders would soon walk free from jail through the legal process.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam yesterday said the government could hold talks with BNP only if it severed ties with anti-liberation forces like the Jamaat-e-Islami.

Dialogue with BNP would not be fruitful if it does not discard Jamaat, he told leaders of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh at his secretariat office.

Hefajat-e-Islam, a Qawmi madrasa-based religious organisation, came to the fore after it staged a long march towards Dhaka on April 6 and placed its 13-point demand, which many scholars termed a "charter of the dark ages."

Govt to build

FROM PAGE 20

The hostel to be built at Boro Ashulia, Savar will cost Tk 27 crore and accommodate 900 boarders. A major portion of the money will come from Bangladesh Bank housing loan fund.

The Ecneec also gave the go-ahead to the expansion of two-lane Joydebpur-Elenga national highway to four lane at a cost of Tk 2,788 crore, of which Tk 1,844 crore will be provided by the Asian Development Bank and two other donors.

This project includes construction of 70 kilometre road pavement, five flyovers, 27 small and medium size bridges and 60 culverts.

After the meeting, Planning Division Secretary Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam told reporters that six projects had been approved, including the three mentioned above. The total cost of the projects is Tk 11,541 crore.

Runa

FROM PAGE 1
She is the first Bangladeshi to be nominated for the post along with two others from India and Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni handed over the formal letter from the Saarc Secretary General to Runa Laila at the foreign ministry yesterday afternoon.

"I feel honoured to be the Goodwill Ambassador of Saarc for HIV/AIDS. I have long been involved with awareness creating activities of various social issues, including the HIV/AIDS," she is quoted as saying while sharing her feelings.

"From now on I will engage myself vigorously as there is still lack of awareness about this deadly disease in this South Asian region" she added.

Two other ambassadors are leading Bollywood actor Ajay Devgan and first Oscar-winning documentary filmmaker of Pakistan Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy.

The practice of this honorary appointment of Saarc first started in 2008 as part of its work plan for the regional strategy for HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the programme is to engage regionally well-known personalities to raise greater awareness about HIV and AIDS in South Asia.

The ambassador's interactions with children and people affected by HIV and AIDS help remove the social stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

Shabana Azmi, an Indian actress and social activist, and Sanath Teran Jayasuriya, a legendary cricketer from Sri Lanka have earlier served as Saarc Goodwill Ambassadors for HIV and AIDS between 2008 and 2010.

ACC to trace

FROM PAGE 20
with an ACC team for a week in this regard.

"We have evidence that some of the accused contacted each other by email to hatch the conspiracy," ACC Deputy Director Mirza Zahidul Alam, also the investigation officer of the case, told The Daily Star.

"But when the scam came to light, they deleted most of the e-mails which had important information."

According to the case statement, the accused exchanged secret information with Canadian consulting firm SNC-Lavalin by email between May and June 2010.

The IT expert said Bangladesh has no contract with email service providers, such as Google and Yahoo, for the retrieval of deleted emails. Therefore, he would be adopting some "other means" that he refused to elaborate on.

After a year-long inquiry into the graft allegations in the Padma bridge project, the commission on December 17 last year sued seven people for conspiring to commit bribery in the project.

The accused include former secretary of Bridges Division Mosharrar Hossain Bhuiyan and former SNC-Lavalin officials Ramesh Shah and Mohammad Ishmail.



OC Ramprasad Bhakta



SI Mafizur Rahman



ASI Haidar Ali

Police under attack, again

FROM PAGE 1

Police fired eight rounds of rubber bullets, said Mustafa Kamal, assistant superintendent of police in Jessore.

Additional SP Subash Chandra Shaha said the BNP men had attacked police without any provocation.

Anwar Hossain, secretary of Bandabilla union BNP, said

Tito, a BNP activist, was accidentally injured by the OC. The incident made the locals angry and they beat up the policemen.

Another activist, Bablu, was also injured in police firing, he added.

Reba Khatun, a roadside hotelier of the bazar, who was injured when hit by rubber

bullets, said police started firing as the BNP men beat them up with sticks.

The 36-hartal that began yesterday was called by the BNP-led 18-party opposition alliance immediately after a Dhaka court on Sunday denied bail to seven top BNP leaders in seven cases.

Mobarak indicted

FROM PAGE 1

the commission of crimes in different parts of Brahmanbaria in 1971.

The charges against Mobarak are killing of 33

unarmed civilians at Tanmandayl in Akhaura; capture of a Hindu temple, renaming Anandamoyee Kalibari as Razakar Manzil and torturing Ashu Ranjan to death; abduction and murder of Abdul Khaleque of Satian village, abduction and torture of Khadem Hossain Khan; and abduction of Abdul Malek of Kharompur and killing of Mohammad Siraj of Amirpara of Brahmanbaria.

Mobarak, former organising secretary of Mugra union unit of AL in Akhaura upazila for 16 years until 2012, however, denied the charges.

"I am totally innocent," he said.

The three-member tribunal headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with members Justice Jahangir Hossain and Justice Anwarul Haque fixed May 16 for opening statement of the prosecution and examination of their witnesses.

The court also directed the defence to submit a list of witnesses and documents, if they have any, within that date.

The tribunal also rejected his bail prayer and said trial would continue on every workday until further notice.

According to the brief profile mentioned in the indictment order, Mobarak Hossain alias Mobarak Ali, son of late Shahadat Ali and late Mozibur Nesa of Nayadil village of Akhaura in Brahmanbaria, was born on January 10, 1950.

He studied up to class eight and was a businessman, said the order, adding, "During the War of Liberation, he was actively associated with the politics of Jamaat-e-Islami and after independence became a Rokon [member] of Jamaat-e-Islami at union parishad level."

A local AL leader of Akhaura told The Daily Star last January that Mobarak joined their party in 1996 and became the organising secretary of Mugra union unit in the same year.

When a war crimes case was filed against Mobarak in 2009, he was neither expelled from the party nor invited to the meetings or programmes, said Nowab Miah, president of Mugra

union unit AL.

In the last council held in 2012, Mobarak was dropped from the committee, Nowab Miah added.

Khodaja Begum, daughter of Abdul Khalek, a pro-liberation Ansar member, filed a case with a Brahmanbaria court in 2009. The case was later transferred to the Tribunal-1.

An investigation agency, designated to probe the war crimes, on January 23 completed probe into Mobarak's alleged involvement in crimes against humanity. The prosecution submitted formal charges against him on February 25 and the court took the charges into cognisance on March 12.

During indictment order yesterday, the tribunal said, "On perusal of the formal charge, statements of witnesses along with other documents, we [judges] are of the view that there are sufficient materials before the tribunal to presume that accused Md Mobarak Hossain has committed offences specified under section 3 (2) of the act [the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973]."

"Since we find that prima-facie allegations against the accused the charges are thus framed against him....," the tribunal added.

Earlier, two tribunals, dealing with war crimes charges, framed charges against nine war crimes suspects. Of them, six were from Jamaat, two from BNP and another was an expelled Jamaat member.

CHARGES
On August 22, 1971, Mobarak and his accomplices had called a meeting at the house of Noor Box at Tanmandayl and around 130 people assembled there. As part of their plan they raided some houses and abducted villagers and took them to a Pakistani army camp near Ganga Sagar Dighi.

"Then you [Mobarak] and your associates interrogated all the detained persons and tortured them to find out those whose relatives had joined Mukti Bahini [freedom fighters]," says the charge.

Later, Mobarak and his associates selected 33 people and confined them to Terojhuri Hazat Khana. The following day Pakistani army and Razakars took them to the west bank of

Ganga Sagar Dighi, compelled them to dig a ditch, gunned them down and buried them there.

During the war Mobarak and other anti-liberation people captured Anandamoyee Kalibari, a Hindu temple, which was renamed as Razakar Manzil, looted valuables and damaged its idols.

On October 24, 1971, Mobarak abducted college student Ashu Ranjan of Shimrayl village and kept him confined to Razakar Manzil for four days without treatment he had needed for his injuries.

"Then you [Mobarak] pressed him to chant 'Pakistan Zindabad' but he [Ashu] chanted 'Joy Bangla' instead. You being furious took him to Kurulia Khal and shot him dead on October 28," the charge says.

On November 11, 1971, Mobarak and his armed associates abducted Abdul Khaleque, who used to help freedom fighters, of Satian, took him to the Razakar camp of Suhilpur Union Parishad and tortured him.

On the same night, Khaleque was taken to the Bakayl Ghat situated on the west bank of the Titus river. Mobarak shot him and also charged bayonet to confirm his death, the charge reads.

On November 24/25, 1971, a Razakar team led by Mobarak abducted Khadem Hossain Khan of Kharompur and kept him confined to an army camp at Brahmanbaria College.

The Pakistani army and Razakars hung him upside down and brutally tortured him and later sent him to Brahmanbaria jail, the charge says.

On November 28/29, 1971, Mobarak along with the Pakistani army abducted Abdul Malek of Kharompur and Mohammad Siraj of Amirpara and took them to the army camp at Brahmanbaria College.

"Then you [Mobarak] along with your Razakar accomplices in a planned way took away Mohammad Siraj and a few others from jail to Kurulia Khal and killed them by gunshots on December 6, 1971, the last charge reads.

If convicted, the tribunal may award death sentence or such other punishment proportionate to the gravity of the crimes as appears to the court to be just and proper.

Arson Attack

100 houses burnt in Chapainawabganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Chapainawabganj

Criminals burned down more than 100 houses of Pullpara village under Sadar upazila in Chapainawabganj yesterday afternoon over previous enmity.

Samija Khatun and Parvin Akhtar, villagers of Pullpara where mostly day labourers and the poor live, said around 200 people of Alinagar in the municipality equipped with sharp weapons and bamboo sticks came to their village around 5:00pm and set their houses afire.

They also looted valuables and taken away cattle, the villagers alleged, claiming that the attackers had barred the firefighters from entering the village.

Police confirmed the incident and said the attackers exploded several hand bombs to create panic in the area.

A police personnel sustained injuries from hand bomb, said Ohidul Islam, assistant superintendent of Chapainawabganj police.

On information, police rushed to the spot, fired rubber bullets and teargas canisters to bring the situation under control, he added.

Later, firefighters managed to reach the spot and doused the blaze around 6:30pm.

Earlier on April 15, people of Alinagar beat up a teenager, Ripon, of Hossaindaying village in the upazila critically. The boy succumbed to his injuries at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital on April 17, police said quoting locals.

Following the death, people of Hossaindaying beat Abdul Halim, 25, of Alingar, dead on April 21.

People from different villages in the upazila staged a sit-in in front of the deputy commissioner's office in Chapainawabganj on April 17, demanding the immediate arrest of criminals, mugger and drug peddlers.

The protesters also submitted a memorandum to lawmaker Abdul Odud of Chapainawabganj sadar constituency.

They alleged that some young criminals of Bhutpukur, Ushkathi Para and Alinagar under municipality area had been involved in snatching money, stalking girls of neighbouring Babudainga, Hossaindaying, Pullpara and some other villages on a regular basis.

Gunshots

FROM PAGE 1
other was a canteen employee.

Those bullet-hit are Shuvo Sarker, a master's student, and canteen assistant Rajib Chandra Das. They were undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The eight others suffered splinter injuries in cocktail blasts by rivals, DU sources said.

Witnesses said second-year student Shimul, loyal to the hall unit BCL Secretary Sajib Biswas, along with some others beat up some senior students who belong to the faction led by hall unit President Supriya Kundu Rajesh around 11:00pm.

Minutes before, some senior students stopped Shimul from leaving a discussion, saying he must not leave the programme before it ended.

The discussion was held to mark the 15th death anniversary of BCL leader Partha Pratim Acharya.

As the news spread, BCL activists belonging to Rajesh group gathered before Santash Chandra Building around 11:00pm.

Moments later, their rivals fired seven to eight shots at them from the fourth floor of the building. The Rajesh group responded by exploding at least five cocktails, which also damaged some rooms on the ground floor, added the witnesses.

Senior students intervened to calm the situation.

Amzad Ali, acting proctor of DU, said, "The university will take action after investigating the incident."

Hartal starts to take its tolls

FROM PAGE 1

garment factories in the country," said Islam.

The nation saw shutdowns for a total of 21 days between January 31 and April 20. And the BNP-led alliance was the first to observe a hartal this year on January 31.

The alarming news for Bangladesh is that the exports of garment items from Vietnam and Cambodia rose recently by 22 percent and 15 percent. "It means we are losing business to our competitors," Islam said.

"We are really concerned over the current political situation. We want security for our factories."

He said garment makers had to pay an additional Tk 390 crore for air shipment following disruption in production caused by shutdowns

between January and March.

It costs only 30 cents to send one kilogram of goods by sea freight, but the cost goes up by 1,280 percent to \$4.15 a kg in case of air shipment, said Islam.

"One major air shipment is enough to bankrupt a garment exporter."

Given the present global financial condition, the garment sector is under pressure.

Moreover, an 8 percent devaluation of the greenback against the local currency in April pushed the sector into a further crisis with the year-on-year cost of production increasing by 13 percent, he said.

Besides, the value of garment items fell by 8.81 percent in the USA and by 11.46 percent in the EU in October last year, according to BGMEA

data.

"Not only export-oriented garment factories, but also the domestic textile industry faces losses due to shutdowns," said Jahangir Alamin, president of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association.

Businesspeople are trying to help resolve the current political crisis through the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said AKM Salim Osman, president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

Businessmen from all over the country will meet in the capital on April 26 to exchange and disseminate opinion on the current political and economic situation, he said.