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SPECTRUM TO RANA PLAZA

Govt caught napping

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

The High Court is yet to settle the questions over the legality of construction of a garment factory building, though it issued a rule in this regard about eight years ago following a writ petition.

The HC could have issued some directives on the authorities had the case been disposed of earlier, some legal experts said, adding that the Savar tragedy might have been avoided in that case.

outskirts of Dhaka, was set for three storeys but three more had been added to it, resulting in the collapse of the building on April 11, 2005. More than 60 people were killed and many others

injured in the collapse. Four injured workers along with nine rights organisa-

tions filed the writ petition after the collapse.

Following the petition, the HC on May 24, 2005 issued the rule asking the government why it should not be directed to form a commission headed by a sitting or a retired Supreme Court judge to inquire into the factory collapse, find the culprits and suggest measures to prevent such disasters in future.

The authorities had been asked why they should not be directed to pay adequate compensation to the victims of the incident.

The court had also asked them why they would not be directed to inform whether the garment factories in Dhaka, SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



An aircraft is tethered to the ground at Cox's Bazar airport yesterday as cyclone Mahasen approaches Bangladesh yesterday.

WAR CRIMES CHARGE Ex-minister Qaisar faces arrest order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday issued arrest warrant against Syed Mohammad Qaisar, a leader of the local Peace Committee in Habiganj, in connection with crimes against humanity and genocide during the Liberation War.

The court passed the order following a prosecution petition seeking his arrest for a "fair and effective investigation" into his alleged crimes against humanity.

The three-member tribunal, led by

Rapp has 4 'concerns'

US criminal justice envoy happy with war trial progress but stays worried too

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Stephen Rapp, US Ambassador-at-large for War Crimes Issues, has expressed satisfaction over the war crimes trials in : Bangladesh but at the same time has said the process has not fully main-· tained international standards.

"Though there have been improvements and progress, I still have concerns about the process and further improve-· ment could help ensure that interna-

: tional standards are met," he said at a press conference at the American Centre yesterday.

Wrapping up his two-day visit to Bangladesh, · Rapp identified four concerns and placed emphasis on upholding those properly so that : STAFF CORRESPONDENT people could say those who are on trial had got justice.

The four concerns are international standards, change of law during trial, burden of proof, and ensuring equal: rights for producing witnesses before: were released after torture, he said. the court by both prosecution and ; defence.

He strongly recommended that inter- · 1971 from the brothers who were released on that day. national laws be followed during the .

test of time," he observed.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

GOODS HILL, CTG

Witness testifies on killing, torture

. A witness yesterday said Pakistani occupational army with · the help of local razakars took three brothers of his neigh bourhood to 'Goods Hill' residence of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's father on July 27, 1971.

One of the brothers was killed there while two others

The 35th prosecution witness told the International : Crimes Tribunal-1 that he had heard the matter on July 28,

The witness -- Kamal Uddin alias Kalam Uddin, 59, of trials. "It needs a fair process so that it will stand the : Purba Shikarpur Rashidbari under Hathazari Police Station : in Chittagong -- gave his deposition in the war crimes case In response to a question, the US official said the : against Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Traders at Dholai Khal in Old Dhaka yesterday hand this boy named Sakib over to police in connection with extortion. Extortionists seal off shops pushing glue and sand in locks, left, if the owners fail to pay. The criminals often use children to serve their purpose.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Hartal called, withdrawn after 8 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People heaved a sigh of relief as the BNP-led 18party opposition alliance last evening withdrew its hartal for Sunday in view of the possible strike of cyclone Mahasen to the country's coastal areas.

The alliance made the announcement eight hours after it called the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

NAOGAON 6-MURDER CASE

Life term for 46 outlaws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Speedy Trial Tribunal of Rajshahi yesterday sentenced life term imprisonment to 46 operatives of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party for killing six people at Atrai upazila in Naogaon in 2003.

Judge Ekramul Haque Chowdhury fined the convicts Tk 30,000 each, in default, they would have to suffer one year of imprisonment more, said public prosecutor Entajul

Of the convicts, 28 were present on the dock during the verdict whereas 18

remained absconding.

The court, however, acquitted 16 accused in the case.

A band of operatives of the PBCP (Red Flag) took part in a killing mission at two houses at Naidighi village in the upazila on April 24, 2003 and killed Jahangir Hossain, Sukbor Hossain, Abdul Jabbar, Shahjahan, Mojammel Haque and Biddyut.

Jahangir's father filed a murder case with Atrai Police Station on the following day accusing 150 unnamed PBCP members.

Police submitted a charge sheet in the SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

BNP lawmaker Bulu arrested

Shown held for 'attacking cops'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested BNP lawmaker Barkatullah Bulu yesterday immediately after he came out of the party headquarters in the capital's Nayapaltan.

A team of Detective Branch (DB) of police caught Bulu, also a joint secretary general of BNP, and left the area in a white

microbus around 11:30am. The lawmaker has been shown arrested in a case filed by police with Paltan Police Station on March 12 in connection with attacking law enforcers and obstructing them from

sioner (South) of the DB. Hours after the arrest, **BNP Parliamentary Party** said Bulu's arrest and government's denial of permission to the 18-party

their duties, said Jahangir

Alam, deputy commis-

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8 PHOTO ON PAGE 3

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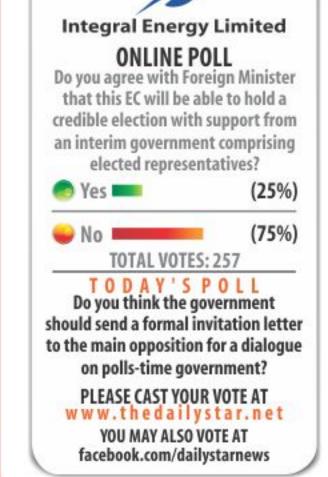
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