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SHOUT



HELL BREAKING LOSE

Change in Afghanistan's criminal code bars witnesses from testifying against abuses

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IN THE 300 CLUB

Lankan left-hander Sangakkara hits 319 in Chittagong Test

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PMO under revamp

Hasina counts this time on honesty, efficiency

HASAN JAHIID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has opted to reorganise her office by inducting people with experience and a clean image to avoid controversy and speed up development activities.

Already, she has dropped a few senior officials and is likely to appoint those known for clean track records and competence.

Among those dropped from the Prime Minister's Office are two of the premier's advisers Syed Modasser Ali and Alauddin Ahmed.

Modasser became widely controversial for partisan appointments in the health sector during the previous tenure of the Awami League-led government, while Alauddin drew flak for his divisive role in listing educational institutions for the government's monthly pay order scheme.

AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif, who was earlier special assistant to the PM, is also out of the PMO for what party sources claimed his accumulation of a huge

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BCB playing fishy game

Questions left as cricket chief flies to Singapore for crucial meet

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan Papon will fly for Singapore tonight to attend a crucial board meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC), where a proposal for the revamp of the game's governing body will be put on the table on February 8. The draft proposal has been redrafted following the ICC board meeting on January 28, but it is debatable if the redraft is anything more than eyewash.

The BCB boss is going to attend the crucial meeting that may well decide the future of Bangladesh cricket without having formally sat with his board members and without any open discussion to unearth a course of action to save the Tigers from the possibility of a painful demise.

On his return from the January 28

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Fire the minister

SCBA calls on prime minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court Bar Association leaders yesterday demanded that the prime minister immediately fire the minister who called a High Court judge to influence the outcome of a case.

Addressing a press conference at the SCBA auditorium, they urged the chief justice to instruct the Supreme Court registrar to file two cases against the minister concerned in connection with the criminal offence related to the phone call and contempt of court.

According to the statement of the case in question, Barendra

International Company received Tk 70 lakh loan from Jamuna Bank Ltd

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RAILWAY RECRUITMENT GRAFT

Powerful ex-GM finally indicted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A Chittagong court yesterday framed charges against the suspended general manager (east zone) of Bangladesh Railway, Yusuf Ali Mridha, and four others in a case filed for corruption in recruitment.

The four are railway's east zone Senior Welfare Officer Golam Kibria, Additional Chief Mechanical Engineer Hafizur Rahman and two candidates -- Abul Kashem and Anisur Rahman -- who were allegedly recruited in exchange for money.

The court of Chittagong Metropolitan Sessions Judge SM Mojibur Rahman framed the charges and fixed February 24 for starting the trial.

All the accused are now absconding. The court on several occasions issued arrest warrants for the three railway officials in this and several corruption cases, but the police failed to arrest them.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Kotwali Police Station in September 2012 against the three officials over irregularities in recruitment of fuel checker posts.

The two recruits were later made accused in the case as they failed to pass the recruitment test and then bribed the officials to get the job, said Mahmudul Haq Mahmud, public prosecutor of the ACC in Chittagong.



Yusuf Ali Mridha

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BNP's rejoinder, our reply

The BNP issued a rejoinder on two reports published in The Daily Star headlined "Ulfa thrived, thanks to BNP-led alliance" (January 30, 2013) and "Quizzical Silence" (January 31, 2013)

Following is the full text of the rejoinder:

Our attention has been drawn to a couple of news items published in your reputed daily relating to the Chittagong arms haul case. These include one titled "Ulfa thrived, thanks to BNP-led alliance" (January 30, 2013) and the other titled "Quizzical Silence (January 31, 2013) both of which we find to have contained unsubstantiated, presumptuous and conjectural allegations and innuendoes against the Bangladesh National Party and its Chairperson and the then Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

As we are all aware and as your correspondent has rightly pointed out, ULFA activities in this part of the world had started as early as 1979 and have continued through the last three decades covering the tenures of several governments including that of General Ershad (1982-1990) and Sheikh Hasina (1996-2001). Curiously enough, your correspondent

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2001-06: A DOZEN ARMS HAUL

Origin, destination invariably unknown

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Bangladesh saw at least a dozen high-profile seizures of arms, ammunition and explosives, besides the biggest 10-truck arms haul in Chittagong during the BNP-led government's tenure between 2001 and 2006.

A cache of 99,999 rounds of bullets and 174 kilograms of RDX explosives was found in Kahalu and Dupchachia of Bogra in June 2003, while four AK-47 rifles, 20 grenades and two kilograms of plastic explosives were recovered at Kuril Badda in the capital in November that year.

Besides, more than 100 firearms, including M-16 and AK-47 rifles, rocket launchers and submachine guns and a few hundred grenades and several thousand bullets were seized in raids in the dense forests of Bandarban and Rangamati from July 2002 to March 2004.

In a drive in Naikkhongchhari of Bandarban in November 2004, the then BDR personnel seized 14 firearms, including seven AK-47 rifles and two M-16 rifles, and around 3,000 rounds of ammunition. They also recovered 16 firearms, including eight AK-47 rifles and eight light machineguns and 4,000 rounds of bullets at Jaruliachhari in the district in December the same year.

In most cases, investigators could not determine the origin and destination of the smuggled firearms and ammunition or find out the main culprits.

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None killed, forcibly disappeared

Claims AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rejecting BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's allegation that around 300 people were killed or made to disappear in joint force's operation before and after the January 5 polls, the ruling Awami League yesterday claimed that none had been killed or made to disappear.

Khaleda brought the allegation at a press conference on Tuesday claiming that the government had turned the law enforcement agencies into killing forces.

Yesterday, AL presidium member and Health Minister Mohammad Nasim told reporters, "None was killed and no incident of disappearance has taken place. The law enforcers were arresting

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11th Death Anniversary



Late Shah Rafiqul Islam (Titu)
Death: 6th February, 2003

This day in 2003, we lost our beloved & honorable Director **Late Shah Rafiqul Islam (Titu)**. We mourn his pre-mature death. With our distressed heart, we pray to Almighty Allah for his eternal peace. May Allah bless him. Ameen.

All Employees

ABUL KHAIR GROUP

In 2003, on this very day, you left us at the will of Almighty Allah the Beneficent. Your pre-matured departure has made us and many of your relations overwhelmed with grief. It is straining that you are not in this mundane world with us. But we are feeling your existence by remembering the tender-aged days of your life.

We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul and request all friends, relatives, well-wishers to pray for him from the core of heart.

May Allah the Beneficent bless you with the eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

Bereaved Members of the Family