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Ctg Jamaat chief among 21 arrested

Bomb-making materials seized; hartal called in Ctg for tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested 21 leaders and activists of Chittagong city unit Jamaat, including its ameer and secretary general, from the party's port city office.

They also recovered bomb-making materials from the office during the raid. ANM Shamsul Islam, ameer of Chittagong city unit Jamaat-e-Islami and also former lawmaker, Nazrul Islam, secretary general of the unit, and its assistant secretary general AZM Obaidullah are among the arrestees.

Meanwhile, Chittagong city Jamaat called a dawn-to-dusk hartal for tomorrow (Wednesday) in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and three hill districts, protesting the arrest of its leaders and activists.

The party will also stage demonstrations in Chittagong city and upazila headquarters of the district today, he added. AKM Mohiuddin, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said acting on a tip-off, a joint team of Chawk Bazar and Kotwali police raided the Jamaat office at Dewan Bazar around 5:30pm, and nabbed the 21 Jamaat leaders and activists while they were in a meeting.

Police had information that the Jamaat leaders were holding the meeting to plan "subversive activities" in the city ahead of the verdict of Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain



Shamsul Islam

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Work continues in full swing day and night to hurriedly build two tennis courts, two badminton courts and a basketball court for a club named after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's slain brother Sheikh Jamal, on Dhanmondi road-8 playground. The Local Government Engineering Department is doing the construction for the private club with public money amounting to Tk 1.63 crores. Two writ petitions are currently pending with the High Court to free the playground of illegal occupation. During a hearing on one of the petitions on Sunday, the club's counsel said no construction was taking place at the playground and assured the court no such work would be carried out. PHOTO: STAR

Arrest warrant issued against ex-MP Jabbar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday expressed dissatisfaction at the prosecution and the investigation agency for apparently not showing any visible initiative in bringing back the fugitives tried by the court.

The chairman of the three-member tribunal, Justice M Enayetur Rahim, said this while issuing a warrant of arrest against Abdul Jabbar, another war crimes suspect believed to be on the run.

The court issued the warrant after taking five war crimes charges into cognisance pressed against the former Jatiya Party lawmaker, who was the alleged chairman of Mathbaria Peace Committee, an anti-liberation force, during the Liberation War in 1971.

At least in four cases, the two tribunals issued arrest warrants against war crimes suspects before commencing trial,



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No fresh recruitment at SC

Vacant posts to be filled up by promoting lower court judges; proposal for their quick promotion sent to CJ

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government has no immediate plan to recruit new judges for the Appellate Division and the High Court, although some posts have fallen vacant due to retirement and promotion.

The authorities now put emphasis on promoting judges at the lower courts and replacing them by recruiting new judges to reduce the huge backlog of pending cases.

Three posts for judges are vacant at the Appellate Division, while the number of HC judges has dropped to 90 from the highest 100 after the retirement of some judges and promotion of others to the Appellate Division.

Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star there was no urgency for recruiting new judges for the Appellate Division and the HC, as these courts were running well.

"We have rather taken some steps to appoint and promote lower court judges to reduce the backlog of pending cases," he said.

The minister said his office had recently sent a proposal to the chief justice for amendment of a relevant rule so that the lower court judges could be promoted after six months instead of the existing two years.

"If the lower court judges are given promotion quickly, posts at the entry level will fall vacant and new judges will be appointed through the Judicial Service Commission," he said.

Anisul Huq expressed the hope once the number of judges at the lower courts increased, the rate of disposal of cases would increase and backlogs would decrease significantly.

"If the chief justice approves the proposal, the government will take an initiative to promote and appoint

judges," added the minister.

Insiders say around 28 lakh cases are now pending with the courts across the country, including the HC and the Appellate Division.

As many as 14,338 cases are pending with the Appellate Division, 3.23 lakh with the HC and around 24.09 lakh with the lower courts across the country as of December 31 last year.

Eight judges are now serving at the Appellate Division and 90 at the HC. Of the 90 HC judges, six are discharging their duties at the international crimes tribunals set up to try the war crimes accused of the country's Liberation War in 1971.

In June 2012, the number of HC judges stood at 100 following appointment of six additional judges.

Earlier on July 9, 2009, the then president raised the number of judges

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Four military deals signed with China

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and China yesterday signed four treaties to enhance military cooperation between the armed forces of the two countries.

Under the treaties, China's armed forces will provide military assistance to the Bangladesh armed forces free of cost.

The assistance includes providing training and logistic support to the armed forces and setting up a language laboratory at the Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP).

Visiting Chinese Air Chief Marshal General Xu Qiliang, Principal Staff Officer of Armed Forces Division Lt Gen Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiul Huq, Chief of General Staff Lt Gen Mainul Islam and BUP Vice Chancellor Maj Gen Sheikh Mamun Khaled signed the treaties on behalf of their respective governments.

Prime Minister's Security Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique, Army Chief Gen Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan, Navy Chief Vice Admiral M Farid Habib and Air Force Chief Air Marshal Muhammad Enamul Bari were present during

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2 GRAFT CASES: Khaleda again challenges indictment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has again challenged her indictment in two corruption cases.

She filed two separate writ petitions with the High Court, challenging the legality of appointment of the trial court judge, who indicted her in Zia Orphanage Trust and Zia Charitable Trust corruption cases, and the order against her in the cases.

Bashudev Roy, judge of the Special Judge's Court-3 of Dhaka, on March 19 framed charges against Khaleda, her son Tarique Rahman and seven others in the cases.

In the writs, Khaleda prayed to the HC to declare illegal the appointment of Roy as a special judge since

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PHOTO: COURTESY

Say hello to the new bird!

Large Blue Flycatcher, *Cyornis magnirostris*, a new species of bird for Bangladesh, was sighted in a mixed evergreen forest patch at Kaptai National Park in Rangamati last month. It was recorded by Prof Monirul Khan, who was leading a team under the project "Monitoring and Conservation of Wildlife in Kaptai National Park of Bangladesh" of Jahangirnagar University Zoology department and Bangladesh Forest Department. A key feature of the species is the hooked tip of its bill. Other identifying characters include the orange throat paler than the breast, contrasting cheek and throat, and pale legs. In the photos, the bluish bird is a male while the brownish one, inset, is a female.

EC to issue smart ID cards next year

Initially citizens will get it free of cost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will initially provide smart National Identity (NID) cards free of cost to citizens, EC officials have said.

"We will bear the initial cost for distributing smart NID cards from the project under which we will produce the cards," a deputy secretary of the EC secretariat told The Daily Star.

The commission hopes to start distribution of smart NID cards by the middle of

next year, he added.

However, people will have to pay Tk 500 to Tk 4,000 in different categories to get renewed NID cards, if they are lost or destroyed, he said, adding that the commission has taken the initiative to formulate rules about the acquisition of the cards.

If a person loses the card, he or she will have to pay Tk 500 (general) and Tk 1,000 (urgent) for the first time to get the cards,

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Buddha Purnima today

UNB, Dhaka

Buddha Purnima, the biggest religious festival of the Buddhist community, will be observed in the country today.

Buddha Purnima is a festival that marks Gautam Buddha's birth, enlightenment and death. It falls on the day of the full moon in May.

Lord Buddha was born

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think actions will be taken against the people found guilty of making and purchasing below par shields for foreign friends and organisations for their outstanding contributions to the Liberation War?

Yes (14%)
No (86%)

TOTAL VOTES: 222

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia that the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) should be disbanded as the elite force has now become involved in killings, abductions and forced disappearances?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

Shorter men live longer

THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE

They may not have the easiest ride in life, enduring accusations of inferiority complexes and jokes at their expense, but it appears shorter men will have the last laugh after all.

Scientists have found evidence that they are likely to live longer, with those under five foot two having a greater chance of surviving to old age.

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PRAYER TIMING May 13

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-34	6-38
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation