

OIC hails

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Headquarters in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia yesterday.

According to a foreign ministry press release, the OIC chief particularly commended Bangladesh's success in women's empowerment.

Earlier in the day, the foreign minister attended a luncheon hosted by Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Md Shahidul Islam. It was also attended by the assistant secretary general and other officials of the OIC General Secretariat.

AH Mahmood reached Jeddah yesterday to attend the two-day 41st session of OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM), which concludes today.

PM wants

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being hosted. The theme this time is "Technical and Vocational Education for facing the challenge of the 21st century".

Mentioning that education is the only tool that can free the country from poverty, Hasina said the country's education system is being reformed so that the future generation could receive its standard form.

Citing examples, she mentioned introduction of semester and GPA system and upgrading the educational curriculum to international standards after assuming office in 1996.

Referring Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's resolve to turn Bangladesh into the East's Switzerland, Hasina said the country can only be built that way if due importance is given to education.

She further said her government is changing the education system of Bangladesh so that primary education includes up to class VIII.

7kg of gold seized at Dhaka airport

Four arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Custom officials arrested four people and seized 7kg of gold at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka yesterday.

On information custom officials found 60 gold bars searching the bodies of Javed and Kanchan, passengers of a Biman Bangladesh Airlines' flight that landed around 9:00am.

They also arrested two other passengers of the flight -- Shagor and Ahmed -- suspecting their involvement with gold smuggling.

Govt obstructing

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system of "politician-criminal nexus" was prevailing in the local level.

These two ruling systems are major barriers for establishing good governance, he said.

Local government expert Dr Tofail Ahmed said cities and municipalities were being run by underworld leaders.

If we look at Narayanganj, Feni, Laxmipur, we can realise that the trend is rising, he said. Architect Mobasser Hossain said criminals and godfathers were destroying rivers that were considered as the lifeline for cities.

In the roundtable, findings of a study on "Urban land use and Social Space in Narayanganj" were presented that said industrialisation and residential structures in the city and its adjacent areas was expanded in unplanned manner.

It results wastages of land and sharply reduced social spaces like parks, playgrounds and walkways.

In between 1998 and 2009, agricultural land reduced from 19 percent to 3 percent in city, the report said.

BIGD Executive Director Dr Sultan Hafiz Rahman chaired the programme.

HC starts hearing

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Mohammad Ali yesterday told the HC that the government has to issue a gazette notification for appointing a judge to run a special court.

But the government issued a gazette on May 8 on the appointment of Bashudev Roy as the judge of the special court after his court framed charges against Khaleda, which is illegal, he said.

Since the appointment of Bashudev Roy is illegal, his orders and proceedings are also illegal, the lawyer added.

The court of Bashudev Roy is set today for recording statements of witnesses of the cases.

M Asaduzzaman, a lawyer for Khaleda, said they will pray to the trial court [of Bashudev] today to adjourn the proceedings of the cases, saying that the petitions are pending with the HC.



PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, right, and Bishwo Shahitto Kendro Founder Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed hand out leaflets in the capital's Gulistan yesterday to promote mass awareness for preventing road accidents.

Male dominance crippling

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Chapainawabganj sadar upazila.

Farida Yasmin, member of Purnimagati union parishad, Siraganj, said decisions taken in ward and monthly meetings were often bypassed and replaced by the chairman's own decisions.

In fact, very few meetings are held at union parishads and municipalities compared to what are supposed to be held. A survey by Democracywatch showed that only 403 out of 11,622 meetings of the standing committees of unions actually took place in the last one year.

Both male and female UP members pointed out how husbands or male family members of female politicians and male UP members meddle in the public representatives' works and try to exercise their influence about distribution of social security programme cards.

Besides emphasising joint training of male and female UP members, local government experts and researchers said the rules of local government laws should be formed and implemented to solve these problems.

Human rights activist Sultana Kamal called for inclusion of non-communal and equality-based spirit of the liberation war in the training.

Besides Democracywatch, Khan Foundation, PRIP Trust, and Steps Towards Development with support from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation are carrying out a project called Aparajita since 2011 to train and empower women representatives at grassroots level.

Court to decide on trial

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six others are also defendants in the case.

Sonali Bank on October 2 of 2012 filed the case with Artha Rin Adalat-1 against Tarique and others for defaulting on a loan amounting to Tk 5.49 crore.

The company had borrowed Tk 12.16 crore from the bank's principal office in Dhaka on October 16, 2001, said the case statement.

As the company failed to pay it off, the principal loan plus interest accumulated over the last 11 years has amounted to Tk 45.49 crore.

Nazrul Islam, senior executive officer of the bank's principal office, filed the case with Artha Rin Adalat-1, while Advocate Hosne Ara Begum moved the suit for recovery of the loan.

HC verdict on uncontested

FROM PAGE 3

January 5 general elections without a single vote cast.

Yesterday, the bench of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar fixed today for delivering the judgment after concluding hearing arguments on the two petitions at the same time with the amici curiae (friends of court) and the counsels for the state, the EC and the petitioners.

SCBA files review

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a group of magistrates or judges, cause of suspicion must be specifically spelt out, said the Appellate Division.

In the review petition, the SCBA said the HC now expressed reluctance to hear anticipatory bail applications following the SC verdict, and as a result, innocent litigants were being victim of police harassment.

The SCBA President Khandker Mahub Hossain and its Secretary AM Mahub Uddin Khokon submitted the petition urging the Appellate Division to cancel some of the guidelines, so that the HC could give anticipatory bail to people in false and politically motivated cases.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Hasan Foez Siddique sent the review petition to the full bench and fixed July 10 for its hearing.

Budgetary allocation

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dealing with disaster in our country is only 0.59 percent of the GDP, which sharply contradicts the national policy on disaster management sector, he said.

Enhancing research facilities, developing infrastructures for providing assistance to the affected people on emergency basis should be focused to ensure a good preparedness for tackling disaster, said Prof Maksud Kamal.

Dhaka should also take measures to unite the countries, which suffer the brunt of climate change, for placing demands to rich countries, he said.

Planning Minister Mustafa Kamal, former food minister Abdur Razzak, DU Vice-chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, among others, spoke.

24 activists of Islami Chhatri Sangstha held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police picked up 24 activists of Islami Chhatri Sangstha, the female student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, from a flat in capital's Khilgaon area yesterday evening.

The law enforcers detained the activists while they were holding a meeting in a flat in Dakkhin Goran area around 6:30pm, Ashrafuzzaman, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), Motijheel division, told The Daily Star.

The arrestees are students of different universities and colleges in Dhaka. They were arrested on suspicion of planning to carry out subversive activities, said an official of DMP media centre.

In preliminary interrogation, the arrestees claimed that they were discussing the holy Quran ahead of Ramadan, said Sheikh Mohammad Kamruzzaman, operation officer of Khilgaon Police Station.

Qaisar's aides killed

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in khakis and brown dress in the village and around 20/25 brown-clad people entered their home and dragged his father and the three out.

Earlier, a prosecution witness testified that Qaisar had formed the "Qaisar Bahini", an auxiliary force made up of collaborators, which wore brown uniform.

"I could identify Alauddin and Rawshan, who had also entered our house with the 20/25 men," said Renu, adding that when his father and the three others were taken to Jagadishpur camp, he, his mother and Majeda followed them.

Majeda, however, said her father and three freedom fighters were sleeping at Siraj's house on the night of the 12th of Ashwin, and they were taken to Jagadishpur camp the next day.

Renu said at Jagadishpur camp, brown-clad people and a man in white dress tortured the four and when he inquired about the identity of the white-clad man, locals said it was Qaisar.

"They [locals] also told me to go to Qaisar to get my father released. Then I went to him [Qaisar] and requested him to release my father and the other detainees," he continued.

"But he did not respond to our request; rather a man in khaki started beating us following his [Qaisar's] signal."

Then the four freedom fighters were taken to the Sonai River and queued up on the bridge, said Renu. "A brown-clad man gunned them down then following the signal of white-clad Qaisar Shaheb."

"As they fell on the ground, several brown-clad men kicked their bodies into the river," he said, adding that later they searched for the bodies in vain and left for India.

After his testimony, Qaisar's lawyer Abdus Sobhan Tarafder completed cross-examining Renu.

Later, Nurul Islam, personal assistant of Abdul Hannan Khan, coordinator of the war crimes investigation agency, testified as the first seizure list witness in the case.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan adjourned the proceeding till today.

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Academic achievement of Bangladeshi student

Nabeela Alam has recently obtained PhD in Economics from the Brandeis University at Waltham, Massachusetts. Earlier she did her graduation from MIT majoring in Economics and Brain and Cognitive Science. She is now teaching at Grinnell College in Iowa as an Assistant Professor. In Bangladesh she did her schooling from South Breeze International and Scholastica for O Level and A Levels, respectively. She is the daughter of Badrul Alam and Shelley Alam. Her only sister Munazah, is an MBA from Harvard Business School currently working in Google at Mountain View, California. Her husband, Karim Remtoulia is a Finance Executive at the BNP Paribas in New York. D-431

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