

### BNP-JP ROW OVER ZIA Now Bablu wants Fakhrul to apologise

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Secretary General Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu yesterday hit back BNP acting secretary general and demanded that he apologise to the nation for speaking ill of JP Chairman HM Ershad.

In a statement, Bablu also asked the BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to apologise for rehabilitating and patronising anti-Liberation War elements.

On Saturday, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir demanded that the JP boss apologise to the nation for his article published in Bangla daily the Bangladesh Protidin the same day, which claimed that Ziaur Rahman grabbed power through a bloody military coup.

Protesting Fakhrul's speech, Bablu yesterday said Ziaur Rahman killed thousands of armed forces in the name of combating military coups.

"It was General Zia who had established Jamaat that opposed our Liberation War," Bablu said, adding that Zia's successor Khaleda would have to apologise for Zia's misdeeds.

### Seven held with smuggled gold at Dhaka airport

Pakistani man held with 50 lakh Indian rupees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials arrested seven persons after recovering 119 gold bars, weighing around 14kg, from their bodies at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital yesterday afternoon.

The bars, worth around Tk 7 crore, was brought by a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight that came from Dubai via Sylhet.

Asim Uddin, Amir Hossain, Rashed Chowdhury, Nazim Uddin, Lokman Bhuiyan, Salauddin and Anwar Hossain boarded the flight in Sylhet, said officials.

A passenger, who came from Dubai, gave the bars to the seven at Osmani International Airport to hand those over to someone in Dhaka, they added.

Meanwhile, customs officials arrested a Pakistani citizen, Abdur Rahim, 35, with 50 lakh Indian rupees at Shahjalal airport early yesterday.

Rahim arrived in Bangladesh a week ago and went to the airport yesterday to receive his luggage, said custom officials.



Shopping malls in Chittagong city decorated with illuminations with a hope to attract customers, although the government prohibits such illumination to ease load shedding. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

### SAGAR-RUNI MURDER NHRC challenges Tanvir's detention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the legality of detention of Tanvir Rahman in the journalist couple Sagar Sarowar-Meherun Runi murder case.

In the petition, the commission also prayed to the HC to grant bail to Tanvir, an official at an English medium school in the capital, saying that he was innocent, as law enforcers had not found any allegation against him in connection with the brutal murders.

The NHRC said Tanvir was detained on suspicion, and he had been suffering in the custody for around 21 months without any trial.

Tanvir was taken on remand for eight days, although his name was not mentioned in first information report of the murder case, it said.

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### Killers of my father abducted me

Says rescued councillor of Gazipur city

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Parvin Akter, a ward councillor of Gazipur City Corporation, who was rescued on Saturday night, around 37 hours after she was abducted, yesterday said the accused killers of her father kidnapped her to threaten her into withdrawing the murder case.

Talking to journalists at a press briefing at Gazipur Police Station, she claimed that Dulal Haji, the prime accused in the case, kidnapped her and threatened to kill her unless she withdrew the case.

Parvin, who had filed the case, claimed Dulal, a local land broker, along with Jewel and Sohel, brutally killed her father Chan Miah in 2011 over a land dispute.

She said on Thursday night an unknown woman called her over phone and asked her to solve a family dispute. Parvin met the woman the next morning to look into the matter.

At one point, the woman asked Parvin to get into a microbus. However, when she was getting inside the vehicle

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### Women workers still paid less than men

Reveals a study by STD, World Vision Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women workers are still paid less than men in agriculture and construction sectors in the country, revealed a study conducted on 68 female and 51 male labourers.

Key findings of the study titled "Economic Justice for Women" were presented by Ranjan Karmakar, executive director of Steps Towards Development (STD), at a seminar in Cirdap auditorium in the capital yesterday.

According to the findings, 32 percent of the female respondents get less than Tk 100 a day while the percentage of the male respondents earning the same wages is only 6.

It also showed that 56 percent of the male workers get Tk 200-400 daily where only 7

percent of the women workers get the same amount in similar jobs.

The study recommended that the government declare a minimum wage for "informal" labour sectors like agriculture and construction to reduce gender based wage discriminations.

Executive Director of Ain o Salish Kendra Sultana Kamal said the struggle for equal wages for women have been continuing since 1857.

The earnings gap reflects the discrimination that women face in their family lives as well. "Both injustices need to be addressed", she added.

Conducted by STD with the support

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### WARRANTS AGAINST 46 DESTINY STAFF Court asks cops to make arrests

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again asked police to execute the arrest warrants against 46 Destiny Group's staff, including its Managing Director Rafiqul Amin's wife Farah Diba in two money laundering cases involving around Tk 4,200 crore.

Judge Md Jahurul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court also directed officers-in-charge of different police stations concerned to submit reports before it by August 13 on execution of the order.

The order came after police failed yesterday to submit any report of execution of the arrest warrants issued earlier against the fugitives.

Earlier on June 11, the same court accepted charges against Rafiqul Amin, Destiny 2000 President Harun-Ar-Rashid and 49 others in the cases.

Harun was present in the court yesterday while Rafiqul and three others are now behind bars.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on May 4

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Although new currency notes are not available at banks, those can be found at the roadside stalls at the capital's Gulistan. People started thronging the makeshift shops to buy the new notes with the old ones to give those to their near and dear ones during the upcoming Eid. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

### Bribe taking tax man caught red-handed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday caught a staff of tax office in Chittagong red-handed while receiving Tk 20,000 as bribe from a BTCL employee.

On information, an ACC team detained Jahid Iqbal Khan, head assistant of Circle-75 under Tax Zone-4, during a drive at the tax office in Agrabad CDA Residential Area around 11:30am.

ACC Director of Chittagong division Abdul Aziz Bhuiyan said they had caught Jahid while he was taking the bribe from Abul Kashem Bhuiyan, a sub-assistant engineer of Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Limited (BTCL), Chittagong.

Kashem said his wife Akter Jahan Bela, who owns a 5-storey building in the city's Kadamtali area, has been submitting income tax return against the flat rent regularly.

The tax department this year conducted an audit against Bela's tax return file submitted for the year 2012-2013, and issued a demand notice claiming Tk 18,051 as tax more, said Kashem.

He was ready to pay the additional tax, but Jahid showed

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### Defence given last chance

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came up with a time petition seeking two weeks more to produce the witness.

Defence counsel Shishir Monir told the tribunal that they were facing difficulties to produce the witnesses.

He said they would produce only one defence witness instead of four who would exhibit all the defence documents and for that they need two weeks more.

"We will not seek an hour more in this regard in future", he promised the tribunal.

Opposing the prayer, prosecutor Tapos Kanti Baul said the defence was seeking too much time.

Setting the date, Justice Enayetur Rahim warned the defence that if they fail to produce their witness on that day the tribunal would move to next stage and begin hearing on closing arguments by the prosecution.

The defence earlier submitted a list of 15 defence witnesses. However, the witness they are supposed to produce on the next day will be out of the list.

The tribunal asked the defence to give a written prayer in this regard.

Prosecution testified 19 witnesses against Azhar to prove six charges for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity and genocide during the liberation war in 1971.

TRIBUNAL-2

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday adjourned the case proceedings against Syed Mohammad Qaisar, a state minister of HM Ershad, until July 20, due to sickness of the investigation officer (IO) of the case.

Yesterday was fixed for the cross-examination of Monowara Begum, the IO and the last prosecution witness of the case, but Prosecutor Rana Dasgupta said she could not be produced due to illness.

Earlier, the case was adjourned for several times due to her illness.

Qaisar, the alleged founder of anti-liberation Qaisar Bahini, faces 16 charges including genocide committed in Brahmanbaria and Habiganj during the Liberation War in 1971. Qaisar, however, pleaded not guilty before the court.

### Govt evicting adivasis for BGB

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Fazle Hossain Badsha, convener of the caucus, moderated the meeting where lawmakers Rashed Khan Menon, Obaidul Muktedir Chowdhury, Abdul Latif, Yasin Ali, Firoza Begum Chinu, Hazera Sultana; Prof Mesbah Kamal, indigenous leaders Sanjeeb Drong,

Mangal Chakma, and Shaktipada Tripura were present.

"After visiting the site, we will hold a meeting in Dhaka again on the issue and decide our next move," said Badsha.

The government wants to implement the CHT peace accord, and therefore, it has been working on it, he added.

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