

NEWSIN
brief

UK, Japan shocked at launch capsiz

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Two envoys in Dhaka have expressed their profound shock at the launch capsiz in Munshiganj on Monday. In a statement yesterday, Japan Ambassador Shiro Sadoshima expressed deep sorrow at the accident near Mawa ferry ghat in the river Padma. Acting British High Commissioner Nick Low also issued a statement in this regard.

Bangladesh seeks Maldives' help

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday sought support from the Maldives in Bangladesh's candidature during the upcoming elections of three international bodies. Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali made the request when the visiting Maldives Ambassador-at-large Mohamed Asim met him at the foreign ministry, said a press release. Ali asked Asim to vote for Bangladesh in the UN Human Rights Council election for 2015-2017 tenure, International Telecommunications Union election for 2015-2018, and in the Inter-Parliamentary Union election scheduled to be held on October 12-16.

PM mourns China quake deaths

DIPLMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has condoled the deaths of 380 people by the earthquake in Yunnan Province in China on August 3. She also expressed sympathy to the victims inured in an explosion at an automobile parts factory in Kunshan City of the China's Jiangsu Province on August 2, said a foreign ministry press release yesterday. The prime minister also affirmed all possible cooperation in dealing with the fallout of the disasters.

Ex-ACC boss joins CAB as president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Ghulam Rahman yesterday took office as the new president of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), says a press release. Former bureaucrat Ghulam Rahman, who retired as the shipping ministry secretary in 2004, was appointed ACC chairman on May 2009 and held the position till June 2013. He had also served as the chairman of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission.

Man's body recovered in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an unidentified man from a water tank of a residence at the capital's Pakuria yesterday. The deceased, aged around 40, was wearing pants. The residents of the area first noticed the body, said Turag Police Station Sub-inspector Kamal Hossain. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for postmortem.

Korea, Bangladesh to research on rice

CITY DESK

Scientists of Korea and Bangladesh have been jointly working under a project to develop modern farm machineries and research capacity along with cold tolerant rice varieties. Under the project, BRRI has already been provided with facilities, including a rice-breeding laboratory (Molecular laboratory) and cold-tolerant rice screening protocols, rice mill and a research workshop building, said a press release yesterday. Detailed information of the programme will be disclosed at a press conference organised by a Koica at Farm Machinery and Post Harvest Technology Division of BRRI in Gazipur today.

Mostafa's removal from NICRH stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed for six months a government decision to remove Dr Sk Golam Mostafa as the director of National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH). The ministry of health on July 27 made Golam Mostafa officer on special duty and transferred Dr Shamiul Islam, a pathology professor at National Institute of Chest Diseases and Hospital, to the post of NICRH director. Following a petition, the HC also directed the government to explain in four weeks why the ministry's decision should not be declared illegal.



From left to right, eminent citizens form a human chain in front of the Supreme Court in the capital yesterday demanding exemplary punishment for Tuba Group owner Delwar Hossain for not paying the arrears of the garment workers and using their agitations as a tactic for securing his bail. Teachers of different universities observe a token hunger strike before Aparajeya Bangla on Dhaka University campus demanding payment of the workers and cancellation of Delwar's bail that he secured on July 24.

Adivasis tired of hollow promises for 17yrs

Says Santu Larma about CHT accord implementation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The indigenous people are tired of hearing the government's promises of implementing the Chittagong Hill Tracts accord in the last 17 years when successive administrations actually acted against the spirit of the treaty, adivasi leader Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma said yesterday. The rights of the indigenous communities are diminishing day by day, forcing them to leave the country, he told a press conference at Sundarban Hotel in the capital. Commonly known as Santu Larma, the chairman of the CHT Regional Council said if the government did not implement the 1997 treaty, the situation would tell how the aggrieved indigenous people would fight to realise their demands. At the conference, the indigenous leaders demanded that the government observe International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples on August 9 at the state level and that it amend the constitution and recognise the people as "indigenous communities" rather than "small ethnic" or "ethnic" communities.



Santu Larma

Sholomar, treasurer of the organisation, were also present. Sanjeeb Drong, secretary of the Bangladesh Forum for Indigenous People; Pankaj Bhattacharya, senior politician; Prof Mesbah Kamal, expert member of the parliamentary caucus on the indigenous people; Noman Khan, executive director of the Institute for Environment and Development; Andrew Holmar, treasurer of the organisation, were also present. Sanjeeb said the condition of the adivasis were really bad in Bangladesh. "All political parties talk in favour of indigenous people but they forget all their commitments when they form the government," he said. Prof Mesbah Kamal said 65,000 indigenous refugees had come back from India on the basis of the promise of the present prime minister. "But 17 years have passed, and none of those people has got back their ancestral homes. Over 90,000 people who were displaced internally also did not get back their ancestral land," he said. Referring to the rape of an adivasi women's leader in the country's north on Monday following land disputes, Pankaj Bhattacharya said the

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War crimes links of Qaisar proved

Claims prosecution at tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday claimed that they had proved the involvement of former state minister Syed Mohammad Qaisar in crimes against humanity committed in Habiganj and Brahmanbaria during the Liberation War in 1971. On the fourth day of closing arguments at the International Crimes Tribunal-2, Rana Dasgupta, the conducting prosecutor of the case, argued on six more charges citing the testimonies of the prosecution witnesses and documentary evidence. Qaisar is facing 16 charges of crimes against humanity and genocide. Earlier, the prosecutor placed arguments on six charges. The arguments on the remaining four charges are supposed to be held today. According to one charge, Qaisar being leader of "Qaisar Bahini", accompanied by 10-15 accomplices, Razakar force and 30 members of the Pakistani armed force, headed towards the village "Lohaid" in Madhabpur of Habiganj where the group launched an attack and apprehended eight pro-liberation civilians, and on his instructions, the Pakistani army killed them. Citing the testimonies of witnesses, the prosecutor said they had produced three eye-witnesses to prove the charge, and the defence could not dispute the evidence during cross-examination.

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Security for all demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over the recent situation of law and order in the country, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad yesterday urged the government to ensure security for all citizens irrespective of their gender, ethnicity, race and religion. The women's rights organisation yesterday in a press conference at Jatiya Press Club presented 18 recommendations to combat insecurity and oppression faced by women, religious and ethnic minorities and workers. The recommendations include punishment for perpetrators who attacked minorities and implementation of the 1997 peace accord to ensure rights of indigenous people. Movement Secretary Kazi Sufia Akhter Shelly read out a BMP statement which pointed out that despite all of the country's achievements in the last four decades, women's participation in the last national election was lower than the preceding one. The statement provided a picture of the 9th and 10th national parliamentary elections, which showed that 57 women contested directly in the former while 27 in the latter. The BMP reechoed their demand for increasing the reserved seats for women in the parliament to one-third and including similar provisions in the cabinet and other policy making levels. BMP President Ayesha Khanam suggested that the women and children's affairs ministry should get a full minister instead of a state minister and be converted to a full ministry. Mentioning over 400 rape incidents occurred in the last six

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presents "The Unfinished Memoirs" of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to Miki Watanabe, a member of Upper House in Japanese Parliament, when the latter paid a courtesy call on the premier at her Gono Bhaban residence yesterday.

Mahbub Ali Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 30th death anniversary of Rear Admiral (ret'd) Mahbub Ali Khan, also a former minister for communications and agriculture. To mark the day, elaborate programmes, including placing wreaths at his grave at Banani Graveyard, offering special prayers, Qurankhwani at different mosques in Dhaka, Bogra and Jamalpur, has been taken, says Shahina Khan Zaman, on behalf of MA Khan Memorial Committee. Besides, food will be distributed among the destitute at different orphanages. A doa mahfil will be held today in his Dhanmondi residence on road-5, house-40 after Maghrib prayers. Seminars and discussions on his works will be held at his village home in Birahimpur of Sylhet. Bangladesh Navy will also organise programmes at all the naval bases.



Bangladesh Labour Party forms a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday protesting Israel's military attack on Gaza that has killed at least 1,867 Palestinians, mostly civilians. Story on Page 3.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASES SC asks Jamuna Bank dy chief to surrender

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday directed Jamuna Bank's Deputy Managing Director Mozammel Hossain to surrender before the lower court in connection with two money laundering cases. Mozammel has been implicated in two cases out of total 12 filed against 53 top officials of five banks and controversial Bismillah Group in last November for misappropriation of Tk 1,174.46 crore. Yesterday, Chamber judge of the Appellate Division also stayed the HC orders that granted bail to Mozammel in the cases on July 22. Justice Syed Mahbub Hossain, the chamber judge, gave the order after hearing two petitions filed by the Anti Corruption Commission. ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that Mozammel has been made accused in the cases filed for misappropriating Tk 265 crore in connivance with others while he was a high official of Prime Bank between 2009 and 2012. Mozammel joined Jamuna Bank before he was arrested on January 21 this year. Mozammel's lawyer SM Rezaul Karim said his client was not in the Prime Bank when misappropriation of money took place.

Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 4th death anniversary of Taslimuddin Ahmed, leather technologist and son of late Altafuddin Ahmed, founding principal of Chittagong Medical College. All have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Maksuma Aref Topa BSS, Dhaka

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Syeda Maksuma Aref Topa, senior research officer of Dhaka Ahsania Mission and wife of Dr Margub Aref, health officer of Unicef. On the occasion, a doa mahfil and a programme for feeding the destitute will be held at her residence at 16 Gausnagar, Eskaton, Dhaka.

Yabas sent by courier seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion-3 yesterday seized around 5,000 Yaba pills at the head office of Sundarban Courier Service in the capital's Dilkusha. The contraband pills were hidden inside a computer speaker which was further kept in a hard paper box. Rab, however, could not arrest anyone. One Sadique couriered the package to Md Azim in Motijheel from Sundarban's Agrabad office in Chittagong on Monday and the head office received it yesterday. Both the sender and receiver's cell phone numbers, written on the paper box, were switched off, said Rab officials. The officials also said the courier service employees could be involved in the illegal trade. Altaf Hossain, deputy general manager of the courier service, said although they have a rule to check suspicious objects, they cannot dismantle electronic goods to see whether anything is kept inside.