

US asst secy for business due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT



US Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Charles H Rivkin is arriving in the capital this evening to discuss the issues on increased bilateral trade and investment, and Bangladesh's regional economic connectivity.

According to a media note of the US Department of State, "as a former corporate CEO, Assistant Secretary Rivkin will highlight the opportunities for collaboration between American and Bangladeshi businesses".

During his two-day visit, Rivkin will meet government officials, garment factory owners, and labour

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SC cautions AL's Bodi for threatening ACC chairman

Upholds his bail in graft case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday cautioned ruling Awami League lawmaker Abdur Rahman Bodi for threatening the Anti-Corruption Commission, which is investigating a corruption case against him involving illegal accumulation of wealth.

The High Court and even the lower court concerned can revoke Bodi's bail if he makes such comments against the ACC during the investigation of the case, said the four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha.

On September 15, the

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SAGAR-RUNI MURDER CASE

Two guards placed on fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed two accused in the murder case of journalist couple Sagar-Runi on a two-day remand each.

The two accused—Palash Rudra Pal and Enamul Haque—were security guards at the couple's residence. Sagar Sarwar, news editor at Maasranga Television, and his wife Meherun Runi, senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were killed at their flat in the capital's West Rajabazar on February 11, 2012.

Earlier, each of the two guards was remanded for eight days on different phases but satisfactory information could not be gleaned from them. So the investigation officer of the case, Wares Ali Miah, assistant superintendent of police of Rapid Action Battalion, sought the fresh remand.

Police have so far arrested nine people in the case.



Harvesting of the first batch of Aman for the year has started at many places in the country. Farmers are expecting a bumper yield this season. The photo was taken at Saghata upazila in Gaibandha yesterday. PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

JU's old arts building in shambles

JU CORRESPONDENT

Over 300 teachers, students, and staff of the old arts building at Jahangirnagar University have long been carrying out their academic and administrative activities putting their lives at risk due to the dilapidated condition of the building.

Among eight classrooms on the first floor of the two-storey building, two were abandoned this September, as plaster of most part of the ceiling has already fallen off exposing rusty iron rods.

Prof Kamrul Ahsan, dean of the arts and humanities faculty, also an archaeologist, said that due to the faulty structure of the building's roof, since it was built in 1972, it easily soaks rainwater during the monsoon.

As a result, day by day new cracks are developing, plaster falling off, and rods sticking out of the ceiling, which makes the occurrence of a disaster very likely very soon, he added.

An immediate repair of the roof is the only solution since it is also damaging the rest of the 42-year-old building, he said.

In September, Vice Chancellor Farzana Islam inspected the building housing two departments—international relations on the ground floor and drama and dramatics on the first floor—and gave instructions to the university's engineering section to repair the roof.

A committee, which was formed regarding the matter, has also sent a report to JU acting engineer Akter Hossain in September, outlining nec-

essary steps, but no initiative has been visible till date, Prof Kamrul said.

Contacted, Akter Hossain said they have received the report but will take initiatives after consulting with the government's Department of Archaeology on the method of the repair work.

Soma Momtaj, professor of drama and dramatics, said the authorities have asked them to relocate the department to the new arts building, but it would not be possible because there are no lab, examination hall, and seminar room there, which they need.

She said that instead of addressing the problems of the old departments, the authorities are introducing new disciplines one after another, which ultimately hurts the academic atmosphere of the university.



The 42-year-old two-storey old arts building of Jahangirnagar University, with its ceiling flaking off and developing cracks, needs urgent repair works to prevent any sort of disaster. The photo, taken recently, portrays the first floor of the building which houses the drama and dramatics department. PHOTO: STAR

210 children killed in violence in 4.5 yrs

Say ASK statistics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 210 children were killed in different sorts of torture and violence in last four and a half years across the country, said a statistics of Ain o Salish Kendra.

Besides, at least 60 children fell victims to different sorts of unnatural death and 114 committed suicide during this period, it said.

The rights body prepared the statistics on the basis of reports published in different newspapers in between January 2010 to June 2014.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Today is the 12th death anniversary of freedom fighter Mansur Ahmed Khan, first curator of Rajshahi University Martyred Memorial Archive. Younger brother of famous artist Hasem Khan, he discovered several mass graves and preserved the artefacts of martyrs.

Dhaka airport gets 3 archway scanners to check Ebola

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday installed three archway thermal scanners at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the capital as part of its precautions against the Ebola threat.

The scanners will measure body temperature of every passenger passing through them at the airport, said officials. Around 7,000 passengers arrive at Dhaka airport daily.

Fever is one of the primary symptoms of Ebola infection. Now medical teams use hand-held thermal scanners to check the body temperature of the people coming from the West African countries, which are struggling to contain the deadly virus.

"We've set up two archway thermal scanners at the immigration point and another at the VVIP entry and exit point, Prof Be-Nazir Ahmed, director (communicable disease control) at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), told The Daily Star.

Health Minister Mohammad Nasim, Civil Aviation Minister Rashed Khan Menon, and State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Kamal are expected to inaugurate the scanners at 4:00pm today, said sources.

The government has recently purchased seven archway thermal scanners from Singapore to prevent Ebola intrusion into the country.

Three other scanners would be installed at Chittagong and Sylhet airports and Benapole Land Port soon, said Be-Nazir, also member secretary of the inter-ministerial monitoring committee on Ebola.

He said another scanner would be on standby in case some other place needed one.

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Another 'Ansarullah media man' held

DB tells press

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six days into the arrest of the alleged administrator of Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT)-run 117 web pages promoting the doctrine of jihad, the Detective Branch of police yesterday claimed to have arrested one of his associates in the capital's Mohammadpur on Monday night.

Ahmed Wadud alias Jumman, 28, the arrestee, used to operate some of the web pages including on blog, Facebook and Twitter under the pseudonym of Saiful alias Dais, and worked closely with ABT media chief Mohammad Morshed Alam Alias Masum alias Tractor.

Jumman graduated in civil engineering from the Military Institute of Sciences and Technology (MIST) of the capital in 2012, said Joint Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Monirul Islam while briefing at DMP media centre.

He was arrested following information given by Masum on remand, said the official. Jumman's task was to collect the religious sermons delivered by ABT leaders in different mosques, provocative writings on jihad, and translate into

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Arrest warrant issued against

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stating that Siddique, at a party conference at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh on February 9, said the war crimes trial was not possible when "a razakar home minister" was in chair.

During the 1971 Liberation War, Alamgir was an additional deputy commissioner of Mymensingh and he was against the war and "I was a witness to his role", Siddique told the conference, according to the case.

Execution depends

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Kamaruzzaman gets the right to seek a review of the SC verdict.
"In my views, the convicted war criminal has no right to move a review petition...as per Article 47(a)(2) of the constitution," said the state's top counsel.

He added that the death sentence could be executed on the basis of a short order of the SC.
Separately, Law Minister Anisul Huq told reporters at his office that he did not know the latest updates about the SC verdict pronounced on November 3.

Awareness must for prevention

FROM PAGE 4
only 43 percent of Bangladeshi children are exclusively breast fed.
Director General of the Directorate General of Health Services Prof Deen Mohammad Noorul Haq said the country's

Expanded Programme on Immunisation (EPI) is expected to run campaigns for pneumococcal vaccine by this year.
Health Minister Mohammed Nasim was present as the chief guest at the programme.

Drive against unfit

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BRTA Chairman Nazrul Islam said the drive will continue.
Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity

Secretary General Khandaker Enyet Ullah mentioned that none should be harassed in the name of the drive.

Syed Hasan indicted

FROM PAGE 3
other people and burning of two houses of Konabhawal village on August 23, and involvement in killing of 12 persons and torching of 10 houses in Shimulhati village on September 9.

Syed Hasan was also charged with the killing of eight people and abduction of 10 others in Bargaon village on September 27, abduction and murder of Kamini Kumar Ghosh and Jibon Chakravarty and looting of Ghosh's house in Araiura village on October 8, and links to the killing of Rashid Ali Bepari and torching of 100 houses in Sachail village on December 11.

According to the prosecution, Hassan, 65, alleged commander of Tarail unit of Razakar in Kishoreganj, set up a camp of the anti-liberation force at Tarail Police Station on April 23, 1971.

Hasan who originally hailed from Brahmanbaria had been living in Tarail with his family for many years, including the period of the war. Though not active in politics now, he was once involved with Nezam-e-Islami, another anti-liberation organisation.

JABBAR'S CASE
The 22nd prosecution witness yesterday testified against fugitive war crimes accused Abdul Jabbar, a former Jatiya Party lawmaker, over the killing of his brother-in-law before the tribunal.

The witness, Bidhan Chandra Kirtonia, said Jabbar accompanied by Razakars attacked their Noli village on May 22, 1971, and at one stage they opened fire on the villagers.
"My brother-in-law Surendra Nath Biswas and his brothers Jitendra Nath Biswas and Upendra Nath Biswas were shot dead," said Bidhan, who witnessed the killing in person.
On that day, 11 villagers were killed, he said.
The defence cross-examined the witness before the proceeding was adjourned till today.