

MILITANT FUNDING

3 lawyers give 'confessional statements'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The three lawyers arrested over funding an Islamist outfit yesterday gave confessional statements before a court in Chittagong.

Prosecution lawyer Bikash Ranjan Dhar told journalists that the lawyers in their statements indirectly confessed to their involvement in financing a militant outfit.

He said they confessed to have deposited money to the bank account of Moniruzzaman, a key member of Shahid Hamza Brigade. They also admitted to representing members of Hefazat-e-Islam in a number of cases.

"As Moniruzzaman was a member of Shahid Hamza Brigade, they indirectly admitted to have funded the outfit," said the state lawyer.

The defence lawyers, however, claimed that there were several breaches of law before taking his clients' confessional statements. They said they were not allowed to talk with their clients who were escorted by a good number of Rab and police personnel.

Defence lawyer Abdus Sattar said, "It has been done intentionally to create an intimidating ambience to pressure them into giving confessional statements."



OIC Secretary General Iyad bin Amin Madani calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the latter's office yesterday.

Muslim Ummah should unite against terror

PM tells OIC secretary gen

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Muslim nations could settle their disputes through talks and take a united stance against terrorism.

"Muslim Ummah should be united to adopt a stance against terrorism, but unfortunately Muslim countries are fighting each other and giving chance to others for taking the advantage," she said.

The PM made the comment when visiting Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Iyad Ameen Madani paid a courtesy call on her at her office.

After the meeting, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters. He said Hasina mentioned that terrorists were just terrorists, and the



RUNNING INTO RETIREMENT: Legendary Sri Lanka batsman Kumar Sangakkara takes a single during his final knock of 18 on the fourth day of the second Test against India in Colombo on Sunday.

Sangakkara signs off with 18

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara was dismissed for 18 in his final international innings, ending a remarkable 15-year career during the second Test against India in Colombo on Sunday.

A full house of around 7,000 was in attendance at the P Sara Oval to watch the fifth-highest run-getter in Test history play for the last time as Sri Lanka chased a tough victory target of 413.

Sangakkara did not have to wait long in the dressing room after the hosts lost opener Kaushal Silva in the third over.

The crowd applauded warmly as Sangakkara was welcomed to the crease by two guards of honour -- one formed by young children with raised bats near the boundary and another by Indian fielders.

The left-hander began by flicking the first ball from spinner Ravichandran Ashwin for two runs and then clipped seamer Ishant Sharma off his pads for his first boundary.

Sangakkara hit two more fours, but fell to Ashwin for the fourth time in as many innings in the series when he edged a catch to Murali Vijay off the 18th ball he faced. He made 32 in the first innings.

Latif to quit parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former minister Abdul Latif Siddique, who was expelled from ruling Awami League and the cabinet for his "anti-religion remarks", yesterday announced to resign from parliament.

He made the announcement during a hearing over a dispute centring his parliamentary membership conducted by the Election Commission (EC) at its Secretariat, sources said.

"Under the present circumstance, I have come to know my leader does not want that I make any more fuss over this issue," Latif told reporters coming out of the hearing.

He did not mention the name of his leader.

"I have already been either ordered or informed that I should not make futile attempts anymore to continue with the legal battle for protecting my parliament."

Living on a train

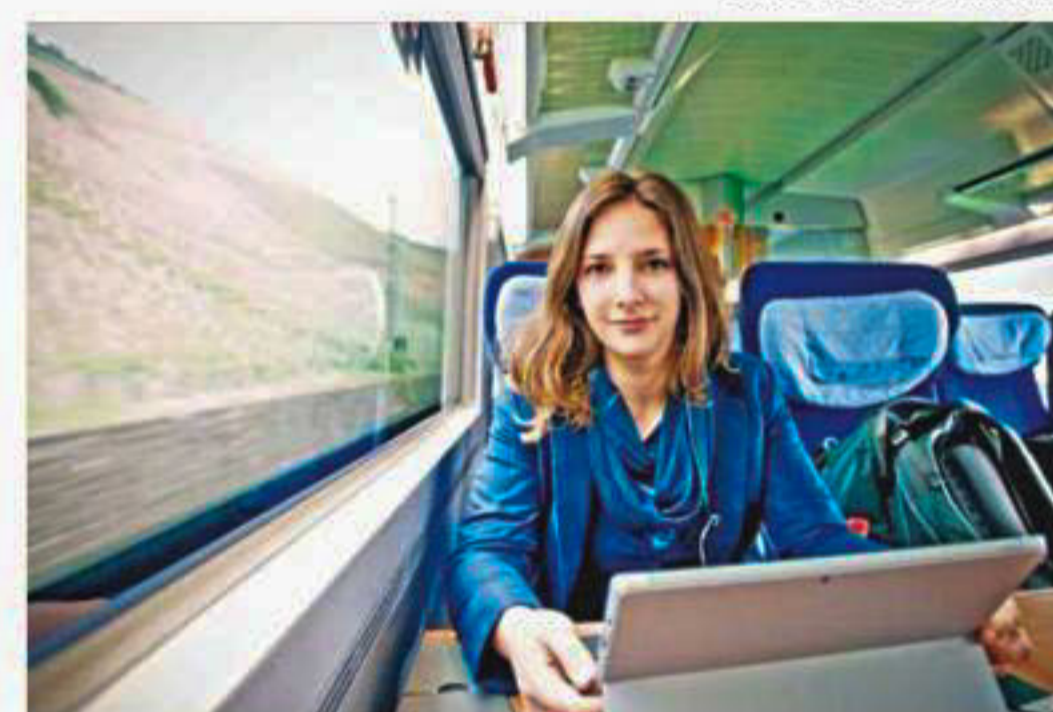
Fed up with paying rent, German woman leaves apartment

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

When others get off the train to finally go home, Leonie Müller stays behind. That's because she already is home. The train is her apartment, and she says she likes it that way.

The German college student gave up her apartment in spring. "It all started with a dispute I had

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SAYEDEE VERDICT

Govt to seek SC review

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will move a review petition before the Supreme Court, seeking the death penalty for convicted war criminal Delwar Hossain Sayedee, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam yesterday said.

The International Crimes

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PRAYER TIMING

AUGUST 24

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-30 12-45 4-45 6-33 8-00
JAMAAT 5-05 1-15 5-00 6-36 8-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

British embassy reopens in Iran after 4 years

BBC ONLINE

The British embassy in Iran has reopened, nearly four years after it was closed.

Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond attended a ceremony in Tehran with Iranian diplomats to mark the reopening while Iran has also reopened its embassy in London.

The UK embassy was closed in 2011 after it was stormed by protesters during a demonstration against sanctions.

Hammond is the first UK foreign secretary to visit Iran since 2003.

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Muhith hints at cutting fuel price

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday hinted that fuel prices might be reduced within the next two weeks to take to consumers the benefits of falling oil prices on the global market.

"We are reviewing it. I have not yet decided on the matter. I will do that within the next two weeks," he told reporters at the Secretariat in the capital.

The minister said he would sit with the energy ministry before taking any proposal for reduction of oil prices to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs.

He made the comments after a meeting with Rakesh Mohan, executive director of the International Monetary Fund, and Desmond Swayne, UK minister of state for the Department for International Development (DFID).

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An elephant stops a car to extort from the driver at Agargaon in the capital on Friday. The use of elephant for extortion continues to annoy people in the city in the absence of any noticeable action from law enforcers though it has been covered by the media on many occasions.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Summit receives 'AAA' credit rating

- Summit Meghnaghat Power Co. Ltd.
- Summit Communications Ltd.
- Summit Oil and Shipping Company Ltd.
- Summit Technopolis Ltd.

Summit Industrial & Mercantile Corporation (Pvt.) Ltd. (SIMCL) has been awarded 'AAA' Long Term rating and Short Term rating of 'ST-1' recently by Credit Rating Information & Services Ltd. (CRISL), thereby strengthening its position as one of the leading investment companies in Bangladesh.

This achievement is a result of its employees' relentless effort, sincerity, and dedication towards the betterment of our country. Mr. Muhammed Aziz Khan, the Chairman of the group, conveys his heartfelt gratitude to SIMCL's employees, the nation, the government, local and international stakeholders for providing Summit the opportunity to constantly learn, grow and strive for excellence.

The 'AAA' rating as per CRISL's report is attributed to 'Summit's strong equity base, good return on investment, stable and growing earnings prospects, excellent operating performance of the project companies, continuous debt repayment capacity, high franchise value of Summit Group and an experienced top management team'.

Summit
Empowering Bangladesh

www.summit-centre.com