

SC asks lower court to finish trial against Ershad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday directed the lower court concerned to resume and finish the trial proceedings of a 24-year-old radar purchase scam case filed against Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad. The SC also cancelled the High Court directive that had asked the lower court concerned to finish the trial proceedings of the case against Ershad and three others by March 31. A four-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha passed the order after hearing an appeal filed by former air chief Sultan Mahmud, also an accused in the case, challenging the HC order. Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the lower court had earlier recorded



A vivid display of mutualism with cattle egrets feeding on insects exposed by a power tiller of a farmer preparing the field to sow Irri rice in Munshiganj yesterday, a scenario where the birds are getting meals while the farmer gets rid of pests.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PM's FLIGHT GLITCH 7 Biman staff sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday rejected bail petitions of seven officials of Biman Bangladesh Airlines and sent them to jail in connection with a technical glitch of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's flight on November 27. Metropolitan Magistrate Amirul Haider Chowdhury gave the order after they were produced before the court on completion of their eight-day remand in the second phase. The seven staff are Samiul Haque, Lutfor Rahman, Milon Chandra Biswas, Zakir Hossain of Biman's engineering and technical department, chief engineer (production) Debesh Chowdhury, SA Siddique, chief engineer (quality assurance) and principal engineer Billal Hossain. Earlier on December 22, they were placed on another seven-day remand each in the case. The same day, the two

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No politician, businessperson at court events

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court in a circular yesterday asked the lower court judges not to allow holding any programme and not to invite people including politicians and businesspersons, who are not involved with the courts, at the court events during the judicial proceedings. Different professionals have been invited to the events including inauguration of the buildings for the courts of chief judicial magistrates recently, it said. The lower court judges were also asked not to allow such people to sit and deliver speech at the events.

MINIMISING EARTHQUAKE DAMAGES Govt urged to monitor building safety issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the government bodies concerned to regularly monitor building safety issues and strictly enforce the building code to minimise the damage and casualties caused by earthquake. The government should form a separate body for monitoring such issues as Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) has failed to deliver such services as per the people's expectation over the years, they said at the discussion organised by NARRI consortium in the capital's Brac Centre. NARRI (National Alliance for Risk Reduction and Response Initiatives) consortium is an alliance of 10 international NGOs working in Bangladesh, including ActionAid, CARE, Oxfam and Plan International. Around 90 percent damage of any disaster can be prevented through pre-disaster

preparedness, said Brig Gen Ali Ahmed Khan, director general of Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence. Similarly, earthquake damage can also be minimised through regular monitoring and enforcement of the building code, he added. Referring to the fire incident in Gulshan's DCC market, he said, "We warned the market authorities around eight months before the incident, but they did not pay any heed." Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, chairman of disaster science and management department of Dhaka University, said Rajuk has been giving excuse of manpower crisis over the years. If it has such crisis, the government will have to increase its manpower for regular monitoring, he said, adding that mid-range earthquake could be prevented if the building

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Man found dead hours after wife's body recovered from house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
A man was found dead near a rail track in Charghat upazila of Rajshahi yesterday morning hours after his wife was found dead at home. Mithun alias Pitar, 35, -- an unemployed man -- might have committed suicide under the train wheels at Solua rail gate around 9:00am, said police. On Saturday afternoon, police recovered the body of Mithun's wife Nazrin Akhtar Sumi, 25, -- an honours student of Rajshahi Government College -- from their house at Sahapur in Rajshahi city.

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No headway even after 2yrs Family still leaves home every night in fear

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi
Police failed to identify the killers even two years after Santal student leader Bablu Hembrom was killed in Tanore upazila of Rajshahi. In an interview with The Daily Star at their Moimpur village residence, the victim's parents revealed that the murder was committed for money that they kept at home after selling land for spending for their son's job. Bablu's parents Moheswar Hembrom and Shanti Tudu said the killers had sent letters prior to the murder to three Santal families threatening them with death and demanded Tk 1.5 lakh to Tk 3 lakh as extortion. Moheswar and Shanti have been spending nights in another house since unknown persons banged on their door twice in a month after the murder. Bablu, 25, a member of the central unit of Santal Students Union and a final year sociology student at Rajshahi Government



BABLU HEMBROM MURDER

College, was found dead with his throat slit inside his room early hours on January 9, 2015. "This hurts me a lot as we could not do anything in the case in so many days," said Inspector Nazrul Islam of Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI). Nazrul, the fourth investigator of the case, said police arrested five people, and collected their DNA samples. "We want to see if the DNA samples match those collected from the scene and the letters," he said, adding that the victim's father, the lone eyewitness, was not helping them. Of the arrestees -- Najim Uddin, 36, of Pakri village; Tajimul Haque, 55, of Moimpur -- are on bail while Torikul Islam, 38, Rakibul Islam Sohel, 38, and Mofij Uddin, 50, of Moimpur, in jail. Moheswar had a happy family based on agriculture. He married off his only daughter years ago and was dreaming that Bablu

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The frame of a roadside bin, which was apparently stolen at the dead of the night from Taitola Point in Sylhet city, spoiling efforts of the city corporation to keep citizens from littering. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

She forced my hand into boiling water

Says 7-yr-old girl about the torture by employer
ARUN BIKASH DEY, Cig
A seven-year-old domestic help, who was brutalised by her employer on Friday, is being nursed back to health at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, with her parents still to know what she has suffered. Her right hand was burnt, hair cut off, and a tooth in the upper jaw uprooted. Her whole body bears injury marks. Tanjina is now recovering at the Paediatric Surgery Ward of CMCH. The nurses including Mishu Barua and Ishrat Jahan are routinely feeding her and dressing her wounds. "She is traumatised," said Dr Adnan Walid. Her condition is stable but she needs counselling, he added. The doctor said Tanjina would be given physiotherapy after her condition improved. According to Tanjina's account, her family lives in Rangamati. Three months ago her mother left her with a family in Salimpur CDA Residential Area of Sitakunda upazila. "All was well in the first month," she said, adding

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A seven-year-old domestic help brutalised by her employer on Friday being nursed back to health at Chittagong Medical College Hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

ANOTHER ARROW IN THE QUIVER

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