

Bangladesh to send troops to KSA if holy mosques under threat

Diplomatic Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who will participate in the Arab Islamic American Summit in Riyadh on May 21, will convey Bangladesh's position to send troops to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia if the country's sovereignty and the security of its two holy mosques are threatened, Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali said yesterday.

Addressing a press conference, the minister said Bangladesh would extend necessary support and troops, if requested, considering people's respect, love and devotion for the two mosques -- Al-Masjid al-Haram (the Sacred Mosque) in Makkah and Al-Masjid an-Nabawi (the Prophet's Mosque) in Madina.

The summit, which will be attended by US President Donald Trump and leaders of the member countries of the 41-nation Islamic Military Alliance to Fight Terrorism (IMAFT), is expected to cover issues of counter-terrorism and violent extremism.

A founder member of IMAFT, Bangladesh has already announced not to send ground troops to Saudi Arabia since Bangladesh's policy is not to deploy its troops outside the country's borders except for UN peacekeeping missions.

The foreign minister said the visit would also play an important role in improving relations with participating Muslim countries. Asked about any possible meeting with Donald Trump and other leaders on the sidelines, the foreign minister said, "Let's see."

The prime minister is expected to highlight Bangladesh's recent success in combating terrorism and extremism at the summit.



A packaging factory releasing liquid waste into Sreerampur Khal, locally known as Dhaleshwari Khal, in Dhamrai on the outskirts of the capital. Locals said the paper carton factory had been polluting the canal this way for a few years. In Savar and nearby areas, including Dhamrai, there is a high concentration of industrial plants, and most of the local water bodies are either polluted or exposed to pollution because of this. But little monitoring and enforcement of law is reported. The photo was taken on Monday.

PHOTO: AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH

Arrest order for ex-BNP lawmaker

Staff Correspondent

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday issued an arrest warrant against a former BNP lawmaker from Bogra in connection with a case filed for allegedly committing crimes during the 1971 Liberation War.

The tribunal issued the warrant against Abdul Momin Talukder alias Khoka, 65, of Kalaikuri village under Adamdighi Upazila in the district, following a petition moved by prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon.

Currently an assistant organising secretary (Rajshahi division) of BNP central committee, Momin was elected lawmaker from Bogra-3 (Dupchanchia and Adamdighi) constituency in 2001 and 2008.

Police could not arrest Momin till filing of the report at 6:00pm. Momin's family refuted the allegations.

Simon told the tribunal that the case's investigation began on January 28 last year and its investigation officer (IO) has found Momin's involvement in crimes committed during the Liberation War.

Simon said Momin was a parliamentarian and he is a very "influential and rich" person of his locality and was trying to escape. Besides, his men have been creating "undue pressure" on the prosecution witnesses, he said.

So Momin needs to be arrested and kept in jail for the sake of a proper investigation, Simon said.

Tribunal allowed his prayer, issued the arrest warrant



NCTB fixes six errors in primary textbooks

Corrections sent to all upazila primary education offices

Staff Correspondent

Five months after some school textbooks were found to be riddled with errors, the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has sent a correction note to upazila level education offices after fixing six errors in five primary textbooks.

"A Shudhhipatra (correction note) has been sent to all upazila primary education offices recently. The officers will hand over the note to each school," Ratan Siddique, member of NCTB, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The move came more than five months after a widespread criticism from various quarters over the blunders in textbooks and

dropping of some contents.

However, the NCTB official said they did not find any mistake in the secondary level textbooks.

The corrections include fixing up the blunders in the famous rhyme "Adarsha Chhele" written by Kusumkumari Das in the "Bangla" textbook of class-III and name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's mother in the "Introduction to Bangladesh and World" textbook of the same class.

In the textbook, the rhyme has lost its original order and thereby began inaccurately while there was a mistake in the name of Bangabandhu's mother.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Paramedical students clash with cops, vandalise vehicles

30 hurt, 30 held in Shahbagh during their demo demanding higher studies

Staff Correspondent

Paramedical students clashed with police in the capital's Shahbagh for several hours yesterday injuring at least 30 people including law enforcers.

Police fired around 50 teargas canisters, charged batons and used water cannons to disperse the students who threw brick chips at the law enforcers and vandalised at least 10 buses and private cars stuck on a road in the area.

The clash ensued when police swooped on the students of Medical Assistant Training School (MATS) after

they broke several police barricades while heading to the Prime Minister's Office to submit a memorandum to realise their four-point demand, said witnesses.

The demands are ensuring opportunities for higher studies after diploma degree, employment at the community clinics with a new pay scale, internship allowance and an independent medical education board.

The MATS students, under the banner of Bangabandhu Diploma Medical Student's Association, staged a sit-in at the Central Shaheed Minar since morn-

ing in support of their demands.

Around noon, they started marching towards the PMO and on their way broke several police barricades. Police lobbed tear gas canisters and used water cannons to disperse them and detained several students from the spot.

Being dispersed, most of the students took position on the Dhaka University campus and demonstrated against police action.

Meantime, a section of students started breaking glasses of vehicles with sticks, creating panic among the

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



UNPROTECTED AND NOT CARING ABOUT IT: A cleaning worker being hauled out of a manhole at Karwan Bazar in the capital yesterday. While there were reports of people suffering toxic inhalation, particularly workers, and sometimes, dying from it, this youth not only lacks gears to protect him from injuries, but he went down there bare-chested.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

UP member killed in Ctg

Staff Correspondent, Ctg

A union parishad (UP) member was killed by unidentified miscreants in Fatehpur union of Hathazari upazila in Chittagong early yesterday.

Deceased Md Lokman, 35, was the member of ward-8 and the union unit general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), said Kamal, president of the unit.

Police said miscreants indiscriminately stabbed Lokman near his house in Helal Chowdhurypara around 1:30am while he was returning home.

He died at Chittagong Medical College Hospital around 3:00am.

Lokman might have been attacked over previous enmity, said police.

Tk 60 out of every Tk 100 stolen in dev project: CJ

Our Correspondent, Tangail

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha has said if Tk 100 is allocated for any development purpose in the country, Tk 40 is spent and Tk 60 is stolen.

"This is the real picture. As chief justice, I don't want to say more," he told a judicial conference at Tangail circuit house Wednesday night.

The chief justice said martial law was promulgated at different times since the Pakistani regime, expanding corruption each time.

Corruption was very limited before the martial law regimes—there was some corruption in jails and a little in the police force, he said. But anomalies have increased so much that they have been extended to the judiciary, he added.

The chief justice said the rule of law was inevitable for the development of a country,



and coordination among all departments including the police, administration, judiciary and magistracy was needed to establish the rule of law.

Everybody has to be aware of his works and perform his duties properly without blaming the government, he said.

Speaking at a views exchange meeting at Tangail Bar Association yesterday, the chief justice said injustice and corruption would be reduced to a large extent if all had faith in the constitution and respect to people involving the judiciary.

The constitution is an institution and not honouring the judges is equal to dishonouring the constitution, he said.

"I will say to all of the state that if you believe in the constitution, if you have any faith in the constitution and the judiciary, you speak with respect about the people in the judiciary, and you will see much of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Man, brother get death for killing wife over dowry

Our Correspondent, Dinajpur

A Rangpur court yesterday sentenced a man and his brother to death for killing his pregnant wife in 2003.

The convicts are Nipen Chandra Roy, 40, and his brother Laxman Chandra Roy, 36, of Kazipara village under Taraganj upazila.

According to the prosecution, Nipen started torturing his wife Kalpana Rani Roy for dowry a month after their marriage in 2002.

On February 18, 2003, Nipen and Laxman beat Kalpana to death over the issue.

Following the incident Kalpana's brother filed a murder case accusing Kalpana's mother-in-law Shamitri Rani Roy and her two sons. Police arrested Nipen and his mother but Laxman could not be arrested yet. Shamitri, who got bail died later, said the PP.

Two lawyers, four others face arrest

Our Correspondent, Moulvibazar

A Sylhet court on Wednesday issued warrants for arrest of two lawyers and four others as they got a defendant released from prison on bail through forgery.

Sylhet Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court-1 (acting) of Ummye Sharaban Tahura issued the warrants following a case filed earlier in the day against the six by Mamunur Rahman Siddique, Sylhet Metropolitan Chief Judge-3.

According to the case, on May 2, the accused lawyers falsely presented a woman before a court as Fahmida Haque -- complainant of a case she had filed on February 20, 2016 with Shahporan Police Station under the ICT Act against her husband Ahmed Zahan Chowdhury Farhad.

The court then issued bail to defendant Ahmed Zahan with a bond of Tk 5,000 after the two accused lawyers -- advocate Mohammad Akmal Khan and advocate Mohammad Shahab Uddin -- submitted a bail petition for the defendant stating that the complainant did not have any objection if the defendant was given bail for his release from prison. The court inspector, present in the courtroom, did not oppose the bail at that time.

On May 16, Advocate Akbar Hossain, on behalf of the original legal complainant of the case -- Fahmida Haque from Hatimbagh in Sylhet city and daughter of Obaidul Haque from Judhistipur village in Fenchuganj upazila -- revealed the forgery before the court by presenting his client's original national identity card.

Hearing the allegation, the judge of the court reversed the bail awarded to Ahmed Zahan before and issued arrest warrants against the six involved in the forgery under clauses 205, 201, 209, 419, 420, 466, 471 and 34 of the penal code.

The arrest warrants were sent to police stations concerned on Wednesday evening, said sources at the court. The other four against whom arrest warrants were issued are Ahmed Zaman Chowdhury Farhad, 28, from Goalabazar Omarpur in Osmaninagar upazila of Sylhet;

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Bulu sent to jail on surrender

COurt Correspondent

BNP Joint Secretary General Barkatullah Bulu was sent to jail yesterday after his surrender seeking bail in 31 arson attack cases filed in 2015.

The cases were filed with different police stations in the capital for arson attacks in January, February and March of 2015 during a non-stop movement enforced by the then BNP-led-18-party alliance.

Of the cases, Bulu was granted bail in 18 cases while bail was rejected in 12 cases and hearing of a bail petition in another case was not held.

Earlier different Dhaka courts issued arrest warrants against a section of BNP leaders and activists including Bulu after investigation officers showed them fugitives in the charge sheets.

Bulu went into hiding after the cases were filed against him.

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