



Police take five convicts to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday after a speedy trial tribunal sentenced them to death for killing Jubo Dal leader Mizanur Rahman; and SM Kamruzzaman Faruq, right, after another tribunal handed down death penalty to him for killing his wife.



PHOTO: STAR

5 to hang from gallows in Mizan murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five are to die for killing Jatiyata-badi Jubo Dal leader Mizanur Rahman alias Mizan at Rampura in the city on May 29 last year.

The Speedy Trial Tribunal-1, Dhaka, yesterday sentenced Yasin Khan Palash alias Kala Palash, Sujon, Abdul Mannan alias Milon, Mithu and Lenin to death and also fined them Tk 50,000 each.

The tribunal handed down life imprisonment to one accused, Ujjal alias Kallu, and fined him Tk 30,000. In case of default, he will be behind the bars for another year.

Three others -- Sumon, Monjurul Alam alias Swadhin and Salam -- were acquitted.

Of the five given death penalty, Lenin is absconding and the other four are in jail custody.

The convicts can appeal to the High Court Division against the judgement in a week.

Judge of the tribunal Shahed Noor Uddin read out parts of the 35-page judgement in a crowded courtroom amidst tight security.

The judgement said Mizan was killed by Palash and his men to establish supremacy in the area.

The killers first shot and injured the young man before attacking him to make sure he is dead.

"We have to be careful that such brutal incidents do not recur," it observed.

The verdict said punishment of the fugitive convict will take effect from the day of his surrender or arrest.

Kala Palash, Sujon, Milon, Mithu, and Ujjal were in the dock when the judgement was pronounced.

Mizan's mother and other family

Husband sentenced to death for killing wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Tribunal yesterday handed down death penalty to a man for killing his wife.

Judge Sheikh Jahangir Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-2, Dhaka, found SM Kamruzzaman Faruq guilty of killing his wife Kamrunnahr Lila.

Convict Faruq can appeal to the High Court against the verdict in a week.

The judge pronounced the 27-



AFP FILE PHOTO

Conjoined Iranian twin sisters Ladan and Laleh Bijani smile at a press conference hours before the historic operation.

Twin sisters die after surgery

AFP, Singapore

The historic attempt to separate adult Iranian twin sisters joined at the head ended tragically here yesterday when Ladan and Laleh Bijani died within 90 minutes of each other after a marathon operation.

"Raffles Hospital regrets to announce that the Bijani twins, Ladan and Laleh, have both passed away during surgery to separate them," a hospital statement said.

The statement said the twins lost a lot of blood as the neurosurgical stage of the 52-hour operation, in which their tightly enmeshed brains were separated, was coming to an end.

"Doctors' attempts to stabilise them were in vain as their conditions continued to deteriorate," it said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Sudanese plane crash kills 115

Toddler lone survivor

REUTERS, Khartoum

A two-year-old girl was the only survivor after a Sudan Airways plane crashed on a domestic flight in Africa's largest country just after dawn yesterday, killing 115 people.

A Sudan Airways spokesman said the toddler, named as Lena Abdallah, had been taken to hospital in Port Sudan and Sudanese TV said she was in good condition. It was not immediately clear whether her parents were on board.

The bodies of the dead were

swiftly buried, in keeping with the Muslim tradition.

The pilot of the Boeing 737 reported a technical failure a few minutes after taking off at about 4:00 am local time from the Red Sea town of Port Sudan in the north-east, heading towards Khartoum, state radio said.

The plane crashed just a few kilometres away from Port Sudan airport as it returned in an attempt to land.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

600 more bullets recovered in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Dupchachia police recovered 600 more bullets from Nayapara village of Kahalu upazila here Tuesday morning, raising the munition haul in Bogra to 96,857 bullets and at least 175 kg of explosives.

Police said they recovered a bag containing the bullets from the bank of river Nagor near Nayapara under Kahalu upazila after being informed by villagers.

District police sources said most of the bullets and explosives recovered so far have been sent to the cantonment from Bogra police lines.

An officer of Bogra district police said paramilitary BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) is assisting Kahalu and Dupchachia police in their ongoing hunt for bullets and explosives. Police suspect at least 3,000 more bullets and an unspecified amount of explosives are still to be unearthed from Gogarpara and adjoining areas.

132 opposition adjournment notices rejected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 132 adjournment notices by opposition lawmakers were turned down by the Chair in parliament yesterday.

Six lawmakers, belonging to main the opposition Awami League (AL) and a Jatiya Party legislature submitted the notices in the ongoing budget session seeking adjournment of the House to discuss pressing issues.

The issues included deterioration of law and order, price hike of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Tk 187.35 crore audit objection to army men's foreign earnings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Auditors have found irregularities in the handling of Tk 187.35 crore earned by the army personnel as foreign allowance.

The money was not deposited with the government as required by the rules. Instead, a substantial amount of the money was transferred to a Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR), certain portion was disbursed as loan and the rest kept in a

current account.

This was revealed in an audit report by the comptroller and auditor general of Bangladesh tabled in parliament last night by State Minister for Finance Shah Md Abul Hossain.

The audit report on the institutions under the defence ministry said while auditing the 1999-2001 period's accounts of the welfare and rehabilitation directorate and

army headquarters, it was found that in violation of the defence ministry's instruction to deposit the payable amount of army personnel's foreign allowance to the government treasury, separate funds were created with the money.

Of the Tk 187.35 crore, meant for government treasury, Tk 139.57 crore was deposited in an FDR, Tk

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Khaleda talks IOJ out of JS quit decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) decided yesterday not to resign from Jatiya Sangsad following discussion with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia who assured it of representation in the government.

"We had a lengthy and very fruitful discussion with the prime minister... We are quite happy with her words and now we have no anguish," said Fazlul Haq Amini MP, chairman of an IOJ faction.

"So, I have withdrawn my decision to step down from parliament and will join session from

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Now perks shoot up for PM, ministers, speaker, dy speaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad last night passed three bills enhancing house rent and other allowances of the

prime minister, ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers and allowances of the speaker and the deputy speaker.

The rise in perks to the speaker. Editorial on page 4

deputy speaker, the prime minister and members of the council of ministers came just a day after passage of another bill providing for staggering increase of perks to the lawmakers.

The main opposition Awami League, which protested these bills

when tabled in parliament on June 16, was not in the House yesterday as the party has been boycotting its sittings since June 26.

The passage of The Prime Minister's (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 2003, means the prime minister will now get Tk 50,000 a month in house rent, a Tk 15,000 rise on the previous amount (Tk 35,000). The amount will stand at Tk 6 lakh a year from now on, instead of Tk 4.20 lakh previously.

The bill enhances fourfold the prime minister's daily allowance -- Tk 1,000 from now on instead of Tk 250 before. The prime minister will be entitled to this allowance while on tour.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Eminent citizens want true independence for anti-graft body

ZAYADUL AHSAN

Eminent citizens praised the government for its move to set up an independent anti-corruption commission, but put an underscore on making the body truly free from the leverage of the executive wing.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, they emphasised who and what type of persons would be handpicked to select the chairman and members for such a commission.

The views came after the cabinet approved the independent anti-corruption commission act on Monday and ahead of its possible tabling in parliament for consideration on Thursday.

Former Cabinet Secretary Mujibul Haq thinks that the commission should be set up as a constitutional body to become independent as such.

"There should be provisions allowing the president to appoint the chairman and two members to the commission from a six-member panel without consulting anyone," he said. "This power should be vested in him through constitutional amendment."

Mujibul said the number of the members on the selection committee could be nine instead of the proposed six to make it more democratic. "It would make selection more neutral as well," he said.

Mujibul elaborated on his rec

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7