



Secretaries must explain fund frauds to JS body

War crimes court gives Bosnian Serb life

Dr Milomir Stakic
The UN war crimes tribunal sentenced a prominent Bosnian Serb politician to life imprisonment yesterday for exterminating and persecuting Bosnian Muslims, but acquitted him of genocide.
It was the first time in the court's
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SHAKHAWAT LITON

The first meeting of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the current Jatiya Sangsad yesterday made the presence of secretaries mandatory for its sittings.
All secretaries must be accountable to PAC, a constitutional body, and must attend its meetings in person to explain irregularities in the spending of public funds, the meeting resolved.
"We will work to bring transparency to public expenditure. Secretaries have to be accountable to the committee," said Harun Ali

Rashid, chairman of the JS body, emerging from the meeting.
"According to the committee decision, we will not allow representatives of secretaries at the meeting. Secretaries must attend the meeting," Khurram Khan Chowdhury, member of PAC, told The Daily Star yesterday.
"We will review expenditures of all the ministries, so secretaries must be present to explain the spending."
The comptroller and auditor general's (CAG) Office told the meeting that audit objections since 1972 involving Tk 24,000 crore waited before the committee for

disposal.
PAC is the highest authority to dispose of audit objections.
Of the 799 audit reports submitted to eight parliaments since independence, PACs disposed of only 146 cases involving Tk 4,000 crore. The rest are lying in the committee's in tray for consideration.
PAC yesterday asked the CAG's office to submit brief synopses of different audit reports awaiting review.
The committee will take up audit reports on the communications and
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RAT nabs criminal during attempted murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Team (RAT) of police nabbed a criminal before he took a second attempt at life of a young man within seven hours yesterday.
In the first attempt, Nazmul Hasan, son of a police constable, shot at Mohammad Alam in front of their residence at Nababer Bagh in Mirpur at about 9:30am. But the bullet hit his father, Abdur Razzak, who is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with a wound in his hand.
"He (Nazmul) went there again at around 4:30pm to kill my son," Razzak told newsmen at the DMCH.
Tipped off, the RAT members waylaid and arrested Nazmul at
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Demonstrators demand the trial of the killers of Delowar Hossain on the main road in front of Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday.

AL calls hartal on August 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) has called a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal for August 16 in support of its demand for the execution of the Bangabandhu murder case verdict.
The party will also organise a public rally at the Paltan Maidan in Dhaka on August 31 for the realisation of the demand.
The decisions came from a presidium meeting of the party held at its Dhanmondi office with AL chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina in the chair.
The meeting also finalised a
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Tk 176cr road work to link Begunbari to Rampura in January

ABDUL KADER

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will construct a link road from Begunbari on Tongi Diversion Road to Rampura Bridge on Pragati Sarani at a cost of Tk 176.45 crore.
Construction of the three-kilometre long and 30-metre wide road will begin in January next year and end in June 2005, coordinated by the Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP), DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka said.
Survey for the link road will begin shortly as the prime minister has ordered the DCC to take it up as a priority project, Khoka said.
"Tongi Diversion Road (Begunbari) to Pragati Sarani (Rampura Bridge) Direct Link Road Project" aims to reduce traffic jam and environmental pollution in the area.
When completed, the link road will reduce traffic congestion on Moghbazar-Mouchak-Malibagh road and facilitate direct communication between the city's eastern part and northern, western and southern parts, DCC officials mentioned.
The proposed road will have two surface drains along its pavements and a 42-metre wide space on each side for planting trees.
Besides, the existing Begunbari Khal on one side of the road will be developed into a big canal linked to the surface drains.
The mayor said the area through which the link road will pass is now very dirty, causing environmental degradation and providing breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
DCC officials noted that construction of several link roads including Janapath, Pragati Sarani, Rokeya Sarani and Bijoy Sarani has reduced traffic congestion to some extent.



The long-awaited road connecting Pantha Path with Bishwa Road in Rampura is planned for construction over the Begunbari wetlands.

Account trade Dhaka sends 44-product list to Yangon

STAR REPORT

Dhaka has sent a list of 44 products to Yangon to start account trade and is awaiting a response.
Sonali Bank and Myanmar Investment and Commercial bank will sign agreements to facilitate the trade once lists are agreed upon.
The two countries are approaching towards the special trade system because of Myanmar's crisis of foreign exchange, which hinders opening of letters of credit.

Sonali Bank has taken all preparations to start the account trade system. The 44 products to be considered under the system will need to have at least 30 per cent local value addition.
Under the system, importers of the two countries will not need foreign exchange to import products. The two banks will settle transactions by netting the import amounts every six months.
However, the amount to be settled by either country will not

cross \$1 lakh and the two banks will remit the amounts.
Under the new system, the trade deficit of either country will not cross \$2 lakh.
The products on the Bangladesh list of export to Myanmar include pharmaceuticals, ceramics, tableware, tiles, biscuits, chips, juice, noodles, drinks, tea, condensed milk, Manipuri handloom products, bed sheet, bed cover, cosmetics and toiletries, melamine and jewelry.

Muggers spray dust to mug woman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a novel technique, muggers took away Tk 1 lakh from a woman at Elephant Road yesterday.
The gang sprayed dust in Parul Begum's eyes as she along with her two sons was returning home after drawing money from a Sonali Bank branch in the area.
The victim, who resides at Noor Fateh Lane at Lalbagh, said as the CNG-run autorickshaw carrying them reached Bata crossing on Elephant Road at about 1:00pm, some youths sprayed dust in her eyes and she could not see anything.
Then they snatched her handbag with the money, she told reporters at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where she went for treatment.
No case was filed till the writing of this report at 10:00 last night.

'Alternative dispute resolution to clear case backlog'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Legal experts yesterday said Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) will help reduce huge backlog of cases.
They were speaking at a seminar on the ADR organised by Bangladesh Law Association (BLA) at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city.
The ADR will provide an opportunity to resolve disputes more effi-

ciently, effectively and amicably in a short time by finding ingenious methods best suited to the parties, said the Chief Guest of the seminar, Chief Justice KM Hasan.
"Litigants and lawyers complain of excessively adversarial, lengthy, costly, prejudiced, unsatisfying trials, other proceedings and unenforceable judgements," he added.
If designed properly the newly paved ADR will be less adversarial,

cheap and informal, he noted.
The special guest of the seminar Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed said prompt delivery of judgement in the speedy trial tribunals was possible due to strict monitoring of the cases.
A new court administration and management system will be introduced.
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Comprehensive anti-disaster action on cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is launching a comprehensive scheme to tackle damage caused by disasters, a top government official told a discussion in Dhaka yesterday.
The Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP), an umbrella project for disaster management, will be launched soon with support from the UNDP and other development partners, said A F M Saiful Islam, director general in-charge of the Disaster Management Bureau.
He said a component of the project was Urban Risk Management under which tremors would be tackled.
He presented a paper on, "Vision and Activities towards National Preparation in the Context of Coping with Disasters including Earthquake" at the discussion on "Awareness and Salvation in Respect of Earthquake," organised

by Bangladesh Earthquake Society (BES) at BRAC University.
Saiful said the historical seismic data of Bangladesh and its adjoining areas showed Bangladesh vulnerable to earthquakes.
A number of cities and towns witnessing steady construction boom of highrises and infrastructural facilities are at high risks, especially because of dense population, he said.
Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of BRAC University and president of BES, said the government should enforce the existing building construction code for highrises to avert serious earthquake damage to cities.
"There should be a post-earthquake management mechanism so that authorities can handle the situation," he added.
"A documentation system in this
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Tk 50 lakh fabrics gutted at Lalbagh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A devastating fire in a fabric warehouse at Lalbagh gutted cloths said to be worth around Tk 50 lakh.
The store, located on the third floor of a wholesale cloth market adjacent to Ahasan Manjil gate, caught fire due to an electric short-circuit at around 1:15pm, officials said.
The ground floor and two other floors of the six-storey building are fabric wholesale market.
According to businessmen, the warehouse contained goods belonging to eight cloth traders including Ali Trading and Dhanshiri Trading.
Although businessmen predicted the loss to be around Tk 50 lakh, Fire Brigade and Civil Defence officials could not provide their estimate immediately.
Four fire fighting units from Lalbagh and other nearby fire stations rushed to the spot and doused the fire after about an hour.
The fire fighters had to break down the wall of a nearby house to



Beetle lovers vow to drive on

AFP, Dhaka

Beetle owners in Bangladesh yesterday vowed to continue driving their beloved cars despite production of the model coming to an end.
"We are really shocked by the news that the production of Beetle has ended," said Ahmed Kabir Raju, a senior member of the Volkswagen Club of Bangladesh.
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SHAZNEEN CASE

Hearing adjourned till Aug 3

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Hearing of the Shazneen case has been adjourned till August 3 as Kazi Rahamat Ullah, Judge of the Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, was on leave yesterday.
Additional Superintendent of Police, CID, Mojibur Rahman, the
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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Aug 01	4-30	6-42 pm
Aug 02	5-28 am	

Prayer Timings		
August 01		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-00
Juma	12-15	1-20
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation