

Two brothers get life for murder in Habiganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Habiganj

The District and Sessions Judge's Court here yesterday sentenced two brothers to life imprisonment for killing a man eight years ago.

The convicts are Sohrab Ali and Asad Ali, sons of Noab Ali of village fandrail under Habiganj Sadar upazila. The court also fined them Tk 5000 each, in default, they will have to suffer another year in jail.

According to the prosecution, the victim, Rafiquddin Chowdhury, 58, of the village came under attack by the convicts and their associates while he was returning home from Habiganj town at 10:30pm on August 10, 1995. They beat up Rafiq mercilessly as a sequel to previous enmity and fled the scene, leaving him seriously injured.

Rafiq was admitted to Habiganj Modern Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries the following day.

Zilu Miah Choudhury, son of the victim, lodged a case with Habiganj Sadar Police Station, accusing nine people. Police, after investigation, pressed charges against Sohrab and Asad.

Judge A K M Ishtiaq Hussain, after Examining 14 witnesses, found the two brothers guilty and awarded the punishment.

Trio wins Nobel for bringing quantum physics in from the cold

AFP, Stockholm

Quantum physicists Alexei A. Abrikosov, Vitaly L. Ginzburg and Anthony J. Leggett yesterday won the 2003 Nobel Physics Prize for pioneering contributions to the theory of superconductors and superfluids.

The three have made "decisive contributions concerning two phenomena in quantum physics: superconductivity and superfluidity," the Nobel jury said.

Abrikosov and Ginzburg developed superconductivity theories while Leggett explained one type of superfluidity. Both phenomena occur at extremely low temperatures.

Reached by AFP in Moscow, Ginzburg said the trio had been chosen among many others who toil away in the same field.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Liakot placed on fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Top listed criminal Liakot Hossain yesterday was placed on a four-day fresh remand after the first four-day remand had expired.

Police pressed charges against Liakot for his alleged involvement in criminal activities including extortion and murder in the city and sought for a seven-day remand yesterday afternoon, while the defence lawyers submitted a petition for bail and repeal of further remand.

After hearing both sides, Metropolitan Magistrate Jahangir Alam rejected the bail petition and granted a four-day remand.

The Rapid Action Team (RAT) of police arrested Liakot, one of the top 23 criminals in the city, his bodyguard Sohagh Sarder and driver Badal Hawlader from Dhanmondi on October 1 when they were going to extort money.

Sohagh and Badal were sent to jail Monday on expiry of their three-day remand.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 08		5-39 pm
Oct 09	5-53 am	

Prayer Timings		
October 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-25	4-40
Maghrib	5-46	5-51
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: STAR

The formal opening of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association's 49th conference at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

US envoy worried at slide in crime

Washington ready to help tighten border security

UNB, Dhaka

US Ambassador Harry K Thomas yesterday appeared concerned at law and order situation, corruption and lack of transparency as well as recurrent hartals that take a heavy toll of Bangladesh's economy.

"Law and order and corruption will have negative impact" on security and rights of individual citizens and Bangladesh as a whole while "frequent hartal as a means of expressing grievance causing harm to economy," he said.

The apparent double-edged criticism of both the parties in power and opposition the US envoy made speaking at a workshop on "Regional Stability: The Role of Small States" at Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) auditorium in the morning.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, BIISS Chairman M R Osmany and Director General Major General Md Abdul Mubeen also spoke in the opening session of the two-day workshop.

The US envoy had words of praise for the government's several major steps toward establishment of an independent anti-corruption commission, money laundering law and legislation for wider use of

mediation in the civil court to quicken the administration of justice.

He also appreciated low infant mortality rate, attaining self-sufficiency in food production and women's empowerment through education and employment where he said USAID is the core partner in programmes.

But Thomas struck a note of worry over the law and order situation, corruption and lack of transparency that he felt continue to cast adverse impact on governance and performance of the economy.

About hartal, he thought that it was a thing of the past -- before independence and democracy came in as the order. In the present context, it is an old means damaging the economy of an independent country.

However, Thomas said, "cultural and political violence must be addressed." In this regard, he mentioned that the Bangladesh government is working towards while the US government offering training programme to improve professionalism and skill of the police department.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Shibir files murder case against JCD in Kushtia shootout

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two separate cases were filed with Kushtia Sadar police yesterday in connection with Monday's gunbattle between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) on Kushtia Polytechnic Institute campus that left an ICS activist dead and many others injured.

Torikul Islam, vice-president, Kushtia town unit of ICS, filed a case accusing 41 JCD men including Kushtia district unit JCD President Abdul Muayed Babul, General

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Tk 1 cr heroin haul in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Law enforcers seized one kilogram of heroin reportedly worth Tk 1 crore from Balaighat border in Sunamganj yesterday.

Two alleged Indian nationals entered into Bangladesh territory at around 10:00am. Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel at the border outpost chased the two who fled leaving a bag, sources said.

Later, officials of liquor and narcotics department in Sunamganj headquarters confirmed contents of the bag to be heroin and it was sent to Dhaka for further verification.

Fake Kala Jahangir tries to extort toll from WB staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gangsters claiming themselves to be top listed criminal Kala Jahangir recently made phone calls to four World Bank (WB) officials in an attempt to extort toll from them.

The WB senior resource management officer filed a complaint on September 29 with Ramna Police Station, claiming that a caller identifying himself as Kala Jahangir had demanded toll from World Bank (WB) employee, Tanvir Ahsan, threatening to kill Tanvir and his family members if the toll was not paid.

Police suspect that these phone calls were made by unidentified miscreants, attempting to capitalize on the dread inspired by Kala Jahangir's name. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Khan Sayeed Hasan said one indication the WB callers were imposters was that they demanded only Tk. 1 lakh from the four WB officials. He added that the WB management is also convinced that it was not Kala Jahangir, but an imposter who made the phone calls.

Another police official said in any case Kala Jahangir never makes phone calls to anybody for tolls, rather people go to him to pay the tolls.

Earlier, on September 24, Criminal Investigation Department (CID) police arrested Sayeedur Rahman from Uttara area as he was

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

3 US soldiers killed in bombings in central Iraq

AP, Baghdad

Three US soldiers and an Iraqi interpreter were killed and three other service members were wounded in a pair of roadside bombings in central Iraq, the US military said yesterday. They were the first reported deaths by hostile fire of American soldiers in Iraq since Friday.

In the first attack, one soldier attached to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment was killed and another wounded in a bombing about 9:50 p.m. Monday just west of the Iraqi

capital, the US Central Command said in a statement.

About an hour later, another roadside bombing killed two soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division and their Iraqi translator, the military said. Two other soldiers were injured in the bombing, which took place in al-Haswah, about 25 miles south of Baghdad.

The latest deaths bring to 91 the number of American soldiers killed by hostile fire in Iraq since President Bush declared an end to major combat operations here May 1. A

total of 320 US service members have died in Iraq since the United States and Britain launched military operations against Saddam Hussein's government on March 20.

The military also reported a helicopter made a hard landing at the US air base near Habaniya just west of Baghdad. Two soldiers were slightly injured.

US troops carried out a raid Tuesday and captured an officer in the former Iraqi army's special forces who allegedly helped organ

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Mortar hits Iraq's foreign ministry compound

AFP, Baghdad

Iraq's foreign ministry compound was hit last morning by a mortar shell, minutes before a firefight broke out between US soldiers and gunmen, witnesses and officials said.

The shell, which struck inside the foreign ministry compound, did not cause any casualties, Police Captain Ali Khadim told AFP.

"One mortar hit inside the compound," Khadim said, as US troops cordoned off the compound. "There were no casualties."

The US military confirmed there was an explosion and said US troops were involved in a shoot-out in

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

One stabbed to death, 3 others sustain bullet, stab injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth was stabbed to death at Aga Sadek Lane Monday, two people sustained bullet wounds at Shyampur and Moghbazar and a trader was stabbed at Suriola yesterday.

Twenty-year-old Arman was lying fatally injured with six stab injuries in his body near a temple at Aga Sadek Lane at 11:15pm.

Locals rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died half an hour later.

His father Solaiman said Arman, khadem (attendant) of a local major, did not return to their house at 23/F, Aga Sadek Lane since a local youth, Babla, called him out at 7:30pm.

Arman had a dispute with some local people including Babla, Firoze and Mahbob over urs at the major

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR

Footpath traders along the Baitul Mukarram Mosque take shelter underneath plastic sheeting from the driving rains that continued all day yesterday. Caused by a severe depression over India's south-central coast, the Met office expects rains to last a couple of days.

Chittagong plunges into darkness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A vast area of Chittagong city plunged into darkness as two transformers of Khulshi Grid Substation tripped at around 6:20pm yesterday.

Engineers of the Power Development Board (PDB) were mending the technical faults till filing of this report at 9:15pm.

Sources said the outage occurred due to technical problems at the substation and it would take at least four to five hours to put the supply back on track.

The unprecedented trip left nearly 40 percent of the entire city without power.

N Korea bans Japan from nukes talks

REUTERS, Seoul

North Korea says it will not allow Japan to take part in future talks on Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme, further complicating efforts to coax the communist state back to the negotiating table.

Japan, responding swiftly to Pyongyang's surprise announcement, said it would not accept the notion Pyongyang could decide who attends mutually agreed multilateral talks.

A statement from the North Korean Foreign Ministry, published by the official KCNA news agency, said Japan had made itself an untrustworthy negotiating partner by linking other bilateral problems to the talks, such as the past abduction by

North Korea of Japanese nationals.

"A spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry said in a statement today that the DPRK would not allow Japan to participate in any form of negotiations for the settlement of the nuclear issue in the future," KCNA said.

Japan joined China, Russia, South Korea and the United States in an inconclusive round of nuclear talks with North Korea in Beijing in late August.

The North has since said it is not interested in more talks on a crisis that erupted a year ago. Last week, Pyongyang said it had redirected plutonium extracted from thousands of spent nuclear fuel rods to help enhance its deterrent force.

Bac files graft case against salt mill owner, bank staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bureau of District Anti-corruption sued a former branch manager and a former assistant engineer of the divisional office of the Janata Bank for misappropriating reportedly Tk 2.8 crore.

AK M Shahidul Alam, manager of the KDA branch, and Md Mostafizur Rahman, assistant engineer, and Ranabir Roy, proprietor of Messrs Khulna Salt, have been sued, as the three in a nexus withdrew the amount from the salt trader's account with the bank from January 4 to December 31 in 1992, the FIR said.