



Lawyers march towards the Sangsad Bhaban from the Supreme Court premises yesterday to press for their six-point and 20-point demands.

## Robbery and killing case Death penalty for 8, life for 5

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced eight people to death and five others to life imprisonment for killing two persons during a robbery in Kishoreganj in 2000.

Judge Jahangir Alamgir Mollah of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 gave the verdict at a crowded courtroom.

Habibur Rahman, Shah Alam, Moinuddin, Nur Mohammad, Alam, Delwar Hossain, Shukur Ali and Altu Miah were awarded death penalty while Jasim, Siddiq, Amir Chand, Kabir and Bazul Rahman were jailed for life.

All the convicts, however, have been absconding.

The judge said the punishment to the convicts would be effective from the date of their arrest or surrender. The convicts can also appeal to the High Court within 30 days.

According to the prosecution story, a gang of robbers stormed into the shop of one Ferdous Miah at Bara Bazar in Kishoreganj district at the dead of night on December 30, 2000 and took away TK 12.50 lakh and 110 tolas of gold ornaments.

The robbers also killed two relatives of the shop owner -- Mosharraf

Hossain and Abdul Berek -- before leaving the scene.

The shop owner Ferdous Miah filed a murder case with Kishoreganj police.

The investigation officer of the case pressed charges against 14 robbers on February 14 last year. And the court framed charges against them on June 16 this year.

Twenty-two prosecution witnesses were examined during the trial.

Special Public Prosecutor Harun-or-Rashid Khan conducted the case on behalf of the state while advocates Mokbul Ahmed and Abdul Kader defended the accused.

## Keep CNG filling station open round-the-clock

### Ctg autorickshaw drivers demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Over one thousand CNG autorickshaw drivers staged a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding round-the-clock operation of the lone CNG filling station at Dampara.

The agitated drivers put up a barricade on the road with their vehicles for about two hours.

The demonstrators also went on rampage and vandalised a few vehicles.

The drivers said that the CNG station could not cope with the increasing demand, forcing the drivers to wait in long queue for about eight hours. Worse, the dispensing units went out

of order frequently, causing suffering to them, they said.

Run by the Chittagong City Corporation, the CNG (compressed natural gas) filling centre has a capacity to provide the fuel to one thousand vehicles a day. But over 1200 vehicles line in the queue for CNG daily.

At present, over 3,500 CNG vehicles ply the city roads while 2,000 more are in the queue for conversion, sources said.

Demand for both the CNG and conversion is increasing every day and it would be tough for a single station to cope with the demand unless more stations are installed immediately, they said.

## 1340 bottles of phensedyl seized in Rajshahi

BSS, Rajshahi

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel in separate drives seized 1340 bottles of phensedyl and contraband items worth about Tk 4.72 lakh from different places in the district yesterday, BDR sources said.

Acting on a tip-off, a BDR squad challenged a mechanised boat coming from Indian side of the Padma river near Moktarpur boat ghat under Charchat upazila of the district.

Seeing the BDR the smugglers fled the scene leaving behind the boat. The BDR seized the boat and recovered 1340 bottles of phensedyl worth about Tk 2.54 lakh.

In other raids conducted at different frontier areas, BDR personnel seized huge contraband items worth about Tk 2.18 lakh.

However, none could be arrested in these connections.

## 5 policemen injured in gunfight with robbers

BSS, Cox's Bazar

At least 10 people, including five policemen, were injured in a fierce gunbattle between law enforcers and robbers at Uttar Nalbila village under Moheshkhali upazila here on Saturday night.

The gunfight erupted when a gang of armed robbers suddenly attacked a team of policemen and snatched away Bazal Ahmed, a leader of an organised gang, soon after his arrest from his hideout at around 9:00pm.

The gang snatched away their leader while he was getting into a police van. Police also retaliated with gunshots.

During the half and an hour-long gunfight, five policemen and five dacoits were injured. The dacoits managed to flee the scene with their injured colleagues. he injured police-

## 2 trains leased to pvt firm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bangladesh Railway has handed over its commuter train running between Khulna and Benapole and Rocket Mail between Khulna and Chilahati to a private firm.

Amir Hossain, area operation manager of Khulna station, said under a lease agreement on Saturday, Banna Enterprise would operate the services.

## Khaleda visits mosques, historic sites in Madina

BSS, Madina

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, now in Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah, visited various mosques and other historical Islamic sites in and around the holy city of Madina on Saturday.

The prime minister visited Masjid-e-Kiblatain and Masjid-e-Kubba, the first mosques built by Hazrat Mohammad (SM) in Madina after his Hizrat from Makkha to Madina.

She went to the 'Ohud' hills and offered munajat at the mazars of Hazrat Amir Hamza (R) and other 'Sahabis' who laid down their lives in the historical battle of Ohud.

The prime minister offered Asr, Maghrib, Esha and Tarabih prayers and took iftar at Masjid-e-Nababi. She prayed for the peace, progress and prosperity of the country and the Muslim Ummah.

The prime minister's entourage members, including Arafat Rahman and his wife, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and PM's Political Secretary Mosaddek Ali, accompanied her during the visits.

## Policeman buys Ershad Shikder's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A police officer, now serving at Jhikargachha thana of Jessore, has purchased the house of condemned criminal Ershad Shikder at Bhairab Strand Road at a cost of Tk 24 lakh.

A deed to this effect was registered in the name of the wife of the police officer on November 1, sources said.

The police officer, who hails from Nalchhity upazila of Pirojpur, paid the money to Ershad Shikder's first wife in presence of a former mayor of KCC.



Information Minister Tariqul Islam speaks at a discussion marking the 27th death anniversary of Moulana Bhasani at the National Press Club yesterday. The BNP organised the programme.

## Chinese help sought for magnetic train

BSS, Dhaka

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Chai Xi and Communications Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday discussed various ways to modernise the railway communications.

During a meeting, the communications minister told the Chinese envoy that the government had undertaken an initiative to launch electro-magnetic levitation train service as part of upgrading the country's rail communications.

He sought the Chinese help and cooperation towards launching the train service between Dhaka and Chittagong.

Referring to the Chinese assistance for upgrading the communications

infrastructure and network, Huda said six friendship bridges were built with the Chinese help in Bangladesh.

"It is a great contribution to the socio-economic development of Bangladesh," he said. The government has adopted a "Look East" policy to develop road communications with other Asian countries connecting Bangladesh with Asian Highway, he pointed out.

The communications minister also sought the Chinese cooperation for the construction of a highway passing through Dhaka, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Myanmar, Thailand and China.

Chai Xi welcomed Bangladesh's initiative to introduce magnetic train and assured that his country would

extend technological cooperation towards this project.

China and Bangladesh would work together for the overall economic and communication development of this region through mutual and friendly cooperation between the two countries, he said.



## Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

Dry weather will prevail over the country till 6.00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur at places over the river basins of the northern and central parts of the country during early morning.

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 31.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 14.4 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

**The sun sets in the capital at 5:12 pm today and rises at 6:15am tomorrow.**

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature In Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.4	17.8	43	58
Chittagong	30.8	17.6	66	58
Rajshahi	29.2	17.6	74	83
Khulna	30.6	17.6	75	74
Barisal	30.5	17.3	77	87
Sylhet	30.0	16.0	67	68
Cox's Bazar	30.8	19.5	69	--



### Film festival

As part of French-German Film Festival 2003, four films will be screened. The films titled 'Crazy' directed by Hans-Christian Schmid (2000) and 'Abschied von Buckow' directed by Jan Schutte (2000) will be screened at Alliance Francaise at 10.30am and 7.00pm, while the films 'Ca Commence Aujourd'hui' directed by Bertrand Tavernier (1999) and 'L'Appartement' directed by Gilles Mimouni (1997) will be screened at Goethe Institut at 3.00pm and 7.00pm.

### BSCIC fair

The inaugural session of a handicraft exhibition, organised by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), will be held with Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami as chief guest. Venue: BSCIC Design Centre. Time: 9.30am. The exhibition will remain open till November 20 from 10.00am to 5.00pm daily.

### Exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a dress exhibition, organised by Pamsy marking the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr, will be held with noted singer Rezwana Chowdhury Bonya to inaugurate. Venue: DRIK Gallery, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till November 23 from 12.00 noon to 9.00pm daily.

### Bhasani discussion

On the occasion of the 27th death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, Wrisihija Shilpi Gosthi will hold a discussion and cultural function. Venue: Shishu Academy Open Stage. Time: 3.00pm.

### DAB discussion

Doctors Association of Bangladesh organises a discussion and iftar with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Sangsad Plaza (near MP hostel). Time: 4.00pm.

### DESA discussion

A discussion on the 'Role of DESA in national development' organised by DESA diploma Prokoushali Samity, will be held with its chairman Brigadier General AAMA Rab in the chair. Venue: IDEB Bhaban seminar hall, Kakrail. Time: 3.00pm.

### Seminar

A daylong seminar on 'Catastrophic risk of earthquake and flood mitigation through insurance', organised by Bangladesh Insurance Academy, will be held with BRAC Vice Chancellor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Academy Bhaban, Mohakhali.

### Jubo League meet

A general meeting of the executive committee of Awami Jubo League will be held. Venue: 23, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 2.00pm.

### Discussion

A discussion on 'The rights of orphans in the eye of Islam' will be held with Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Muzahid as chief guest. Venue: Government Children's home, Azimpur. Time: 4.15pm.

### Meeting

Bangladesh Hindu Bouddha Christian Oikya Parishad will hold an opinion sharing meeting on the prevailing situation and the problems of religious minorities. Venue: Ramna Restaurant. Time: 4.00pm.



### Photography exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a German photography exhibition titled 'Mann ohne Eigenschaften' (Man without qualities) by Matthias Wahner, will be held. Venue: Goethe Institut, Dhanmondi. Time: The exhibition will remain open till December 15.

### Orientation

Credit and Development Forum organises a media orientation on microfinance. Venue: Conference room of Bangladesh Press Institute. Time: 10.00am.

### Meeting

A presidium meeting of Bangladesh Awami Jubo League will be held. Venue: 23, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 11.00am.