

Death reference case of 7 JMB leaders likely to begin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The death reference case of seven Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leaders, including militant kingpin Abdul Rahman and Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai, is likely to begin in the High Court (HC) today.

A death reference bench of the HC on July 24 fixed the date when Attorney General (AG) submitted the prayer for hearing of the case before the bench of Justice Ali Asgar Khan and Emdadul Haque on completion of the paper book for the Jhalakathi Judges killing case.

A Barisal court on May 29 awarded death sentence to JMB chief Abdul Rahman, his deputy Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai and five other militants and acquitted one in the sensational Jhalakathi judges' killing case.

The others to walk the gallows are JMB Majlish-e-Shura members Ataur Rahman Sunny, Abdul Awal and Khaled Saifullah, suicide bombers Iftekhar Hasan Al Mamun and Asadur Rahman Arif. Of them, Arif is still at large.

Immediately after the lower court's verdict, the government took steps for quick disposal of the militants' death reference case as over 500 cases still await paper book (History of the case) preparation and death reference hearing in the HC.

Currently, paper books are being prepared for the cases of 2003. If the paper book for the Jhalakathi case were prepared in the usual manner, HC hearing on death sentences of the militants would not be held before 2009.

According to the government instructions, the attorney general's office in June petitioned the HC to give priority to preparation of the paper book for the death reference case. The HC granted the prayer on June 15. After completion of the paper book, the government moved to the death reference bench for hearing of the case.

CU classes resume today

CU CORRESPONDENT

Academic activities of Chittagong University (CU) will resume today after a month-long monsoon vacation.

Resident students started to return to their dormitories from yesterday after enjoying the vacation with their families.

However, offices of the university resumed on July 22.

Security to be tightened at secretariat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry yesterday decided to strengthen the security system at the Bangladesh secretariat, installing some modern equipment and taking strict measures in issuing passes to the visitors.

The decisions were taken at a meeting of the committee on the security at Bangladesh secretariat. State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar chaired the meeting held at the home ministry.

Emerging out of the meeting Babar told reporters that security at the secretariat was not tightened enough earlier comparing to those of other countries. He said the walls of the secretariat were weak and

visitors could easily enter the premises.

"We have already ensured 80 per cent security and the rest of the measures will be taken by August 20," the state minister observed.

He said that 189 close circuit cameras and a scanner have already been set up to beep up security.

He also said that a committee headed by an additional secretary has been formed to work out measures to further strengthen the security at the secretariat. The committee will formulate a security organ gram too, he said.

Besides, joint secretary (administration) will take strict measures in issuing passes to the visitors.

Meeting sources said the home ministry is thinking whether different colour passes could be issued for different ministries and online pass could be issued to the intending visitors.

Sources said the meeting discussed about the overall progress of the security at the secretariat and appointing manpower that is needed to monitor the CCTVs. The sources also said that underground CCTVs would be set up at the entrances to the secretariat to monitor the lower portion of vehicles more perfectly.

Meeting sources said there would be a control room equipped with a 144 inches wide screen for monitoring the total network.



PHOTO: STAR
Members of Bangladesh Stenographers' Association (BSA) stage a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday to press their demand for changing designation to personal officer.

DCCI to publish commercial history of Dhaka city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) will publish a book compiling 600 years of commercial history and business and trade evolution in the city of Dhaka.

The book will also include the aged heritages of Dhaka in a bid to protecting the city's history that is now at the verge of destruction.

In this regard a roundtable was held in the capital yesterday organised by DCCI at its auditorium. Litterateur, permanent residents who have been living in the city for generations, eye-witnesses of historical development of the city and business leaders attended the roundtable.

Chaired by acting president of DCCI Hossain Khaled, the roundtable was also attended by eminent litterateur Hasnat Abdul Hye and Anwar Hossain, president of Anwar Group while Sayeeful Islam, former president of DCCI, coordinated the roundtable.

"In 2008 the city that witnessed various historical upheavals will have 400 years to its name and we need to celebrate the moment with huge enthusiasm," Sayeeful Islam said.

He also urged the government to mark the moment with great fervour.

Before being named as Dhaka the city was known as Jahangirnagar.

The speakers also recalled various historical developments including the birth of Muslim League.