

JUDGES' KILLING CASE  
Hearing on jail  
appeal petitions  
likely today

UNB, Dhaka

The admissibility of the jail appeal petitions filed by six condemned JMB militants in the Jhalakathi judges' killing case seeking leave to appeal against the High Court verdict is likely to come up for hearing before the Supreme Court today.

Besides, a separate petition for leave to appeal filed by condemned

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Oli asks 'unfit'  
president to  
leave CA post

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Executive President Oli Ahmed yesterday asked the president to leave the post of chief adviser, terming him physically unfit to perform two responsibilities.

The LDP leader also asked President Iajuddin Ahmed to issue ordinances to oust Chief Election Commissioner MA Aziz and other election commissioners.

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State media still in  
control of officials  
backed by 4-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The officials appointed under political considerations during the immediate past BNP-Jamaat regime are still controlling key positions of the state-run publicity organs, including Bangladesh Television (BTV) and Bangladesh Betar, even a week after the caretaker government assumed office.

There has not yet been any change in the top post of the External Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB), Directorate of Film and Publication (DFP), and the Principal Information Officer (PIO). All the top brass of these important state organs have been appointed politically during the regime of BNP-Jamaat-led coalition, sources said.

Besides, BNP-Jamaat appointed press secretaries to the president and the prime minister's office (the PMO which is now the Chief Adviser's Office) have not been changed yet.

Many quarters have already demanded that the caretaker government bring the state-owned

media to neutral grounds by cancelling the controversial appointments immediately.

Partisan role of the BTV has been exposed in its prime time news bulletins of last few days. On Friday, the prime time Bangla news of BTV telecast BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's press briefing first that urged the president to take action against two advisers. The news on the 14-party rally at Paltan Maidan came in second in the running order. However, all the private TV channels and newspapers treated the 14-party rally as their top story.

Sources said the BNP-Jamaat-led four-party government appointed Mahbul Alam, a joint secretary, as the director general (DG) of BTV on October 23, in the twilight of its tenure. Sources claimed Alam has links with Jamaat.

Mohammad Hanif, deputy director general (news) of BTV, is allegedly involved with Jamaat while its Chief News Editor Fuad Hasan was allegedly promoted to the current post following a favour from Hawa Bhaban, a BNP political office.

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CA should not  
be influenced by  
Hawa Bhaban  
Says Jalil

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday alleged the office of the president is being controlled by "Hawa Babhan" and urged the president to show responsible attitude in running state affairs.

"President, you should not be influenced by Hawa Bhaban. Your office is being controlled by this bhaban...its not fair, it should be

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Take steps  
to remove  
uncertainties  
JP-Manju asks CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP Manju) yesterday urged the caretaker government to take effective steps to bring an end to the uncertainties in the political arena and hold a free and fair election in time.

At a presidium meeting presided over by party Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju, the party also decided to take part in the next

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AL man beaten  
to death by  
BNP activists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Local BNP activists beat an Awami League (AL) worker to death at Centre Bazar in Hatia on Friday night.

The dead was identified as Tajul Islam, 28.

Witnesses said a BNP mob of activists passing the Centre Bazar area in a procession attacked Tajul standing by the road.

After the assault, they took

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A delegation of BNP led by its Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, 2nd from left, meets President and Chief Adviser to Caretaker Government Iajuddin Ahmed, left, at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Prayer Timing		
November 5		
	Azan	
Fajr	4-55	5-30
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-34
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Judgement on  
Saddam today

Iraq braces for bloodshed; 83  
bullet-riddled corpses found

AFP, Baghdad

Iraq braced itself yesterday for a violent backlash from Saddam Hussein's remaining supporters if, as expected, the ousted leader is sentenced to death in his trial for crimes against humanity.

Russia's foreign ministry said four Russian contractors caught in a mortar attack Saturday in the southern Iraqi city of Basra had been lightly wounded, rather than two killed as reported earlier by a British military spokesman.

An security source, meanwhile, said police found 83 bullet-riddled

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corpses in Baghdad over the previous 48 hours.

And five members of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani's security detail were killed in a roadside bomb attack Friday in northern Iraq, a source from his party said. Talabani was out of the country and in no personal danger.

Saddam and seven former regime officials face a verdict today in their trial for ordering the killing of 148 Shias in the early 1980s in the village of Dujail, where the deposed president escaped an assassination bid in 1982.

N Korea lashes out  
at US, Japan

AP, Seoul

North Korea denounced US leaders as "warmongers" yesterday and called Japanese officials "political imbeciles" for saying they won't accept Pyongyang as a nuclear power.

In typically harsh rhetoric, the reclusive communist state demanded Japan stay away from international disarmament negotiations, which also include China, Russia, the US and South Korea.

The North agreed earlier this week to return to the talks, the first relaxation of tension after its Oct 9 nuclear test. The talks have been stalled for a year.

A statement from North Korea's Foreign Ministry on Saturday said

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there was no need for Japan to participate in the talks "because it is no more than a state of the US"

The Foreign Ministry said most of the international community had welcomed North Korea's return to the talks. "Only Japan that expressed its wicked intention," referring to comments by Tokyo that it will not accept a nuclear North Korea.

"The Japanese authorities have thus clearly proved themselves that they are political imbeciles," added the statement, carried by the North's official Korea Central News Agency, or KCNA.

Japan's Foreign Ministry said the government was aware of North Korea's statement, and was