

Arrest Nazmul Huda, Tarique for CNG scam

Demands autorickshaw workers' body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Autorickshaw Sramik League yesterday demanded arrest of former communications minister Nazmul Huda and BNP's Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman for embezzling Tk 396 crore from the CNG-run three-wheeler project.

In a memorandum submitted to the president and chief adviser of caretaker government at his Bangabhaban office, the organisation leaders made the request.

They also declared a sit in programme with 50,000 three-wheeler drivers in front of Anti-Corruption Commission on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Saddam may walk gallows in months

5 US soldiers killed in chopper crash, attacks

AGENCIES, Baghdad

The procedure through which ousted Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein will appeal against his death sentence began yesterday, with officials saying he may face the gallows within the next few months.

On Sunday the 69-year-old was sentenced to hang for committing crimes against humanity by ordering the deaths of 148 Shias from the village of Dujail, north of Baghdad, after a 1982 assassination attempt against him.

His half-brother and intelligence

chief Barzan al-Tikriti was also sentenced to death, as was Awad Ahmed al-Bandar, who was chairman of the so-called Revolutionary Court that ordered the Shias executed.

Saddam's former vice president Taha Yassin Ramadan received a life sentence, while three Baath party officials from Dujail received 15 years each and a fourth, more junior figure, was cleared.

Under Iraqi law, Saddam, Barzan, Bandar and Ramadan have an automatic right to appeal against their death and life sen-

tences and the process began on Monday.

An US official close to the court said that the defendants can file their appeals over the next 30 days.

"From now to the next 10 days, the trial chamber can hold the file (ruling). But in these 10 days it has to forward the file to the appeal chamber," the official said.

He said that on receipt of the file, the appeal chamber has to immediately forward it to the prosecutor's chamber.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

DU to confer Doctor of Laws on Prof Yunus

43rd convocation on Dec 24

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University will confer Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) on Nobel Peace Prize 2006 winner Professor Muhammad Yunus during the 43rd convocation of the university to be held on December 24 this year.

Professor Yunus will also deliver the convocation speech.

The university authorities held a meeting yesterday to sketch out a plan for holding the convocation successfully, said a press release.

A total of 22 subcommittees have been formed at the meeting, which was presided over by vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz.

Pro-VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, Treasurer Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad, Proctor Prof AK Firoz Ahmed and General Secretary of Dhaka University Teachers' Association Prof Dr Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman, among others, were present at the meeting.

US elections head for hard-fought finish

AFP, Washington

US elections shaped by the Iraq war headed for a hard-fought finish Sunday, with polls favouring opposition Democrats but showing US President George W Bush's Republicans gaining ground.

Two days before the November 7 vote, dozens of congressional races were too close to call and two national public opinion surveys gave Democrats an edge but suggested a late burst of energy among Republicans.

Bush, weakened by the unpopular war in Iraq that may cost Republicans control of the Congress, seized on the death sentence imposed on Saddam

Hussein as a hopeful sign of flourishing democracy in the violence-wracked country.

"History will record today's judgment as an important achievement on the path to a free and just and unified society," he said, vowing to "support Iraq's unity government as it works to bring peace to its great country."

White House spokesman Tony Snow dismissed as "preposterous" any suggestion that it manipulated the trial for maximum electoral advantage and said it was "absolute proof" that Iraq now possessed an "independent judiciary."

Democrats hailed the sentence against Saddam but warned it would not solve the challenges US

forces face in Iraq, which was plagued by a raging insurgency and escalating sectarian strife that has fed a rising US death toll.

"Justice for the Iraqi people was finally served today," but "Iraq is in the middle of a civil war and growing sectarian violence will be an even greater concern following this verdict," said Democratic party chief Howard Dean.

The Democrats needed a net 15 seats out of the total 435 in play on Tuesday to control the House. They hoped for a gain of six Senate seats out of the 33 at stake that would give them the edge in the 100-member upper chamber.

A Democratic victory would

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Traders carrying fish in large cauldrons often gather beside busy roads, turning the spots into wholesale fish markets. The photo was taken near Jatrabari intersection in the capital yesterday.

POWER PLANT

Dhaka seeks ADB nod to \$450m fund

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Adviser Akbar Ali Khan yesterday requested Asian Development Bank (ADB) to approve a proposed \$ 450 million fund within this fiscal year for installation of a power generation plant in Bangladesh.

ADB had suspended the proposal for this fiscal year for non-compliance with certain conditions. Akbar conveyed the request to Hua Du, ADB resident representative in Bangladesh, when the latter called on the adviser at his finance

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

POWER PLANT

Dhaka seeks ADB nod to \$450m fund

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Adviser Akbar Ali Khan yesterday requested Asian Development Bank (ADB) to approve a proposed \$ 450 million fund within this fiscal year for installation of a power generation plant in Bangladesh.

ADB had suspended the proposal for this fiscal year for non-compliance with certain conditions. Akbar conveyed the request to Hua Du, ADB resident representative in Bangladesh, when the latter called on the adviser at his finance

ministry office. They had talks on the progress and status of the ADB-funded projects in Bangladesh.

The finance adviser later told newsmen that he would also communicate with the ADB president in this regard so that the next elected government of the country could utilise the fund as quick as possible to mitigate the on going power crisis.

Officials said ADB had suspended the proposed funding for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Robbers loot ex-army officer's house in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers broke into a retired army official's house at New DOHS at Baridhara and made off with cash and valuables worth Tk 12.5 lakh.

According to the first information report (FIR) recorded with the Cantonment Police Station, a gang of 10 to 12 robbers cut the window grills and entered the residence of Lt Col (Retd) Masudul Haque on first floor of the building on Road 8 in DOHS at around 4:00am.

The robbers carrying sharp weapons held Masudul, his wife and a son hostage and stole 46 tolas of gold ornaments, Tk 4 lakh in cash, three cameras and three

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Prayer Timing

November 7

	Azan	
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-25	5-30
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Tk 2.5 lakh cr plundered by BNP-led govt

Says B Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led 4-party alliance government plundered nearly Tk 2.5 lakh crore during its five-year tenure, alleged Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday.

"The duties of the LDP members would be to uncover the BNP government's misdeeds before the countrymen so that the corrupt and autocrat government cannot come to power again," said the former president while speaking at a representatives' meeting of the newly formed LDP at the KC Memorial Clinic at Baridhara in Dhaka.

LDP believes in responsibility.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

BDR trades heavy gunshots with BSF at Zakiganj

UNB, Sylhet

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Border Security Force (BSF) of India traded heavy gunfire on Zakiganj border on Sunday night.

BDR sources said about a dozen BSF troops entered Amasid village at about 11:00pm and started firing at the BDR outpost. When BDR returned fire, the Indian border guards retreated but continued firing.

Both sides exchanged several thousand of bullets during the fight that continued until midnight, according to BSS.

Many residents of Amalsid, Barothakuri and Uttarkuri villages fled their homes and took shelter in safer places. A tense situation is prevailing in the frontier area.