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The Daily Star



BANUL ABEEDIN SHOPPING CENTRE, 01 NEW DAILY ROAD, DHAKA - 1000

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5 to die in Mahiya murder case

Five persons have been awarded death sentence for killing Mahiya Ismail, a housewife, in a snatching incident on May 3 last year at Gulshan in the city.

Additional Sessions Judge of the Third Court, Dhaka, Qamrul Islam Siddiqui pronounced the judgement Saturday. In the judgement, the learned judge ordered that the accused Sentu Bepari, Tuna, Altu, Jinnat and Monu be hanged till death.

Of the five convicts, Monu and Jinnat have been sentenced in absentia. The sentence will be effective as soon as they surrender or are arrested. Three other accused, Tipu, Anu and Abul Kalam were acquitted.

This is the first capital punishment in the country for killing in snatching incident.

Mrs Mahiya Ismail (60), wife of Ismail Hossain, was attacked by an armed group of miscreants in the morning of May 3, 1990 near her Gulshan residence while she was returning by a rickshaw from the market. The miscreants, who came by a car, blocked the rickshaw and snatched away

her gold ornaments and cash and stabbed her in the chest with knife repeatedly. Mahiya tried to reach her house, but fell down on the ground in front of the gate. Her eldest daughter Selina Begum and others rushed her to the hospital, but she was declared there dead.

An 'ejahar' was lodged with the Gulshan police station over the incident by one Chowdhury Mohd Mohsin, a relative of the victim. After investigation, police submitted charge-sheet against 8 persons. They were, Sentu Bepari, Tunu Mia alias Tuna alias Tuinna, Altu, Anu Chowdhury, Abul Kalam, Mizanur Rashid Tipu, Jinnat and Manu alias Manu Mia.

During trial 24 witnesses were examined by the prosecution. The learned judge, considering the evidence of the prosecution witnesses on record, confessional statements of the accused etc in detail found the accused Sentu Bepari, Tunu, Altu, Jinnat and Monu guilty of offence under Section 396 of the Penal Code and sentenced them to death by hanging. The sentence is however subject to confirmation by the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.

Abdur Razaque Khan, Public Prosecutor conducted the case on behalf of the state while Advocate Shahjahan Khan, Mozaffar Hossain, Mahfuzullah and others defended.

Verdict an example

By Staff Correspondent

"It is not much of a victory for us as we can never get back the person we have lost, but the verdict will serve as an example for the nations," Selina Ahmed, eldest daughter of Mahiya Ismail, said in reaction to the court verdict awarding death sentences to the five accused involved in the murder of their mother.

The family of Mahiya Ismail, while talking to The Daily Star Saturday evening, expressed the hope that the verdict will help establish law and order in the country.

The verdict was immaterial to me as I am neither gaining nor losing anything from it, but it was needed to establish law and order in the country.

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Two of the convicts are being taken out of the court after judgement in the Mahiya Ismail (inset) murder case on Saturday. — Star photo

Khaleda to attend OIC summit

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is likely to lead a 30-member delegation to the 6th OIC summit beginning December 9 in Dakar, the capital city of Senegal, reports UNB.

According to an official announcement Saturday, her entourage will include Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, members of parliament Begum Farida Ilesan, Salahuddin Kamran and Dr Afsar Hossain Mollah, Economic Relations Division Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Additional Foreign Secretary Faruq Sobhan and Additional Secretary to Prime Minister's Secretariat Kamal.

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Ministries asked to gear up implementation of on-going projects

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Saturday night directed different ministries to accelerate the pace of implementation of various projects so that the fruits of development reach the people, reports BSS.

Begum Zia was presiding over a high-level meeting at the International Conference Centre (ICC) to review the progress of development of the ministries. The ministries are health and family welfare, works, food, energy and establishment.

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Discussion on role of journalists in democratic movement Monday

A discussion on the role of journalists in the democratic movement-90 will be held tomorrow (Monday) at 3 pm at the auditorium of the National Press Club in observance of the first anniversary of the fall of autocracy, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will attend the function as the chief guest.

Organised jointly by the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFIJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ), the discussion will be participated by the leaders of the three alliances, Jamaat-e-Islami and different professional groups.

Political parties differ over dissolution of upazila parishads

By Moinuddin Naser

A major realignment among the political parties has surfaced on the issue of the dissolution of the upazila parishads by the government through an ordinance setting aside the parliamentary procedure to take such a major decision.

Awami League, Jatiya Party, Jamaat and the former upazila chairman have taken a combined decision to observe one-day hartal demanding the government decision and to initiate a movement for the reinstatement of upazila chairman in their places.

The call for hartal, by Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat December 9 has created an adverse reaction among other political alliances like the Five-Party Alliance and the Patriotic Democratic Force (PDF), a combine of NAP, CPIB, Samyabadi Dal and Gano Azadi League.

These two alliances could not also accept the procedure in which the decision for hartal was taken. They vehemently

criticised the Awami League for its unholy alliance with the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat, the leaders of which chose a single platform against the government.

They raised the question that the Jatiya Party was yet to prove itself a democratic party.

On the other hand, the Samik-Karmachari Otkya Parishad (SKOP) eagerly waiting for political support to its movement to be followed by a 48-hour and a 72-hour phase-wise hartal, is being ignored by the major political parties.

The Five-Party Alliance and the PDF are learnt to be more inclined to extending their all out support to the SKOP movement.

Awami League leaders, preferring anonymity told this correspondent that SKOP leaders did not come to them and that they were now not in a position to support the SKOP movement as they would have to launch a bigger movement if the Indemnity Ordinance was

not repealed.

Five-Party Alliance leaders met yesterday with Hasanul Haque Inu in the chair at the Samik-Krishak Samajbadi Dal office. In the meeting the Five-Party Alliance took a decision to talk to the PDF over the issue.

Five-Party leader Nirmal Sen told this correspondent that the political parties, during the anti-autocracy movement had committed to the lawyers that they would dissolve the upazila parishads and would not allow continuation of the upazila courts which helped spread corruption from the grassroots level to the union parishads.

He said that the political parties denounced the decision of Ershad in 1984 and resisted the upazila elections while in 1985 all political parties boycotted them. In 1990 the Awami League also raised questions about the results of the upazila elections and that

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Mokhtar's death: Police interrogate, free Shyamoli

By Staff Correspondent

Police did not arrest anyone in connection with the mysterious death of Hafez Mokhtar Hossain, Chairman of now-defunct Narayanganj sadar upazila, till Saturday.

He was found shot dead in a white Honda civic car parked near Holy Cross college at Tejkonpara Friday evening.

Mary Janet Shyamoli, who admitted having intimate relations with Mokhtar Hossain and also claimed being present during the incident Friday night told police that he shot himself in the head with his

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VCs to meet PM over campus unrest

By DU Correspondent

The Standing Committee of the vice-chancellors of the universities at a meeting Saturday decided to meet the Prime Minister to find out ways to eliminate terrorism from campuses.

The meeting held at the office of the Bangladesh University Council (BUC) called upon the government, political parties and all concerned to come forward to contain campus violence.

However, the meeting observed that the education system was on the path to collapsing because of continued campus terrorism.

The meeting urged the me-

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Govt college lecturers put off strike

Lecturers of government colleges Saturday postponed their nonstop strike, scheduled to begin today after a fruitful negotiations with the authorities, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Government College Lecturers' Association said the decision was taken in a meeting of its leaders with Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar and Education Secretary Mir Mustafizur Rahman.

The government side assured that the association's 12-point demand would be implemented in phases, the

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Transport strike may be partial

By Staff Correspondent

Transport workers, not issued appointment letters, will go on an indefinite strike from today throughout the country.

The strike may be partial as many of the owners have already issued to the workers appointment letters. Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation (BRTWF), sources said, buses, minibuses, coaches, trucks and tanklorries will come under the strike, the source said.

The BRTWF gave the strike call and set a November 30 deadline to press home its one-point demand for issuance of appointment letters to some 500,000 transport workers for job security.

"Only those transports whose owners have issued appointment letters will be allowed to ply," Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Executive President of the BRTWF told the Daily Star over telephone.

The Federation workers would examine the appointment letters at different points in the country, he added.

Most of the transport owners in Dhaka have issued the letters to some 2,000 workers of the federation, so the trans-

port services are expected to remain normal in the capital and its suburbs, a BRTWF source said.

The source added that the districts of Tangail, Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Kishoreganj, Netrokona and Gazipur, Jinked by the Mahakhali terminal, would be almost unaffected as most of workers in these routes have got appointment letters.

The owners related to the Sayedabad terminal routes have also started issuing appointment letters to the workers under the law which was enacted in 1980, a federation source said adding that the transport services in these routes are also expected to be normal.

But the owners in Narayanganj and Narsingdi were reportedly delaying in issuing the letters to their workers, a source said.

The workers at Sayedabad terminal held a rally following the issuance of some letters on Saturday at the terminal premises that was addressed by the Executive President of the federation.

Transport owners at Gatiabli

terminal ceremonially issued some appointment letters in presence of the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka, the source mentioned.

A leader of the workers said that they were maintaining a constant contact with the Communications Minister, Communications Secretary, Chairman of the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) and the Owners' Association leaders to solve the matter.

Our Rajshahi Correspondent adds: The second day of the transport strike in 16 northern districts of the country was observed amid some stray incidents by the transport workers to bring vehicles on the roads.

According to information received, the transport workers managed to drive buses from Rajshahi to Naogaon, Natore and Chapainawabganj despite the strike call by the transport owners.

The strike was called by the Transport Owners Association demanding realisation of its ten-point demands including inquiry into the incident at Rangpur.

WB, Gaza issues top ME talks agenda

CAIRO, Nov 30: Halting Jewish settlements in the Israeli occupied territories will top the agenda for Palestinian Middle East peace talks set to open in Washington next week, a senior PLO advisor said here today.

Nabil Shaath, an assistant to Palestine Liberation Organisation head Yasser Arafat, told AFP the talks would "deal immediately with questions of substance," with a halt to the settlements in the Israeli-occupied territories (the West Bank and the Gaza Strip) the number one item on the agenda.

"How can we discuss an interim government (in the territories) when the Israelis continue to take unilateral measures that mortgage the future?" he asked.

All the Arab parties — Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Palestinians — have agreed to attend the bilateral talks with Israel that Washington wants to see get under way December 4.

Israel has sought a five-day delay in the opening but has hinted it could reconsider its position.

Israeli leaders have also in-

sisted that the Washington round should deal exclusively with procedural questions before switching to a venue in or near the Middle East for more substantive discussions.

But Shaath insisted that procedural matters remain secondary and said he wanted to see the talks continue in the same place "for at least two or three months, the time it takes to secure a major breakthrough."

"We can not keep moving around," he declared. "We're not nomadic Arabs."

Shaath was in Madrid for

the opening of the US and Soviet-sponsored Middle East peace conference form October 30 to November 3 as an advisor to the joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating team.

He said he hoped to leave for the United States soon to attend the next round and would seek a visa from the U. embassy here on Sunday, adding that as a resident of Egypt he expected his request would encounter no problems.

US officials have warned they will not alter current regulations that ban the entry of members of the PLO.



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NEWS BRIEFS

AL public meet Dec 6

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League has convened a public gathering at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city to mark the first anniversary of fall of the Ershad's regime on December 6.

JCD, Shibir clash: 15 hurt

CHITTAGONG, Nov 30: At least 15 students were injured in a clash between the supporters of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir at the local government college today. The clash erupted when processions of the two student groups came face to face in the college premises. It later spread to other parts of the town, reports UNB.

Rickshaw strike in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 30: Rickshawpullers have called a day-long strike in the port town tomorrow to press their 14-point demand which include among others enhancement of rickshaw fare, stoppage of harassment and reduction of deposit money.

Noses of 8 chopped off in Pakistan

MULTAN (Pakistan), Nov 30: Unidentified men sneaked into a home here and chopped off the noses of eight people after making them unconscious with chloroform. A police official said the attack late Friday night appeared to be an act of revenge, reports AFP.