

Three to die for killing 9 family members

CHAPAINAWADGANJ, Apr 13: Three people were awarded death sentence by the District and Sessions Judge Court here today (Tuesday) for killing nine members of their family in 1991, reports UNB.

The convicts are Mattur Rahman (37), Ataur Rahman (35) and Nazrul Islam (30) of Dadpur village in Gomostapur thana of the district. Ten others were acquitted of the murder charge.

According to the case, the convicts in connivance with other forcibly entered the house of their father Abdus Sattar Biswas (69) and chopped him and their step mother Salma Khatun (40) to death on the night of June 14, 1991.

They also killed their sister Johra Khatun (19) and her two and a half year old child, step sister Rozia (9), and step brothers Rezaul (7), Jabbar (5), Motakbar (3) and Saddam

(1) with sharp weapons while they were asleep.

Police suspected family feud was the cause of the brutal killings and arrested the three sons of Biswas and 10 other people in this connection.

According to their confessional statement, they recovered the bodies, packed in five gunny bags, from Bholahat border area.

A case was filed with the local thana and police submitted the chargesheet against 13 people after investigation.

District and Sessions Judge Abdul Kadir Khan found the three sons of Biswas guilty and awarded them death sentence after examining witnesses and records of the case.

PP Advocate Sirajul Islam appeared on behalf of the state while Advocate Golam Kabir, Advocate Taher Jamil and Advocate Sultanul Islam Mont defended the accused.

Another Sharif aide quits Judicial body to probe Gen Asif's death

ISLAMABAD, Apr 13: A judicial commission set up by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is to begin an immediate investigation into the death of former Pakistan Army Chief Asif Nawaz whose wife claims he was poisoned, it was announced today, reports AFP.

Sharif appointed a three-member panel of Pakistani Supreme Court judges Monday to probe the allegations and submit findings within a month.

The panel, headed by Justice Shaif-Ur-Rehman, is to decide the 'validity and correctness' of the statement Nuzhat Nawaz made on Sunday

25 rockets found in Bombay

NEW DELHI, Apr 13: Bombay found 25 rockets today in the latest weapons seizure since the March 12 bomb blasts which killed nearly 300 people in the Western Indian city, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports AFP.

The rockets were lifted from the seabed in Raigad District of Maharashtra state, which police say served as the landing point for the explosives smuggled in to carry out the bombings, the agency added.

Police suspect that the rockets were to be used to attack the residence of Hindu fundamentalist leader Bal Thackeray, the news agency said. Thirty-two crude bombs were also recovered today.

The Bombay bomb blasts have been blamed on Muslim members of the city's underworld.

In March and April police seized about 3.5 tonnes of high-powered explosives identical to those used in the blasts which ripped through prominent commercial landmarks including the Bombay House, Air India headquarters, hotels and markets.

Samannaya Body takes policemen to court

By Court Correspondent

Leaders of Jatiya Samannaya Committee Tuesday filed two cases with a Magistrate in the Dhaka Metropolitan Magistracy accusing some police men of assaulting them on March 26 and 28.

Habibur Rahman Khan and Aminul Haque Monto lodged two separate cases with Magistrate Repeka Sultana against police attacks on Samannaya Committee meetings at Suhrawardy Uddyan on March 26 and at Bangabandhu Avenue on March 28.

In the two cases, the accused police officers are Deputy Commissioners Mostafizur Rahman and Khandker Abdur Razzak an Assistant Commissioner, Abdul Malek Sikder Officer-in-Charge of Ramna Police Station, a Sub-Inspector Aminul Islam, three police constables Mohammad Joyal Abedin (3013), Mohammad Altaf Hossain (13965) and Ali Hossain (5705).

By obstructing the meetings and injuring the supporters of Samannaya Committee including its Convener Jahanara Imam without any written orders, the police on duty curbed the constitutional rights and committed punishable crimes on the days, said both the plaintiffs in their petitions of the cases.

The Magistrate accepted the cases and ordered for judicial enquires into the incidents.

Suhrawardy Uddyan

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opening ceremony of Bengal New Year 1400 at historic Suhrawardy Uddyan.

The Year 1400 Celebration Council representing country's noted intellectuals, writers, poets, lawyers, artists, journalists and cultural activists selected the historic site as the venue of the inaugural ceremony of its 3-day programme.

Hasina asked the government to withdraw the restriction

Sircar fails

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ter Jamiruddin Sircar while recommending that the case be withdrawn, had observed that it had been filed by the past autocratic government with an ill-political motive against the democratic movement. But the three-member sub-committee found it difficult to entertain the recommendation of the Education Minister.

The members of the Sub-Committee are Mahbubul Alam Tara, MP and Abu Yusuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman, MP of the BNP (Bangladesh Nationalist Party) and Rahmat Ali, MP of the Awami League (AL).

The sub-committee was formed last year to scrutinise cases lodged by the past government against political activists, with political motives.

The 10-member Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Home Ministry headed by the Home Minister unanimously 'ad' decided last year that all politically motivated cases against activists by the Ershad government would be withdrawn.

The Sub-Committee met yesterday morning at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban to scrutinise a total of 23 cases including the one implicating JCD leader Elias.

According to sources, the Public Prosecutor as well as the concerned district Commissioner felt that administrative decision could be taken on the case involving the JCD leader.

The AL representative Rahmat Ali, MP, took a strong position against withdrawal of the case, sources said.

Rahmat Ali told the meeting that only the court should decide the fate of cases relating to terrorism on the Dhaka University campus.

The BNP members of the Committee, in the face of the vehement opposition of the AL MP, refrained from taking a decision on the issue yesterday.

The BNP MPs, according to sources, preferred to shelve the issue for the time being.

PM's message

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Begum Zia said the country has witnessed sufficient progress in achieving economic stability due to various realistic and people-oriented programmes taken by the present government.

Pahela Baishakh is closely linked with our culture and tradition, the Prime Minister said, adding "pledge of the new year and existing democratic atmosphere in the country has enriched this tradition."

She stressed the need for making this tradition more glorious for preserving our cultural distinctiveness through practising and developing Bangladeshi culture.

The Prime Minister wished the countrymen happiness, peace, progress and prosperity on the eve of the new year.



The Bangladesh Janata Sangskritik Dal organised Bau (bard) songs at the Gulistan square in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Bangla Year 1400

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Some 612 stalls displaying varied items of traditional art and handicraft have been installed in the fair.

Besides, 12 food stalls have also been opened.

The fair remains open for public from 3 pm to 8 pm every day.

Speaking at a press conference at the fair premises, BSCIC Chairman M Maniruzzaman Chowdhury hoped that the fair would help revive and promote the national heritage.

Besides, the display, cultural functions by the Santal, Garo and Chakma tribes would also be presented during the Baishakh Mela, he said.

Bangla Academy has organised a week-long programme including Baishakh Folk Festival. The academy has also made arrangements to sell books at 15 per cent discount in all its book centres for 15 days from Wednesday.

The Shishu Academy has also organised a week-long programmes. Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam and State Minister Begum Sarwari Rahman are expected to be in the inaugural function.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and National Handicrafts Council jointly organised different programmes to celebrate the day. A fortnight exhibition and folk fair will be inaugurated in the academy premises by Irrigation and Water Resources Minister M Majidul Haq.

A discussion meeting at the academy auditorium will be chaired by Mohammad Nasiruddin and in the evening State Minister for Cultural Affairs Jahanara Begum will attend a cultural function as chief guest.

The academy's programmes will, however, continue for the whole year.

The year 1400 Celebration Committee will organise three-day programmes in front of the Bangabandhu Bhaban. The programme will be inaugurated at the historic Suhrawardy Uddyan where Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman made his March 7 speech calling for the Liberation War.

Opposition Leader in the Parliament Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the function chaired by Begum Sufia Kamal at 9 am. Syed Shamsur Rahman and Syed Shamsul Haq, two joint convenors of the committee will be present among others in the function.

Jatiyatibadi Sanskritik Jote will organise a day-long programme at the Ramna Park. Bangladesh Jatiyatibadi Mahila Dal will hold a grand women's rally tomorrow at 2-30 pm in Dhaka. It will be inaugurated by BNP Chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The city unit of Khelaghar has organised a week-long programme to welcome the year 1400. Chief Election Commissioner will inaugurate the programme at the Central Shaheed Minar premises at 8-30 am. Kalim Sharafi, Shantias Gupta, Asad Chowdhury, Mamunur Rashid, Jewel Aich and Dilara Zaman will be present at the inaugural function among others.

Theatre Group "Pratidandi" has arranged a week-long exhibition of drama posters at Pratidandi Bhaban at Shakhari Bazar.

ALWC slates attack on Nirmul body meetings

The two-day meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee ended Tuesday, adopting a number of resolutions on current socio-political issues, reports UNB.

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting held at the party central office.

In a resolution, the meeting welcomed Bengali New Year 1400.

Another resolution strongly condemned the police action on Ghatak Dal Nirmul Coordination Committee meetings on March 26 and 28.

"The ruling BNP is establishing party supremacy in educational institutions, mills and factories and bus terminals and also using the administration to serve its party interest," it observed.

Mausoleum visit: Mostafiz explains

Replying to a question from BSS as to why the SAARC leaders did not visit the National Mausoleum the Foreign Minister said that it was decided in the Sixth SAARC Summit that 'the SAARC Chairman may host banquet in honour of the visiting heads of state or government in order to enable the heads of state or government to have more time to deliberate on substantive issues.

The Foreign Minister made it clear that the government always arranged the programme of visiting the National Mausoleum during the bilateral state visit by any head of state or government.

Replying to another question about the visit of SAARC leaders to the Mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman the Foreign Minister said the outgoing SAARC Chairman Shri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa had unofficially proposed during the retreat to pay respect to Shaheed President Zia, the dreamer of SAARC by visiting his mazar. The other leaders of SAARC countries approved the proposal and requested host country Bangladesh to organise the programme and it was done accordingly.

The Midnight File

US resumes aid airlift to Sarajevo tomorrow

SARAJEVO, Apr 13: The United Nations' aid airlift to Sarajevo will resume Thursday after a five-day suspension imposed due to a threat from Serb anti-aircraft guns, a UN relief spokesman said today. John MacMillan of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said the operation would get back on track with 18 flights between Serb-besieged Sarajevo and the Croatian port of Split and the Italian port of Ancona on the Adriatic Coast, reports Reuter.

Khmer Rouge guerillas leave Phnom Penh

PHNOM PENH, Apr 13: The radical Khmer Rouge left their compound in Phnom Penh today saying they no longer feel safe enough to continue working in the Supreme National Council (SNC). The faction's nominal leader, in a letter addressed to Prince Norodom Sihanouk "said they were leaving Phnom Penh... (because) they didn't feel secure," UN spokesman Eric Berman said, reports A.P.

GDP may rise by 1 pc

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manufacturing industry could be attributed to a generally weak aggregate demand, free flow of smuggled goods, tariff and duty anomalies, the forecast said. It also identified labour unrest and power crisis as two major problems in the industrial sector.

The MCCI said that the country's external current account deficit was likely to be reduced to three per cent of the GDP this year. It pointed out that export earning fell short of its target by 10.32 per cent and export competitiveness of most products continued to suffer.

Average unit prices of export products also declined by three per cent for primary products and 11 per cent for manufactured goods in the first half of the fiscal 1992-93.

"And nothing has been done to compensate the exporters" the survey commented.

The import activities had also remained sluggish and import of capital goods had not picked up because of slow-down investment, the MCCI said.

It also felt that mere lending cuts were not likely to lead to economic buoyancy unless the problems relating to weak demand for investments in real sectors were attended to and the government moved quickly with sector-wise measures to stimulate the industrial sector.

Commenting on the Annual Development Programme (ADP), the outlook said that the poor ADP implementation as well as its low efficiency of public sector investments in general, at a time when domestic resources availability for funding government's investment programme was better than before, reflected one major economic management problem.

Golam Azam

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executive. The court will simply look into whether government has exceeded the limits of law the legislature conferred on it, the Attorney General submitted.

The Attorney General further submitted that petitioner Golam Azam had delayed in going to court. Laches on the part of the government cannot be a ground for such inordinate delay in going to the court, he added.

In reply to the Attorney General, Golam Azam's counsel said that vested right in the eye of law cannot be taken away with retrospective effect.

He said in 1977 Golam Azam was in London and because of that distance he could not file the writ petition.

The hearing was adjourned till April 15.

The judgement may be pronounced on April 20.

WE ARE SHOCKED

WE ARE DEEPLY SHOCKED AT THE SAD DEMISE OF H. DHANMONDI, CHIEF LEGAL ADVISER OF JANATA INSURANCE CO. LTD. WHO WAS ASSASSINATED IN FRONT OF HIS DHANMONDI RESIDENCE AT ABOUT 8. A. M. OF 8TH APRIL, 1993 (INNALILLAHE.....RAJEUN). THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ALL THE OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF JANATA INSURANCE CO. DEEPLY MOURN HIS SAD DEMISE. WE PRAY TO THE ALMIGHTY ALLAH FOR ETERNAL PEACE OF HIS DEPARTED SOUL AND EXPRESS OUR HEARTIEST SYMPATHY WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE BEREAVED FAMILY.

JANATA INSURANCE CO. LTD.

Editor : S. M. Ali
Executive Editor : Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices : House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dhanmondi R/A., Dhaka-1205. PABX : 500092-4. Advertisement : 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM : DAILY STAR DHAKA.

Happy New Year 1400

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