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Judgement in Humayun Zahir Murder Case today

By Court Correspondent
Judgement in the sensational Humayun Zahir Murder Case will be given today, court sources said.

The 8th Additional District and Sessions Judge Mir Mohammad Awlad Hossain will deliver the judgement.

Both prosecution and defence sides completed hearing of arguments in the case.

The court recorded statements of 45 out of 65 prosecution witnesses.

Earlier, the case was transferred to two courts for disposal. But one of the courts felt embarrassed to give the judgement.

Humayun Zahir, a leading businessman, was murdered by a group of assailants on the premises of his Dhamondi residence on April 8, 1993.

Zahirul Haq Khan, father-in-law of Humayun Zahir, filed a

See page 11 col 1

Depression turns into cyclone

By Special Correspondent

A deep depression over the south east Bay of Bengal turned into a cyclone on Sunday, making a west northwestward course, apparently towards the Tamil Nadu - Andhra coast of southern India, meteorological department said yesterday.

Unless it changes its course it may skip Bangladesh, a meteorologist said on the Cyclone dubbed 3B that rapidly transformed itself from a low to a deep depression on Sunday.

Brewed off the Andaman sea, the cyclone with huge cloud mass and packing winds of 65 kmph rising up to 85 km in gust.

The Met Office Storm Warning Centre asked all fishing boats and trawlers in the north Bay and deep sea to move close to the shore.

The ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been asked to raise distant cautionary signal Number Two.

The storm centred at 6 pm yesterday 1420 km, 1330 km and 1360 km of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Khulna city respectively.

Inside Today

Article

Remaking Asia

Column: Heart of The Matter
By Mansoor Mamoon
Page 4

Focus

The spiritual contest of fasting
Page 5

Business

Haron promotes reforms to cut role of money in FBCCI polls
India to press ahead with tough economic reforms
DSE, CSE price quotations
Pages 6, 7 & 8

Prayer Timings

November 28

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-49	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-16	5-23
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Sheri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Nov	Sheri	Iftar
1	28	4-59	5-14
2	29	4-59	5-14
3	30	4-59	5-14

PM orders Mayor to restore parks at Karwan Bazar

Businessmen suffer as illegal occupants create havoc

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina ordered the Dhaka City Corporation yesterday to immediately cancel all the 51 allotments of shops in the car park area of Karwan Bazar and restore it to its original status, sources said.

In a letter, the prime minister also asked the DCC to demolish all structures on the children's park and keep the Prime Minister's Office informed about the implementation of the order.

The prime ministerial move follows a report carried out by The Daily Star under the caption, "Mayor violates PM's order" on November 23.

Mayor Mohammad Hanif allocated land to 51 individuals to build 51 shops on part of a

public car park, public footpath and the main road for a monthly rent of Tk 600 each. The Mayor had told The Daily Star that the land was allocated on a temporary basis.

By approving the shops Mayor violated a directive issued earlier by the prime minister banning construction on open or public places or low-lying areas of the city.

Several plot owners in the commercial area of Karwan Bazar have welcomed the prime minister's step to look into the problems in this area. They said they were thankful to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for taking action against such practices.

They said they had failed to draw attention of the authorities to the problems of Karwan

Bazar despite repeated written appeals. The plot owners have appealed to the prime minister to look into the gravity of the problems in Karwan Bazar and order the authorities to resolve them.

"We are really thankful to the prime minister for her interest in resolving this problem," said Mahbubul Haq, a businessman in the area.

The largest wholesale vegetables and fish markets in the city along with thousands of illegal shops have mushroomed in Karwan Bazar area under the very nose of the DCC. Its roads, footpaths, children's parks and car parking area have been illegally occupied by

See page 11 col 2



Bangladesh Nari Pragoti Sangha, a women's organisation, took out a procession in the city yesterday demanding compensation for the victims of Narsingdi garments factory fire. --Star photo

Compensation for fire victims demanded

From Our Correspondent

NARSINGDI, Nov. 27: Relatives of the 48 victims along with other employees of the garment factory in Shibpur today brought out procession demanding compensation for the relatives of the victims.

Forty-eight employees of Chowdhury Knitwear Ltd. were killed during a four-hour fire at its four-storey building near Kararchar along the Dhaka-Sylhet Highway Saturday night.

Some relatives of the victims and employees of the knitwear factory also alleged that eight more employees of the factory have been missing since the incident. They demanded that the daily attendance book be handed over to the district administration.

Hundreds of relatives of the victims are still staying around the factory building since the incident on Saturday night.

National Garments Workers Association (NGWA) yesterday staged a demonstration at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday condemning the incidence of fire. It demanded compensation of Tk 2 lakh each for the families of the victims and Tk 50,000 each for the injured.

Meanwhile, the five-member inquiry committee that was formed on Sunday to probe the incident is likely to submit its report before the DC tomorrow.

No contempt proceedings now against Justice Latifur, showcase on Naimuddin

By Special Correspondent

The High Court yesterday ruled that contempt proceedings cannot be drawn now against Justice Mohammad Latifur Rahman, a judge of the court who resigned on Thursday.

A Division Bench of the HC observed that they cannot draw contempt proceeding against a sitting judge since the court is yet to be notified whether his resignation has been accepted by the President.

Justice Latifur Rahman resigned amid a controversy centring an alleged conversation between him and former president HM Ershad following his conviction in a corruption case. A cassette containing the alleged conversation was given to the HC by the tabloid daily Manabjamin.

The HC Bench comprising Justice Syed Amirul Islam and Justice KM Shafuluddin gave separate orders on the cassette issue.

It asked Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, a member of

the Law Commission and a retired judge of the HC, to show cause why contempt proceedings should not be drawn against him for making 'derogatory' remarks against the judiciary, based on the alleged conversation. He has to appear before the Bench on December 3 to reply to the show cause notice.

Earlier, the Bench had also asked Ershad to show cause by December 3 why contempt proceedings should not be drawn against him.

Justice Latifur Rahman tendered his resignation on yet to be disclosed ground. It followed sending of the cassette containing the alleged conversation to the Chief Justice for necessary action for 'conduct unbecoming' of a judge of the HC.

The court referred the matter to the Chief Justice on November 22 after hearing the taped conversation that had allegedly taken place on August 24.

See page 11 col 7

Pak HC summoned for 'uncalled for' remarks by deputy

By Diplomatic Correspondent

Parting with all diplomatic niceties, the second man at the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka yesterday belittled the sacrifice of Liberation War martyrs and questioned why his country was required to apologise for the brutal atrocities in 1971.

Irfan Raja, Deputy High Commissioner of Pakistan, addressing a seminar in the city yesterday absolved his country of all responsibilities and said the atrocities in 1971 "were in fact initiated by the miscreants of Awami League".

The seminar on "Bangladesh Foreign Policy: Traditional and Non-traditional issues" was held at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS).

He said the "atrocities in this part of Pakistan in 1971 are now being blamed on the Pakistan Army, but it was actually started by the miscreants of Awami League".

He spoke after two papers were presented. One of the papers referred to the stranded Pakistanis and the issue of Pakistan's apology.

He posed a question: You are asking for apology. Apology for what? Apology for losing half of my country?

He referred to the Hamoodur Rahman Commission Report and said part of it was published in an Indian magazine. Quoting the report, he said only 26,000 people were killed in 1971.

His argument is a rebuttal of the figure of three million Liberation War martyrs.

It was learnt last night that the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry in an instant reaction summoned the High Commissioner, Iqbal Ahmed Khan, to the Foreign Ministry this morning for the "irresponsible and uncalled for comments" by his deputy.

Sources indicated that the government may demand that Islamabad recall Irfan Raja or risk his expulsion. Dhaka.

Irfan Raja also said it was not correct that Pakistan was pushing out any Bangladeshis. "Two million Bangladeshis are now in Pakistan and we do not threaten them."

Regarding Bangladesh-Pakistan relations he commented, "The

See page 11 col 3

3 dacoities in city

By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits looted cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth over Tk 12 lakh in three separate incidents in the city on Sunday night.

A gang of about five or six dacoits entered house 137/1 Joar Shahara, Badda after cutting the grill at about 1:30am yesterday.

After grabbing the almirah keys, they confined the inmates of the house into a room and looted Tk two lakh cash, US dollars four thousand and 30 tolas of gold ornaments, amounting to Tk 6.05 lakh worth of cash and valuables.

In another incident, dacoits looted cash and valuables worth Tk 3.72 lakh including Tk 20 thousand cash and 32 tolas of gold ornaments from the house of Gazi Amin at 821, West Kazipara.

A gang of six dacoits entered the house by cutting the grill at about 12 Sunday night. They confined the residents of the house and took away the valuables.

Dacoits numbering seven to eight forced their way into a house in Shah Alibagh in Mirpur on Sunday night by cutting the grill and looted Tk one lakh cash and other valuables worth about Tk 1.71 lakh.

Separate cases have been filed in the thanas concerned.

Tussle over authority of CEC, ECs intensifies

By Nazrul Islam

The power struggle between Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) M A Syed and rest of the members of the four-men Election Commission has further intensified as the CEC in a letter has nullified the decisions taken by the commission during his stay in the USA.

The CEC on November 26 in a letter containing Constitutional explanation of the commission and decision-making power of the Chief Election Commissioner said, "The decisions taken in those meetings (the meetings held in absence of the CEC) have no legal validity and are ineffective and cannot be confirmed."

Official sources said on his return from the USA, the full commission sat yesterday at the CEC's office and discussed various issues, including the content

of his letter during a lengthy meeting. But the meeting was inconclusive, especially on the

issues regarding the authorities of the CEC.

The three commissioners are likely to send a reply to the CEC soon, explaining their constitutional responsibilities and positions in the Commission, said a senior official at the EC Secretariat.

All the three commissioners, when contacted, declined comments on the issue.

During the CEC's three-week visit to the United States between October 16 and November 12, the three members in three separate meetings with the acting Chief Election Commissioner Abdur Rahman on October 18, 25 and 26 officially tried to resolve difference over certain decisions taken unilaterally by MA Syed.

They resolved that the CEC

See page 11 col 3



M A Syed

BCL leader stabbed to death at Bogra

By Staff Correspondent

BOGRA, Nov. 27: A local leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was stabbed to death allegedly by his party rivals in the town on Sunday night, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Abdul Alim alias Ujjal, 22, president of Bogra Govt. Commerce College unit of Chhatra League.

Police said the assailants indiscriminately stabbed Ujjal, also the former VP of the college students union, at Salmatha crossing at about 8 pm.

He was rushed to a local clinic and then shifted to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital after his condition deteriorated. He died at 11 pm.

A case was filed with Sadar thana accusing BCL leaders Liton, Sumon and Bazlu.

Police arrested two people Shahidul and Liton in connection with the killing.

Dhaka should open its sea ports for South Asia

Gas based items should be exported, seminar told

By Diplomatic Correspondent

Bangladesh should harness the potential of the newly formed South Asian Growth Quadrangle (SAGQ) to make more comprehensive economic gains and enhance its foreign policy dimensions.

It should also open Chittagong and Mongla ports for the entire sub-region and export to neighboring areas the items produced by gas, participants at a seminar on "Bangladesh Foreign Policy: Traditional and Non Traditional Issues" said here yesterday. It was organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International & Strategic Studies. It was held at the BISS auditorium in the city.

The SAGQ comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and the Northeastern states of India was launched in 19997.

Development of the two ports and their opening up could make Bangladesh a hub of the South Asian region and pave the way for using the rest of the region as its economic hinterland, they said.

Two papers were presented at the seminar. One paper on "Bangladesh Foreign Policy: Challenges

and Opportunities" was presented by AT Salahuddin Ahmed, Research Fellow of BISS, Md Shamsul Islam, another Research Fellow, presented the other paper on "Bangladesh Foreign Policy: Issues in Information Age".

Dr Toufiq Ali, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, moderated the seminar, inaugurated by Dr A Rab, Director of the Institute. Major General Mostafa Kamaluddin delivered the address of welcome.

Salahuddin Ahmed said land-locked Bhutan and Nepal and the seven Northeastern states of India (Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya) have great potential for growth through the SAGQ.

Ahmed argued that Bangladesh could exploit the opportunities in a number of sectors including agro-based industry, tourism, and forestry.

"Bangladesh, which has a large population, can be a major market for low-valued bulky products of

See page 11 col 1

Frustration grips JP

3 parties reject united stand for Ershad's release

By Rezaul Karim

Frustration and confusion have gripped the rank and file of Jatiya Party as its move for a united stand of BNP and other parties of the opposition alliance on the issue of HM Ershad's release has failed.

Sources said JP formally requested BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikkyo Jote to take a united stand and announce agitation programmes to create pressure on the government for release of Ershad, convicted by High Court and jailed in a corruption case.

But the leadership "outright rejected the request", saying it was a sensitive issue and it would not be wise to say anything against a court verdict. They also told JP that it was its 'internal matter' and other component parties of the 4-party alliance had "nothing to do".

Leaders of the three other parties declined to play any 'effective role' in this regard.

They however expressed the determination to maintain the unity of the alliance at any cost and to resist any move for a split.

Talking to this correspondent, a senior leader of BNP said, "We have nothing to do except expressing sympathy with Ershad because the charge against the Jatiya Party Chairman is of corruption."

"We could take a united stand had the case been a political one," he added.

JP prior to his surrender to court that it would not be possible for the opposition to stand against the court verdict.

A meeting of the Central Liaison Committee yesterday also decided to maintain unity of the alliance, continue the united movement, contest the next election jointly and form a coalition government if it wins.

Meanwhile, the latest developments have put on hold JP's preparation for the next national election. The party is now struggling with leadership conflict, internal crisis and for release of Ershad.

The JP has been bargaining with BNP for contesting in at least 100 parliamentary constituencies in the next general election. But the party is now 'totally demoralised' as its chairman Ershad and secretary general Nazim Rahman Manjur are disqualified for contesting the polls as both are convicted in corruption cases.

Their disqualification would weaken the bargaining strength and reduce its status to that of Jamaat, the sources observed.

Leaders and activists of JP and its front organisations are worried about the fate of the party as they are convinced that Ershad and Nazim "would not be allowed" to contest the polls.

Even if Ershad is released after payment of Tk 5.5 crore fine in the Janata Tower case, he may be sent

See page 11 col 11

Prices spiral as Ramadan begins

By Staff Correspondent

Continued high prices of essentials in the last one month indicate that consumers would face a costlier market during the month of Ramadan beginning today.

Prices of some essentials sharply increased in the last two days while high prices of a number of items remained almost unchanged.

Customers in the city markets yesterday alleged that traders increased the prices without any valid reason on the eve of the Ramadan. There was heavy rush of buyers in the markets.

During a visit to the markets yesterday, it was found that prices of rice, most of the fruits, mami (puffed rice), brinjals, tomatoes, newly harvested pot, green chilli and meat showed a sharp upward trend and high prices of onion, fish, gram and some vegetables remained unchanged.

See page 11 col



Succulent fruits like watermelon, pineapple and jackfruit that are popular iftar items are already on the city markets. Fruit vendors in the city's Baitul Mukarram are asking 250 taka each for these watermelons and 300 taka each for jackfruits. --Star photo