



## Home-coming Day of Bangabandhu today

By Staff Correspondent

The Home-Coming Day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be observed in the country today.

This day in 1972, the Father of the Nation returned home from captivity in Pakistan.

Bangabandhu, architect of the country's independence, was arrested from his Dhamondi residence in the city on the night of March 25 in 1971, taken to the then West Pakistan and kept in prison during the nine-month Independence War.

The people of Bangladesh achieved victory in the War on December 16, 1971. Then the Pakistani authorities had to free Bangabandhu and he returned to

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## Two CID 'informers' shot dead in Demra

By Staff Correspondent

Two CID informers were shot dead by unidentified assailants at Gobindapur in the city's Demra area yesterday, police said.

The deceased were identified as Mohammad Jahangir, 30, son of Asif Ali, of Badda area and Kabir Hossain, 38, son of Mafizuddin of Banga press area in Demra.

Sources said Kabir was a stuntman belonging to Arman group.

Jahangir and Kabir were sitting at a tea shop at Gobindapur on Dhaka-Chittagong highway. A gang of five arrived there in a minibus at 2:45 pm and sprayed bullets on them [Jahangir and Kabir].

Jahangir died on the spot while Kabir succumbed to bullet injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital at around 6 pm.

Khokan Gazi, son of the tea shopowner, was also shot in his right leg and admitted to DMCH.

Police could not unearth the motive behind the killing immediately.

No case was filed with Demra Police Station in this connection till filing of this report at 7 last night.

## Inside Today

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### Business

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Jan 10		5.29 pm
Jan 11	6-44am	

### Prayer Timings

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-10
Zuhr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-35	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Biman 'under pressure' to procure 4 used Airbuses

By Shehab Ahmed

A strong lobby backed by influential people is trying to force Bangladesh Biman to procure four used Airbus A340-300 aircraft either on lease/purchase or through purchase by swapping its four DC-10-30 aircraft.

Efforts are being made to procure the used aircraft from an American "broker" - Max Power Aerospace - which "does not qualify" for the deal as per provisions of tender documents sources said.

The sources said that the four used Airbus A340-300 aircraft offered by Max is now in the possession of Boeing company, which procured those from Singapore Airlines last year by selling four 777-200 ER to it.

The initiative taken by certain officials surprised many in the airlines, who said this would dampen reputed airlines' interest in Biman's proposal for offering 40 per cent stakes to a strategic partner (SP) under a World bank aided structuring programme, the sources said.

A Request For Proposal (RFP) for SP was floated on November 17. The last date for sending RFP was December 2, which was extended till January 7.

Since floating of RFP for SP, Biman received only two written proposals from Gulf Air and Qatar Airways. A number of other airlines showed interests but later shied away, allegedly because Biman, at the same time, was trying to procure the Airbus A340-300 aircraft from Max, a

"broker" which deals in obsolete aircraft and scraps, the sources said. Max is in the list of 10 companies which submitted in November RFPs for supply of either Airbus 340-300 or Boeing 777-200 ER aircraft to Biman. The RFP for supply of aircraft was floated in the middle of last year.

The bidders included Airbus Industrie, a European consortium that manufactures four-engine A340-300 and Boeing which manufactures two-engine 777-200 ER aircraft.

The Fleet Planning and Evaluation Committee of Biman which met yesterday for financial evaluation of the offers from the bidders could not take any decision.

The meeting was postponed without fixing a date for the next meeting. The matter along with the RFPs for SP will be referred to the Biman Board of Directors, a Biman source said.

But pressure was on by high ups to take a decision on financial evaluation of the bidders for procurement of aircraft, the sources said.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Mosharraf Hossain on January 3 said that Biman would not procure any aircraft before finalising deal with a potential SP. "The SP would take a decision on the type of aircraft. We are only doing the spade work", he told a Bengali daily on Jan

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## Humayun Zahir murder case Babu acquitted, 2 get death sentence

By Court Correspondent

Two persons have been sentenced to death, one given life term and four others including the main accused Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu acquitted in the sensational Humayun Zahir Murder Case.

The judgement was given by the 8th Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, yesterday.

The court gave death sentence to Fazlur Rahman Tammoi and Hedayetul Islam Bulu and life term to Abdul Matin.

Tammoi is in Dhaka Central Jail and Matin is absconding.

The three others acquitted are Mosiur Rahman Towhid, Mohammad Kaiser and Mohammad Alam (approver). Towhid is absconding.

The convicts can appeal in the High Court within 7 days from pronouncement of the judgement.

The Judge, Mir Mohammad Awlad Hossain, pronounced the verdict at a packed court room after about 8 years of filing of the case.

A large crowd thronged the court, its premises and roads nearby to hear the judgement.

In the 223 page judgement, the judge said that two of the accused Tammoi and Hedayetul Islam -- were given death penalty and another --Abdul

Matin -- was given life term as the allegations against them were proved.

Matin was on bail, which expired yesterday. The four were acquitted as the allegations against them were not proved, the judgement said.

Matin's lawyer Mosarraf Hossain Kajol submitted a petition for delivery of the judgement as his client was suffering from dysentery but the court rejected the prayer.

Babu, Tammoi, Alam and Kaiser were in the dock. Hearing the judgement, Tammoi broke down in tears but the three others remained calm.

The judgement further said that punishment of the absconders would begin when they would surrender or be arrested.

The case was earlier transferred to seven courts for disposal. But one of the courts felt "embarrassed". Later the High Court directed the 8th Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court to dispose of the case.

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

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## New Year session of Parliament

### Obituary ref to precede president's speech

By Nazrul Islam

In a breakaway from tradition, a condolence motion on the death of an incumbent MP will precede the presidential speech on the inaugural day of the New Year session of the Jatiya Sangsad.

Conventionally, the year-opening session of the parliament starts with the President's speech. This year, however, the House has decided to move a condolence motion on the death of ruling party lawmaker Kamal Bakht Saki. The Sathkhira-1 MP died on December 15. The presidential address will follow after a small recess.

The details were finalised at Business Advisory Committee meeting yesterday, with Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury in the chair.

The session, scheduled to start tomorrow (Thursday), will run through January 31, unless

businesses of the House require an extension.

The committee allocated 20 hours for general discussion on the thanks-giving motion on President Shahabuddin Ahmed's speech. In the millennium session last year, the House expended 23 hours and 48 minutes for the general discussion on the presidential speech.

The Cabinet has already approved the draft of the address, which will highlight the successes of the Sheikh Hasina government.

According to parliament sources, the House will deal with three new bills -- the Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privilege) (Amendment) Bill 2001, The Law Commission (Amendment) Bill 2001, and the Standards of Weights and Measures (Amendment) Bill 2001 --

in the 15 working days of the upcoming session.

Besides, the House will also address three out of 17 pending bills, including the much-talked about Constitution Fourteenth (Amendment) Bill for retention of 30 women's reserved parliamentary seats. These bills have already been finalised by the parliamentary standing committee concerned. The rest are being vetted, the meeting advisory committee was informed.

Another important bill seeking invalidation of the Vested Property Act to hand over the "enemy property" to its genuine owners may also feature in the upcoming session. The cabinet approved a draft bill in this regard earlier this week.

The speaker in yesterday's meeting informed the members

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Akhteruzzaman Babu comes out of the court upon being acquitted in the sensational Humayun Zaheer murder case. The Eighth Additional District and Session's Judge's Court sentenced two to death and one to life imprisonment yesterday. The remaining four of the seven accused in the case were acquitted.

--Star photo

## Showcause on Kabir Chy for alleged forgery

Star Report

The Fourth Assistant Judge's Court, Dhaka, has issued a showcause notice on chief advisor and sponsor director of the proposed Self-Employment Finance Ltd National Professor Kabir Chowdhury and two others and Bangladesh Bank upon a petition filed by one Ayesha Begum alleging that Prof Chowdhury forged her signature and removed her as its sponsor director.

The court asked the defendants to reply within seven days of receipt of the notice issued on Thursday.

The two other defendants are Prof Din Mohammad Bhuiyan, Chairman of the proposed company and AKM Saifur Rahman.

The petitioner, Ayesha Begum of 2/B Mymensingh Road in the city, also alleged that Prof Chowdhury unilaterally sold out major shares of the proposed company to Rawshan Akther.

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## PSA challenged

Morshed Khan files petition

By Special Correspondent

A petition challenging the Public Safety Act (PSA) was filed with a High Court Division Bench yesterday by BNP lawmaker M Morshed Khan and his son Faisal Morshed Khan, who were implicated under it on charge of ransacking and looting Tk 45,000 from a sweets shop in Chittagong last month.

The bench comprising Justice Abu Saeed Ahmed and Justice Khaledul Islam Choudhury will have a hearing on admissibility of the petition today.

This is the first time that a petition has been filed against the PSA since its enactment on February 15, 2000.

Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed, Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, Barrister Rafiqul Huq, Advocate MA Malek and Advocate Khandaker Mabbubuddin Ahmed will move the petition, according to sources.

The petitioners said the provisions of the PSA, 2000 and the section 10 in particular are not only inherently prone to arbitrary and discriminatory application but unconstitutional and void as well.

The PSA violates fundamental rights guaranteed by articles 27, 31, 32 and 35 of the constitution, argue the petitioners.

They also pointed out that the case filed against the Member of Parliament and his son was initially treated as being under the section of the PSA.

The case was lodged by Mohammad Azadur Rahman, owner of Misfallah sweets shop, on December 26 with the Khulshi police station in Chittagong.

Advocate Aasaduzzaman, junior to Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed, filed the affidavit signed by Morshed Khan and Faisal Khan.

Earlier on Tuesday, vacation judge of the High Court Justice Fazlul Karim ordered the police not to harass or arrest Morshed Khan and his son until one week after the court reopened on Sunday.

The sides did not discuss any specific proposal on opening of a direct Dhaka-Kathmandu bus service but decided that they could cooperate for growth of tourism.

The two sides will issue a joint statement today detailing the outcome of the Nepalese foreign minister's visit, the foreign secretary said.

Opposition calls 48-hr hartal in Ctg from today  
From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 9: Chittagong chapter of All-party Action Committee (APAC) organised rallies and processions in different parts of the city today in support of its 48-hour hartal beginning from 6 am tomorrow.

APAC has called the hartal in the port city demanding withdrawal of case filed against BNP central leader M Morshed Khan, MP and release of the opposition activists arrested during a dawn-to-dusk hartal here on January 7.

Security has been beefed up in the port city ahead of the hartal with deployment of additional police force, administration sources said.

Paramilitary BDR will also be deployed at important points in the city during hartal hours, sources added.

Besides, police and BDR personnel will patrol the vulnerable points in the city to foil any attempt of violence, CMP sources said.

### Official talks

Dhaka, Kathmandu agree to bolster economic ties

By Diplomatic Correspondent

Bangladesh and Nepal yesterday agreed to bolster bilateral economic ties by increasing trade, commerce and tourism.

At official talks here, the two countries decided to take steps for smooth transit of Nepalese goods through Bangladesh and to set up a committee to look into the existing problems in this regard.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and his Nepalese counterpart Chakra Prasad Bastola led the two sides at the talks.