

# The Daily Star

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## Trial of Jail Killing Case resumes today

By Court Correspondent

The trial of the Jail Killing Case will resume today in the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, court sources said.

The Special Court adjacent to the Dhaka Central Jail will begin the trial at about 9.30 am.

Earlier, the court summoned the then DIG (Prison) Abdul Awal, the complainant of the case to appear before the court.

The court framed charges against 21 accused, including 13 absconders in the case.

Four national leaders Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, A H M Quamruzzaman and Captain Mansur Ali were killed inside the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3 in 1975.

Eight of the 21 accused including Taheruddin Thakur are now in the custody.

## Case against Khan Govt asked to file regular leave petition

By Special Correspondent

The Supreme Court yesterday issued a 'stand over order' for 10 days against a state prayer for stay of a High Court order upon the government not to harass, arrest or disturb BNP lawmaker M Morshed Khan, sued under Public Safety Act (PSA), till hearing of a rule on the constitutional validity of PSA.

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## Case against Pustaka, NCTB chief

# BAC asked to probe textbook scam

By Staff Correspondent

A complaint case has been filed with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrates (CMM) Court, Dhaka, against the Managing Director of Pustaka and the Chairman of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) for 'cheating' people as regards supply of textbooks for secondary level.

Advocate Ashok Kumar Gosh filed the case yesterday against Iqbal Ahmed, Executive Director of Pustaka and Dr. Tapan Kanti Chowdhury, Chairman of NCTB under Section 420/409 of the Penal Code.

The CMM's court directed the Bureau of Anti Corruption (BAC) to submit a report after investigation.

The complainant in the case alleged that NCTB printed 1997 editions of English for Today for class VI and English for Today for class IX and X for the 2001 academic session, not the updated editions.

The NCTB earlier advertised that updated editions of the books would be available this year, the

complainant said.

The NCTB "cheated" the people by not supplying the updated editions of the books. This has also caused loss to students, he alleged.

He said most of the poor students could continue their studies with old-edition books had there been no announcement regarding updated editions.

There are also complaints from students and guardians that textbooks for the secondary level, printed and distributed by Pustaka, a concern of Beximco, are "full of errors" and are printed with low quality paper.

This was violation of conditions of the NCTB tender for the printing job, sources concerned said. The NCTB had specified the quality of paper, they claimed.

One student complained that the Mathematics

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## AL behind bomb blast at Paltan rally : Khaleda

Leader of the opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia yesterday accused the ruling Awami League of masterminding the bombing of Saturday's CPB rally, reports UNB.

"I know they (Awami League) have committed the incident and are guilty. Because after such a big incident none of them went to see the victims because of feeling guilty," she said at a function of her party's student front.

She said the Awami League would have to account to the people for the brutal killing of seven people at the CPB rally in the city.

Khaleda was addressing as chief guest a discussion and representative meeting yesterday afternoon at the Institution of Engineers marking the 22nd founding anniversary of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

The BNP chairperson said the ruling Awami League does not

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## Rohingya separatist leaders remanded Documents, photograph with Gaddafi seized

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 23: Police today sealed two houses at Chandgao residential area in the city, suspected to have been used by the Arakan Rohingya National Organisation (ARNO) as its headquarters.

The move follows arrest of the chief of military staff of the separatist militant group and his aide in a raid Sunday night.

During the raid, police recovered foreign currencies and important documents. There were also a few pictures, including one of Salimullah, the chief of military staff of ARNO, with Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi.

Salim and Nur Mohammad, allegedly the caretaker of ARNO headquarters, were taken to

Cox's Bazar and produced before the court this morning. The court put the two on a ten-day police remand for interrogation.

A team of Cox's Bazar police, led by ASP of Ukhia circle N Palit, made the arrests during a special drive. Police have also begun hunt for other Rohingya militant leaders, who had supposedly operated from the Chandgao base for several years.

According to police, ARNO is an alliance of extremist fundamentalist groups of Myanmar, including of Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO), National United Party of Arakan (NUPA), fighting for the independence of Arakan from Myanmar.

Police said Sunday night's raid followed an operation

launched on August 29 last year by a joint team of police, BDR and magistrate to trace a hideout atop the 700-foot Jumusia hill of Inani at Ukhia.

In that operation two Rohingya militants, including the camp commander Abu Yasin, were arrested along with uniforms and some important documents while others managed to escape.

Police lodged a case against the two with the Ukhia police station on charges of sedition. After interrogating the camp commander, police sought permission from higher authorities for further operations.

"I began operations after

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## Left parties bring out mourning procession

By Staff Correspondent

The left-leaning 11-party alliance brought out a mourning procession in the city yesterday.

The mourning procession was a part of the alliance's week-long programme to protest the bomb attack on the CPB rally at Paltan Maidan on Saturday that killed four people and injured over 50.

Started from the central Shaheed Minar at about 4:30 pm, the procession ended at Paltan Maidan after parading some city thoroughfares.

Leaders and activists of the left parties encircled the spot where the bomb was exploded and observed a one-minute silence in memory of the dead.

Earlier, several thousand

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## Bomb blast at Paltan rally

# CPB demands 'open hearing' for transparency in probe

By Reaz Ahmad



Mujahidul Islam Selim

General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Mujahidul Islam Selim, has demanded an 'open hearing' on Saturday's bomb explosion at a party rally in the city in which four persons were killed and 50 injured.

"Investigators should arrange an open hearing on the incident for the sake of transparency in the probe," Selim said casting doubt about the investigation. The hearing should be televised.

He was talking to The Daily Star at CPB office in the city yesterday.

He also expressed strong resentment at police interrogation of an injured party worker, Sunil, who "almost lost his hear-

ing," due to the bomb explosion at the rally.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has taken Sunil to Rajarbagh Police Hospital from Dhaka Medical College Hospital despite protest by party workers, he added.

He referred to earlier probes into the murders of JSD leader Kazi Aref Ahmed in Kushtia and journalist Shamsur Rahman in Jessore and killings at an Udichi function.

"In this case also, certain symptoms in the probe make us believe that attempts are on to cook up stories," he said.

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## SAPTA talks postponed again Pakistan has 'no time' to participate in negotiations

By Rafiq Hasan

The fourth round of negotiations under the South Asia Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA), scheduled for a January 29 start in the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu, was postponed once again, after Pakistan expressed its inability to take part in the talks.

According to sources in the Ministry of Commerce, Pakistan, one of the key members of the seven-member SAARC, decided against attending the negotiations because it has no time.

This is not the first time that the fourth round of SAPTA talks was called off. Originally sched-

uled for July 1998, it has been suspended several times, owing to lingering uncertainty over the SAARC summit. The third round was held back in 1998.

The commerce ministry has had a list of export commodities prepared to table at the talks, seeking duty-free access for these to the markets of the SAARC member countries.

The list was chalked out after a long discussion with top chamber bodies in the country. It contains at least 205 items. However, a senior commerce ministry official said that the number could increase.

A three-member delegation, with representatives from the commerce ministry, National

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## Bomb blast near AL office: One of 4 injured dies

By Staff Correspondent

One of the four people who were critically injured in Saturday's bomb blast near the Awami League office at Bangabandhu Avenue, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday afternoon.

Hospital sources identified the dead as Milon, 25, son of Abdul Latif of village south Mohakhali in Munsiganj sadar upazila.

With this the death toll from the incident rose to three.

Two persons, identified as Abdus Sabur, 30, and Abdul

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## CID makes little progress, CPB finds 'vital clues' Star Report

The CID made little progress yesterday in tracing the culprits behind Saturday's powerful explosion at a CPB rally at Paltan Maidan, which left four killed and 50 injured.

The investigation committee, formed by the home ministry, recorded the statement of CPB President Monzurul Ahsan Khan yesterday morning. According to sources, Monzurul's statement provided a few new clues that the investigators are now scrutinising.

Meanwhile, the CPB has started its own investigation into the bomb blast.

"We have already found some vital clues to the incident," Monzurul said without elaborating.

Half an hour after the Paltan

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