

Nepalese CJ escapes attempt on life: 5 killed

REUTERS KATHMANDU

Nepal's Chief Justice Keshav Prasad Upadhyay escaped unharmed after an attack by suspected Maoist rebels in West Nepal but four security staff and a judicial official were killed, an official said.

Upadhyay was on a scheduled inspection tour of West Nepal on Saturday when his team was ambushed and attacked with bombs and gun fire at Painsathhi in Surkhet district.

"Upadhyay is safe after the incident," a home (interior) ministry spokesman said late on Saturday.

He said Baldev Dhital, a senior official of the Surkhet appellate court, who was part of the chief justice's team, and four security guards were killed.

Another member of the team, a judge of the same court, Purushottam Parajulia and two security personnel were injured in the same incident and were undergoing treatment at a local hospital, one police official said.

Home ministry spokesman Gopendra Bahadur Pandey blamed Maoist rebels, who are fighting against the 10-year-old constitutional monarchy, for the attack.

There was no immediate word from the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) about the attack, the first on a senior court official since the Maoist conflict began five years ago.

The group, considered ideologically close to Peru's Shining Path guerrillas, has launched an armed campaign to try to install a one-party communist republic in the world's only Hindu kingdom that is among the poorest nations on earth.

Badsha Mia buried

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police constable Badsha Mia was buried at his family graveyard in Durgabuddi village under Rajair thana in Madaripur yesterday.

Badshah Mia, 50, a constable of Mohammadpur thana was beaten to death by Islamic zealots inside Noor Mosque at Mohammadpur Saturday afternoon.

The body of Badsha Mia was first taken to his Takerhat residence in the morning yesterday. Then it was taken to Durgabuddi where he was buried after a namaz-e-janaza. The local Superintendent of Police attended the janaza.

The autopsy report showed that Badsha Mia was killed following physical torture.

BCS test on March 23

UNB, Dhaka

The preliminary (objective) test of the 23rd special BCS will be held on March 23.

A detailed schedule of the exam along with seat arrangement will be published in daily newspapers in due time, said an official handout.



A sequence of a street drama organised by Group Theatre Federation in front of the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday as part of the month-long Ekushey programme.

Govt conspiring to retain power thru' unfair means: Khaleda

UNB, Rangpur

Opposition leader Khaleda Zia has accused the government of hatching a conspiracy to return to power through unfair means for continuing plunder of wealth of the nation.

"People will foil the conspiracy at any cost," she said this while she was addressing a huge public meeting of four-party alliance at Zila School ground in Rangpur yesterday afternoon.

Khaleda said the ruling party has become isolated from the people for their misdeeds. "A day will come when nobody will be with them."

She said the ruling party ruined country's economy, industries, education and also the judiciary. "The judges are under constant threat and they were shown sticks to keep them under duress."

Criticising the Public Safety Act, the BNP

Chairperson said they enacted the law to harass the opposition activists.

"No case was filed when the ruling party workers led by ministers damaged vehicles and created panic among people," the Opposition Leader said.

Referring to law and order situation in Feni she said people there are now hostage to Jainal Hazari, MP of the ruling party.

"On order of Hazari, his hooligan unleashed an inhuman torture on UNB Feni correspondent Tipu Sultan, who might go cripple," she said. She had visited the injured journalist at hospital in Dhaka.

Khaleda regretted that people in Feni can't live in their homes because of a reign of terror unleashed by Hazari and his men who established a parallel adminis

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Constable killing ADAB protest rally today

UNB, Dhaka

The Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) will organise a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar at 3pm today to protest the killing of police constable Badsha Mia during Saturday's hartal, reports UNB.

The rally will be followed by a procession.

Meanwhile, ADAB condemned the killing of constable and attacks on innocent people across the country by the terrorists of fundamentalist group.

ADAB chairperson Khushi Kabir and Director Shamsul Huda in a statement yesterday said

"this killing reminds us the brutality and massacre of the anti-liberation elements during 1971 Liberation War."

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SAARC economic cofce opens in Kathmandu

M SHAMSUR RAHMAN from Kathmandu

Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala has said the 'South Asian economy as a whole is competitive' and building cooperation in the regional economy is a challenge that should be overcome through 'government- private sector partnership.'

Koirala was inaugurating the SAARC Economic Conference on "Government-private sector partnership: A strategic alliance for 2010" yesterday.

He urged the participants from the member-countries also to discuss 'political issues' delaying the SAARC Summit.

"Nepal has been trying to host

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PM slates use of religion for political purposes

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday denounced the use of religion for political purposes saying, some exploiters of religion and anti-liberation elements are trying to incorporate violence in Islam with an ulterior motive.

"Islam is a religion of peace. But certain traders in religion are trying to misuse it through violence by killing in the mosque," she told a meeting of Gaibandha district Awami League and its front wings at Ganabhaban.

Her remarks came a day after a policeman was killed

inside a mosque at Mohammadpur allegedly by some Islamic zealots during the hartal of February 3, called by Ulema-Mashaikh (Islamic groups).

She said Awami League does not believe in using religion in politics. Rather, it truly and faithfully served the cause of Islam.

Referring to BNP chief Khaleda Zia's repeated threats of toppling the government through movement, Hasina

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Police clubbing an Islamic activist near Paltan Crossing in the city yesterday after the activists brought out a procession there.

Lalon's shrine: Signature campaign for removal of new structures

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Committee to Protect Lalon's Shrine (CPLS) yesterday launched a signature campaign throughout the country demanding removal of all newly built structures from the main premises of the shrine in Kushtia.

The campaign was inaugurated by CPLS convenor Poet Shamsur Rahman at Aparajeo Bangla on the Dhaka University campus at around 11:30 am.

The movement would continue until the authorities demolish the newly built structures, giving the shrine its original look.

CPLS DU unit president Prof. Niranjan Adhikari and Prof. Ahmed Kamal of Department of History also addressed the inaugural function.

Prof. Anwar Hasan, chairman of Applied Physics department, Gobinda Chakrabarti and Shantanu Majumder of Political Science, CPLS DU unit member secretary and teacher of Mass Communication and Journalism department Rubaiyat Ferdous, Selim Raihan of Economics department and leaders of different student organisations were present.

The CPLS will parade towards the PMO to submit a memorandum on February 21, after a rally in front of Institute of Fine Arts (IFA) at 11:30 am.

Bangabandhu Murder Case Hearing on split verdict on 5 accused now on Feb 12

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Hearing on the split verdict on five of the accused in Bangabandhu Murder Case will now be held on February 12. The earlier date was February 14.

Justice Fazlul Karim, the third judge in the case, gave the order yesterday after hearing the prosecution and the defence.

Earlier, Special Prosecutor Serajul Huq submitted a petition for early hearing of the split verdict, preferring February 11 or 12.

Attorney General Mahmudul Islam also pleaded that Article 35 of the Constitution would be violated if early hearing is not held.

One judge of a Division bench of

the High Court acquitted the five on December 14. The other judge upheld their capital punishment, ordered by the trial court.

Early hearing was opposed by the defence counsels. Accused Lt. Col. (rt) Mohiuddin Ahmed's lawyer Khan Saifur Rahman said that he was yet to get a certified copy of the split verdict.

But the judge said that he had been provided with the paper book of the case. To this, Khan Saifur Rahman said he would like to compare the paper book with the certified copy to see if there is any omission. He said he needed two months' time to prepare for the case.

Khan Saifur Rahman also pleaded hearing of the case of Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Faruqur Rahman and others in the split verdict again.

He was assisted by Mahbubur Rahman, Abdus Sobhan and Abdur Rezzak Khan, counsels for accused Major (rt) Bazlul Huda and Lt.Col (rt) Shariar Rashid Khan.

Mahbubur Rahman said the third judge is not obliged to go by the split verdict and pleaded that their clients' case be heard again along with the five.

Justice Fazlul Karim fixed February 6 for hearing whether their clients' case would be heard or not.

Jail Killing Case Hearing adjourned as accused falls sick

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday adjourned the proceedings of the Jail Killing Case till February 12.

Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa adjourned the proceedings as Nurul Islam Manzoor, one of the eight accused, now in the custody, fell sick at the court room.

Kazi Abdul Awal, the then DIG (Prison) as well as the complainant of the case, was present in the court.

Advocate Abdul Majid Munshi, lawyer of KM Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manzoor, submitted two petitions before the court. In the first petition, he stated that Manzoor was produced before the

court despite his serious illness. He even can not move, the petition said.

Munshi prayed for Manzoor's proper treatment outside jail hospital.

In the second petition, Munshi stated that a criminal revision petition against the framing of charges was filed with the High Court and it was heard from both sides.

The court fixed February 6 for order on the issue.

Metropolitan PP Quamrul Islam did not oppose the petition for treatment of the accused but prayed

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EC mission suggests reform in election tribunals

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting European Commission Election Monitoring Needs Assessment Mission (NAM) yesterday requested the Election Commission to ensure responsible use of electronic media during the next general election.

In a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed, the NAM also proposed to reform the election tribunals through parliament for determining appeals against differ-

ent allegations regarding elections.

The mission felt the need for developing a model code of conduct for the political parties, which might put more responsibility on the party leaders for discipline of their candidates and agents.

The CEC assured all support and cooperation in the work of the Mission.

He said that the EC would consider carefully the proposals forwarded by European Commission

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