

Jail Killing Case Hearing adjourned till Jan 20

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, yesterday adjourned the hearing of the Jail Killing Case till January 20.

Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa passed the order as lawyer of the accused KM Obaidur Rahman was not present in the special court adjacent to the Dhaka Central Jail during the hearing.

On the other hand, Naib Ali, the 9th prosecution witness in the case, appeared in the court to face cross-examination.

Meanwhile a petition seeking bail for Nurul Islam Manzoor, another accused in the case was moved. The prosecution side opposed the petition.

After hearing both sides, the court did not pass any order on the issue.

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

Metropolitan PP Abdullah Mahmud Hasan, Additional PP Golam Mostafa, Special PP Mosarrif Hossain Kojal and Quamrul Islam appeared for the state while Advocate TM Akbar, Hazi Nazrul Islam, Arshadul Haque and Shahin Iqbal Shabbir for the accused.

Six of the 21 accused Taher Uddin Thakur, Shah Moazzem Hossain, Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farookur Rahman, Lt Col (Retd) Sultan Shahrar Rashid Khan, Maj (Retd) Bazul Huda and Maj (Retd) Khairuzzaman are now detained in the Dhaka Central Jail. They were produced before the court during the hearing.

Two other accused KM Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manzoor were not produced before the court due to illness.

Ban on poly bags in city from Jan 1

Manufacturers told

UNB, Dhaka

Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj has reiterated the government's decision to impose a ban on use of polythene bags in the capital city from January 1 in order to protect the environment.

The process to develop an improved system to recycle polythene will continue, the minister said while exchanging views with

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SSC exams from Mar 14

UNB, Dhaka

The Secondary School Certificate Examinations 2002 will begin on March 14 next year.

Detailed timetable will be announced later, according to an official handout yesterday.

Road accidents kill 9 in three districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least nine people were killed and 63 others injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj, Narayanganj and Gazipur districts yesterday.

Of them, four people were killed in Sirajganj, three in Narayanganj and the rest two in Gazipur.

Our Sirajganj Correspondent reports: Four people were killed and 28 others injured, five of them seriously, in a road accident on Dhaka-Dinajpur highway near Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge west intersection in the early hours of yesterday.

Three of the victims were identified as Abdul Karim, 45, of Ghatil under Tangail district, Mukta Shaha, 37, of Kanchivita under Natore district and Ariful Islam, 35, of Putia under Rajshahi district. The identity

of other could not be known.

Seriously injured Paresh Chandra, 35, Abu Masud, 22, Mallick, 26, Sabuj, 27, and Golam Mostofa were admitted to Sirajganj sadar hospital.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound night coach from Rajshahi hit a truck loaded with cattle from behind at about 2:30 am.

Police seized both the vehicles but drivers and helpers managed to flee.

A case was filed with Bangabandhu Bridge west police station.

According to our Narayanganj Correspondent, at least three people were killed and 10 others injured in a road accident in Dhaka-Sylhet highway yesterday morning.

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Star Zimbabwean batsman Andy Flower awaits his turn as his twin brother Grant goes on the back foot to play a defensive shot during yesterday's practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, ahead of today's second one-day match against Bangladesh.

DU professor develops bio-indicator to detect arsenic in groundwater

NAIMUL HAQ

A local scientist has developed a biochemical method to detect arsenic in groundwater.

Dr Abdul Aziz, a professor of botany at Dhaka University, has developed a "bio-indicator" after more than a year of experiment at the university laboratory.

The cheap and effective method uses azolla filiculoides, a fern species not found in the country. The

fern is only available with Dr Aziz at the Culture Collection Centre of the DU.

The method to determine presence of various concentration of arsenic contamination is carried out by growing the fern in conical glass flasks in a series of known concentration of arsenic in artificial medium or a nutrient solution having more than 20 elements.

Simultaneously, the fern is grown in flask in a sample of water collected from a tube-well and the same nutrient is added to the collected sample water so that it contains the same nutrient status as in the standard series.

The organisms are then allowed to grow at a certain light intensity and temperature for three days. With the concentration of arsenic the green fern (natural colour) changes its pigmentation from green to red.

Distinctive changes in colour from green to red depending on the concentration of arsenic in water

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470 tolas of gold seized in Sylhet: 3 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

BDR seized gold bars, mobile telephone sets, chargers, cassettes and other goods worth about Tk.40 lakh from a car in Malinichhara tea garden area on the airport road yesterday morning.

These include 47 pieces of gold bars weighing about 470 tolas, 18 chargers, three sets of mobile phone, and cassettes.

Acting on a secret information, a team of BDR men intercepted a private car (Chatta-Metro-02-0674) at Malinichhara at about 11am which was on its way to Sylhet town from the airport. They found a bag inside the car and asked the people on board to open it. The contrabands items were kept in the bag.

One Golam Kibria Akash, driver Abdur Rouf Jobayer and Shabul Miah, a passenger from Abu Dhabi

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More changes in admin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday brought some more changes in the administration.

It also made some fresh appointments, official sources said.

Immediate past Inspector General of Police Nurul Huda, who was an OSD, has been appointed Secretary In-Charge at the Ministry of Youth and Sports under President's 10 per cent quota.

Cultural personality Mostafa Zaman Abbasi has been appointed Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on a two-year contract.

Director of Board of Investment Mostafizur Rahman has been appointed a Member (Estate) of RAJUK.

Rajshahi Divisional Commissioner ASM Abdul Halim (additional secretary) has been made Chairman of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC).

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Laden not in Pakistan, says Musharraf

XINHUA, Islamabad

President General Pervez Musharraf has said that Osama bin Laden is not in Pakistan.

He said this in response to a query by a Belgian journalist accompanying the EU delegation at a press conference in Islamabad yesterday.

Musharraf said, "To the best of my knowledge, Osama is not in Pakistan."

"I don't know his whereabouts, but he has not crossed into Pakistan," he stated.

Pakistan, he said, has put in place a strict security check system. The army and law enforcing agencies have been alerted and the cooperation of the tribal leaders has also been sought to ensure that Osama bin Laden does not sneak into the country, Musharraf added.

New VC, pro-VC of BSMMU take over

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly appointed vice-chancellor, pro-vice-chancellors and treasurer attended their offices yesterday at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU).

Vice-chancellor (VC) Prof. MA Hadi, Pro-VCs Dr. Mohammad Tahir, Prof. Abdul Mannan Mia and Treasurer Prof. Mobin Khan all went to their offices for the first time yesterday.

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The Gulshan Lake is giving place to an earthen road thanks to illegal filling of the lake at the end of road No. 29, Gulshan in the city.

Corporatisation of Ashuganj power plant starts soon

RAZIUR RAHMAN

The process of corporatisation of Ashuganj power plant of the Power Development Board (PDB) is likely to start shortly with the appointment of managing director, a technical member and a finance member, sources said.

The government has been pressed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to corporatise the power plant. ADB tagged the issue with providing a loan of 198.9 million dollars, they pointed out.

The decision to corporatise the plant was taken by the immediate past government in May last year.

PDB has already sent the draft of an advertisement seeking applications for the three posts to the authorities concerned for publication in newspapers.

The draft was prepared before a delegation led by power division secretary Mesbah Uddin Ahmed visited Manila last week for negotiations regarding the loan at the ADB headquarters.

Experts said when most of the earlier prescriptions of donors miserably failed to bring any improvement in power sector, the decision to corporatise Ashuganj power plant has raised doubts about its future.

DESA, formed in 1991 under a World Bank prescription, has always been the biggest loosing concern in power sector. Its net loss ranges between Tk 20 crore and 30 crore per month while DESCO, formed in 1997 under ADB pressure, also incurs a gross loss of more than Tk five crore a month.

Ashuganj plant comprising eight units with a total generating capacity of 724 MW is one of the best performing power plants of PDB. It makes a profit of around Tk 50 crore a month while PDB incurs a loss of

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View gas export in context of global geopolitics

Economists, academics, experts tell city seminar

UNB, Dhaka

The issue of gas export should be considered from the context of the South Asian Energy Zone as well as global geo-politics.

The issue must be addressed at the parliament after inviting recommendations from the civil society.

Prof. Rehman Sobhan expressed this view at a seminar titled "Export of Gas: Prospects and Apprehensions" organised by Arthoniti Charcha Kendra of Dhaka University at the DU Business Studies Faculty yesterday.

Economists, academics, researchers and energy experts came together at the event, moderated by Prof M M Akash, to debate on the pros and cons of the much-orchestrated pipeline export of gas, a burning issue on the national front at present.

Arguments and counter-arguments on the issue heated up the seminar but the discussants failed to reach a consensus as only two speakers supported the export option while the others either opposed it or expressed their skepticism over it.

Economists Prof. Rehman Sobhan, Prof. Mozaffar Ahmed and Prof. Anisur Rahman, former Petrobangla official SKM Abdullah, Prof. M Nurul Islam, petroleum engineer Prof. Muhammad Tamim, Dr Abul Barkat of DU and Prof. Ejaz Hossain were discussants at the seminar.

Dr Anisur Rahman opposed the export of gases, which international oil companies are pressing for, and blamed certain criminal hands playing a role behind it. He blamed politicians for their patronage to this

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AL-BNP gunfight leaves 20 hurt in Natore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

At least 20 people were injured in a gunfight between the activists of AL and BNP at village Dilalpur in Lalpur upazila yesterday afternoon.

The injured were admitted to hospital and different clinics in Natore town.

Witnesses said, eight houses were ransacked and valuables worth about Tk two lakh looted allegedly by BNP activists during the clash.

Police and witnesses said the activists of two rival parties clashed over establishing supremacy at the village.

A source in the local AL told that many AL activists and supporters of Dilalpur left the area fearing further attack by BNP men.

A huge contingent of police has been deployed at the village to avert further clash.

DC, Natore, and additional police superintendent visited the spot. A tense situation prevailing at the village.

18 hurt as settlers, tribal people clash in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

At least 18 people, including a UP chairman, were injured as settlers and tribal people clashed at Lemuchhari under Mahalchhari upazila yesterday afternoon.

The injured include Archimedes Chakma, chairman of Sadar union parishad and also the negotiator between security personnel and abductors of three foreigners. The foreigners were abducted by tribal miscreants from Rangamati early this year.

Of the injured people, three were admitted to Rangamati Hospital, seven to Chagrachhari Hospital and eight others to local health complex. Police said the clash followed the attempt by settlers of Chongrachhari Guchhagram to build a house on a disputed land at Lemuchhari on Friday. Police foiled the attempt.

A group of settlers attacked

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 25		5-11 pm
Nov 26	6-21 am	

Prayer Timings		
Nov 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-57	5-03
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-14	5-20
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation