



Participants at The Daily Star dialogue on '10 years of Democracy: Lessons and Way Ahead' at its conference room yesterday.

Next hearing in Shazneen case Feb 3

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Second Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka yesterday adjourned the hearing of Shazneen rape case till February 3.

Judge Kazi Rahmat Ullah adjourned the hearing following a time petition by the prosecution lawyers.

The prosecution lawyers submitted a petition before the court seeking adjournment of the hearing. They stated that additional SP of CID Mojibur Rahman first prosecution witness in the case, was transferred to Meherpur and he could not appear in the court.

The defence lawyers were ready for hearing.

After hearing both sides, the

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The drain now overflowing at 3 points

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A surface drain, which was previously streaming into the Gulshan Lake, now overflows at three points of road No. 11 at Baridhara.

Residents of Baridhara said the drain started overflowing about four days ago, emitting strong stench in the area.

The overflowing is fallout of the decision the authorities took to prevent toxic waste from draining into the Gulshan-Baridhara-Banani Lake, residents of Baridhara suspect.

The drain previously emptied into a larger one at Biswa Road,

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Jail Killing Case

Thakur's bail prayer rejected, hearing adjourned till Feb 6

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, yesterday rejected the bail petition of Taheruddin Thakur, an accused in the Jail Killing Case.

The defence lawyers submitted the bail petition stating that the accused was suffering from diabetic for long.

"He was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him politically. So, we pray for his bail," one of the defence lawyers told the court.

The prosecution side opposed the bail petition.

After hearing both sides, the judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa rejected the petition.

The court also adjourned the hearing of the case till February 6 following a time petition by the defence lawyers.

The defence lawyers for the accused K M Obaidur Rahman MP and Nurul Islam Monzoor submitted two separate petitions seeking adjournment of hearing as their clients had gone abroad for treatment.

The prosecution side was ready for hearing and a prosecution witness appeared in the court to face cross-examination.

After hearing both sides, the court granted the time.

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

Advocate Quamrul Islam and

Mosarrat Hossain Kajol appeared for the state while Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, TM Akbar, A B M Sharfuddin Khan Mukul, Hazi Nazrul Islam and Arshadul Haque for the accused.

Of the 21 accused, Taheruddin Thakur, Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farookur Rahman, Lt Col (Retd) Sultan Shahrar Rashid Khan and Maj (Retd) Bazul Huda are now detained at the Dhaka Central Jail. They were produced in the court adjacent to the Dhaka Central Jail during the hearing. Shah Moazzem Hossain and Maj (Retd) Khairuzzaman were earlier granted ad-interim bail by the High Court. They appeared in the court during the hearing.

Potato wholesaler murdered in Laxmipur: 2 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Laxmipur

Mohammad Yusuf Ali, 35, a potato wholesaler of Nandigram Bazar under Sadar Upazilla was killed by the hired goons of his nephew on Saturday night following a feud over land.

The incident took place at the Nandigram village of Rashikpur union under Sadar thana.

Police said Khorshed Alam Sattar nephew of Yusuf, hired Korban Ali Liton, Safar, Anwar and Zahid of the same village to kill his uncle. The gang swooped on Yusuf while he was returning home at around 11.30 pm from his business house.

Police arrested Korban Ali and Sattar from Shripur village of Ramganj thana. Police also seized the pipe gun used in the killing.

Anwar and Zahid, the two other killers, have been absconding since the murder.

A murder case was filed with Sadar thana.

Murder of BNP leader Charge sheet against Haji Selim, 5 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday submitted a charge-sheet against six people including former Awami League MP Haji Selim, accusing them for their involvement in the murder of BNP leader Shamsul Haque Santi.

CID inspector Ilias Islam submitted the charge-sheet with the CMM's Court, Dhaka yesterday, naming 17 people as prosecution witnesses.

Santi, a BNP leader, was murdered at Killar Mor in the city's Lalbagh area on June 9, 1996. He was fatally injured when a gang of people beat him up while he was returning from a party meeting, CID sources said.

After the gruesome murder, CID was given the charge of investigating the murder. But the case was shelved during the AL government's tenure, CID sources said.

One of the accused Anwar Hossain was arrested recently while

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2 murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two persons were murdered in the city in the last two days.

A butcher was hacked to death by unidentified people at the BNP Bazaar in Mohammadpur area in the early hours of yesterday.

The butcher was identified as Monir Hossain, 18, son of Mofizur Rahman and a resident of BNP solum.

A gang of six belonging to the Sentu group led by Mostafa, Jasim and Ilias called him out of his residence and took him to the BNP Bazaar. They beat him with sticks and iron rods and later, hacked him. Fatally injured, he was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died at about 1:30am yesterday.

A case was filed with Mohammadpur Police Station in this regard, but none was arrested till last night.

In another incident, Mohammad Zahid Alam Palash, 22, was shot

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Hearing of contempt petition against Hasina Jan 26

BSS, Dhaka

The hearing of the petition accusing Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina of contempt of court will be held in the High Court on January 26.

Former president of Supreme Court Lawyers' Association Habibul Islam Bhuiyan and 84 lawyers jointly filed the petition with the High Court on Saturday.

Advocate Zainul Abedin, former secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association and one of the petitioners, moved the petition at a bench comprising Justice Syed Amirul Islam and Justice Sikder Mokbul Haq yesterday, seeking a date for hearing.

The bench fixed January 26 for hearing of the petition.

Govt will strictly enforce code of conduct for staff

REZAUL KARIM

The government has decided to strictly enforce the existing codes of conduct for government officials and employees to ensure lasting discipline as well as normal work atmosphere in all offices.

A draft in this regard, currently being prepared by a government-appointed committee, will affect all officials and employees of the Bangladesh Secretariat and other government, semi-government and autonomous bodies.

Official sources said the decision has been taken in view of the previous instances of insubordination by public servants, particularly during the early 1996 when a section of government officials and employees joined the so-called "Janatar Mancha" violating official codes of conduct.

They said the government has also ordered top bureaucrats to formulate new codes of conduct if necessary to strictly maintain discipline and peaceful work atmosphere in all offices as well as to restrain government officials and employees from direct politics.

Under the existing codes of conduct, government officials and employees are not allowed to wear black

badges, abstain from work, or bring out demonstrations, processions and rallies in office premises.

Government officials and employees are also legally prohibited from participating in any political programmes of any party, which provides for penalties such as termination from service, demotion, suspension, non-disbursement of salary and other departmental punitive actions.

According to official sources, a government-appointed committee of some top secretaries held several meetings to gather all existing codes of conduct in addition to recommending some more.

They said the committee has recommended strict disciplinary actions against those violating service rules and the codes of conduct. Unruly demonstrations as well as processions inside the office premises would also be banned.

Combining new recommendations with previous ones made at different times by various committees, the committee is now preparing a draft to be placed soon for the Prime Minister's approval. The draft of the codes of conduct might be discussed in the cabinet before her formal approval, sources added.

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SC extends time for separation of judiciary till Mar 17

BSS, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday further extended the time limit it fixed earlier for separation of judiciary from executive till March 17 this year.

The extension came following a prayer by Attorney General Hasan Arif on behalf of the government.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court ordered the separation of judiciary from the executive along with 12 guidelines on December 2, 1999 in line with a petition by Masdar Hossain and several other lower court judges.

The time limit was earlier extended several times following government prayers.

Two listed terrorists held in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two listed terrorists were arrested in the city yesterday and on Saturday night.

Panchlaish thana police, acting on a tip off, arrested one CMP-listed terrorist, identified as Yeasin, 30, from Laldighirpar under Kotwali thana on Saturday night.

The notorious terrorist Yeasin is accused in 14 criminal cases. In another raid, Double Mooring thana police arrested CMP-listed terrorist Didarul Alam alias Didar, 31, from Pathantuli area in the early hours of yesterday.

Meanwhile, Kotwali thana police nabbed two muggers identified as Abdus Shukkur, 20 and Abdur Razzak, 22, from in front of Chittagong College at around 1.30 am yesterday.

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Draft of revised population policy '76

Special focus on zero growth, increase in life expectancy

NAIMUL HAQ

The government has prepared a draft to revise the National Population Policy, 1976, with special focus on stabilising the population and increasing average life expectancy to 67 years by 2020.

The revision work began in January last year and was completed in January 17 this year. It involved officials from all ministries and important departments.

Vital national issues like shrinking cultivable land, deforestation, gradual desertification, pollution, unemployment, malnutrition, scarcity of drinking water and the overall political situation were taken into consideration while preparing the draft revised policy, sources said.

The country's population is 130 million now and three million is added to it every year.

The National Population Council headed by the Prime Minister will provide the guidelines for implementation of the policy and monitor the progress.

The population growth rate was 1.42 and the fertility rate (per women between 15 and 49 years of age) was three in 2000. The draft policy aims at reducing the growth rate to 1.32 in 2005, 1.31 in 2010, 1.15 in 2015 and 1.05 in 2020 and the fertility rate to 2.2 in 2020.

It says infant mortality rate will come down to 50 per 1000 live births in 2005, 35 in 2010, 30 in 2015 and 25 in 2020 from 70 in 2000.

Life expectancy for male and female is expected to

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