

# Bangabandhu Murder Case drags on as judges yet to be appointed

ZAYADUL AHSAN

Dilly-dallying over restructuring the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has stalled the Bangabandhu Murder Case.

The date for hearing on the leave to appeal petition regarding the case has been deferred since August last year.

And, although the Appellate Division is scheduled to hear the petition tomorrow, but this cannot be held as the appointment of a third judge in the division has not taken place. And so, the government is going to seek more time for fixing the date for the hearing.

Earlier on January 19, when the government once again had sought a fresh date for hearing the Appellate Division had told it that no more time would be given for the hearing.

The BNP-led coalition government through a gazette notification on January 17 restructured the Appellate Division, increasing the number of judges to seven from five. But, the Appellate Division has not got the two judges to date.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed told The Daily Star yesterday that the government would seek time since the process of restructuring the Appellate Division is yet to be complete.

Asked why the government did not complete the process despite the gazette notification, the law minister blamed it on bureaucratic bottleneck.

Moudud said six persons are needed to assist a judge's functioning while the establishment ministry approved appointment of four, as stipulated by the organogram.

He however was hopeful that the complexities regarding the appointment of the other two would be over within a few days, making the way for completion of the restructuring process.

When contacted, the prosecution said they are watching the situation and would comment after what happens tomorrow.

Former law minister of the past Awami League government on January 21 had accused the incumbent government of delaying the process of justice.

Two of the five judges of the Appellate Division had also heard the case at the High Court and so they could not hear the case. The rest three started hearing the leave to appeal petition. But in August last, Justice Golam Rabbani, one of the three judges, said it was embarrassing for him to continue hearing the case.

As the hearing on the case in the High Court took place before a two-member bench, it was customary for

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the prize distribution ceremony of the National Education Week-2002 held at the Osmany Memorial Auditorium in the city yesterday.

# Torture tales torment convention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A capacity crowd at the auditorium of Engineers' Institution in the city yesterday plunged into silence as some victims of mainly post-election violence started telling their sordid tales of torture at the opening of a two-day convention on "crimes against humanity".

Profoundly shocked by the barbarity of unusual nature that thousands of people including the Hindus were subjected to in the post-election outbreaks, many of the audience wiped their tears.

The dais of the auditorium resembled a hospital ward with wounded people lying on stretchers or sitting on chairs holding crutches. With their hands or legs broken, eyes gouged, and signs of brutality all over the body, the victims cried out for justice. They blamed "terrorists" of the BNP-Jamaat alliance for the attacks on them during a spate of incidents of violence before and after the parliamentary election.

Dozens of the victims including women and children from across the country where the post-election violence took its tolls were brought to Dhaka for the Awami League-sponsored convention. Some of the worst victims were brought to the convention centre on stretchers with parts of their bodies still bandaged.

A citizens' group organised the two-day event drawing partici

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

Leaders and activists of the Awami League injured in terrorist attacks were brought to the national convention titled "Crime Against Humanity" at the Engineers' Institution in the city yesterday.

# PM for time-befitting education system

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said the present education system should be modernised to suit the need of the hour.

She also underscored the need for ensuring corruption-free education and congenial academic atmosphere. She said corruption hampers the standard of education and creates the scope for terrorism.

"We have to be strict against corruption in education," she said seeking cooperation of teachers, students, guardians and all conscious citizens to ensure corruption-

free education in the country.

The Prime Minister was addressing the concluding ceremony of the National Education Week 2002 at the Osmany Memorial Auditorium in the afternoon.

The theme of the Week was "Education in Meeting the Challenge of Globalisation".

Underlining the importance of incorporating computer in the modern education system, she warned that the nation would fall far behind if this technology was ignored.

She lamented that the country

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

# JS session adjourned till Mar 2

UNB, Dhaka

Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui yesterday adjourned parliament session to meet again at 4.30 pm on March 2.

The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House after yesterday's session at around 9.45 pm.

# Young man shot dead in Madaripur

UNB, Madaripur

A young man was shot dead reportedly by his opponents at Bahertala Bazar in Shibchar upazila here yesterday.

Police said the assailants shot in the head of Litu Matbor, 28, son of Shamsu Madbor, at about 11 am.

He died on the spot. Litu, an accused in two robbery cases, was murdered as a sequel to previous enmity, locals said.

# BMP decries crimes against women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women leaders yesterday expressed concerns over the deteriorating law and order and the sharp increase in crimes against women in the country.

The leaders categorically alleged that the leaders and activists of the ruling BNP are taking revenge on their political opponents and religious minorities following the October election victory.

The leaders were addressing a press conference organised by the Bangladesh Mohila Parishad (BMP) at the Jatiya Press Club. Masuda Rehana Begum of the BMP read out a statement while President of the BMP Hena Das and General Secretary Ayesha Khanom took part in the question and answer session.

The BMP said a total of 866 crimes were committed against women across the country during September-December period last

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

# IMF loans hinge on poverty papers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As concessionary loans from donors is going to be more conditional, Bangladesh will ready the draft Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) by this month and finalise it by June this year in order to become eligible for such credit from IMF and World Bank.

"After preparing the PRSP, the gate will be opened for Bangladesh for concessionary loans from the IMF and the World Bank," Marijn Verhoeven, Resident Representative of International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Bangladesh, told newsmen after concluding a three-day seminar on PRSP.

The seminar was also attended by Luis Valdivieso, Advisor, Asian and Pacific Department, IMF, Anisul Huq Chowdhury, Secretary of Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance, and Toru Shibuichi, Resident Representative of the Asian Development Bank among others.

Earlier, while wrapping up the seminar, Luis Valdivieso said IMF expects Bangladesh economy to grow by 7 to 8 per cent. "During 2002 to 2007, the country's growth in per capita income should be 3.6 per cent while it should be 4.4 per cent during 2007 to 2027."

Stable condition, necessary legal framework and human capital should be available to achieve the goal, he said adding that Bangladesh is now passing through a difficult period and it may take time to get back on the right track.

Extreme poverty should be reduced before 2015 and brought down to a very low level by 2027, Luis observed.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Feb 15		5-54 pm
Feb 16	6-31 am	

Prayer Timings		
Feb 15		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-40	6-10
Juma	12-15	1-20
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-58	6-03
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation