

Moudud for time frame for trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Hearing on cases should not be adjourned repeatedly to help carry out speedy trial, said Law Minister Moudud Ahmed.

He was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the 33rd judicial administration training course, organised by the Judicial Administration Training Institute in the city yesterday.

The minister underscored a definite schedule for disposal of cases by the court to ease sufferings of people.

He urged judges to be cautious about awarding bails to avoid an adverse impact and stressed the need for enhancement of assistance between the police and the prosecution for proper trial.

Twenty-seven additional district and sessions judges are participating in the training course.

The course is designed to enhance professional skills of the judges, said Justice Md Badruzzaman who presided over the ceremony.

Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, Course Director AFM Mostafa, and officials and employees of the Judicial Administrative Training Institute were also present at the ceremony.

Rally demands fresh licence for ETV

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A silent procession was brought out in the city yesterday in demand for a fresh licence for the Ekushey Television (ETV) so that it can resume transmission.

Organised by a group of young citizens, the procession was joined by around 200 cultural activists and journalists. It started from the Shahbagh crossing and marched up to the Mathshya Bhaban crossing.

The participants then held a rally there. A written statement was read.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Hasina condemns police raids on houses of Tofail, ex-ERD secy

UNB, Dhaka
Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has condemned police raids on the residences of party presidium member Tofail Ahmed and former ERD secretary Mashur Rahman here Wednesday night.

In a statement yesterday, she alleged that the government were arresting and harassing its political opponents in false cases instead of detaining the "ruling party activists who are perpetrating criminal activities like killing, extortion and rape across the country."

"Harassing the family members of Tofail and Mashur in the name of search is the part of this government's repressive policy against the opposition," Hasina said demanding withdrawal of all "false" cases filed against the leaders and activists of the opposition and pro-liberation forces.

She also described the Jamaat-BNP government as corrupt and inefficient.

Residential area in commercial grips

Shopping complex sprouts up at Dhanmondi without Rajuk nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
In a blatant violation of relevant rules, a six-storey commercial complex has been built inside Dhanmondi residential area in the city, causing severe traffic congestion and noise pollution with consequent public sufferings.

The complex -- Mainland City -- at Road-8 on the western side of Dhanmondi playground has been built without approval from the authorities. Its owner is now trying to get it approved, sources said.

The owner has defied government rules regarding 'non-residential' and 'commercial' use of residential plots in the city's designated residential areas.

In 1996, commercial use of plots on four Dhanmondi roads -- roads 2, 16 (old 27), Satmasjid Road and Mirpur Road -- were allowed on payment of government-fixed conversion fee and with proper approval.

According to government rules, residential plots can be converted into commercial ones only in those road-side areas that have been declared commercial sites. It also requires a conversion fee of Tk 15 lakh for commercial use of a residential building.

But Road-8 where the commercial complex is situ-

ated is not covered by these rules, sources pointed out.

The complex also does not have adequate parking facilities, resulting in serious traffic jam in the area throughout the day, particularly during peak hours.

When contacted, owner of the huge structure Quazi Hamidur Rahman said he did not seek approval for converting his residential plot into a commercial one as some engineers of Zone-2 of the Public Works Department (PWD) had 'assured' him that they would arrange the approval. The engineers had also told him that there was a plan to allow commercial use of plots on Road-8 because it is very close to Mirpur Road, he added.

Meanwhile, residents of the area strongly protested the move saying that it would totally destroy the residential character of the area. Criticising approval of 'unplanned conversion' of residential plots into commercial, ones, they alleged that a move is on to do this for 'hefty bribes' from some greedy plot owners.

Asked about this, Executive Engineer of Zone-2 of the PWD Shahidul Islam said he knew nothing about it.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



PHOTO: STAR
An illegally built six-storied commercial complex stands high on the western side of the Dhanmondi playground -- an example of how the city's residential areas lose their liveable qualities to the commercial conversion of plots.

Six killed in separate incidents in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Six persons including two businessmen were killed in five incidents in different areas of the city yesterday.

Of them, two businessmen were gunned down in a single incident, two alleged extortionists were beaten to death in separate incidents, an unidentified person was strangled and an alleged criminal was shot dead by rivals.

The businessmen were identified as Abdul Mannan, 27, and his friend Mohammad Babul. Both were residents of Muradpur High School Road in Shyampur area.

Witnesses said when the two men were coming out of Mannan's residence at about 2:30 pm, a gang

led by one Israfil fired several shots, killing them on the spot. "It was a pre-planned killing," said one witness.

Israfil was once very close to Mannan and had married his niece Rasheda. But later he abandoned Rasheda and this led to a feud with Mannan. Killing of Mannan might be a sequel to this, local people said. However, it was not clear why Babul was killed.

The duty officer at Shyampur Police station said a case in this regard was yet to be filed and that their investigators were on the spot.

An alleged extortionist, Tofazzal Hossain, 25, was beaten to death by a mob at Bashankat in Kafur area yesterday morning.

Wajed and two others were suspiciously moving in a car in

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

The incident occurred when a gang including Tofazzal was demanding toll from a lady yesterday morning. As she raised an alarm, local people chased the gang and caught Tofazzal. He died in mob beating.

Kafur police recovered the body and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Police said the gang went to the area for extortion. No case was filed.

Another alleged extortionist, Mohammad Wajed Ali, 38, who was fatally injured in mob beating, died at the DMCH yesterday morning.

Wajed and two others were suspiciously moving in a car in

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Indian pirates abduct two Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
Indian pirates abducted two Bangladeshis from coastal area of the Sundarbans at midnight on Tuesday.

According to police, four Indian pirates raided the house of one Rabindra Nath Mondal of Kalinchi village in Shyamnagar upazila.

They looted money in cash and other valuables including gold and abducted minor boy Tapan Kumar Mondal, 8, from the house. Later, the pirates demanded Tk one lakh ransom for his release.

The same gang abducted Alamgir Hossain, 28, son of Kawser Hossain of Taranipur village in the same upazila the same night and demanded Tk 50,000 for his release.

BDR and BSF personnel held a flag meeting on Kolkhali border on

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

20 injured as BNP factions clash in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj
At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two factions of the ruling BNP at Tatuhata under Kazipur upazila on Wednesday night.

Sources said the two factions -- one led by Abdul Bari and the other by Saiful Islam -- clashed over sharing toll money collected from a local fair.

The clash erupted at about 8:30 pm when BNP cadres led by Abdul Bari attacked the house of Saiful Bari, leader of another faction, at Tatuhata.

The supporters of Saiful counter attacked their rivals, triggering a fierce clash between the two factions.

The clash continued for an hour, leaving 22 people injured, 11 of them seriously. The seriously injured persons identified as Sattar, Sukkur, Sohail, Kamal, Alam, Tunaf, Nannu, Tota, Saheen, Bari and Kalam, were admitted to Kazipur health complex.

On receiving information, police rushed to the spot and dispersed the clashing groups. They arrested three persons -- Al Amin, Tozam Shaikh and Kutub Uddin -- from the spot.

A case was lodged with Kazipur police station in this connection.

Dacoity at house in Mirpur

BSS, Dhaka
Armed dacoits yesterday looted Taka 15 thousand and gold ornaments worth about Taka 1.5 lakh from the residence of a former general manager of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) at Ahmednagar under Mirpur thana in the city.

Family sources said a gang of about 10 robbers entered the house of M A Halim at 101/2 Ahmednagar at about 3:30 am by breaking the collapsible gate.

The robbers confined the inmates of the house in a room at gunpoint and looted the money and 20 tolas of gold ornaments.

On receiving information, a team of Mirpur police rushed to the spot and chased the gang.

Police with the help of local people nabbed three of the gang with a sawed-off rifle while others managed to flee.

A case was registered with Mirpur police in this connection.

US forces under rocket attack in Afghanistan

REUTERS, Bagram Airbase
US forces came under rocket attack in eastern Afghanistan yesterday, a day after the first anniversary of the September 11 attacks on the United States.

Colonel Roger King, a spokesman at Bagram airbase north of Kabul, said one rocket landed 400 yards north of the US special forces base at Gardez and another in a small village to the northwest. There were no reported casualties.

King said there were also no injuries when a special operations convoy was attacked with rocket-propelled grenades in the eastern province of Kunar on Wednesday afternoon.

He said the rockets were fired from nearly a half a mile away, the maximum effective range of the Russian-made weapons.

"Two out of three were duds," he said, adding that the other rocket caused no damage.

Rocket attacks on US special forces near the Pakistani border have become almost routine. However, American attempts to catch the attackers have failed just as routinely.

Although no casualties were reported, the attacks highlight the continuing instability in Afghanistan and threat to US interests 11 months after American forces attacked the country.

US forces are hunting for remnants of the ousted Taliban regime and for fighters from Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, blamed for the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

About 40 American soldiers have been killed in combat and non-combat incidents and 341 wounded since the US operation in Afghanistan began last year.

On Wednesday, as the United States marks the anniversary of the September 11 attacks, the United States

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

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SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 13		6-06 pm
Sept 14	5-44 am	

Prayer Timings		
Sept 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-15	1-30
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-12	6-17
Esha	8-00	8-20

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: STAR
Relatives grieve over the death of Abdul Mannan, a businessman, in the city yesterday. Mannan and his friend Mohammad Babul, both residents of Muradpur High School Road in the city's Shyampur area, were gunned down as they came out of Mannan's residence.

Lawyers set Sept 14 deadline

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Lawyers yesterday declared that they will march to the Jatiya Sangsad on September 15 to submit a memorandum if their six-point demand is not met on September 14.

On behalf of the lawyers, advocate SM Altaf Hossain, president of Dhaka Ainjibi(Lawyers) Samity, said this yesterday while addressing a gathering at the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Court premises. Earlier they formed a human chain.

He also said 'lawyers of the country are united to implement six-point demand and asked to the government to meet their demands'.

Meanwhile as part of the programme of their movement the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Immediate repatriation of camel jockeys called for

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Speakers at a seminar yesterday emphasised immediate repatriation and rehabilitation of children who have been trafficked to Middle Eastern countries to be used as camel jockey.

They appreciated the recent move by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) government to prohibit use of children below 15 years of age and who weigh under 45 kg as camel jockey.

The speakers observed that many Bangladeshi children are being used as camel jockey in Arab countries but the actual figure was yet to be ascertained.

It is very difficult to identify Bangladeshi children who have been trafficked to Arab countries as they immediately forget their mother tongue and home address, they said.

Addressing the function as chief guest, State Minister for Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Mohammad Quamrul Islam assured all out cooperation on the part of the government in repatriation and rehabilitation of the trafficked children.

He called upon the civil society and non-government

organisations to extend co-operation in this regard as the government alone cannot solve the problem.

Immense poverty and acute food scarcity in the country are the main reasons for which the children and parents are easily trapped by the traffickers, he noted.

He said the Bangladesh embassy in the UAE has been asked to collect the figure.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association organised the seminar at CIRDAP auditorium in the city.

The seminar was also addressed by the BNWLA President advocate Sigma Huda, Executive Director advocate Salma Ali, ILO representative Masud Hasan Siddiqui and Coordinator of ATSET Emranul Huq Chowdhury.

The state minister said he would talk to the ministry of women affairs and the ministry of social welfare for undertaking a separate scheme for rehabilitating the repatriated children who were trafficked as camel jockey.

He informed the seminar that the government has

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3