

# DCC commissioner, *Kala* Jahangir to die

13 get life term in Adv. Mondol murder case



CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

Two persons have been sentenced to death and 13 to life term in the sensational Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondol Murder case.

Those to die are Saidur Rahman Shahid, Commissioner of Ward-83 the Dhaka City Corporation, and 'Kala' Jahangir, a listed criminal.

Shahid is in jail custody while Jahangir is absconding.

Three others have been acquitted of the charges.

Shahed Noor Uddin, Judge of the Speedy Trial Tribunal 1, Dhaka Division, delivered the 36-page judgement yesterday in a jam-packed courtroom amid heavy security. The tribunal completed hearing of the case in 135 working days.

Those awarded life term are Tonai Mollah, Nurul Haq, Abdul Malek Apu alias Chakma Apu, 'Pichchi' Hannan alias Hannan, 'Kala' Sharif, Mohammad Rahman, Sento, Akhter Hossain, Alamgir alias 'Bheza' Alamgir, Kachi, Biplob and 'Dakat' Shahid.

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PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka City Corporation Ward Commissioner Saidur Rahman (top), one of the two sentenced to death yesterday for killing advocate Habibur Rahman Mondol, walks out of court after the verdict. Police (above) mete out instant justice to one of the supporters of Saidur who clashed with those of Mondol on the court premises after the verdict.

## Wife happy with verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nilufar Yasmin Diba was at home when her husband's killers were sentenced to death and life in prison by the court of Speedy Trial Tribunal, Dhaka yesterday.

Almost three years after advocate Habibur Rahman

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## How Mondol was killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was on the morning of August 20, 2000. Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondol was heading for office by motorbike with his clerk. He was caught in a traffic jam at the Chandra Mohan Bashak Lane, 10 to 15 yards from home.

The 44-year-old lawyer did not know what was in wait

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Zia's 22nd anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 22nd death anniversary of late president Ziaur Rahman will be observed today across the country.

On this day in 1981, President Zia was assassinated by a group of disgruntled army personnel at Chittagong Circuit House.

To observe the day, the ruling

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# Free floats the exchange rate

Economists, bankers allay fear of costlier dollar

STAR REPORT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday set foreign currency exchange rate band free from any regulation.

From Saturday, banks will fix buying and selling rates of dollar and other currencies according to supply and demand situation under the free-float system and there will be no band on the rates.

The BB however will keep an eye on the market and intervene in money market and US dollar selling and purchase transactions whenever needed. The BB will also deal with banks on dollar on a case-to-case basis.

The central bank held a meeting with the managing directors of all the four nationalised commercial banks (NCBs), who will have a major role in managing the free-float regime.

Meantime, economists and bankers have

welcomed the deregulation of the exchange rate and said this would enhance the government's commitment to the market. They also allayed any apprehension of hike in dollar rate.

Some bankers said the dollar rate may even fall if the government can properly manage foreign aid to increase foreign currency inflow. They said a sound macro-economic fundamental is also a prerequisite.

"We have already got almost a decade of experience of current account convertibility of taka," said Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud of Dhaka University. "Under the system, there are no restrictions on buying foreign exchange for import and other legitimate current account transactions."

"The Bangladesh Bank therefore had to fix the exchange rate taking into account the supply-demand situation in the forex market as reflected

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# Businessman gunned down on 3rd attempt

Bodyguard, another man also killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Ali went behind the market.

Five youngsters were waiting there. They shot him in the head. At this, his bodyguard started running away but the gang caught him, snatched his shotgun and sprayed bullet on Khan again.

Mohammad Ali was also shot. Kamal however escaped unhurt.

Relatives and employees of the businessman rushed both to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared Khan dead. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

Ali was shifted to the Chest

Diseases Hospital where he died in the evening. His body was also sent to DMCH morgue.

Family members said Khan had left for his business office at about 10:30 in the morning. They suspected he was killed by the same people who had attacked him twice in the past.

On March 23 this year, armed elements shot Khan in Paltan area. He was first admitted to the DMCH and then shifted to a private clinic at Dhamondi upon threats from some unidentified people. The attack followed his alleged involvement in occupying a market in

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# Blair steps in Iraq



Tony Blair

REUTERS, Basra

British Prime Minister Tony Blair yesterday became the first Western leader to visit post-war Iraq, landing his troops in a former palace of Saddam Hussein for helping create "a defining moment" in history.

Blair, who gambled his premiership to back the American-led invasion of Iraq, flew to the southern city of Basra in the cockpit of a missile-carrying RAF Hercules before moving around in a helicopter protected by a machine-gunner.

"I know there were a lot of disagreements in the country over the agreements in the country over the

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# Cruel sun claims 5 lives in Pabna

Cry for water, power peaks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Power and water proved elusive, but the sun did not. And the mercury was aiming to hit a new height in the current sizzling summer.

About 300 people succumbed to diarrhoea in Dhaka yesterday as the blistering heat wave continued to smother Bangladesh.

At least five people died in Pabna and two in Rajshahi in the last three days while hundreds hospitalised across the country in the hostile summer that sent mercury to 41.4 degrees Celsius in Rajshahi on Wednesday.

The Pabna victims are Shah Ali, 35, of Harirampur, Rafiq Ali, 65, of

Ratanpur, Sukhjan, 90, of Goralia, Chhulia Begum, 60, of Majpara, and Noor Hossain, 50, of Dublia. In Rajshahi, Abdul Jabbar, 42, and Hazrat Ali, 38, of Bilimaria at Bhagmara died while working on the field on Tuesday.

The sizzler, twinned with humidity and frequent brownouts, made life miserable in Dhaka and elsewhere yesterday.

In the capital, the temperature hovered between 35.7 and 25 degrees Celsius through most of the day.

There are slim chances of the temperature changing, weather officials said, warning that a mild to

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