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Convict bolts from dock before verdict came

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A life-term convict fled from the dock of the Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court in presence of police yesterday noon.

The convict escaped immediately before the judge declared the verdict on the sensational murder case of Ananda who was stabbed to death in 2001.

Witnesses said police produced eight chargesheeted accused of the murder case before the court this morning. They are Shahidul Islam, Abed Ali, Zayed Ali, Abdul Mojib, Shahinur, Noorul Islam, Foizer Rahman, and Reaz Uddin Mukti.

As the judge was preparing to deliver verdict, Reaz Uddin alias Mukti dashed away from the dock.

HC stays Dhaka-10 by-polls till June 12

Manman files petition against 'Kula' denial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A dispute over allocation of election symbol prompted the High Court (HC) yesterday to stay until June 12 all proceedings of the by-election to Dhaka-10 constituency slated for June 6.

The stay order followed a writ petition filed by opposition Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) candidate

MA Mannan, who has twice been refused 'Kula' as election symbol.

Mannan also went to the court to seek direction from the Election Commission (EC) for allocation of his desired symbol and rescheduling of the by-polls.

The division bench of MA Matin and Justice Tariq-Ul Hakim passed the order at 1:15pm, prompting the government attorneys representing

the EC Secretariat to rush to the chamber judge of the Appellate Division and file a petition for a stay of the latest order at 4:00pm.

The Appellate Division closes at 2:30pm.

Chamber Judge Justice Tafazzal Islam, however, turned down the EC petition and sent it to the chief justice after the government

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US slated over rights abuse

AP, London

The US-led war on terror has produced the most sustained attack on human rights and international law in 50 years, Amnesty International said in its annual report yesterday.

Irene Khan, secretary general of the human rights group, condemned terrorist assaults by groups such as al-Qaeda, saying they posed a threat to security around the world.

But she criticized the response of the US-led "coalition of the willing," saying its powerful governments were ignoring international laws by sacrificing human rights in the "blind pursuit" of security.

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AI slates attack on minorities, cop brutality

Moudud rejects report's allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Amnesty International Report 2004 has found widespread human rights violation, torture, police brutality, arbitrary detention, violence against women and attacks against Hindus and the Ahmadiyaas in Bangladesh in 2003.

At least 13 detainees died in

police custody, according to the report released yesterday. Police used unnecessary or disproportionate force against demonstrators, injuring hundreds of people, some critically.

Courts sentenced to death more than 130 men and women in verdicts, most of them by speedy trial

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INDIANS HELD AT ZIA Police hunt down 3 other Sikhs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives are hunting down the three Sikhs who travelled with the five arrested Indians after they holed up in a Bangladesh Biman aircraft at Zia International Airport on Saturday.

Despite raids in different parts of the capital, police failed to nab the trio till 6:00 yesterday evening, sources said.

According to sources, Guru Bhajan Singh, Har Bhajan and Virander Singh Kaor went to Hong Kong and returned to Dhaka on Friday in the same flight with the five

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8 killed in Bhola accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least eight people were killed and 52 others injured as a passenger bus skidded off the road and fell into a canal near Dighaldi under Bhola Sadar upazila at about 3:00pm yesterday.

Seven of the dead are Abdur Razzak, 20, Maksud, 14, Mosharaf, 7, Rubel, 12, Nirab, 26, Shahjahan, 25, and Jasim, 15. Identity of the other aged about 12 years could not be known.

Of the injured, 32 were admitted to Bhola Sadar Hospital while the rest given first aid.

Police said the bus was coming to Bhola district town from Balia village in Sadar upazila with about 70 people on board. Most of the victims, who attended the qul khwani of Mohammad Mostafa, younger brother of Jatiyo Party (Nazir) President Nazir Rahman Manzur, were returning to the district town by the bus.

Survivors said the driver of the overloaded bus lost control over the steering, leading to the mishap.



Double trouble for crackdown victims

AKBAR HOSSAIN

Hundreds of innocent people rounded up during the April 18-26 government crackdown in connection with Awami League (AL)'s April 30 oust-government deadline are now faced with another big hassle -- an exhaustive battle against the cases lodged against them.

Hundreds of these victims have no political background and are too poor to pay unnecessary legal expenses for court cases. Many have taken recourse to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) for legal assistance while countless others are left high and dry as these NGOs now are swamped with requests for help

from insolvent defendants. Fatema Akhtar, a young girl and weaver by profession, was picked up by police on April 19 without any specific charge from her shanty at the city's Kuril slum.

"Some plainclothes policemen came to the slum at noon and told me to go with them," Fatema said. "I

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UK detectives share finds with cops

Fly off to Sylhet again today

STAR REPORT

The Scotland Yard officials yesterday met the home ministry and police officials in the capital, shared finds of their probe into Friday's blast at a Sylhet shrine and will fly off again to the northeastern city today.

The three-member team that

arrived in Dhaka Tuesday went to the home ministry about 11:00am. The ministry officials asked the members of London Metropolitan Anti-terrorist Branch to stay a few more days to help local investigators hunt down the perpetrators of the bomb attack in the 700-year-old

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Snail mail indeed!

Postal Dept proves

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

After two years 10 months and 11 days, Bangladesh Postal Department succeeded to deliver a letter to its recipient's address only to find him dead 15 months ago.

Starting a journey from Noupura village under Hakimpur upazila of Dinajpur district on June 13, 2001, the letter took over 34 months to dawdle its way to its destination at Choudhury Rice Mills in the

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Bangla Bhai men lie low, newsmen slate threat

ANWAR ALL, Rajshahi

Journalists demonstrated in Rajshahi city yesterday against explicit death threats to them by Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh that started pulling out of the north-western region after an apparent

police order.

Militants of the Islamist outfit left their camps in Bagmara, Atrai and Raninagar among all 13 in six upazilas of Rajshahi, Naogaon and Bogra, set up since April 1 to carry out vigilante action against banned outlaws.

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GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON POVERTY PM pleads for new financial system

BSS, Shanghai

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday strongly pleaded for evolving a new global financial arrangement to reduce rich-poor resource gap.

"Obviously, the existing resource gap cannot be covered by traditional ODA (overseas development assistance) alone. What is needed is a new global financial arrangement

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