

INSURANCE OFFICIAL MURDER

2 to die, 4 get life

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday sentenced two persons to death and four to life in jail for killing an insurance official in Netrakona on January 26 in 1998.

The convicts with death are Majibur Rahim and Mohammad Khokan while Hasen Ali, Mohammad Ali, Babul and Quamrul Islam were given life in jail.

All the convicts were tried in absentia.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 gave the verdict at a jam-packed court-room.

The punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the date of their arrest or surrender and the convicts with death can appeal to

Ramendu re-elected
World ITI VP


Ramendu Majumdar, President of the Bangladesh Centre of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), was re-elected vice-president of the World ITI and president of the ITI Communication Committee at the 31st World Congress of ITI in Tampico recently, Mexico, says a press release.

Nasiruddin Yousuff, organising secretary of Bangladesh ITI, was re-elected president of the ITI Cultural Identity and Development Committee. Manfred Beilharz of Germany was re-elected the ITI Worldwide President.

The 2004 volume of the World to Theatre, published by the Bangladesh ITI was launched at the inaugural session of the Congress on May 30.

Nasiruddin Yousuff presented a paper on "Myths and Rituals: Challenges for contemporary creation" in the Congress.

the High Court against the verdict in 30 days, the judgement said.

The court also acquitted four others. Kalam Motaleb, Kalachand and Rustom Ali as charges brought against them were not proved.

Earlier, the prosecution and defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 24 prosecution witnesses.

In the case filed with Purbadhal Police Station, it has been alleged that the accused kidnapped Noor Mohammad, a Jibon Bima official from his village home at a Dashedi under Purbadhal Upazila of Netrakona district at about 4:00pm on January 26 in 1998 for a ransom of Tk one lakh. The accused killed Noor and dumped his body to a nearby river as his family refused to pay the ransom.

Later, police recovered the body and a murder case was filed against the accused on March 12 the same year. The investigation officer pressed charges against Majibur and nine others on November 11 in 2001.

3 brothers killed as bus runs them over in sleep
UNB, Dinajpur

Three brothers were killed while in sleep under the wheels of a truck as it rammed into their roadside grocery at Birganj in Dinajpur yesterday.

Abdul Latif (15), Lutfar (12) and Labu (10), sons of Jahangir Ali, perished in the accident when the driver lost control and drove the truck into the shop at about 5:00am, witnesses said.

The tragic accident occurred at Hatkhola on Birganj-Thakurgaon road. The killer truck bound for Thakurgaon from Dhaka was seized but driver Delwar managed to flee.

Locals angered by the accident blocked traffic from 6:00am to 12 at noon. Police came to the spot and quelled the agitating crowd to withdraw the blockade.

A case was filed with Birganj Police Station.



Orientation programme of City University for summer semester was held at its auditorium recently. Vice Chancellor Prof DR M Shamsul Haque addressed the new students. Prof Shamsul Haque appraised the freshers about the norms, rules and culture of City University and asked them to avail the modern facilities.



Members of Bangladesh Everest Team-1 pose for photograph with Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Second from right, at a press conference in the city yesterday. Bangla Mountaineering and Trekking Club organised the conference on successful trekking of Everest base camp by the team members recently.

India's energy deal within region to ensure US interest

Expert tells seminar

UNB, Dhaka

The United States wants that India's energy demand be fulfilled within the region to ensure the energy security of the United States itself, says a leading energy expert of the country.

"In addition to commercial business, a successful energy deal between India and another country of the region will help reduce India's energy import from the world market, which in turn will help in achieving the energy security of the United States," Prof M Nurul Islam said.

Probably this is why, Prof. Islam pointed out, the American energy policy recommended that the president should direct the secretaries of state and energy to work with the Indian authorities to help India maximise its domestic oil and gas production.

Presenting a paper on "Energy Development Strategies for Bangladesh" at a seminar here yesterday, Prof Islam, a teacher of the University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) said: US politicians are committed to undertake policy decisions favouring the business activities of their oil

companies.

Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA), Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) and Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) jointly arranged the seminar at IEB auditorium. Other experts also presented papers on a number of energy related issues at the seminar.

Prof Islam, also Director of the Institute of Appropriate Technology of BUET said: The main objective of USAID funded SARI/Energy project was to facilitate the US companies implement energy development projects in South Asia region.

In this context, he also pointed out that during the last five years Bangladesh has been unduly pursued by one international oil company (IOC) and pressurised by their allies to export natural gas to India.

"On the basis of hypothetical and speculative quantity of natural gas resources (32-42 TCF) it has been argued that Bangladesh has large reserve of gas to commit export," he said in his paper at the inaugural session.

EVEREST EXPEDITION
Bangladesh team reaches base camp

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

the press conference.

"We are still far away from the summit. But hopefully someday we will reach the peak and our dream will come true," said Sadiya, the lone female member of the team.

M A Muhit showed slides on their trekking at the conference.

Kalidas Karmakar, a noted artist, was also a member of the team but fell sick and stayed back at Monjo, 12000 feet above the sea level.

Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed was present as chief guest at the press conference.

He said: "We are rising as a nation in different fields. Very soon some of our brave children will step on the summit of the Mount Everest. We need only wish and practice."

Transcom Beverage and Korean Company Youngone sponsored the team.

Timbers worth Tk 7.13 lakh seized

UNB, Dhaka

Members of Coast Guard West Zone seized 1,326 cft timbers worth Tk 7.13 lakh in separate drives on Friday and Saturday.

They said the seized Sundari, Kakra and Poshu timbers were stolen from the Sundarbans by the organised gangs.

The seized timbers were deposited with the forest department, said a Coast Guard press release.

1164 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,164 people, including two listed criminals, during their countrywide drive on various charges in the last 24 hours till 6.00am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered two firearms, two other arms and six bullets and filed two cases against three people under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.

Sandip Samity executives



Abul Quasem Haider, vice-president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Advocate Syed Rafiqul Islam were elected president and general secretary of Sandip Samity in Dhaka, says a press release.

The biennial election 2004-05 of Sandip Samity was held in the city recently.

Other office-bearers are ABM Wahidur Rahman, senior vice-president, Advocate Liakat Ali and AKM Shahjahan, vice-presidents and Safiul Islam, joint secretary.