

N'GANJ JUBO LEAGE LEADER MURDER
Two to die, one gets life

UNB, Narayanganj

Two young men were sentenced to death and another to life term for killing a Jubo League leader at Ispahani Bazaar of Bandar thana about two years ago.

Shamsul Haq alias Patha Shamsu, 30 and Nurul Haq, 29, were handed down the death penalty while Mizanur Rahman Miza was given life imprisonment for murder of Amir Hamza Manzur. The convicts were in the dock when the judge pronounced the verdict. Seven other accused were acquitted.

Pronouncing the verdict in a crowded court Judge Mohammad Abul Mansur observed that "there was a deep rooted conspiracy and mystery behind the killing."

According to the prosecution, Amir Hamza, a local Jubo League leader, was taking tea in a stall at Ispahani Bazaar of Bandar at about 10.00am on December 10, 2002. The accused shot and hacked Hamza to death.

Twenty-two prosecution witnesses were examined before the judgement.

Mineral water plant run by the disabled opens tomorrow

Tk19.5crore plant to purify around 3,000 litres of water every hour

UNB, Dhaka

In a move for greater welfare of the disabled, the government has set up the country's first disabled-run mineral water plant costing Tk 19.5 crore in Tongi.

With brand name "Mukta", the bottled mineral water will be marketed in five different sizes.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the water plant tomorrow.

Addressing a press conference at his office yesterday, State Minister for Social Welfare Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid said price and standard of the mineral water produced at the newly set up plant would be relatively better than those already in the market.

He said the plant would purify around 3,000 litres of water every hour through Reverse Osmosis system.

Mujahid said the new plant has created diversified employment opportunity for some 250 disabled people.

Under the same project international standard plastic products of

various kinds were already being produced, he added.

Social Welfare Secretary Kazi Monwarul Haq and Director General of Social Welfare Department Hafizul Islam Mia were present at the press briefing.

PM attends Iftar hosted by home ministry

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday attended Iftar hosted by the Home Ministry.

Ministers, MPs, senior civil and military officials attended the Iftar at Rajarbag Police Lines.

On arrival at the parade ground, she was received by State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar. Heads of different organisations of the Home Ministry were present on the occasion.



Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized huge illegal Indian goods, including medicines, motorcycle parts, clothes and cosmetics, from a container of Sundarban Courier Service at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

UN exhibition begins in city

BSS, Dhaka

The United Nations celebrated its 30-year partnership with Bangladesh through opening an interactive exhibition at its office here yesterday.

UN resident coordinator Jorgen Lissner inaugurated the exhibition, organised by the UN Women's Association (UNWA), an official press release said.

Lissner in his speech made a special mention about the 'two way' partnership between Bangladesh and the UN and said they were making valuable contribution in each other's efforts in respective field.

The UN is very active in Bangladesh's development process while Bangladesh is making valuable contributions to the international community through the United Nations system, he said.

He rated Bangladesh as one of the world's largest contributors of peacekeeping troops. The nation is also represented in a number of UN governing bodies and international UN committees, he added.

The unique exhibition is designed to inform visitors about the UN's role in Bangladesh.

Creators Marie Ange Sylvain Holmgren and Nigel Garvey said they wanted to show how the UN touches vital aspects of our everyday lives through its work.

Appeal to rescue Sylhet businessman

Family members held press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Family members of the business magnate, who had been missing for last one week, have appealed to the authorities concerned to rescue him immediately.

Speaking at a press conference yesterday, the family members of Md Habibur Rahman said, "We do not know whether he is alive or not."

Victim's wives Tipu Sultana Khatun and Sajna Begum said they live in separate flats at Shahjalal Upashahar, and there is no misunderstanding between them.

Sultana said, "Habibur Rahman took Iftar with me on October 17 and then went out for other house on the same road where Sajna lives. Since then he went on missing."

Meanwhile, President of Sylhet Chamber Mohiuddin Ahmed has expressed his concern at the incident and met the District BNP Convenor M Ilyas Ali MP for his help in rescuing the businessman.

Ilyas has requested the state minister for home for taking necessary steps in this regard.

we urge the police to stop torture on them," the statement said.

Earlier, the wives of the victim handed over a memorandum to the deputy inspector general of police urging him to find out Habibur Rahman.

The case had been transferred to the Detective Branch on Saturday and Inspector Shafiqul Alam had been made the investigation officer.

Committee to formulate nat'l cultural policy

BSS, Dhaka

A five-member committee was formed yesterday to formulate the national cultural policy with joint secretary of the Cultural Ministry Mahmudul Masud as convener.

The decision was taken at a meeting held at the ministry with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman in the chair.

The committee will submit its report within six weeks.

Senior assistant secretary Nilufa Aktar Khanam has been made member-secretary of the committee. Other members of the committee are: Dr Sharif Uddin Ahmed, director of the archives and library department, Prof Mahmudul Haque, director general of National Museum, Dildar Ahmed, cultural adviser of the ministry.

After the submission of Syed Ali Ahsan report in 1989, this is the first ever initiative taken to review the report with a view to formulating a national cultural policy.

The committee was constituted on the basis of a recommendation made by the review committee headed by Prof Mansur Musa, director general of Bangla Academy.

President, PM greet Kazakh counterparts

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday felicitated their counterparts of Kazakhstan on the occasion of the Independence Day of the country to be observed today.

Iajuddin in his message to Kazakhstan President Nursultan Abishevich Nazarbaev said the existing relations between the two countries would further be strengthened in the year to come.

Besides, Khaleda in her message to Kazakhstan Prime Minister Danial Kenjetaevich Ahmetov hoped the friendly relations between the two countries would further be cemented and diversified in the days ahead.

President and prime minister also wished good health and happiness of their counterparts and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Kazakhstan.

19 ships arrive at Ctg port this week

BSS, Chittagong

A total of 19 ships, including a tanker, are expected to arrive at Chittagong Port or anchor at the outer anchorage this week, according to the schedule received by the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) yesterday.

According to their local agents, most of the ships are carrying containers except four which are carrying rice, wheat, sugar and oil. The ships would be arriving here between October 24 and 29.

13 ships are now engaged in loading and unloading goods at different jetties, besides the private jetties, port sources said.

Programmes to observe November 7

UNB, Dhaka

The government has taken an elaborate programme to observe the National Revolution and Solidarity Day on November 7 in a befitting manner.

On the occasion, President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will issue separate messages.

The Day will be a public holiday. National flag will be hoisted atop government and private buildings on the occasion. Bangladesh missions abroad will observe the day through various programmes, said an official handout.

Special prayers will be offered on the occasion in mosques, temples, churches, pagodas and other places of worship seeking divine blessings for peace and progress of the nation.

Improved diets will be served in hospitals, prisons, orphanages, children's homes, juvenile correction centres and vagrant homes.

Newspapers will publish special articles and supplements highlighting the significance of the Day while Bangladesh Television, private TV channels and Bangladesh Betar (Radio) will broadcast special programmes marking the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

To mark the day, discussions will be held at the district and upazila levels while essay writing competitions will also be organised for the youth.

Government buildings will be illuminated while road islands and different roads will be decorated with national flag.

Shilpakala Academy will organise sessions of patriotic songs and the cinema halls will screen documentary films.

Special programmes will also be taken up on the occasion at different cantonments across the country and at the headquarters of Bangladesh Police, Bangladesh Rifles and Ansar-VDP.

Amend laws to recover occupied land

District admins recommend

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The district administrations have recommended amendments to the existing laws and adequate fund for accelerating the drive against illegal land occupants.

They observed that amendment should be brought to the Government Land and Building Recovery of Possession Ordinance 1970 and Bangladesh Penal Code (BPC) for bringing dynamism in the eviction drive.

They also sought policy guidelines for eviction drive against the encroachers of the private lands as there is no law in this regard.

The recommendations were placed before the third meeting of the national executive committee on monitoring of allegations and investigation against land occupants yesterday.

Cabinet Secretary Dr Sadat Hossain presided over the meeting at the cabinet division.

"The government has identified illegal land occupation as a national crisis, and we have to address it," Sadat Hossain said after the meeting.

He, however, said the problem will not be solved overnight, it will take a lot of time.

The next meeting of the committee, formed in February this year, will review the recommendations sent by the local administrations.

The meeting expressed satisfaction over the activities of the local committees in this regard.

Secretaries of land, environment, law, works and information were present at the meeting.

ASSAULT OF BMA LEADER
DU Board suggests expulsion of student

Proctor's office to show cause correspondents for report on Rokeya Hall video camera

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Disciplinary Board of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday recommended the expulsion of a first year student of management for two years for his involvement in assaulting a leader of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA).

Abul Kalam Azad, also an activist of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), along with Mehedi Hasan, a masters student of public administration, assaulted the BMA acting president Dr Azizul Haque at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on September 16.

The recommendation was made at a meeting of the board with Vice-chancellor Prof S M A Faiz in the chair.

It will now be placed before the syndicate.

The meeting also fined Hasan Tk 100 and warned him for being with Azad during the incident.

The board also discussed about the rumour of recovering a video-camera from Rokeya Hall last month and recommended issuance of show cause notice to university correspondents who filed the report, sources added.

The VC told The Daily Star that the show cause notice will be issued to the correspondents through the office of the proctor soon.

The meeting also recommended for filing defamation cases against the newspapers that published the false news.

The board, however, could not discuss about the September 11 campus violence at the meeting.

The VC said the committee will sit on September 27 to discuss the issue and take punitive action against the accused persons.

The probe committee, headed by university Pro-VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, submitted the report accusing eight student leaders.



Dhaka city Awami League stages a demonstration at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday protesting price spiral of essentials and demanding arrest of the culprits responsible for the August 21 grenade attack.

PHOTO: STAR

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country till 6.00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 19.0 degree Celsius at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:24pm today and rises at 6.01am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.4	22.4	62	57
Chittagong	33.4	22.5	69	70
Rajshahi	31.5	19.8	75	74
Khulna	32.2	22.7	67	7
Barisal	32.0	22.0	75	92
Sylhet	31.8	22.1	71	79
Cox's Bazar	33.8	24.0	71	64

PRICE SPIRAL OF ESSENTIALS
JP blames govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad has blamed the government for its failure to combat the price spiral of essentials.

He was addressing a meeting organised by the city unit of the party at a hotel yesterday.

The JP Chairman also criticised the government for failing to provide assistance to Monga-affected people in northern part of the country.

He said the monga (a famine-like situation) has already claimed 30 lives.

Ershad said Jatiya Party must return to power to free the country from the misrule of the present government.

"The people should bring the JP to power again for their own interest," he added.

Ershad also criticised the German Ambassador in Dhaka Dietrich Andreas for alleged comments against Islam.

"Comparing the JP rule with Awami League and BNP, people are now convinced that the Jatiya Party should come to power again," said party Presidium Member Kazi Jafar Ahmed.

JP General Secretary ABM Ruhul Amin Howlader and Presidium Member Syed Abu Hossain Babla also spoke.

An Iftar mahfil followed the meeting.