

## MURDER OF THREE BROTHERS 5 to die, 8 get life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A tribunal here yesterday sentenced five people to death and eight others to life imprisonment in the sensational triple murder case of Hathazari.

The court acquitted 10 others as the charges brought against them were not proved while one died during the trial.

The convicts with death are Kazi Mobarak Hossain, Mohammad Osman, Moinuddin alias Battaiya, Imam Uddin alias Mujib and Mohammad Lokman while Mohammad Bakhtiar alias Nonaiya, former local UP chairman Abul Kalam Chowdhury, Mohammad Belal, Jamal Uddin alias Karate Jamal, Mohammad Shahjahan, Shah Alam, Mohammad Doulat Uddin alias Rasel and Abu Rasheed were given life in jail.

Those who got life term were also fined Tk 50,000 each, in default, to suffer two years more in jail.

Of the convicts, Kazi Mobarak

Hossain, Mohammad Bakhtiar, Abul Kalam Chowdhury, Mohammad Belal and Jamal Uddin were present in the court during the delivery of the judgement while the rest were on their run.

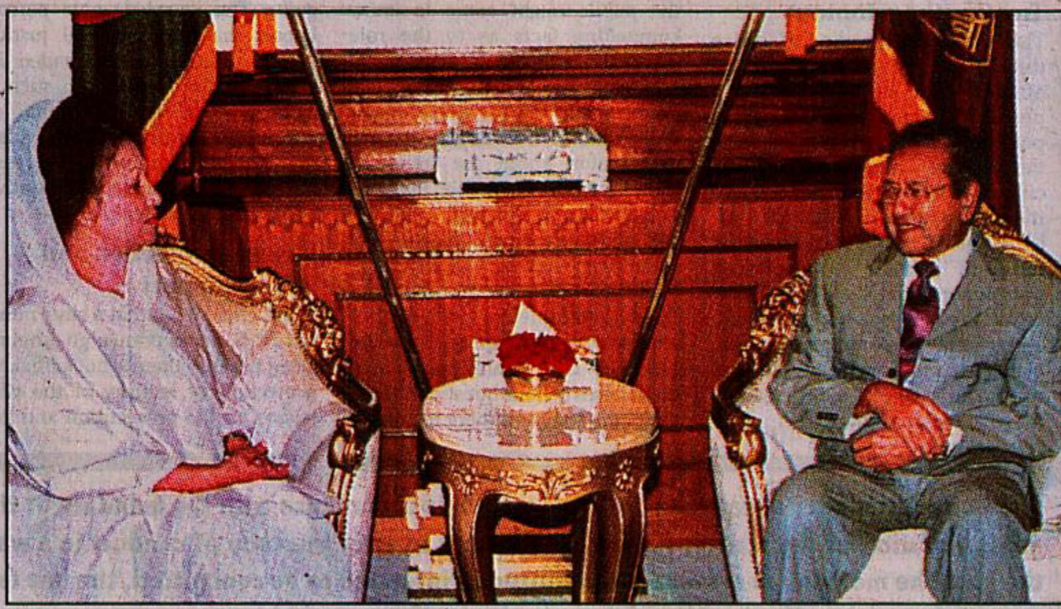
Judge M Hasan Imam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal pronounced the verdict at a jam-packed courtroom.

Three brothers Abul Kasem, Abul Bashar and Badsha Alam were shot and chopped to death by an armed gang following a land dispute at Charia union of Hathazari upazila on May 26 last year.

Security was tightened during the judgement around the court at Jubilee road in the port city.

The investigation officer of the case Sub-Inspector Shahjahan Mia pressed charges against 22 people on October 30, 2003.

Public prosecutor Kamrul Islam Chowdhury appeared for the state while Advocate Ahsanul Haq defended the accused.



Former Malaysian prime minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad calls on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

## 'Make Dec 26 strike a success'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Sangbadik Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP) yesterday called for making the 24-hour strike in newspaper industry on December 26 a success.

The Parishad called the strike to press for its seven-point demand, including formation of the sixth wage board, 60 percent dearness allowance and implementation of Fifth Wage Board Award in all newspapers, said a press release.

Addressing a meeting of the Parishad at the National Press Club, the leaders also criticised the government for not taking any step to meet the demands.

Presided over by Parishad Co-convenor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, the meeting was also addressed by Fazel Imam, Ruhul Amin Gazi, Matir Rahman Talukdar, Alif Mahmud, Abdus Shaheed, Md Asadulla, Khairul Islam and Abul Hashem.

## Rickshaw strike observed partially

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The rickshaw strike was observed partially in the city yesterday.

The strike was called in protest at the government decision to make the road stretching from Kalabagan to Azimpur off-limits to rickshaws.

City commuters had to face some problems in the morning, but rickshaws were available after 11:00am.

## JU ADMISSION TESTS 17 fake examinees held

JU CORRESPONDENT

A total of 17 fake examinees including a student of Chittagong University of Engineering Technology (Cuet) were held on the first day of the admission tests for first year honours courses at Jahangirnagar University (JU) under 2004-05 academic session yesterday.

The fake examinees were held by a vigilance team headed by Proctor Ali Akand Mamun when they were taking part in the tests illegally.

They, however, were released at 5:30pm.

Meanwhile, admission seekers belonging to Christian community would be allowed to take part in admission tests on December 30 instead of December 25, which is Xmas Day, if they wish, said the central admission committee.

## Tipu Biswas protests killing of PBCP leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Gonofront yesterday condemned the killing of Mofakkar Hossain, founder of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), in an alleged 'crossfire' with the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

Termining the killing politically motivated, Gonofront Chief Coordinator Tipu Biswas in a statement said, "Although we do not subscribe to his political ideology, killing him in such a way can never be tolerated."

He called on left-leaning political parties and patriotic people to resist what he said was state-sponsored terrorism.

like other days.

Many people even could not get to work as the rickshaw strike.

"I have come to know about the strike as you have asked me about it," Ripa, a student of Azimpur Agrani Girls School, told this correspondent.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Rickshaw Van Malik-Sramik Oikya Sangram Parishad, an organisation of rickshaw pullers and owners, postponed its two-day strike from 2:00pm after getting an assurance from police commissioner office about the meeting of their demands.

Another organisation, Committee for Rickshaw Eviction Prevention Movement which called down to dusk hartal, alleged that the government misled the people by giving false information through electronic and print media to foil the strike and hartal.

Committee leaders threatened to go for a tougher movement if the government does not withdraw its decision to make VIP roads off-limits to rickshaws within three days.

## Death anniversary

Today is the 20th death anniversary of poet Abdul Quadir, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at the residence of his eldest daughter at Bhaduri Tower, 1/B Paribagh in the city after Maghrib prayers today.

## Abdul Khaleque

Today is the third death anniversary of Abdul Khaleque, a freedom fighter and the founder president of Agrani Bank Employees Union, says a

press release.

On the occasion, Agrani Bank Employees Union will organise a discussion and a milad at Agrani Bank Building-2 at Mohijheel in the city today.

## 3,889 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 3,889 people, including two listed criminals, on various charges during their countrywide drive in the last 72 hours till 6:00am yesterday.

## Chandrika's letter handed over to Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

A special envoy yesterday delivered a personal letter from Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Palinkkara handed over the letter to the prime minister at her office, saying that the Sri Lankan president is "eagerly waiting" to attend the 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka.

Khaleda and Chandrika's special envoy Palinkkara reaffirmed the two countries' commitment to build Saarc as suitable forum to meet the demand of 21st century.

## Buet convocation, January 30

BSS, Dhaka

The eighth convocation of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) will be held on January 30 instead of 31 due to unavoidable circumstances.

Other schedules of the convocation will remain unchanged.

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**মত বিনিময় সভা**

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## Govt lawyers urged to protect human rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday said the government lawyers would have to play more pro-active role in protecting human rights.

They said the government law agencies must have adequate knowledge about human rights violation to uphold the human rights.

The two-day workshop was organised jointly by the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and United Nations Development Programme for law officers of Attorney General's Office and government lawyers of district courts.

Speaking at the inaugural session, Attorney General A F Hassan Ariff said the government law officers have a vital role in protecting human rights.

"They must assist the court so that the criminals cannot escape punishment," he added.

"Although our constitution has guaranteed justice for everybody, only affluent people can afford to come to the High Court," said Hassan.

Bangladesh Judicial Service Association President Rafiqul Islam, T I M Nurun Nabi Chowdhury, Syed Harun Osmani and Additional Attorney General A J Mohammed Ali, also spoke.

## Trader gunned down at Rampura

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A trader was gunned down by unidentified miscreants at East Rampura in the city yesterday.

The victim was identified as Rustam Ali, 25, a garment-wastes trader in the locality.

Locals said they heard a gunshot in the morning and found one youth lying on Mollabari Road, but did not see any assailants.

Being informed, Khilgaon Police recovered Rustam with a bullet in his stomach at 8:00 am and rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

A local, Abdul Aziz, identified the body at noon at the DMCH morgue as Rustam Ali.

Police could not give any details on the dead until filing of this report and registered him as an unidentified youth.

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**DHAKA TODAY**

**Premiere show**  
Centre for Asian Theatre organises a premiere show of Henrik Ibsen's renowned play titled 'BRAND' directed by Kamaluddin Nilu with Norwegian Ambassador Aud Lise Norheim as chief guest. Venue: Theatre Auditorium of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Segun Bagicha. Time: 6:30pm.

**Film show**  
Bishwasahitya Kendra will screen a film titled 'Fahrenheit 9/11' by Michael Moore. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra Auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time: 6:00pm.

**Musical evening**  
Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, organises a musical evening. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 6:00pm.

**Talk**  
Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs organises a talk on 'Status of women's rights' with US Ambassador Harry K Thomas as keynote speaker. Venue: BILIA Auditorium, House-22, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 11:00am.

**Conference**  
The concluding session of the international conference on Regional Cooperation on Transboundary Rivers will be held with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief guest. Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall. Time: 3:00pm.

**HIV seminar**  
Bandhu Social Welfare Society, in collaboration with Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangbadik Forum, will hold a seminar titled 'HIV/Aids in Bangladesh: Role of media and civil society'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

**Workshop**  
A workshop on E-government in Bangladesh, organised jointly by The Millennium University of Dhaka and The Monash University of Australia, will be held with Science and ICT Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan in the chair. Venue: Democracy Auditorium of Millennium University.

**Founding anniversary**  
The 25th founding anniversary of Saimum Shilpi Gosthi will be held with Industries Minister Matir Rahman Nizami as chief guest. Venue: Mohanagar Natya Mancha, Gulistan. Time: 4:00pm.

**DIU seminar**  
Daffodil International University organises a seminar on IT outsourcing and Bangladesh ICT policy. Venue: University auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 3:00pm.

**JCD conference**  
A conference of Jaiyatabadi Chhetra Dal of Amar Ekushey Hall of Dhaka University will be held with Education Minister Dr M Osman Faruk as chief guest. Venue: Hall premises. Time: 8:00pm.

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