

24KG HEROIN HAUL
2 Pakistanis
to die
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced two Pakistanis to death as 24kg heroin was seized from them in 1999, the largest ever heroin haul in the country.

Judge Mohammad Shamsul Alam Khan of the Court of First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge handed down the verdict in presence of the convicts -- Rais Khan and Alekjan -- at a packed courtroom.

The court acquitted five others -- Irshad Ahmed, a Pakistani national, Mohammad Jahangir, Abdul Kamal, Hanif and Dulal -- as charges against them were not proved.

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JS bodies to be formed within 3 sessions

Move to amend rules of procedures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday decided to amend the rules of procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad to ensure that the formation of all parliamentary standing committees is completed within the third session of a parliament.

The standing committee on rules of procedure at a meeting took the decision to avoid unwanted delay in forming the parliamentary watchdog

bodies.

"We will soon amend the rules of procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad to implement the decision," Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar who is also the chairman of the committee told reporters at his office after the meeting.

Committee member and ruling BNP lawmaker Mashiur Rahman termed the decision "a tremendous achievement" of the committee that will expedite the parliamentary

bodies' overseeing of the government activities.

Once the decision is implemented, the House will be able to complete the formation of standing committees in four months of the inaugural session. Usually, every new parliament sees its third session within four months.

The current parliament took about one and half years to complete the formation of the committees

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DC-10 CRASH
Int'l flights yet
to be resumed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

International flight operation could not be resumed yesterday from Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport as the rescuers failed to drag the crash-landed DC-10 onto the runway due to muddy patch at the accident spot.

The rescuers were forced to stop the savage operation at about 3:00am yesterday after the rear landing wheels of the aircraft were stuck in the mud. In the morning they started dismantling the aircraft to further lighten it.

However, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) officials were optimistic about

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A barber shaves an army man of the rescue team beside the crash-landed DC-10 aircraft at Chittagong airport yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Mother of Saikat Rahman Amit bursts into tears beside her son's body after his death at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital yesterday.

Amit loses his lonely battle

DMCH CORRESPONDENT

Amit's battle for life came to an end yesterday when he succumbed to wild polio from which he has been suffering for the last five years after his windpipe of artificial pacemaker got disconnected accidentally.

"The windpipe of artificial pace-maker by which he used to take oxygen was disconnected and he died within minutes," Moshir Rahman, father of Amit, told The Daily Star with tears rolling down his cheeks.

Saikat Rahman Amit, 17, the first patient with wild polio in the country, was diagnosed with the disease at the age of 12. With almost his entire body, from the neck downward, paralysed, Amit had been confined to bed for the last five years living on artificial breathing system. After being treated at Bangobandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH) for two years Amit went back home on February 28, 2001.

Amit was a sixth grade student of Ideal High School of Banasree branch when he became sick. Amit's appeal to the 140 million people of the countrymen through the print and electronic media, where Amit said that a contribution of one taka from everyone could help him survive, moved the people.

Thousands came forward to help

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FULL FREEDOM OF JUDICIARY

Moudud finds his hands tied

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said he feels the need for full independence and restoration of discipline in the judiciary, but it is not possible for him to implement his wishes since he holds a political position.

"I feel the same way Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud or Amir-Ul

Islam feels but cannot express the feeling the way they can," Moudud said at a memorial meeting on Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed where the legal experts questioned the accountability and transparency in appointment of the judges with political link.

"Judges are appointed according to partisan identity, not considering their talent, character, quality,

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ROK firm signs MoU for \$1b investment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

South Korean conglomerate Luxon Global Company yesterday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the government to invest US\$1 billion in coal mining, power plant, fertiliser plant, gas transmission and infrastructure development sectors in Bangladesh.

After the signing ceremony, Luxon Global Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Seung Youb Lee said his company has targeted developing Asian countries, including Bangladesh, to invest in different sectors as the region still requires

investment in infrastructure development and power production.

"We are interested to invest in Bangladesh for its vast quantity of unexplored coal and cheap and available labour forces," he said.

According to the MoU, Luxon will invest \$150 million in coal mining, \$350 million in coal-based power plant, \$150 million in gas-based fertiliser plant, \$200 in developing NGL/LNG (natural gas liquids/liquefied natural gas) and gas transmission, and \$150 million in infrastructure development.

The company will start a feasibility

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National Security Intelligence members beat up photojournalist Wahid Hasan Raja of the Daily Bhorer Kagoj opposite the NSI office at Bijoynagar.

TATA INVESTMENT TALKS

New discords surface

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

A number of discords have surfaced in the second round talks between the government and the Tata Group over the Indian giant's proposed US\$2.5 billion investment.

Tata yesterday demanded official gas reserves figure from Bangladesh, a request that the government is not willing to keep.

Tata representatives at the meeting at the finance ministry said the proposed funders of the project - the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank want to know the reserves figure as precondition to their firm commitment, a meeting insider said preferring anonymity.

Differences of opinion also crept up about methods of dispute settlement. Tata wants the British mechanism to apply in case of dispute while the government favours the

law of the land to government such settlement.

Bangladesh also tagged a condition that Tata has to go for coal-based power production to get the guarantee for 20 years' gas supply for its 4.20 lakh tonnes steel plant.

The Indian conglomerate yesterday came up with a revised figure for gas requirement -- 1.34 trillion cubic feet (TCF) for 30 years, scaled down from its previous 2 TCF -- but it still remains higher than the government's offer of 1.25 TCF.

Tata also wanted coal exploration licences for four blocks at Barapukuria and Phulbari coal fields, but the government said it is willing to give Tata only two blocks -- first and second -- as the third and fourth ones have already been awarded to other companies.

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Arrest warrant against 2 editors for running story on Pintu

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrant against editors of two Bangla national dailies minutes into a ruling BNP lawmaker filed two separate defamation cases against the newspapers for publishing reports that linked him and his family members with the Jubo Dal leader Sagir Ahmed killing.

Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, lawmaker from Dhaka-8 constituency,

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Prayer Timing		
July 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-57	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		