



PHOTO: STAR

Jatiya Oikya Mancha Convenor Dr Kamal Hossain and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury lead a procession towards the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday to submit a memorandum to the speaker.

SI FARHAD MURDER CASE

All accused acquitted of bomb blast charges

Verdict deferred to Sept 15

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday re-fixed September 15 for the verdict on the killing of Sub-Inspector (SI) Farhad. The court, however, acquitted all the 23 accused in a separate bomb blast case filed the same day on the same occasion. The accused include Jubo Dal leader Rafiqul Islam Kajol and 22 others, the then leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal of Jagannath University College unit. Judge Mohammad Rabiul Hassan of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order shifting the date as an absconding accused in the case AF Zaman Khan Ashish appealed to show him arrested and examine the witnesses in the case. The court granted the appeal for showing him arrested in the case but rejected the plea for recalling the witnesses for examination. The court fixed September 15 for defending himself. Ashish was arrested

on November 15, 2002 in another case and has been in the jail since then. SI Hasanul Haq Farhad, 30, was killed during a gunbattle between the two factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Jagannath University College on March 5 in 1994. Both the groups, one led by Sagir Ahmed and the other by Kajol, engaged themselves in clash to establish supremacy on the college campus. During the shootout, Farhad caught one of the leaders red handed with a firearm but others fired gunshots to free their leader. Later, Police Inspector Majibul Haq filed a murder case against Sagir, Kajol and 50 others the same day in this connection. Sagir was shot dead by a group of miscreants in front of his residence in the city's Sutrapur area on June 17 this year. Kajol, accused in the Sutrapur double murder case, has been absconding since the incident in March last year.

The court acquitted accused in the bomb blast case as the prosecution failed to prove the allegations brought against them filed under the Explosive Substances Act. In the verdict the judge said, 'College campus is a big area. The law enforcing agencies in their investigations could not ascertain who exploded the bombs from which side. The prosecution did neither claim that anybody was held red handed with cocktail bombs nor did it give any specific statement in their depositions about the spot of explosions. So the prosecution has failed to prove the allegations against the accused'. Four of the 23 accused, Ripon, Kauser, Shahabuddin and Hamid were present in the court during the delivery of the verdict. Accused Kajol and 18 others have been absconding since the incident. Assistant Public Prosecutors Abdul Alim and Kamruddin appeared for the state while advocates Mahbub Ahmed and Iqbal Ahmed defended the accused. Q

Bomb Blast Case

AHMADIYYA ISSUE

Khatme Nubuwaat divided over movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Khatme Nubuwaat Movement Bangladesh, a forum of Islamist bigots, faced a serious rift yesterday after one of its leaders postponed its movement against the Ahmadiyya community in the wake of August 17 countrywide bomb blasts. Mufti Noor Hussain Noorani, senior nayebe-e-amir (vice-president) of the organisation, announced the postponement at a press conference at Grand Azad Hotel in the city. But as soon as the press conference ended, Amir (president) of the organisation Mahmudul Hasan Mamtazi along with Secretary General Nazmul Haq and other leaders stormed into the venue and scolded him for his announcement. The amir then told reporters that their agitation against Ahmadiyyas will continue. The organisation is due to hold a mass rally and 'court arrest' programme on September 30 demanding that Ahmadiyyas be declared 'non-Muslim'. Both the leaders were also locked in an altercation at the press conference. Terming Noorani an agent of the Indian intelligence agency, the amir said, "We have expelled him three days ago for making similar statements." Instantly, Noorani dismissed the allegation of his involvement with the Indian intelligence agency and said, "In the future, movement against Ahmadiyyas will be carried out under my leadership." He also said that he has not been expelled. "The amir has no right to expel me." Earlier, at the press conference, Noorani, also a leader of the Islamic Constitution Movement, said, "If we continue our movement in the wake of August 17 bomb blasts, our dear motherland may fall in new trouble internationally. So, we have postponed all our action programmes against Ahmadiyya Muslim minority." He also urged the prime minister to resolve the Ahmadiyya issue. He said those who have made the bomb attacks on August 17 are the enemy of the nation as well as Islam.

SC office timing

UNB, Dhaka

The office timing of the Supreme Court will be from 8:00am to 3:00pm from Sunday to Thursday as the government declared two-day weekly holiday. The Supreme Court will enjoy the weekend on Fridays and Saturdays from today, says a handout.



PHOTO: STAR

Workers of Amin Jute Mills burn a pile of wood in front of the factory gate in Chittagong yesterday to press home their demand for payment of salary arrears.

Arrestee tortured by DB

COURT CORRESPONDENT

An arrestee in the Indian businessman murder case yesterday told the court that Detective Branch (DB) of police severely tortured him during interrogation in remand. Haji Shoab Sayeed alias Dicon, 30, was taken on a five-day remand on September 2 in connection with the murder of Indian rice trader Majid Alam, 45, who was gunned down allegedly by his business partners in front of a hotel at Banani in the city on August 31. Dicon is also an alleged close associate of Joy, one of the top 23 criminals wanted by Dhaka Metropolitan Police. "During interrogation, they hit me on my kidneys with a rifle butt that stopped my urinary function," Dicon told the magistrate when police produced him before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Rafiqul Islam yesterday. Policemen had to drag Dicon to the courtroom putting his weight on the shoulders, as he could not walk. The court granted another five-day remand for Dicon when the DB police prayed for 10 days.

Let's put education above all: PM

International Literacy Day observed

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday renewed her call to all, irrespective of party and opinion, to work together for spreading education and maintain its quality. "There may be differences of opinion on many issues, but there should not be any difference of opinion when it comes to education. Let's put education above all and keep contributing towards building a knowledge-based society," Khaleda told a function marking the International Literacy Day 2005 at the Osmani Memorial auditorium. Recalling her similar call she made on this day in 2002, Khaleda expressed her happiness as the people came up with a positive response to improve the standard of education, aiming to build up a well-educated society. She said the rate of enrollment in schools has increased while the trend of 'dropout' has almost disappeared following contributions of teachers and government officials concerned as well as non-government institutions and various organisations in spreading education. Referring to successes in this sector, she said gender parity has been achieved in admission to school and in some cases girls have outnumbered boys. "A revolutionary progress has been achieved in female education," she said

adding, that such successes have been acclaimed in many international reports and various regional and international forums. Referring to her government's priority to education and highest allocation for the sector, she assured that they would keep up the practice in the future too. "To us, education and development is synonymous," she said. Ministers, development partners, academicians and representatives of

various organisations attended the function. She said a programme titled "Hard to Reach," has been introduced for urban underprivileged working children and juveniles and Tk 400 crore "Reaching out to School Children" project being implemented to bring the dropped out poor children back to school. Khaleda said her government is increasing allocation for education every year and Tk 9, 686 crore has been

allocated for the education and technology sectors this year, up Tk 1,827 crore than the previous year. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, PM's Advisor to Primary and Mass Education Ministry Prof Jahanara Begum and Unesco Country Representative Wolfgang Vollmann also addressed the function. Primary and Mass Education Ministry organised the function.



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speaks at a function at the Osmani Memorial auditorium in the city yesterday marking the International Literacy Day 2005.