

PM shocked at loss of life in Makkah

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister (PM) Khaleda Zia expressed her deep shock at the loss of life and property in the building collapse in Makkah, which left at least 76 people dead, including 13 Bangladeshi nationals.

In a message to the King of Saudi Arabia Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, she conveyed her deep sympathies and heartfelt condolences to those who have lost their dear ones in the tragic incident.

"We would also like to express our solidarity with the brotherly people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during this tragic time," the PM said.

Khaleda Zia believed the government and people of Saudi Arabia would be able to withstand this tragedy with fortitude.

A hotel building near Makkah, packed with pilgrims and shoppers, collapsed on Thursday causing the tragedy.



A big snarl-up of traffic causes suffering and loss of time to thousands of commuters at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday due to mismanagement of the traffic system. The photo was taken at 11:00am.

British HC closed on Jan 10-12

UNB, Dhaka

British High Commission in Dhaka and its office in Sylhet will remain closed to the public on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for Eid-ul-Azha, says a British High Commission press release.

KILLING OF EXPATRIATE IN SHARIATPUR

One to die, 16 others get 37 years' RI

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to death and 16 others to 37 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for killing Bari Matbar, a Bangladeshi living in Italy in November 2003.

Bari Matbar was killed at his village home at Jazira in Shariatpur district on November 30, 2003.

Judge AR Masud of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 handed down the sentence in presence of the convicts at a packed courtroom.

The convict who got death sentence was Samad Matbar while Abdul Latif Mechher Master, Eskendar Matbar, Abu Salek Matbar, Shahabuddin Matbar, Babu Matbar,

Jabbar Matbar, Khalil Matbar, Golam Ali Howlader, Nuru Sardar, Mate Sardar, Alamgir Sardar, Nur Mohammad Sardar, Nurul Islam Sardar, Elias Matbar, Zahid Matbar and Sohrab Matbar were given 37 years' RI in jail.

Of them, Samad and 14 others were in jail custody while Zahid and Sohrab have been absconding since the incident.

The convict with death can appeal to the High Court against the verdict within 30 days from day of receipt of

the judgement copy and the punishment of the fugitives will be effective from day of their arrest or surrender, the judge said.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 26 prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution, over a previous enmity, a gang of miscreants led by Samad Matbar equipped with sharp weapons attacked the house of Jasim Uddin Matbar to kill his grandfather former Union Parishad Chairman Anwar Ali Miah and his uncle Bari Matbar, an expatriate of Italy at about 6:00am on November 30, 2003. Being directed by Mechher Master, the gang exploded bombs indiscriminately that left Bari Matbar dead and injured 14 others.

Later, victim's nephew Jasim filed a murder case with Jazira Police Station against Samad, Mechher Master and 43 others the next day. The investigation officer pressed charges against Samad, Mechher and 53 others on March 11, 2004.

The complainant Jasim Uddin Matbar was present in the court and expressed his satisfaction over the verdict.