



Eminent economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud speaks at the third expert group consultation meeting on 'Vision 2021 for Bangladesh: Goal 3: To be a Poverty-mitigated Middle-income Country' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President Latifur Rahman and CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya and on his left is CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan. The Nagork Committee organised the meeting.

BNP unleashes goons on opposition: B Chy

UNB, Dhaka

Bikalpadhara Bangladesh (BDB) President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury has said fearing a debacle in next election, "BNP has let loose its pet goons" on leaders and workers of BDB and other opposition parties.

"But people will no longer tolerate any excess of the government that has the tenure of only 80 days," he said during an exchange of views with his

party's UK branch leader Masud Ali at the KC Memorial Clinic in the city.

B Chowdhury said, "BNP lost its confidence as it presented the people with violence, corruption and price hike of essentials in the last five years.

The miscreants' heinous attack on the opposition at the fag end of the government proves BNP has lost ground under its feet."

Urging the people to give their verdict through the next elections

against the "miscreant and corrupt" BNP government, he said, "The goons, who plundered thousands of crores of taka from the people, will not be allowed to leave the country."

The former president said government employees are not the employees of any party. "They are the public employees. So, they need to discharge their functions with complete neutrality and courage."

CARJACKING

Hearing on bail prayer of chief whip's son held

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday heard the bail petition of Akter Hamid Paban, son of Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain, arrested on charge of carjacking on June 7.

After hearing both the prosecution and the defence, Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court did not pass any order on the issue till writing of the report at 7:30pm.

The defence lawyers filed the criminal appeal with the Sessions Judge's court against the rejection order of the lower court on July 2.

Earlier, lower courts rejected Paban's bail petitions thrice saying that the charges brought against him were primarily proved. Moreover, Paban's accomplice Zahirul Islam Robin confessed to a magistrate that he and Paban were involved with an organised carjacking ring.

Moving the bail petition, the defence lawyers yesterday told the court that their client was implicated in the case to harass him politically. Their client bought the car from one Zahirul Haq Robin, another arrestee but Paban was implicated in the incident as part of a conspiracy. Moreover, their client's name was not mentioned in the FIR (first information report), the lawyers said.

Opposing the submission on the bail petition by the defence lawyers, the prosecution told the court that Paban was directly involved in the incident as he was arrested by Detective Branch (DB) of police at Bailey Road with a stolen Toyota Premio on June 7.

Three criminals hijacked the vehicle from the owner at Motijheel in the city at gunpoint on October 13 last year.



Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Parishad stages a demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday demanding 100 per cent salary from the government exchequer without any conditions.

PM inaugurates Judicial Admin Training Instt Complex

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated the Judicial Administration Training Institute Complex, the foundation stone of which she laid in May 2003.

The seven-storied building with a foundation for a 2-storied one was constructed on 1.08 lakh square feet of land at a cost of Tk 12.32 crore with assistance from the World Bank under a project of legal aid and judicial capacity building.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry and Public Works Department are constructing the Training Institute Complex at Abdul Gani Road on the eastside of Curzon Hall compound.

Khaleda, flanked by Law Minister Moudud Ahmed and State Minister for Law Shahjahan Omar, unveiled the plaque of the Training Institute Complex. The prime minister offered munajat after the inauguration and went round the Training Institute.

The Judicial Administration Training Institute started its journey in 1995 and it started its regular activities, including providing training and arranging workshops, from the old High Court building in 1996.

Lawyers, senior officials of the law ministry and representatives of the funding agency attended the inaugural function.

Tower Hamlets mayor councillor calls on Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Mayor Councillor of Tower Hamlets of the UK Shafiqul Haque called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Dhamondi office in the city yesterday.

After the meeting Shafiq told the journalists that they discussed various issues, including the voting rights of the Bangladeshi expatriates in the UK, with Hasina, also Awami League president.



Save the Environment Movement stages a demonstration in front of an ancient tree near Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday protesting the felling of the tree.

JOURNO GAUTAM MURDER Next hearing on Aug 15

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the hearing of the Journalist Gautam Das Murder case until August 15 following a time petition by the defence lawyers.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 passed the order as lawyers for one of the ten accused sought adjournment of the hearing on charge framing against them.

Gautam Das, 30, Faridpur bureau chief of the Dainik Samakal, was strangled by a group of unknown assailants at his office at the dead of night on November 17 last year.

Later, Samakal Faridpur District Correspondent Hasanuzzaman filed a murder case with Faridpur Kotwali Police Station without mentioning names of killers the next day.

The investigation officer (IO) pressed charges against 10 people involved in the killing on January 19, showing 31 people as prosecution witnesses.

The chargesheeted accused are Asif Imtiaz alias Bulu, Kazi Murad alias Murad, Zahid, Apon alias Kamru Islam, Asad Bin Kadir, Siddiqur Rahman alias Siddiq Miah, Tamzid Hossain alias Babu, Rajib Hassan Miah, Asif Imran alias Imran and Abu Taher Mohammad Mortuza Ahsan alias Apollo Biswas.

Of them, Asif Imtiaz alias Bulu, Kazi Murad alias Murad, Zahid and Apon alias Kamru Islam are still at large while six others are now on bail.