

BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE
Hearing rolls into third day today
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the second day of the resumed hearing of Bangabandhu murder case at the Appellate Division of Supreme Court (SC) yesterday, the counsel of a convict condemned for death continued reading out the High Court (HC) verdict.

On Tuesday, the court resumed the analogous hearing of the leave to appeal petitions of four convicts and the jail appeal of one convict. The five of the 12 convicts condemned to death are in prison.

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TAX Evasion
Charges framed against Shajahan Siraj, wife, son
UNB, Dhaka

A special court yesterday framed charges against former BNP minister Shajahan Siraj, his wife Rabeya Siraj and son Rajib Siraj for

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Student boom at DU

Unplanned admission chokes academic activities, accommodation and transportation

KAMRUL HASAN KHAN

A number of additional students are getting admission at Dhaka University each year thanks to the loopholes in the rules of the general admission committee that supervises the admission process.

According to the university's admission section, about 5,010 students were admitted against 4,534, which means 476 additional students got admission in the session of 2005-2006. However, the number of additional students could be more, sources said.

During the session, 1,502 students were admitted against 1,071 in the arts faculty only.

"This unplanned admission is heavily affecting the university's academic activities, students' accommodation and transportation systems," Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman, former general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers' Association, said terming the process illegal.

The general admission committee in its annual meeting frames

rules and regulations of the admission process and also fixes the number of students to be admitted. Vice-chancellor chairs the meeting.

According to section 38 of the rules of the general admission committee, dean can admit additional students after discussion with the departments. Taking opportunity of this section, the departments are admitting additional students.

This correspondent found additional names of students in the register books of a number of departments including Bangla, Islamic Studies, Arabic, Urdu and Persian, Pali and Sanskrit.

Meanwhile, the rules of the general admission committee allow less than two students for admission in each department in addition to fixed seats.

The practice began three to four years back almost at every department under social science and arts faculties, sources in the admission section said.

Many alleged that the arts

faculty dean, Sadru Amin, has been giving permission to admit additional students using loopholes in the rules of the general admission committee.

When contacted, Amin admitted the allegation and said, "Where is the problem if additional students can study here and get benefits?"

The arts faculty dean also said, "There are rules that allow deans to increase the number of students."

Dean of the social sciences faculty, Harun-Or-Rashid, said sometimes chairmen of some departments come up with requests to increase the number of students for admission.

"But we do not allow additional students in our faculty. There are limitations at the university, so unplanned increase in the number of students is not realistic; especially when semester system has been introduced," he said.

Replies to a query, Harun said, "Yes, the dean can allow additional students according to the rules but

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EU happy with rights situation in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The European Union (EU) yesterday expressed satisfaction at the "clear indications of improvement" in human rights situation in Bangladesh.

The observation came from Ambassador of Netherlands, Kees Beemsterboer, who led a three-member EU delegation of local envoys at a meeting with Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury at the foreign ministry.

"Although some issues remain unsolved, we appreciate the government's efforts to improve the

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AL in dilemma over flood relief activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) leaders are in a dilemma over helping the flood victims by the party, as due to ban on indoor politics they cannot organise the party men to make

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LAPTOP SUPPLY

Bidder questions transparency, EC denies allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bidder has questioned the transparency in the evaluation process of a tender for supplying 8,000 laptops to the Election Commission for simultaneously preparing a voter list with photographs and national identity cards.

The TEC however outright

Pte Ltd and Thakral Information Systems Pvt Ltd, one of the two responsive bidders for the job, on Monday lodged complaint with the technical evaluation committee (TEC) headed by a joint secretary of the EC Secretariat that floated the tender.

Consortium of Thakral Brothers

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Fresh case filed against 23 UK, Sylhet AL men detained in May

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sylhet Kotwali police yesterday filed a fresh case against 23 Awami League (AL) leaders, who were detained while attending a party in city's Bateshwar area on May 14 this year.

Police said the fresh case was filed against them under Special Powers Act of 1974 for violating emergency regulations and hatching conspiracy against the state.

The joint forces detained 23 AL leaders along with 17 party activists

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Discussions on Aug 15 might not be allowed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Discussions will not be allowed during August 15 programmes commemorating the 32nd death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founding father of Bangladesh, as there is a state of emergency in effect.

The Ministry of Home Affairs is likely to issue a set of instructions to the law enforcement agencies today. The instructions will have a guideline of permissible activities for the observers of August 15, said

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US airstrikes kill 32 in Sadr City

Iraq slaps 3-day driving ban on capital

AP, Baghdad

A US-led raid and airstrike targeting networks allegedly smuggling weapons and fighters from Iran killed 32 suspected militants yesterday in Baghdad's Shia stronghold of Sadr City, the military said.

Word of the raid came after Iraqi police in Sadr City had said that a bombardment by US helicopters and armoured vehicles had killed nine civilians, including two women, and wounded six others. The police also said 12 people were detained.

The US military said 12 suspects were detained during Wednesday's raids.

"The individuals detained and the terrorists killed during the raid are believed to be members of a cell of a Special Groups terrorist network known for facilitating the transport of weapons and explosively formed penetrators, or EFPs, from Iran to Iraq, as well as bringing militants from Iraq into Iran for terrorist training," the military said.

Meanwhile, Iraqi authorities clamped a three-day driving ban on the capital and erected new checkpoints, while thousands of Shia pilgrims began their annual trek toward a mosque in northern Baghdad to mark the anniversary of

the death of one of Shia Islam's key saints.

First-aid tents stocked with coolers of bottled water or offering food, dates, yoghurt and tea lined the streets as authorities scrambled to prevent a catastrophe from marring the ceremonies honouring Imam Moussa ibn Jaafar al-Kadhim, one of 12 principal Shia saints who died in the year 799.

More than a million Shia faithful flogging themselves with iron chains and slicing their foreheads with swords are expected to process Thursday toward the shrine of Imam al-Kadhim in Baghdad's Shia Kazimiyah neighbourhood. The self-flagellation slowly turns their white cloaks red with blood in a ritual of grief banned under Saddam Hussein.

Sunni insurgents often target such gatherings. In 2005 the march was hit by tragedy, when thousands of Shia pilgrims, panicked by rumours of a suicide bomber, broke into a stampede on a bridge. About 1,000 people died.

The top US ground commander in the area, Task Force Justice leader Lt Col Steve Miska, said

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Airlines sue FBI, CIA over 9/11

AP, New York

Airlines and aviation-related companies sued the CIA and FBI on Tuesday, asking a federal court to let them interview investigators who can tell whether the aviation industry was to blame for the Sept 11 terrorist attacks or whether it had acted reasonably.

The separate lawsuits in US District Court in Manhattan asked a judge to order the government to let the aviation companies gather the information as part of their defense against lawsuits brought by victims or families of victims of the 2001 attacks.

In the CIA lawsuit, companies including American Airlines Inc., United Airlines Inc., US Airways Group Inc., Delta Air Lines Inc., Continental Airlines Inc. and The Boeing Co. asked to interview the deputy chief of the CIA's Osama bin Laden unit in 2001 and an FBI special agent assigned to the unit at that time.

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Prayer Timing

August 9

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-47	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

This CNG refuelling station at Mugdaphara that has its own power generation system witnesses queues of vehicles as many such stations in the capital suspend their services during load shedding of power. The photo was taken at 11:00pm on Tuesday.

