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Bangladeshi on death row in Bahrain to be executed

STAR REPORT

Bahrain will execute a Bangladeshi in firing squad for killing a fashion designer of that country, reported All Headline News, a US-based news website on Thursday.

The date for execution of Mizan Noor Al Rahman Ayoub Miyah is yet to be fixed.

Mizan, a cook, was convicted of murdering Sana Al Jalahama in 2006 but the execution decision comes at a time when Bahrain stopped issuing work permits to Bangladeshis, All Headline News said.

Manama's ban followed demands by a group of Bahraini lawmakers for expelling Bangladeshis from the Gulf country after the killing of a local allegedly by a Bangladeshi last week.

Meanwhile, Dhaka has

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All eyes on palace for Nepal king's eviction

AFP, PTI, Kathmandu

Nepal's government said yesterday it has started an audit of palace property after an historic assembly abolished the monarchy and gave Hindu 'god-king' Gyanendra a two-week eviction order.

Kathmandu was abuzz with speculation yesterday that ousted monarch Gyanendra had made a midnight exit from Narayanhi Palace but his aides dismissed the reports and said he has no "immediate" plans to leave the country.

A private television channel showed pictures of few vehicles moving out of the pink-hued palace and claimed that Gyanendra had moved out, hours after protesters demanding his eviction clashed with the police outside the building.

ing.

But Gyanendra's personal secretary Pashupati Bhakta Maharjan refuted the reports and asserted that Gyanendra was still residing there.

"It is totally false. Gyanendra is still in the Narayanhi palace," Maharjan told PTI over phone.

Kunti Shahi, member of Constituent Assembly representing pro-palace Rastriya Prajatantra Party-Nepal, said Gyanendra will stay in Nepal and he "has no immediate plan to move out of the country".

RPP Nepal is the only party that voted against the motion passed by Nepal's 601-member Constituent Assembly Wednesday night to abolish the 240-year-old monarchy and declare Nepal a republic.

"It is the responsibility of the government to provide security to the royal family members and to arrange for their stay," Shahi told PTI.

While some reports said that Gyanendra might shift his residence to Nirmal Niwas, where his son Paras is currently residing, others claim he is looking for another home. The Nagarjun Palace on the outskirts of Kathmandu may be an option for the King to shift temporarily.

The ousted king has kept a studied silence behind the high walls of his pink-hued Narayanhi palace, although the royal flag has come down from over the heavily-guarded complex.

"An official letter has been

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Zia's death anniversary observed

UNB, Dhaka

The 27th death anniversary of president Ziaur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was observed across the country yesterday.

President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated on this day in 1981 by a group of disgruntled army officers at Chittagong Circuit House.

The main features of the day were placing of wreaths at Zia's grave, milad mahfil, Quran khwani, feeding the destitute and discussions.

At BNP central office at Naya Paltan, the party flag was hoisted at half-mast, while national and black flags were hoisted atop the building.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed placed wreaths at the grave of the

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Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed places a wreath on the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman in the city yesterday on his 27th death anniversary.

Missing Tagore memorabilia recovered after 13 yrs

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, back from Shahzadpur

A large number of misplaced memorabilia of Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore have been recovered from different areas in Sirajganj, Natore and Naogaon.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) for land Dawan Mahamudul Haque handed at least 54 Tagore memorabilia to the Archaeology Department on May 7, said Nahid Sultana, custodian of Rabindranath Kacharibari Museum at Shahzadpur, Sirajganj.

The objects had been misplaced 13 years ago when the AC land office shifted from the Rabindranath Kacharibari premises to its own building nearby.

Archaeology Department

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This bed, left, that belonged to poet Rabindranath Tagore was recently recovered in Natore. The clock and monograms of his estate, right, were recovered from Naogaon and Sirajganj recently after they went missing 13 years ago.

'S'pore a good destination for Bangladeshi workers'

UNB, Singapore

Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said Singapore is a good destination for skilled and semi-skilled Bangladeshi workers.

The foreign adviser, who is on a two-day visit to Singapore to attend a regional conference on security and environment, told this to the media after a bilateral meeting with his Singaporean counterpart, said a foreign ministry release.

During the meeting, Iftakhar and Singapore Foreign Minister George Yeo expressed satisfaction over increasing trade and investment relations between the two countries.

Singapore is currently the third largest source of imports for

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'No need for chocolate bars, survivors can eat frogs'

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's ruling junta lashed out at foreign aid donors Friday, saying cyclone victims did not need supplies of "chocolate bars" and could instead survive by eating frogs and fish.

The New Light of Myanmar newspaper, a government mouthpiece, also warned that foreign relief workers could snoop inside homes, and condemned donors for linking aid money to full access to the hardest-hit regions in the Irrawaddy Delta.

The trade came as the junta tightened its political grip on the country, extending democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest and announcing that its new constitution has been enacted.

The regime says the charter will pave the way for democratic elections in two years, but dissidents say it will enshrine military rule in a country ruled by generals since 1962.

Despite the harsh statements in official media, aid agencies say they have had some success in receiving visas and securing access to the delta, which suffered the brunt of the May 2-3 storm that left 133,000 dead or missing.

An assessment team from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations was set to arrive in Yangon on Friday to determine how best to help the 2.4 million survivors in

desperate need of food, shelter and medicine.

But the UN's disaster response arm OCHA said access remained patchy, especially for private charities.

"Sometimes there are hindrances, sometimes not," Terje Skavdal, OCHA's regional director, told a press conference. "Some of the larger NGOs seem to have a problem, but it's not a clear picture."

After several days of praising the work of the United Nations and charities, the regime's official newspaper renewed its attacks on foreign aid and insisted Myanmar could survive without outside help.

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Road accident kills 3 of a family in KSA

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Three members of a family were killed in a road accident in Saudi Arabia yesterday.

The dead were identified as Maulana Abul Kalam, 40, his wife Tahura Begum, 32, and their only son Al Helal, 12.

They hailed from Auliapur village under Patuakhali Sadar upazila.

Family sources said the three went to Saudi Arabia to perform Umra and to visit some relatives residing there.

A pall of gloom descended on the village soon after the news reached there over mobile phone at about 11.00am yesterday.

Motor mechanic shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals gunned down a motor mechanic in the city's Mohakhali area yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Jamal Hossain, 30, a resident of the Institute of Public Health (IPH) colony at Mohakhali.

The gang took Jamal to a lane near his house around 9:00am, shot him in the abdomen, thigh and back and left the scene. Jamal was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

His brother Abdul Awal told The Daily Star that a local man named Masud Rana called Jamal out of their house and took him to a nearby lane. "Hearing gunshots, we rushed to the spot and found Jamal bullet-hit in the back, abdomen and thigh," Awal said.

Local people said they saw four people, including three locals, fleeing the spot after the incident.

Awal said Jamal had slapped a local criminal for taking drugs inside the Institute of Health Technology compound on Thursday.

No case was filed in connection with the murder as of 7:00pm yesterday.

GOVT DRAFTING POLICY Private partnership soon to finance power sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is preparing a policy to finance the power sector with private partnership, said Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Prof M Tamim yesterday.

"The government will have 51 percent share while its private partners will have 49 percent," he said while speaking at the chief guest at a workshop styled "Energy Security and Development: Perspective Bangladesh" organised by Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) and Bangladesh Heritage Foundation in cooperation with Grameen Shakti.

The review of the draft coal policy is almost complete and it will be sent to the law ministry for vetting in seven-10 days, he said emphasising the need for setting up coal-fired power plants to lessen the pressure on gas consumption so that gas can be used as fuel in vehicles and industries and the production of fertiliser.

"There are no major changes in the coal policy that the last committee drafted," he said.

Referring to the point that Bangladesh passed a poor period in terms of gas exploration during the last 10 years, he said, "We have allocated money for Bapex to explore for gas and asked international oil companies to do the same."

Gas price, however, has to be changed, Tamim said, adding that there is no immediate plan to increase gas price.

Asked if the government supports open-pit mining at Phulbari coalmine, Tamim, also a petroleum engineer, said it is only the coalmine experts and environmentalists who can say which method is appropriate for that area.

Energy experts at the workshop suggested strengthening negotiations with India, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar for regional cooperation in the energy sector.

Even though gas reserves will lessen considerably in next one decade or so, Bangladesh has adequate coal reserves which should be properly utilised, said Maj Gen Aminul Karim NDC, military secretary to the president.

"If adequate energy is not present, our GDP will go down," he said, adding that bureaucratic tangles

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Medical college student beaten at DU, dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A student of Bangladesh Medical College (BMC) was beaten to death allegedly by a group of Dhaka University (DU) students yesterday.

Police said a group of students of SM Hall beat up Ehtesham-Al-Ziad, a second year MBBS student of Dhanmondi branch of Bangladesh Medical College, on the hall premises in the morning, accusing him of stealing a mobile phone.

On information, Shahbagh police rescued Ziad from the hall in a critical condition and admitted him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Later, he was shifted to Bangladesh Medical College where he succumbed to his injuries at around 2:30pm.

Police quoted family sources as saying that Ziad went missing from his Purana Paltan residence on Thursday night.

Ziad was a drug addict, police added.

No case was filed in connection with the murder as of 9:10pm yesterday.

Bodies of two youths found on rail lines

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

Railway police yesterday recovered two mutilated bodies of unidentified youths on rail lines near Ghatina Bridge in Ullapara upazila of Sirajganj.

Being informed by locals, railway police went to the spot and recovered the headless and unclothed bodies in the morning.

Police said miscreants killed the young men and cut off their hands and legs sometime Thursday night. They took away their severed heads leaving the trunks on the rail line, UNB reports.

The bodies were sent to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital morgue, for autopsy.

Vegetable prices fall, oil and rice stable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prices of vegetables came down by Tk 2 to 5 per kilogram in the capital's kitchen market in the last week.

Meanwhile, prices of rice, edible oil, pulses and sugar remained stable in the last week.

The prices of most of the vegetables fell at kitchen markets in the capital due to adequate supply. Aubergine, bitter gourd, okra, patal, barbati, chichinga, and green papaya were sold between Tk

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Bamboo poles being used to supply power

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The Power Development Board (PDB) is using bamboo poles for supplying electricity to different areas in Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) violating existing rules.

As per the rules, the PDB can give electricity connection from a standard pole to households at a maximum distance of 100 feet and the electricity cables have to be at least seven metres above the ground.

But the rules are being violated in many RCC areas including Bulonpur, Keshabpur, and Mirzapur.

Electricity is being supplied using bamboo poles to about 400 houses at Keshabpur several hundred feet away from a standard pole on the protection dam at Bulonpur.

Moreover, many bamboo poles used for supplying electricity were found in a bad shape with power cables hanging just overhead at some points.

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The Daily Star Coming out tomorrow - Star Campus

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The Daily Star offers campus based weekly magazine 'Star Campus' - the ultimate magazine for the young generation - a common platform for the college and university students and academicians - to share their ideas, thoughts, dreams, opinions and views.

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