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Jail Killing Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jail Killing Day commemorating the assassinations of four national leaders will be observed across the country today.

The four Liberation War heroes - Syed Nazrul Islam, acting president of Bangladesh government in exile in 1971, Tajuddin Ahmed, prime minister of the same government, M Mansur Ali, finance minister, and AHM Qamaruzzaman, minister for home affairs, relief and rehabilitation -- were gunned down inside the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

The four leaders were assassinated 79 days after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members was killed on August 15, 1975.

Awami League (AL) has taken up daylong programmes to mark the day.

The programmes includes hoisting black flags, wearing black badges, and placing floral wreaths at the mazars of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and four national leaders at 8:00am and 8:30am respectively.

AL will also hold a discussion at the Dhaka Engineers' Institute at 3:00pm with party's acting President Zillur Rahman in the chair.

Move to curb graft in cop promotion

Police HQs now to deal with upgrading of lower-tier policemen

KAILASH SARKAR

Amid discontent between constable- and inspector-rank cops over their promotions, the police department has decided to deal with their advancement centrally through the police headquarters, not by divisional, metropolitan and district headquarters of police.

A recent meeting of the Policy Group of the department made the decision to check irregularities and corruption regarding promotion of the lower-rank police. The meeting of 46 police high officials also decided in principle to directly recruit no more traffic sergeants to avoid complications regarding their promotions.

Sources claim the move was taken as large-scale corruption was detected in connection with the

promotions of police personnel between the ranks of constable and inspector.

Over 98.75 percent of the total police workforce belongs to ranks between these two ranks.

Currently, traffic sergeants have no scope for promotion. About 800 traffic sergeants are working in the same post for 10 years and many have been in the same post for about 20 years.

Sources also said criminals often use vehicles for committing criminal acts but the traffic policemen do not have the expertise to tackle those criminals. Therefore, the headquarters decided to deploy policemen who are capable of controlling traffic movement as well as deal with those situations.

Promotions of constables, head constables, assistant sub-

inspectors (ASI), sub-inspectors (SI) and inspectors are to be decided through tests. The candidates would be tested through coded answer sheets so that the identity of the candidate is kept concealed. The answer scripts would be sent to the headquarters for consideration. This would reduce the chances of corruption, sources said.

Traffic sergeants would be made SI (traffic) and policemen selected for traffic controlling would be identified as SI (traffic).

Talking to The Daily Star about the new decisions on promotions, Additional Inspector General of Police (Addl IGP-Admin) NBK Tripura said, "The decision has been made as a number of incidents of breach of trust took place earlier."

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Freed Brac staff to fly in tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The release of the two abducted Brac officials in Afghanistan has brought immense relief and joy to their families, who now eagerly wait to be reunited with them.

The two senior officials of Brac, Akhter Ali and Shahjahan Ali, were freed unhurt by their captors on Saturday evening, 10 days into their abduction from the Afghan province of Ghazni.

They are expected to return to Bangladesh tomorrow, or the day after.

Brac officials said that the two men are in good health and they were not hurt during their captivity. Both were released in front of their office in Ghazni on Saturday evening. The two men were flown to Kabul at around 11:00am yesterday after spending the night in Ghazni.

The motive behind their abduction or the identity of their captors is still not clear. Brac officials said that the men were not being pressed for information at present as they are still under mental stress. Meanwhile the families of the

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Following the end of a 10-day government ban on catching hilsa, fishermen resume fishing in the Bay as this period is considered the best time to catch hilsa. The photo of fishermen returning from sea was taken at Kattali Beach in Chittagong.

GLOBAL RECESSION High-powered govt body to watch impact

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a high-powered technical committee headed by the finance secretary to monitor the impact of global economic turmoil on the country's economy.

The eight-member committee was formed at a meeting of the planning ministry, chaired by Finance Adviser AB Mirza Azizul Islam.

After the meeting, Aziz told reporters the committee would hold fortnightly meetings and make necessary recommendations on the basis of its analysis of the situation of world economy.

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Hannan Shah, 11 others sued for EPR violation

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Police yesterday filed a case against Brig Gen (ret'd) Hannan Shah, Jalal Uddin, an aspirant election candidate of Chandpur-2 constituency, and 10 other local BNP leaders accusing them of violating the Emergency Power Rules, 2007.

Sub-inspector Ibrahim of Matlab (north) Police Station in Chandpur filed the case. None of the accused were arrested so far.

Jalal Uddin Friday organised a programme to distribute a large number of sewing machines, rickshaws, wheelchairs and rickshaw-vans among the poor but it later turned into a public meeting.

BNP chairperson's adviser Brig Gen ASM (ret'd) Hannan Shah

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SQ Chy granted bail; Moudud's bail upheld

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted bails to Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, parliamentary affairs adviser to former premier Khaleda Zia, and Mojibur Rahman Sarwar, detained former Barisal City Corporation mayor, in separate cases.

Meanwhile, Appellate Division chamber judge Justice MA Matin upheld the HC bail to detained former law minister Moudud Ahmed in a case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on charge of amassing illegal wealth and concealing its information.

Upon a writ petition filed by Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, the HC bench comprised of Justice

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A scared child with her blind parents and sister hurriedly gets down from a bus after passengers infuriated at bus operators for not reducing fares started vandalising the bus at Mirpur in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Bus fare row halts major city service

Passengers suffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bus link between Mirpur and Gulistan remained suspended for about five hours yesterday following a row between workers and passengers about fares, causing severe transport crisis since morning.

Different bus operators did not run their buses from 8:30am to 1:30pm and barred other operators from plying their vehicles.

Hundreds of commuters could not reach their workstations, while many others were seen stranded at different points on the busy route. Besides, many walked in a desperate bid to attend their offices in time.

The angry commuters went on the rampage and vandalised over 12 buses.

Earlier at about 8:00am at Farmgate, staffs of a Mirpur-bound bus from Gulistan had an altercation with passengers, who pressed for reduced bus fares citing the recent cut in fuel prices.

At one stage, the angry passengers manhandled the employees of Safety Paribahan that led to a wildcat strike on the route.

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Help try war criminals

Facts finding body urges UN in letter; sector commanders ask govt to seek UN help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The War Crimes Facts Finding Committee (WCFFC) in a letter to the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sought UN support for establishing an International Tribunal to try the war criminals of 1971.

Meanwhile, the Sector Commanders Forum (SCF) yesterday urged the government to formally seek UN assistance for trying the war criminals.

WCFFC Convener Dr MA Hasan yesterday told The Daily Star that the UN secretary general has received the letter sent to him through UN Resident Coordinator Renata Lok Dessallien.

Quoting Renata, Dr Hasan said they are following up the issue.

Giving information about the war crimes committed in 1971, the WCFFC in the letter said, "Under this circumstance, we the War Crimes Facts Finding Committee

appeal to the UN to articulate their stand on above issue (trial of war criminals) and render support to the cause."

"Your (UN) support to our proactive government can enable us to set up an independent enquiry commission to resolve the longstanding conflict on '71 crimes,' the letter reads.

The SCF also sent a letter to the UN secretary general seeking appointment to hold talks on the issue, but they did not get it.

"We demand that the government appeal to the United Nations formally to ensure the trial of war criminals," the SCF said in a written statement at the launching ceremony of a book titled 'Bangladesh Genocide 1971- The Trial of War Criminals' published by the SCF at the Liberation War Museum in the capital.

"The trial of war criminals is directly related to the ideology of

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TOXIC LIQUOR 7 more die in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Seven more people died in different parts of the district after drinking toxic alcohol raising the death toll to 21 in Bogra and Joypurhat till yesterday evening.

Police said those who died yesterday and Saturday night were Chittorjan Saha, 35, Abdul Bari Ronju, 42, and AKM Mozammel Haque, 55, of Dhumat upazila, Abdur Rashid, 45, of Sariakandi upazila, Afzal, 42, of Sadar upazila, Rafiqul Islam, 42, of Sherpur upazila and Helal Uddin, 40, of Shahjahanpur upazila.

With the new deaths, a total of 17 people perished only in Bogra

while four others in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat district.

Meanwhile, police sealed off four homeo shops and arrested nine people, including one woman, from different areas of Sadar, Adamdighi and Shahjahanpur upazilas on charges of selling and possessing alcohol.

Of them, housewife Papiya and her husband Moksed Ali along with two others were arrested from Shahjahanpur upazila.

The sealed shops are Parul Homeo Hall, a laboratory owned by BNP leader Noor Mohammad's brother Noor Islam, Globe Laboratory, Wilson Homeo Hall

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Suicide car bomb kills 8 Pak troops

AP, Dera Ismail Khan

A suicide car bomber killed at least eight Pakistani paramilitary troops yesterday in a region near the Afghan border that has been a target in a surge of suspected US missile strikes.

The bomber rammed his vehicle into a checkpoint near the main gate of the Zalai Fort, exploding it as Frontier Corps troops gathered nearby, said Maj Gen Athar Abbas, the Pakistan army's top spokesman. Four people were wounded, he said.

The fort is 20km outside Wana,

the main town in South Waziristan, a tribal region considered a hub for al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters involved in attacks on US and Nato troops in Afghanistan.

South Waziristan was the site of one of two alleged US missile attacks Friday that killed 29 people, including several suspected foreign militants, intelligence officials said.

It was not immediately clear if Sunday's suicide attack was linked to the missile strikes. However, the missile strikes have strained Pakistan's alliance with the US in its war on terror and spurred militant calls for revenge.

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WORLD FINANCIAL MELTDOWN Saudi help sought to bolster IMF fund

AP, Doha, Qatar

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said yesterday he is confident that Saudi Arabia will contribute to the International Monetary Fund's bailout reserves after he promised business leaders in the Gulf that they would have a say in any future new world economic order.

Brown is using a four-day tour of the Gulf to call on oil-rich Middle Eastern countries to be among the biggest donors to the IMF's efforts

to rescue falling nations, which at \$250 billion have already been depleted by emergency cash calls from Iceland, Hungary and the Ukraine totaling some \$30 billion.

"The Saudis will I think contribute so we can have a bigger fund worldwide," he said after a meeting with Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah late Saturday and business leaders early Sunday.

The British leader told reporters traveling with him that he wants "hundreds of billions" of extra

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Christians observe All Souls Day yesterday at the graveyard of Pathorghata Catholic Church in Chittagong commemorating the departed loved ones.

PHOTO: STAR

Prayer Timing

November 3

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-55	5-30
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-34
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation