

BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE

CJ to constitute bench for hearing today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin is likely to constitute a bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court (SC) today for the hearing on the appeals in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case.

The hearing is scheduled to take place tomorrow.

Five convicts in this case -- dismissed army personnel Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Sultan Shahrar Rashid Khan, Mohiuddin Ahmed, AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, and Bazul Huda, who are now behind bars, -- filed the appeals with the SC in the last week of October 2007 against their death sentences pronounced by the HC.

Both the Appellate and High Court (HC) Divisions of the Supreme Court will also reopen today after a 38-day annual vacation.

SC Registrar Shawkat Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday that the appeals filed by the five convicts would be included in the Appellate Division's cause list for hearing after the constitution of the bench.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam termed 'unprecedented' the filing of an application by a convict requesting the SC not to allow the state counsels to place arguments during the hearing since they delayed in submitting the concise statements against the appeals.

the appeals.

The application has been submitted on behalf of condemned prisoner Syed Farooq-ur Rahman.

Mahbubey Alam said there are precedents that the SC had allowed appellants to submit concise statements even before a day of the hearing. The SC, however, will take the decision on the petition of Farooq-ur Rahman, he added.

On August 23, chief state counsels for Bangabandhu murder case submitted five concise statements against the appeals as the summary of the case to the SC.

The next day, the SC chamber judge fixed October 5 (Monday) as the date for the hearing on the appeals.

£300m DFID support for poverty alleviation

UNB, Dhaka

The British donor agency, Department for International Development (DFID), is to provide £300 million assistance in next six years for reducing of poverty in Bangladesh.

"The fund will be given from this year and onward," DFID senior official Penny Davies told UNB yesterday.

She said of the total fund, £50 million would be used to tackle climate change impact. The rest will be used for different programmes, including employment generation and poverty reduction.

Taskforce on CHT refugees to meet Oct 5

BSS, Khagrachhari

The first meeting of the reconstituted taskforce on rehabilitation of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) refugees will be held at Khagrachhari Circuit House tomorrow.

The government formed a nine-member taskforce on January 20 in 1998 under the CHT peace treaty to resolve the internal refugee problem.

The present grand-alliance government has reconstituted the taskforce with Jatindra Lal Tripura, an MP from Khagrachhari, as its chairman.

Death anniversary

DU CORRESPONDENT



Today is the first death anniversary of Prof. Shamsul Huda, a political

scientist and teacher of political science at Dhaka University.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence (Road-108, IV Concord, House No. 22, Flat No.-22/A, Gulshan 2) in the city, says a press release.

Relatives, friends, colleagues, students and admirers are requested to attend the programme.

M Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan

UNB, Dhaka

Today is the first death anniversary of M Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan, former senior sub-editor of the daily Inqilab.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to pray for the eternal peace of his departed soul.

Qulkhwani

METRO DESK



Qulkhwani of Mohammad Ali, former superintendent geophysicist of the Geo-

logical Survey of Bangladesh, will be held after Asr prayers today in Bhatara Mosque in Baridhara Natunbazar area, opposite the US embassy near his residence, says a press release.

He passed away on October 1 at the age of 76, leaving behind his wife, three sons and two grandchildren. He had been suffering from prolonged pulmonary illness.

VHSS executives

METRO DESK

The Voluntary Health Services Society (VHSS) formed its new executive committee at its Annual General Meeting in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Afroja Parvin, executive director of Nari Unnayan Shakti (NUS), and MA Mazid, executive director of Hitoishi Bangladesh, have been elected chairperson and vice-chairperson of VHSS respectively.

Qazi Shamsul Alam, executive director of Bikalpa Unnayan Karmasuchi (BUK), was elected its treasurer.

And the executive members are Md Fazul Haque, chairman & CEO of Jatiya Tarun Sangha (JTS), Tariqul Islam, executive director of Alliance for Co-operation and Legal Aid, and Mafruha Haque Bela, executive director of Mahila Mangal Sangstha (MMS).

VHSS is a network of 116 NGOs working on health issues in the country.



Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina presides over an AL working committee meeting at her Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Introduce LED tech for energy efficiency

Suggest Japanese experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh can introduce light-emitting diode (LED) technology to increase its efficiency of power consumption.

This was suggested by Japanese energy experts, who are involved in producing LED light bulbs, at a seminar in the city yesterday.

The seminar titled 'Environment and Electricity' was organised by Youth Eco Forum at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre with a view to introducing LED lighting technology in the country which is passing through an energy crisis.

The speakers said a LED light bulb can save 80 percent electricity with a working life of 40,000 hours.

They said LED light is not only eco-friendly but also help reduce power consumption along with creating new opportunity for employment in the country.

"LED lighting is eco-friendly because it can reduce emission of CO2 from 85 percent to 95 percent and is free from mercury," said

Teruyoshi Sakata, director of SUNTEC Corporation of Japan which is producing this energy saving light.

Termining LED light eco-friendly, resource-saving and energy-saving he said a LED bulb can be used for more than 10 years after using it for 10 hours a day.

"LED light is soft for eyes because it is glare-less and flicker-free and it has no ultra-violet and infrared ray," he said, adding that it can also save the electric bill.

Replying to a question Onoda, project director of SUNTECH, said "The cost of LED bulb is around 4000 yen which is equivalent to Tk 2800. But if it is produced in Bangladesh it would cost Tk 1000 only."

"The conventional light bulbs may be cheap to buy but they use only 5 percent of electricity to generate light and waste the remaining 95 percent of electricity. They last up to 1000 hours, but LED bulbs can save 80 percent of electricity with a working life of 40,000 hours," he said, adding that although LED bulbs look somewhat costly but it will be

cheaper according to consumption rate.

Addressing the programme as chief guest State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Enamul Haque said the government is very much sincere to increase energy efficiency and power consumption, and if LED light is energy savings and people take it positively then the government can think about it with more attention.

"With a view to saving energy the government has already floated a tender for importing 10.5 million Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) bulbs," he added.

On daylight saving issue the state minister hinted that there is no immediate plan to change it as it is helping to save power consumption as well as improving people's health.

People have already become habituated with the system as it is helping them to rise and go to bed early which is very necessary for sound health," he said on the sideline of the seminar.

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Tamotsu Shinozuka also spoke on the occasion.

Anti-Ahmadiyya organisation formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An anti-Ahmadiyya organisation titled 'Bangladesh Majlis-e Tahaffuz-e Khatme Nabuwat' was formed in the city yesterday.

The platform was originally formed on August 15 to bring all organisations continuing anti-Ahmadiyya movements in a single fold, said convener of the organisation Maulana Sadek Ahmed Siddiqui.

The new organisation was officially declared at a press conference at the National Press Club.

A written statement read out at the function said Bangladesh Ahmadiyya Jamaat has been misleading Muslims spreading falsehood about Islam.

Bangladesh Majlis-e Tahaffuz-e Khatme Nabuwat leader Maulana Shahidul Islam Ansari later said they would soon launch a three-month campaign against Ahmadiyya Jamaat across the country to make people aware of them.

Prabarana Purnima observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prabarana Purnima, the most significant and the second largest religious festival of the Buddhist world, was celebrated across the country yesterday with due religious fervour and enthusiasm, says a press release.

To mark the day, Bangladesh Buddhist Federation organised a discussion at Merul Badda Buddha Bihar in the city where Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate and Industries Minister Dilip Barua were present.

Buddha Kristi Prochar Sangha (BKPS) also organised a discussion titled 'Shubho Prabarana Purnima' at Kamalapur Dharmarajik Buddha Bihar.

Dilip said religious harmony is prevailing in the country and the people of all faiths are practising their respective religious rites independently.

BKPS observed the three-day programmes to make the festival.



Dengue fever has broken out in the city again. Firoza Begum of Mohammadpur area was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Tuesday with the symptoms of the disease.

Two killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Two people were killed and 25 others were injured in separate road accidents in Savar and Khagrachhari yesterday.

BSS in Savar reports: Two people were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Hemayetpur in Savar yesterday.

Sources said two motorcyclists skidded off the road when a passenger bus hit their motorbike.

One motorcyclist died on the spot while the other succumbed to his injuries at a private clinic in Savar. The identities of the deceased could not be known.

UNB in Khagrachhari adds: Fourteen people were injured when a jeep turned turtle in Athal Pahar area of Dighinala in Khagrachhari yesterday.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when the driver of the passenger jeep lost control over steering and collided with a hill, leaving 14 passengers injured.

Local people rescued the injured and admitted them to a local hospital. Condition of three was stated to be critical, hospital sources said.

UTTARA SCHOOL, COLLEGE

Ex-principal terms his removal unjust

DU CORRESPONDENT

The recently removed principal of Uttara High School and College yesterday demanded a halt to alleged irregularities committed by the president of college ad-hoc committee.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity Mohammad Moazzem Hossain Bhuiyan said Engineer Anwarul Islam and his close aides are resorting to various corruption hampering academic and development activities of the institution.

Bhuiyan, who was temporarily removed from the post of principal on charge of financial corruption on September 1, also termed his removal as an act of injustice towards him.

A group of college teachers were present at the press conference.

'72 CONSTITUTION Delwar's remarks assault on liberation war

CPB secy tells jt workers' meet

UNB, Dhaka

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim yesterday condemned the remarks by BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain over the 1972 constitution, terming it unpleasant and an assault on the spirit of the liberation war.

"Raising questions about the 1972 constitution and its framing process is tantamount to disowning the war of liberation and Bangladesh's independence," he said.

He was addressing a joint workers' meeting at Zillur Rahman Municipal Auditorium in Bhairab, says a press release.

Selim said the 1972 constitution was the direct outcome of the great war of liberation and it was framed upholding the continuity and spirit of the liberation war.

The CPB leader said the 1972 constitution was framed with four state principles -- nationalism, democracy, secularism and socialism. "It was not done with any political transactions or covert

consultations."

He said the 5th amendment to the constitution had undermined the spirit of the liberation war, as it axed secularism and socialism -- two important state principles.

Selim told the meeting that the High Court (HC) judgement declaring illegal the 5th amendment has paved the way for reviving the spirit of the liberation war alongside accelerating the pace of strengthening the democratic system.

If any political party or individual stands against the HC judgment on the 5th amendment, they will be identified as an anti-liberation element by people, he added.

The CPB leader underscored the need for unity among the pro-liberation forces for implementing the HC verdict.

Presided over by CPB Narsingdi district committee president, the meeting was also addressed, among others, by Sajjad Zahir Chandra, Kafi Ratan, Mohammad Hanif and Chandra Saha Roy.



Light rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over all the six divisions with moderately heavy falls at places in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:43pm today and rises at 6:52am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 35.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Srimgal and lowest 22.8 degrees Celsius at Comilla.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.4	24.8	83	76
Chittagong	31.5	24.5	92	82
Rajshahi	32.2	24.2	93	92
Khulna	32.5	26.5	88	95
Barisal	33.0	24.8	99	83
Sylhet	32.0	27.4	81	89
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.6	82	94



The ticket counters of different city service buses on a footpath near the main road at Uttara in the city force the pedestrians to use the traffic lane, risking their lives. The photo was taken yesterday.