

SC starts to hear

FROM PAGE 1
filed the appeals with the SC in October, 2007.

The hearing began at 9:45am at the jam-packed courtroom.

Barrister Abdullah-al Mamun, counsel for Bazul Huda and AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, made submissions to the court, saying the confessional statements of accused Farooq-ur Rahman, Sultan Shahriar and AKM Mohiuddin were not acceptable.

He said the then High Court judge Md Ruhul Amin in his judgment did not accept the confessional statements of the three accused as the magistrate recorded their statements without following due legal procedure.

Mamun also told the court that there are contradictions in the judgments of the three HC judges.

Of the judges, Md Ruhul Amin upheld death penalty of 10 convicts, Justice ABM Khairul Haque of 15 and Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim of 12. The trial court had earlier sentenced 15 people to death in the case.

Mamun said Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed along with most of his family members as a result of a mutiny in the army but the trial of the case was not held under the army act.

The statements of several witnesses in this case are contradictory and the delay in filing first information report after the incident is not logical, he said.

Besides, there is no evidence of any conspiracy behind the murders and the third HC judge in his verdict considered the matters of six accused excluding the other nine, said Mamun, who is expected to continue submission to the court today.

The court will hear today Farooq-ur Rahman's applica-

tion requesting the SC not to allow the state counsels to place arguments during the hearing for making delay in submission of the concise statements against the appeals.

On August 23, chief state counsel advocate Anisul Huq submitted to the SC five concise statements as summary of the case.

Meanwhile, the government has appointed a panel of 17 lawyers to represent the state in the case.

Sources said the law ministry has already sent appointment letters to eight lawyers while the rest will be served with letters today.

The lawyers are -- Anisul Huq, Abdul Matin Khasru, Nurul Islam Sujan, Yusuf Hossain Humayun, AFM Mesbahuddin, Toufique Newaj, Ajmalul Hossain, SM Rezaul Karim, Sheikh Fazle Nur Taposh, Mosharrif Hossain Kajal, Md Jahangir Hossain Salim, Abu Zafar Siddiqui, Rabiul Alam Budu, Towfika Karim, Momtajuddin Mehedi, Nafis Ahmed and Intiaj Uddin.

Anisul Huq will lead the panel as the chief state counsel, added sources.

After the first day's hearing, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told reporters at his office that the followers of Bangabandhu's killers might launch an attack on the court.

He said security measures in and around the court should be beefed up to continue the trial proceedings without any obstruction.

Seasonal

FROM PAGE 1
The breeding ground of Aedes mosquitoes is clear water in containers and flowerpots, abandoned tires and coconut shells just around the houses where the DCC spray teams or cleaners are not allowed.

The house owners can protect themselves from the danger of the deadly disease if they take initiatives to destroy those breeding grounds, DCC officials said.

The number of adult patients with the seasonal ailments has increased at the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) in last three weeks, said Professor Quazi Tariqul Islam of the medicine department.

Some viruses spread fast in this seasonal transition, he said adding, "Temperature during the change of seasons becomes suitable for viruses to grow and infect people. Besides, dusts in the air help the viruses to travel distant places," he said.

The virus affects nose and upper respiratory tract and damages cells of the respiratory tract causing persistent cough that takes two weeks for remission when the cells regenerate, said an epidemiologist. The virus infects others through sneezing and coughing, he added.

About 70 per cent of the patients at the children ward of DMCH are suffering from a respiratory viral infection, with high fever coupled with cough, sore throat, head and body ache and occasional rash, said an associate professor of paediatrics department of DMCH.

Children are most vulnerable to typhoid, as they are usually like to take roadside unhygienic and stale foods that contain typhoid bacteria, apprehend child experts.

7 dismissed

FROM PAGE 16
Naseem Akhter Chowdhury and Sayeda Akhter of Gynaecology, Abul Kashem Chowdhury of Microbiology, Shahidul Alam Khan of Transplant Urology, Jahangir Kabir of Nephrology and Associate Prof Sharif Hossain of Plastic Surgery.

On September 14, the BSMU syndicate decided to cancel the appointments of 11 doctors as regular service holders and to appoint them on contractual basis at the BSMU.

University Registrar Abdul Gafur, who served the termination letters to those teachers, earlier told The Daily Star that the 11 doctors were relieved of their jobs because their appointments flouted the Public Servants (retirements) Act, 1974 that prohibited the recruitment of retired government officials as permanent employees.

He also said the act states that the retired persons could join any autonomous institute on contract basis but they cannot be made permanent.

Barrister Tanjib-ul Alam, a lawyer for the BSMU, yesterday told The Daily Star that the authorities cancelled the regular appointments of the petitioners since their appointments were not made in accordance with law.

They were appointed during the period of BNP-led alliance government, he said.

Diving lessons for cabinet meeting!

AFP, Colombo

Ministers in the Maldives have taken diving lessons ahead of an underwater cabinet meeting that will highlight the threat global warming and rising sea levels pose to the low-lying atoll nation.

President Mohamed Nasheed will chair the meeting on October 17 ahead of the world climate change summit in Copenhagen in December, a spokesman told AFP from the islands' capital, Male.

He said the 14-member cabinet were taught scuba-diving basics over the weekend. Nasheed was not present as he is already a certified diver.

"The cabinet will don wet suits and scuba equipment and dive to a depth of six metres (20 feet), where a special meeting of the cabinet will be convened," the spokesman, who declined to be named, said.

Charges

FROM PAGE 16
peddling, was accused in at least a dozen criminal cases and also was charge sheeted in the Sutrapur double murder case in 2005.

"On information of gathering of a criminal gang, Rab rushed to the spot. The criminals opened fire sensing the presence of Rab which forced the law enforcers to retaliate with gunshots," said a Rab-10 official adding, "At one stage, Sazu's cohorts left the scene leaving him dead and two firearms -- a revolver and a handmade light gun -- on the spot."

In Mirpur gunfight, Abul Hossain alias 'Pichhi' Abul, 32, a suspected associate of top listed terror Shahadat, was killed at Paikpara as two teams of Rab-4 and Rab headquarters' detective wing launched a drive there around 6:00am to nab him.

He was accused in several cases.

Rab recovered a revolver with five bullets from the spot.

Meanwhile, in another 'shootout' between Jatrabari police and a criminal gang, a gangster was killed at Dholaikhal under Sutrapur police station around 5:00am.

Identified as Jane Alam Chhahaiy alias Janu of Sutrapur area, he was an associate of another top listed criminal Dakat Shahid, police said.

Police arrested Janu from the city's Banani around 3:00am and rushed to Dholaikhal along with him to nab his other cohorts following his confession.

"Sensing the presence of police, Janu's cohorts opened fire that prompt the police to retaliate. At one stage, Janu attempted to flee from the police custody and was caught in the line of firing," said Jatrabari police.

According to police, Janu was accused in five cases filed with the city's Jatrabari, Sutrapur and Kadomtoli police stations and also involved in various criminal acts, including extortion.

The bill was prepared on the basis of the text of the now ineffective ordinance promulgated during the tenure of the past caretaker government last year. The ordinance ceased to have effect on February 25 as it was not ratified in parliament within the specified time limit.

The bill was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the fisheries and livestock ministry for scrutiny, and submission of its report in parliament.

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Earlier on June 9, BNP announced the names of conveners of 71 out of its 75 organisational district units. But most of the conveners failed to complete formation of 51-member committee for their respective unit.

Even the party's month-long drive for collecting new members has not been a success. Most of the party units made little efforts to make a success the drive launched by the chairperson on August 16.

Against this backdrop, Khaleda Zia discussed with top leaders of the party the progress of reorganising it, and expressed annoyance over slow pace of the process, party sources said.

BNP had earlier announced that it would hold its council at the end of this year, and submit party constitution to the Election Commission by January 24 as asked for by the EC.

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Bangladesh rank

FROM PAGE 1
This year Bangladesh has got 0.543 HDI value to secure 146th place. Norway has topped the list with 0.971 HDI value while Niger sits at the bottom with 0.340 HDI value, said the report.

The Maldives is ranked top among South Asian countries securing 95th position. Sri Lanka has secured 102nd, Bhutan 132nd, India 134th, Pakistan 141st and Nepal 144th place in the HDI ranking.

HDI is measured on the basis of the data of three elements -- life expectancy at birth, adult literacy rate and GDP per capita.

Bangladesh went up to the category of medium developed country from low developed country in the HDI ranking in 2003.

The report said migration can enhance human development for the people who move, for destination countries and for those who remain at home.

It also said the governments of all countries should look at changes to their immigration policies with a view to offering a "new deal" to migrant workers whose skills can help spur economic recovery.

Wealthy countries with ageing populations in particular are likely to face an increase in demand for expatriate labour as they pull out of recession, said the United Nations Development

Petitions filed

FROM PAGE 1
and Justice Md Rais Uddin yesterday accepted the petitions submitted by petitioners' counsel barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon, and also fixed Wednesday for hearing.

Petitioners' principal counsel barrister Rafique-ul-Huq yesterday prayed to the bench to hear the petitions today, while Additional Attorney General AKM Zahirul Hoque requested to hold hearing on the petitions on Wednesday.

Earlier on September 17, the counsels for the petitioners took back the petitions to quash the case from HC bench of Justice AFM Abdur Rahman and Justice Md Rezaul Hasan, following the arguments placed by Attorney General Mahbubey Alam.

The arguments however couldn't be known, as the reporters were not allowed inside the court to cover the proceedings of the bench for the same day. The lawyers from both sides of the petitions refused to make any comment on the proceedings.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case against Khaleda, Tarique and five others on July 3 last year with Ramna Police Station for embezzling over Tk 2.10 crore by forming the "fake" Zia Orphanage Trust.

On September 7, the trial court took into cognisance the charges against Khaleda Zia, Tarique Rahman and four others in this case and fixed October 25 for next hearing.

The court issued arrest warrants against former principal secretary Kamal Uddin Siddiqui and Khaleda's nephew Mominur Rahman as they have been absconding since the case was filed.

The court also said proceedings of the case against Tarique would continue in his absence since he had earlier gone to London for treatment with permission from the Supreme Court.

CID to quiz

FROM PAGE 1
CID Inspector Mrinal Kanti Saha, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, said he gathered information from Harkatul Jihad (Huji) chief Mufti Abdul Hannan that the two militants were directly involved with the incident.

So, they need to be reminded to find out vital clues about the blast, the IO said.

Defending himself Mufti Obaidullah told the court that he along with his family members left his motherland India nine years back due to torture by Hindus.

He was not involved with militant activities. Moreover, he is a teacher of a Quami Madrasah. So, he prayed for cancelling his remand.

On the other hand, Mansur Ali did not say anything about the remand prayer sought by the IO of the case.

Mufti Hannan, BNP leader Ariful Islam, also a ward councillor of Dhaka City Corporation and several other Huji members were shown

Programme (UNDP) in the report.

Nearly one billion of the world's 6.7 billion people are on the move -- that means one in seven people is a migrant, said the report.

Movement of workers within Asia accounts for nearly 20 percent of all world migration and exceeds the total flow that Europe receives from all regions.

UNDP Country Director Stefan Priesnar has urged Bangladesh to pay more attention to both internal and international migrations since they contribute to its economy with great effect.

"The poverty-reducing effects of internal migration are significant. Instead of viewing as a problem, the report encourages South Asian countries to view it as a possible solution to development needs that can be managed," he said.

The UNDP country director said Bangladesh is improving fast in the HDI index as well as reduction of overall poverty rate but the number of urban poor is increasing.

He also urged the government to take steps to protect the human rights of migrant workers.

UNDP organised the press conference in cooperation with the Dhaka Reporters Unity.

City 'shootouts'

FROM PAGE 1
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Against this backdrop, Khaleda Zia discussed with top leaders of the party the progress of reorganising it, and expressed annoyance over slow pace of the process, party sources said.

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Wife's shrine

FROM PAGE 16
Abdul Gafur apprehending the grabbing filed a general diary No 1087 with Motijheel Police Station on 14 September 2009, the day Dewan Bagi's wife died.

Gafur said he had purchased the 32 kathas of land in 1985 at the back of Bangladesh Bank in south Kamalapur. Dewan Bagi has ever since been making attempts to grab the land.

Following such an attempt on 22 February 1999, Gafur filed a case no 49/1999 with the fourth assistant judge's court of Dhaka.

Later, the grabbers took over part of the land on 26 May 2000. The case was transferred to joint district judge court (115/2001).

While the case was pending for disposal, Shah Sufi and his men drove out Gafur's tenants from the land and took full possession of it by January 2003.

Dewan Bagi set up a camel farm, sheds for his hired goons and the shrine on the disputed land even though the status quo was in effect, said Gafur.

Meanwhile, Dewan Bagi managed registration of four fake Ammokatarnamas in the name of his son-in-law Md Shahin. Later, Shahin's father purchased the land registering four deeds in 2000-01.

Legal adviser to Dewan Bagi advocate Mohammad Ali Dipu said those from whom Gafur purchased the land had no right and title.

"Status quo is only for Gafur, who has no possession of the land," said Dipu adding, "He (Gafur) is trying to tarnish the image of my client."

Co-owner of the land Abdul Jabbar, and friends Jayebuddin Ahmed and Md Abdur Rouf accompanied Gafur during the press conference.

Lawmakers'

FROM PAGE 1
Ruling Awami League (AL) lawmaker Mozammel Huq peddling amendment proposals for rejecting the parliamentary body's suggestions on the city corporation bill.

In response, the LGRD minister informed the House that he agreed to the proposals. He then proposed passage of the bill. "The lawmakers voted for its passage."

With the passage of the bill, the six city corporations in the country got a law to perform their functions lawfully.

The bill also provides for legal coverage to all activities of the city corporations in the last seven months.

The immediate past caretaker government had repealed the then city corporation laws, and had an ordinance promulgated.

The ordinance however ceased to have effect on January 25 since it was not ratified in parliament within the specified timeframe.

On expiry of effectiveness of the ordinance, the government on March 3 placed a bill in parliament seeking enactment of a new law, and the House sent it to the parliamentary standing committee for scrutiny.

Meanwhile, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas placed a bill in parliament seeking enactment of a law to ensure quality of fish feed and fodder.

The bill was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the fisheries and livestock ministry for scrutiny, and submission of its report in parliament.

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Tk 30 lakh

FROM PAGE 16
possession of Mizan and left the scene immediately by two motorcycles.

Mizan and his two colleagues withdrew Tk 30 lakh from Dhanmondi Branch of HSBC bank, said Sub-inspector (SI) Md Shafiqul Islam of Mohammadpur police station.

The muggers might have taken position near the gate of the pharmaceuticals company, the SI said adding that Mizan drew the money to maintain office expenses and payscale of the staff.

Police said the employees of the company took no police escort to carry such big amount of money although the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) authorities have made repeated requests in this regard through the media.

Suicide blast

FROM PAGE 16
"They (Taliban militants) have prepared a strategy and there is the possibility of more such incidents in the near future," he told reporters.

The blast raises questions as to how the bomber managed to evade tight security at the heavily fortified offices of the WFP. It could also hamper the work of WFP and other aid agencies assisting Pakistanis displaced by army offensives against al-Qaeda and the Taliban in their strongholds close to the Afghan border.

Hours after the attack, the world body said it was closing its offices in Pakistan temporarily.

UN spokesman Ishrat Rizvi said no specific threat had been received and the move was a precaution following Monday's attack.

There were scenes of confusion around the WFP compound in central Islamabad, with sirens blaring and smoke billowing from behind the blast walls. Injured survivors walked amid shattered glass and blood-slicked floors.

"We were on the upper storey when the blast took place. It shook the building and shattered the windows," said one WFP employee at the scene. "We saw smoke coming out of the building, we rushed out."

UN offices across Pakistan have been closed until further notice over security concerns, United Nations spokeswoman Susan Manuel told AFP.

Bani Amin, deputy inspector general of police operations, said the explosion was caused by a suicide bomber who entered the building on foot.

"We have recovered legs and the skull of the suicide bomber. We are investigating how he managed to enter the building. There are scanners, there are cameras and strict security arrangements," Amin said.

Police and hospital officials said four Pakistanis were killed and one Iraqi, and the WFP headquarters in Rome confirmed the casualties.

"All of the victims were humanitarian heroes working on the frontlines of hunger," said WFP executive director Josette Sheeran. "This is a tragedy not just for WFP but for the whole humanitarian community and for the hungry."

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called the attack a "heinous crime."

Interior minister Malik said that the bomber was dressed in the uniform of the paramilitary Frontier Corps -- who guard the WFP offices -- and asked to use the toilet before detonating his explosives.

Malik blamed the Taliban and said they were avenging an offensive against them, which the military launched in April in northwest Swat valley, with the army now poised to begin a similar assault in the lawless tribal belt.

Taliban militants holed up in the northwest tribal belt

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1
asking them to let the party headquarters know their organisational activities.

Sources at the party central office said it would start sending the letters signed by the party secretary general within a day or two.

"When the chairperson comes to know the actual situation, it will help her take steps for gearing up the process of reorganising the party," a BNP leader told The Daily Star last night.

Earlier on June 9, BNP announced the names of conveners of 71 out of its 75 organisational district units. But most of the conveners failed to complete formation of 51-member committee for their respective unit.

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have been blamed for a string of attacks and suicide blasts that have killed more than 2,140 people in the last two years, with 12 blasts hitting Islamabad alone.

On Monday, Taliban chief Hakimullah Mehsud appeared on local television channels and vowed revenge for the death of his predecessor Baitullah Mehsud in a US drone missile strike in the tribal belt in early August.

"We will take severe revenge for Baitullah Mehsud's killing and the continued drone strikes... both America and Pakistan will have to face the consequences," said the warlord, in comments seen by an AFP reporter.

"Our basic aim is enforcement of Islamic Sharia law and if thousands of human lives need to be sacrificed, we will not hesitate," he